

This recent snap of cold weather and a strong north wind brought home the reality that the head hair has thinned and a good old stocking cap can feel pretty good.

The cold head also brought up some questions that I have no answers. For example:

Why does a guy lose hair on the top of his head and still need to go the barbershop regularly because the hair on the sides of his head needs cutting?

Why do eyebrows need trimming when the top of the head remains smooth as a baby's bottom?

And why does hair sometimes grow from an earlobe when it becomes impossible to grow a good crop of hair on the old dome?

I guess the only logical answer to these questions is a man grows a head of hair to keep the economy growing, too. You see, if all men had a good head of hair, there would be no need for stocking caps and other head warmers. There would be no need for barbershops and barbers or salons and hair stylists to serve those with a chrome dome.

The men with a thin head of hair still continue to make their regular stops for the side trims, brow and ear clips, thus making their financial contribution to the local economy.

Now that brings up the next question: Why no haircut discounts for men who have no hair on top?

I could answer that question saying it is probably the same reason there is no discount for a copy of the newspaper if you don't plan to read all of it.

While on the subject of men's grooming, I am told it is now becoming popular to have nail shops for men. I can't visualize myself heading into a shop asking for a manicure, especially when in my childhood days I chewed my fingernails.

Currently on the West Coast men are patronizing nail shops, aka as "man caves," featuring a pour of scotch, football games on flat screen TVs, dim lights and soft, deep, leather chairs. And — oh, my gosh — the manicurist will even put polish on the nails!

There has been plenty of thought going into these new establishments. But I think one owner could have chosen a more "comforting name" for his establishment. He tagged his "Hammer and Nails." It would be hard to loosen up in that establishment when you were anticipating when the "Hammer" was going to drop.

RL Furse is publisher emeritus of the News-Register