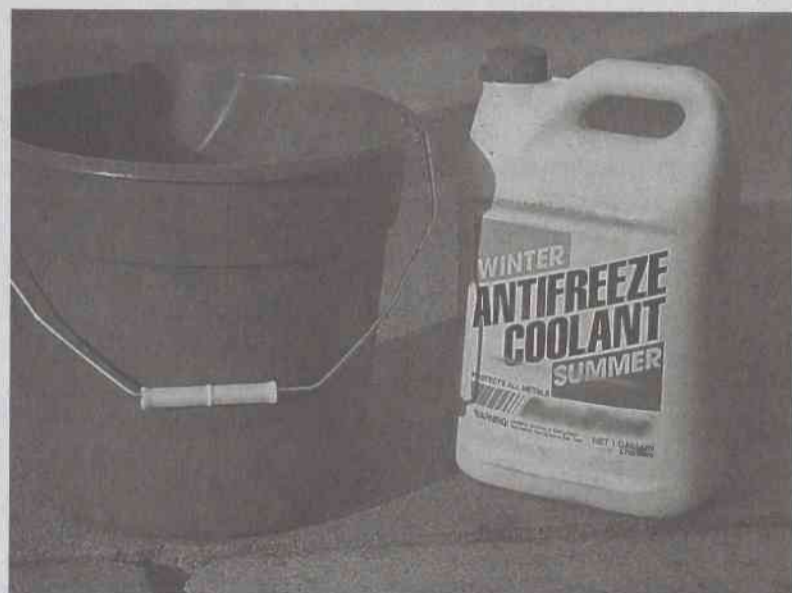


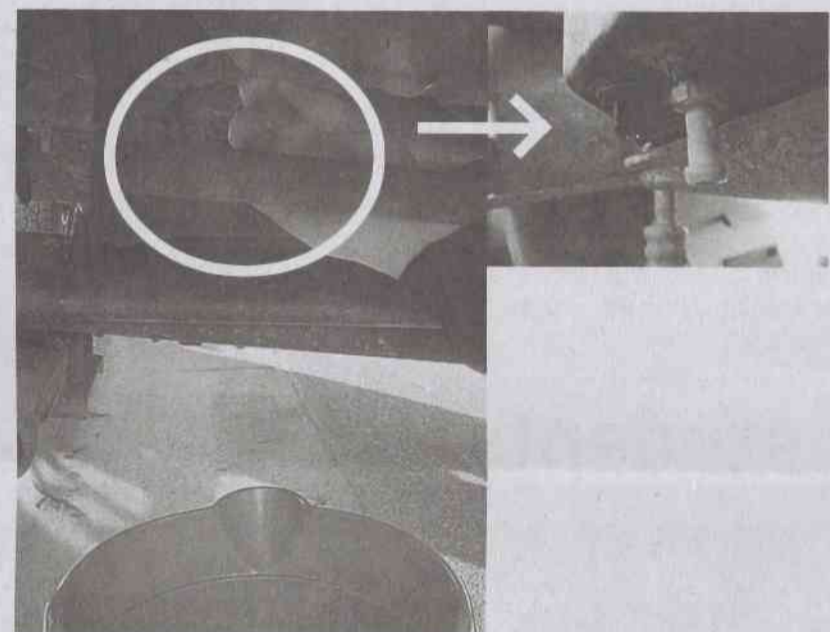
FEATURES

Maintaining your car's coolant system is as easy as 1,2,3

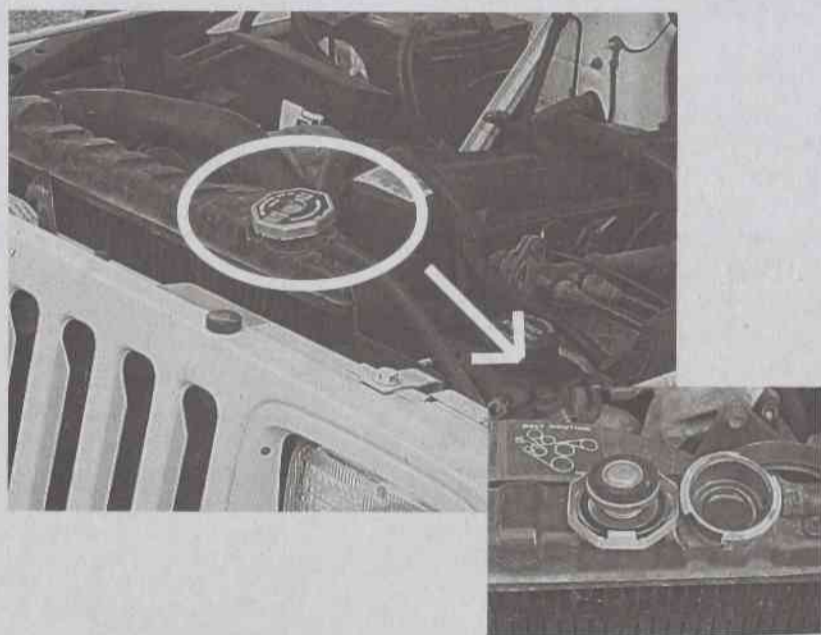
- 1.** Let your motor cool so the liquid will not scold your hand. Make sure you have enough antifreeze for your car. You will also need a bucket or container large enough to hold all the fluid from the radiator.



- 2.** Now you're ready to begin. Crawl under the vehicle and place the bucket directly under the petcock located on the bottom of the radiator. Now, unscrew the petcock and let the fluid drain completely.



- 3.** After all the fluid has drained, tighten the petcock. Now, open the hood and locate the radiator cap. Unscrew and pour in the antifreeze and water. Close the cap, shut the hood, and now you're good to go.



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Most college students underestimate the need for car maintenance. One of the most neglected but important systems requiring regular maintenance is the coolant system. Without the it your vehicle would break down and be nothing more than fancy lawn furniture.

The coolant system is made up of several key components: the engine water jacket, water pump, thermostat, fan, belt drive, and connection hoses. It is designed to dissipate heat from the combustion areas of the engine and operate in temperatures ranging from well above the boiling point (212°F), to temperatures well below freezing (32°F).

In order to maintain the system a basic understanding of how it works would be helpful, but understanding the procedure for changing the mixture in your system is necessary.

The coolant system dissipates heat. It does this by cooling the areas that are subjected to large amounts of heat. These areas are lo-

cated around the combustion chamber and if these areas were not cooled down, the heat from the combustion could melt the engine components and cause the pistons to expand so much that they would not be able to move up and down in their cylinders, thus resulting in the motor locking up or seizing. The need for maintaining the system that controls the heat generated by the engine is critical.

"A car should have its coolant changed every two years or thirty thousand miles because the coolant begins to lose its corrosive and lubricating properties over time," David Xenos, an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified mechanic, said.

The coolant system's mixture of antifreeze with water forms a solution, which allows the system to cool the engine effectively. The most common mixture of antifreeze and water for the system is 50/50 (half water to half antifreeze). Antifreeze serves a dual purpose in a car's cooling system. Not only does it increase the boiling point of the water and decrease its freezing point, but it also protects the internal surfaces of the coolant system from corrosion.

The ability to lower the freezing point of water is a must when one considers that when water freezes, it expands. If you were to place water in a glass and set it in the freezer, the glass would probably break. The same is true for the internal parts of your car's engine. If the water expands too much it can rupture the walls of the water jackets within the motor and cause engine problems that could result in engine failure.

Also, if water were the only coolant, the impurities and minerals found in tap water would build up and corrode the metal walls of the coolant system. Eventually, rust, or other corrosive barriers, would develop and this would both decrease the cooling capacity of the system and could cause some of the thinner parts of the system to corrode to the point of failure, thus causing the system to develop a leak. The system is designed to carry the heat away from the core combustion area and it cannot do so if the system has no fluid as a result of a leak from within the system.

Now that you understand the basic function of the system, follow the pictures on the left for information on how to change the mixture.

Re-assessing Brown vs. Board of Education

50 years later

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In order to achieve a goal, there is one key element that must be present: a plan. This was the premise for the February 5, 2004 forum "Re-assessing Brown v. Board of Education: Do We Have A Plan?" which took place at Elizabeth City State University's Fine Arts Complex.

Dr. H. Lewis Suggs, scholar-in-residence at North Carolina Central University and retired professor from Clemson University, was the keynote speaker at the forum. As we are approaching the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education case, the resounding theme of the event was "do we have a plan?"

Brown v. Board of Education occurred as a result of a black man named Oliver Brown who took action upon learning that his daughter Linda had been refused admission to an all-white elementary school in Topeka, Kansas. The case decision led to the desegregation of schools.

However, according to Dr. Delacey Stith, associate professor of Criminal Justice, the Brown case provided legal but not an actual end to segregated schools.

"Brown v. Board pronounced the

legal destruction of segregation. All they did was change the law," Stith said.

Stith also maintains that the process of the schools truly becoming desegregated went through a few steps.

"The first effort to implement desegregation was freedom of choice. Blacks could decide if they wanted to stay segregated or go to a desegregated school which was filled with hatred," Stith said.

If black children decided to go to a desegregated school, they would find that they would be one of the few blacks attending the school. Blacks who made this decision were met with racial hatred from the students and teachers. If children decided to stay at a segregated school, they would lack the financial backing that would have helped provide proper educational development. Busing was another possible solution to desegregation. "Busing was when black kids were bused to school in white neighborhoods and white children were taken to black schools," said Stith. It was a long time before schools were actually desegregated. According to Stith, it took 20 years to actually desegregate schools.

Dr. Suggs focused on what we can do today to achieve our goals, al-

though the Brown case helped us to get where we are now. At the forum, he emphasized the importance of having a plan. His speech was filled with encouraging words of wisdom.

"We should strategize and debate on ways to move the race forward. We should capture the moral and spiritual uplift of Negro history. Have a plan and an objective and don't apologize for success," Suggs advised. The struggle for equality which included the Brown v. Board of Education was put into perspective by Suggs' viewpoint. "The book of *Roots* is fiction," he said. We are not judged by our roots but by our fruits." Even though many African Americans have been racially discriminated against in the past, that is no excuse for blacks to lose hope.

One of the most important messages came when Suggs said: "Learn to believe in something larger than yourself." Faith in a higher power is essential to a person's success in life, but we control our own destinies. It is up to you, as an individual, whether you decide to succeed or let negativity and doubt waste your potential. Dr. Suggs' words were directed to everyone, in regards to black people and the entire race when he asked the question, "do we have a plan?"

Becoming Ezia

The first part of this story ended with Ezia thinking she was leaving the Attic with Rayne to unload his band's equipment and to hang out with the rest of the band at his house, only to find that when she got in Rayne's van, it was empty...

I woke up in a daze lying on the floor of an unfamiliar room. A thin beam of light bled through a door frame across the other side of the room. I tried to get up, but every attempt I made was met with excruciating pain that pierced through me like a raging wildfire and caused me to fall limp to the floor.

After a few minutes my dazed state of confusion started to wear off. I managed to pull myself up, trying to ignore the agonizing pain I was in, and realized that the only clothing I was wearing was my shirt, which had been ripped open. Tears started to well in my eyes as I tried to deny the realization of what had happened. I was raped.

Every horrific detail started to flow through my mind as I tried to piece together what happened that night. I remembered getting in Rayne's van only to find it empty. After questioning him about it, he became angry and hit me in the head, causing me to black out. I remember coming to as he pulled the van into a driveway in an unfamiliar wooded area. I remember struggling and screaming as loudly as I could, praying someone would hear me as

he dragged me into the house. My struggling only caused him to become angrier and he punched and kicked me until I blacked out again. The last thing I remember before waking up in this dark room was him pulling off my clothes as I fluttered in and out of consciousness.

The tears burned my skin as they poured down like a waterfall. All I can think is, "Why me?" What did I do to deserve this? How could this happen to me?

Then, out of nowhere, someone came up from behind me and started shaking me. "Ezia, are you ready to go?"

I looked up and saw Rayne standing over me. "Are you ready to go?" he repeated.

I was confused for a moment until I realized I had drifted asleep on the couch at his place. It was all a dream. "I have got to stop watching the Lifetime channel," I said.

Rayne looked at me with a strange look on his face. "What?" he asked.

"Never mind," I replied. And I got up and he drove me home...

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To Be Continued