The W.I.N. Communicator

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A Message From Our President

By the time you read this message, I sincerely hope you have made your hotel reservations to attend the 2008 conference in the Bahamas. We realize your time is important and many cannot attend for various reasons, but remember, a family that plays together…. stays together. WIN is a unique association, being more a social group and family of professionals.

As recent as it seems, 2007 is now history, and along with a brand new year, 2008 presents new opportunities, new challenges and a renewed enthusiasm to improve and expand our own individual businesses. Networking at meetings is an excellent way to keep up in these ever changing times.

The world seems to get smaller every year. Developing countries who have never traded with each other before are now doing so at lightening speed. With one key stoke on the computer you can work with professionals around the world. Therefore, we must make the most of the opportunities that present to us, adapt to the many changes we face and sell our expertise to the growing clientele around the world.

One of the many benefits of your membership in WIN is the contacts that will help you market and grow your business. As a member, you can advertise that you hold membership in a "worldwide network" of experienced and trusted investigators and security professionals, who can be reached in a moments notice.

WIN's listserve can be utilized to contact professionals in far corners of the world to assist you. If you cannot locate a member on WIN's website membership directory, you can always e-mail our Executive Director and she will assist in locating someone to assist you.

My term will soon come to an end as your president. But, please know what an honor it has been for me to serve our great association. There are too many to thank for that opportunity to list, however let me thank Pamela for her support of both myself and our WIN family. Without the support of our loved ones, we would not be able to dedicate the time and effort required in conducting our business in this unique, time consuming often interesting industry of ours.

I hope to see you all in Lucaya, on the Grand Bahama Island, where we can renew our friendships and make a few new ones. I wish you all the best until we meet again.

Graham "Des" Desvernine

Make Your Reservations Today
WIN's 2008 Conference - May 14th thru 18th

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Special Awards/Honorariums

Sergio Stepnov - Area Governor of the Year - 2000
Philip Ryffel - Award of Excellence - 2002
Aviv Dor - Lifetime Achievement Award - 2002
Norman Smith - Lifetime Achievement - 2004
Jack Henebry - Chairman Emeritus - 2005
Christopher Nolan - President Emeritus - 2005

Meritorious
Carolyn Ward - 1998
Jack Henebry - 1999

Meeting Locations

Board Meetings

1997 - March 23-26 - Wilmington, Delaware
1998 - April 3- 5 - Atlanta, Georgia
1999 - April 8-11 - Boston, Massachusetts
2000 - April 6-9 - San Francisco, California
2001 - March 8-11 - Orlando, Florida
2002 - Feb. 28-March 3 - Honolulu, Hawaii
2003 - March 13-15 - Las Vegas, Nevada
2004 - March 11-14 - Miami, Florida
2005 - Sept. 7-11 - Cancun, Mexico

Conferences

1997 - Sept. 17-20 - Dublin, Ireland
1998 - Sept. 22-27 - Canberra, Australia
1999 - Sept. 21-27 - Washington, D.C.
2000 - Aug. 29- Sept. 2 - Glasgow, Scotland
2001 - Aug. 29-Sept. 2 - Vancouver, Canada
2002 - Aug. 20-25 - Zurich, Switzerland
2003 - Aug. 19-24 - Reno, Nevada
2005- April 19-24 - Oxford, England
2006 - May 10 - 13 - Maui, Hawaii
2007 - May 16-20 - Lisbon, Portugal

Award Recipients

The Jack P. Henebry Professional Award

C.E. "Bert" Hinds - 1997
Major S.S. Shah* - 1998
Col. LI, Fuk Ki - 1999
Christopher Nolan - 2000
Bernard Major - 2001
John Henebry, Jr. - 2002
Kathleen Cummings - 2003
Minna "Beckie" Hinds - 2004
James Walker - 2005
Ozzie Kaban - 2006
Ruth Hoffman - 2007

Investigator of the Year

Logan Clarke - 1997
Philip Ryffel - 1998
Graham "Des" Desvernine - 1999
Eckhard Neumann - 2000
Ozzie Kaban - 2001
John Slagowski - 2002
Michael Petchey - 2003
Alexey Scherbenev - 2004
Jan Huxley - 2005
Lloyd Davis - 2006
Kunwar Vikram Singh - 2007

The Tom J. Connell Security Award

Tom J. Connell*- 1998
Philip Egge - 1999
Winston Gregory - 2000
Gerd Hoffmann, Sr.* - 2001
S.S. "Adi" Adhikari - 2002
Ozzie Kaban - 2003
Sarah Connell - 2004
Michael Campbell - 2005
Graham Desvernine - 2006
Larry Webb - 2007

* deceased

AROUND THE WORLD WITH JACK HENEBRY

Nick Wright
WIN's Area Governor for Northern Australia

Nick Wright started in the PI Industry in Brisbane, Australia in 1991 at the age of 18. At the age of 24 in 1997 he commenced employment with International Detection Services (IDS), Queensland's largest Private Investigation firm. In 1998 Nick joined WIN and attended his first conference in Canberra, Australia in 1998 and then Washington DC in 1999. In 2001 Nick was promoted to General Manager of IDS and in 2004 he was approached to purchase IDS when it's former owner decided to retire. In October 2004 Nick took over IDS jointly with Peter Harkin, a long time friend of Nick's and at the time a Senior Intelligence Officer with the Queensland Police Service. IDS is located in Brisbane City, Australia's third largest Capital City and employs 20 staff in the office (Investigative and Support Staff) and 20 Contractors in Queensland. IDS also retains the services of other agents Australia-Wide and WIN members internationally on a regular basis.

IDS is a traditional PI Firm and take on all types of Assignments; however they do specialise in "Locating Persons of Interests" and currently employ 4 full-time Investigative Staff in their Intelligence Division. Nick and Peter are also permanent Lecturers at the Intelligence Training Program at the Queensland Police Academy, where they deliver regular presentations on Investigation Methods & Sources to Senior Intelligence Officers. They have also delivered their presentation to the Queensland Department of Corrective Services and the Australian Crime Commission. In 2007 IDS was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation at the Queensland Police Academy for their contribution to the Intelligence Training Program.

Nick also ensures he takes on all the interesting assignments at IDS and in recent times Nick and Peter have found themselves in Singapore and Hawaii on assignment.

Nick is also the President of the Queensland Division of the IMA (Australia's most credible and long established association that represents Investigators and Process Servers) and he also holds a position on the National Executive. Nick is also WIN's Area Governor for Northern Australia.

Nick is married to Jody, a Lawyer who has worked at IDS since 2005 as their Corporate Lawyer and Client Services Manager as well as a Licensed Investigator. They currently have no children but treasure their 2 Cats as part of their family. Nick and Jody are looking forward to the WIN conference in the **Bahamas** and Nick in particular is looking forward to seeing his WIN Family again.

WISDOM FROM WINNERS

Mike Campbell - New Zealand ..."Dedicated efforts can provide surprising breakthroughs."

Tom Connell - Scotland.."The standards we set determine how high we go."

Christy Noland - Ireland ... "Strength of character helps us rise above all obstacles."

Jim Bresina - Illinois... "Fresh perspectives allow us to branch off in new directions."

Logan Clarke - California.."Shared enthusiasm invigorates everyone with a burst of energy."

Don Colbourn - Canada.. "Attending to detail helps us reach our full potential."

Warren Mallard - Australia ..."Exceeding expectations keeps us on the path to success."

Kathy Cummings - England... "The brighter our outlook the broader our horizons."

Maria Cretu - Romania..."Bridging our differences builds a strong foundation for progress."

Christopher Dewse - England... "A sense of pride in our work inspires spectacular achievements."

Michal Drabek - Czech Republic... "Clear information guides everyone in the right direction."

William Elliott - New Mexico... "By showing respect for each other we're all encouraged to shine."

Have you invited a friend or colleague to join WIN?

The HP Criminal Charges Damaged the Wrong Group

By Leroy Cook

The culprits behind the HP fiasco have been mis-identified. Private investigation did not cause the HP problem. The pretexting of phone company employees was done by information brokers. Most people do not make the distinction but there is a clear difference.

Information brokers sell information. Private investigators sell their time and have to use good judgment in the way they spend their time. Information brokers sell units of information like the corner store sells merchandise. Private investigators use imagination, creativity, good human relations skills, determination and long hours of hard work to get information for clients.

The reputation of private investigators who still know their real job has been soiled by others who have allowed computers, online databases and greed to woo them off course; like the mariners in Homer's Odyssey were wooed by the sea nymphs. The temptation of easy money from information brokering has converted many private investigators since the mid-1980s. Many of those who have strayed still call themselves private investigators, but people who sell pieces of information are "information merchants," not private investigators. Information brokering can be as honorable as any other type of business; but, like private investigation, if greed is allowed to influence business decisions trouble can follow. If you are a local professional private investigator there is a difference between what you do and what the information brokers who got indicted in the HP fiasco were doing.

Those old enough to remember TV's Rockford know that although he was unconventional, he could be trusted. He was such a nice guy he usually could not bear to charge his clients. Many local professional PIs still have that problem. Rockford had a buddy downtown in the police department who would check the files and provide information helpful to Rockford in doing his good deeds. Rockford trusted him and he trusted Rockford. That was a wonderful world based on trust and a lot of good was done, both in fiction and by real PIs on the streets with buddies downtown. As police departments became computerized, instead of a few local records being available in a file drawer the buddy downtown gained access to huge databases. A small number let greed influence their good judgment and they became information vendors, selling non-public information to anyone who would pay. In 1991 about 20 of these "information merchants" and the PIs who were reselling the information were indicted and became felons. They had misused and destroyed a valuable investigative tool.

Pretexting has long been another valuable investigative tool. Outlawing the use of pretexting would be impossible without outlawing white lies and all sales promotions. Turning the product of pretexting phone companies into a unit of information to be sold by information merchants and resold by lazy PIs has now destroyed another investigative tool. This will put many information vendors out of business or at least make their lives more stressful; but it shouldn't be confused with what private investigators do. Private investigators are individuals who care about people and avoid getting their clients into trouble. Information vendors are first and foremost money making businesses.

CAVEAT EMPTOR.

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PIs Weigh in on Technological Innovations

Grand Forks Herald, January 20, 2008

The business of private investigations in Grand Forks is an ever-changing field.

Advancements in technology during the past 25 years has taken investigations from tedious leafing through paperwork to the ease of pushing buttons in order to gain needed information.

But face-to-face conversations remain one of the best ways to gather information, according to investigations veteran Ross Rolshoven. Interviewing witnesses to accidents or workplace incidents was once and still is a main staple in private investigation, he says.

Investigators talk to those under investigation, their neighbors, their friends and families, their employers, their co-workers and anyone else who may have information.

And that's only for background checks.

Surveillance equipment marks the investigator's territory. Infrared cameras, night-vision goggles and video cameras less than an inch in diameter are among the newer pieces that complement 35 mm cameras, recording instruments and good old pens and paper.

"In 25 years, technology has made things different," said Rolshoven, who with his brother, Reid, took over Great Plains Claims in 1983. "It's changed the nature of things. Back when I started, they had these ledger books you would have to go through, year by year. Each of these books was dusty, dank they were like the ancient scrolls. Go in there now, punch in some stuff and there (the information) is."

The two operating investigations offices in Grand Forks Great Plains Claims and Hons Investigations, which is run by Russell Hons do a bit of everything, from tracing the cause of an accident to reuniting families, from product liability investigation to setting up surveillance in insurance fraud investigations. There's minor work in divorce cases and an overwhelming load of work to be done in background checks.

Background check obstacles

In recent years, accessing the information necessary to do a background check has become more complicated, according to Hons.

Government regulations prohibiting access to personal records, such as cell phone records and birth dates, are creating a problem for the investigations industry, Hons said.

"As licensed professionals, we need to have access to that (information)," he said. "If we don't have ways to track that person down, that person won't get a proper defense."

Restrictions on cell phone records and on personal identifiers, such as birth dates, have been imposed because of issues with identity theft.

> "Government regulations prohibiting access to personal records, such as cell phone records and birth dates, are creating a problem for the investigations industry."

It's important to keep those limitations in place to protect people, but it can skew the results of a background check if it goes too far, according to Hons.

"If we don't have access to personal identifiers, how do we know the background check is accurate?" he said.

Limited access doesn't mean a background check is prohibitive, but it means a higher cost to clients because there's more footwork to be done, Hons said. "You can still do the case; you just have to do it another way."

Another concerning limitation has been talk about making Social Security numbers inaccessible to private investigators, Hons said.

"I can't even imagine the fallout that would have on the investigations industry," he said.

It's a matter of safety, Hons said. "What if it's somebody who's applying for a job at a school? We find one Joe Blow who's a pedophile and another Joe Blow who's got no criminal record. Without personal identifiers, how do we determine we've got the right one?"There are ways to do it, according to Rolshoven, though none that he would share, he added with a laugh.

Physical demands

Technological advances have not eliminated all the physical challenges private investigating work sometimes requires.

Rolshoven described standing dozens of feet in the air on a catwalk in the Fargodome, balancing himself and 40 pounds of camera equipment. He recalled working long hours for days on end while performing background checks on potential jurors.

Then, there are the cases that take five years from start to finish, working odd hours and in hazardous conditions.

"A semi accident at 4 a.m. in 20 degrees below with 30 mph winds those are difficult conditions to work in," Rolshoven said.

But "each case is so different," he added. "Each case brings its own set of circumstances you have to deal with." Still, helping people, whether by revealing evidence that clears a person of murder or helping a parent find a child given up in adoption, has its rewards, no matter how challenging the job can be, private investigators say.

"We do get to help people," Rolshoven said. "That's a satisfying aspect of the business."

Mark Your Calendar!!
May 14- 18, 2008
Grand Bahama Island Conference

UK CASEBOOK

PHONEY AND OTHER CALLS
by Norman Smith

First call - The Death Threat

Business was quiet and the phone rang as I sat chewing on a cigar. At the end of the line, a voice in measured tones issued the simple message - " You're a dead man". The caller hung-up. Had I upset someone? Was the caller serious? Well, I didn't dwell on it (not for long anyway). Fortunately, neither did my sinister correspondent. Otherwise I would not be here to reflect on the other calls that followed.

Second Call - Sexual Allure

It was near midnight and the woman on the phone sounded desperate. Her voice was sultry and with a certain smokiness, conjuring an image of sexual allure. A tone to make a man tingle. And I agreed to drive post-haste for a rendezvous at a London casino, where that image made flesh crossed the salon to greet me. Tall, raven-haired, curvaceous in all the right places, was this my Raymond Chandler moment?

The truth was that, despite that charm, despite that exciting silky approach, this smouldering Iranian beauty sought my services as a kind of cats-paw to (somehow or other) 'nobble' a male croupier. This suspicion gradually dawned as I sat enjoying the ambience of obeisant and attentive waiters re-filling my glass with scotch, and every few seconds (it seemed) replacing my ashtray with its minute deposit of cigar ash. Meanwhile, this purring lady made intermittent trips to the gaming tables. Around 4 a.m., I gave up the ghost, having long since discerned the lady's intentions. I had also tired of the attentive staff. The truth was that, by devious means, the lady had obtained my name from a lawyer-client and it was he who ensured that I was paid for the midnight call.

Third Call - Unsafe Source

I like this guy. He was young, ambitious and always anxious to seek advice as to how best to run his agency. He told me he is doing quite well and had developed a number of useful sources of information. Then, in a hurried telephone call, he out lined his problem. A valuable tracing job that was getting nowhere until he 'touched hands' with a police contact and had a definite address for the 'target'. That's when the roof fell in.

It appeared that the female subject was a crucial and vulnerable witness in a criminal case. Pending trial, she had been given a new identity and placed in a safe house. And, as my friendly, ambitious young agent explained, the police had been alerted. An imminent visit to his office was in prospect and an armful of questions to be answered. How, Mr. Ambitious, did you acquire this address? A chance sighting? No easy answers to this problem. No call as to the outcome either.

Fourth Call - Conspiracy With Yours Truly In The Frame

A weekend call from a trusted and esteemed colleague. Too sensitive to discuss on the phone, she advised. So it was that we met 150 miles up the motorway at a service station. The coffee did little to stifle her agitation as she produced paperwork that showed my self as the central character. The message was clear enough. I had upset (exposed?) two forceful individuals who regarded me as an obstruction to their questionable ambitions in the investigative group of which I was a member.

The covert arrangements, the conspiracy, was designed to show that yours truly was using membership funds to feather his nest. Had the matter not been so serious, I might have laughed at the idea. But it was serious and, unbeknown to me (until that service station meeting) I was given sight of a document described as an indictment of some 8/9 counts. The matter was already in the hands of disciplinary officers who had been charged to determine whether the matter had any substance. It was worrying but I was not surprised when the matter was kicked promptly into touch. And there is a delicious irony in the comment of one officer who commented – "I've never liked Norman Smith but these allegations are rubbish".

Final Call - The Fatal Source

My only knowledge of Agent X was his promotional brochure, depicting a fleet of vehicles and an office display of hi-tec surveillance gizmos. All very impressive but at odds with his troubled voice on the telephone. In fact, his problems arose from another recent telephone call from an associate who persuaded Agent X to access criminal records via a police contact.

Once again, I sped up the motorway to discuss Agent X's situation. Not much help when I learned that the police contact had telephoned with the message – "If there's anything in the office you shouldn't have get rid of it". So the little black book went through the shredder, the shreds bagged-up, placed in his car and the car parked away from X's office. The problem was, explained X, the police located the car, reconstituted the damning material, and the 'heavy mob' climbed the stairs: "Official Secrets Act", they said, "and you're nicked!"

The truth was that the office telephone had been tapped and X was one of a number of investigators and police officers caught in the net of an anti-corruption exercise. Just a couple of telephone calls, that's all, and Agent X was out of business and anticipating a spell in jail. And at the center of that anti-corruption phone-tapping exercise who else but a private investigator. Dog does eat dog!

So there it is, sitting on your desk, crouching and waiting to ring – the humble telephone. An instrument of immense variety.

END

N.S.

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The G H Hoffmann Senior Prevention Guide

By Ruth Hoffmann

Look Back in Anger? .....

What have we seen this year? An increase in bribery and corruption, in mortgage fraud, and a frightening rise in identity theft and fraud. It has been estimated that identity fraud is costing the UK economy £1.7 billion per annum. There has also been a disturbing indication of a lack of computer/data security. In the United Kingdom and the United States large companies and government agencies have lost client details from their data bases numbering in the millions.

What makes this sadder is that often simple and inexpensive procedures could help to reduce personal, company and government problems: for example, having a security policy that is notified to all staff and is regularly checked for adherence and applicability. If the policy is not being adhered to, deal with those responsible for that lack of adherence. If the procedures are no longer applicable to changed circumstances, update the policy and train staff on the amendments.

A shredder is a vital piece of equipment. This does not have to be expensive but could save you a lot of money. An inexpensive model bought from the local stationer's would be sufficient for domestic needs or those of a small business. A larger company may want to invest in a crosscut or micro shredder. Your requirements may necessitate engaging a professional waste disposal company to remove and destroy your sensitive data, but chose your company carefully and regularly check that they too have adequate procedures in place. Review your business waste management procedure regularly and make sure that not only paper is being properly destroyed but also charts, floppy discs, CDs, ledgers, samples, research and development waste product……. We will not go on, but you must. Identify what, in your particular circumstances, could cause you problems if it fell into the wrong hands. Your motto should be 'DON'T THROW AWAY: SHRED'. Protect yourself, your company and your client. Remember, the security of the last two of these are interwoven.

And Now? .....

And what are we in our company seeing now as we approach the end of the year and review our figures? We see an increase in requests to carry out Due Diligence Inquiries. Clients are seeing the value of having checks carried out into companies before getting involved with them. This is often as a result of bitter experience.

And what did we find for our clients? Often that the prospective business associate, client or supplier, was far from being what they had presented as. This is particularly true when the proposed business relationship is cross border; and even more so when it is in a different continent.

We have found that what was presented as a large, prosperous company was a man working from home. We have found heads of companies who did not have the educational background they claimed, and should not have been putting letters behind their name that indicated that they had higher educational qualifications. We have found that there was nothing substantial behind a Post Office Box Number. We could list more but we do not want to bore you.

All we would say about this is "BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY".

Before you sign anything or part with any money, have us carry out checks for you. We can do this no matter which countries are involved.

Looking forward with hope?

In our first paragraph we mentioned that in the United Kingdom and the United States large companies and government agencies have lost client details from their data bases numbering in the millions. This has caused such concern for those whose details have gone missing, and such concern and scandal for those companies and government departments that lost them, that there is an increased awareness of the need for security.

Over the last year, as we mentioned above, we have seen that management can learn lessons from bad experience, their own and others.

2008 promises to be a busy year for those of us involved in business security and investigation. Do not get left behind and caught out.

****

A reader well known to us has sent us the information below to pass on to other readers in case they receive an approach such as he did.

"A company in Liverpool contacts businesses offering to publish and provide books for schools for disabled children. The offer is that each contacted business pays (I think £500) to support the production of the books in return for an advertisement printed into each book. Each contacted company is then invited to nominate a school to which the books will be donated.

On looking on both the Companies House and the Charities Commission websites it seems to me that this is a very dodgy set-up indeed.

The prompt for sending this e-mail to you now was a phone call from this company today. They informed me that the books were now produced and would I like to nominate a school to which they would be sent? They then tried to tell me that I had agreed sponsorship via a telephone call back in May last. When I stated that I had no recollection of such a telephone conversation, the phone-call was immediately terminated!

Interestingly, the call came from a withheld number.

Clearly, no school, let alone one for disabled children, would ever permit commercial advertising in any book for pupil use.

Our comment: This sort of scam has been running for some time. It is particularly popular at the end of the year when loose ends are being tied up, subscriptions renewed, advertising deals signed. Maybe you think that, like your fellow reader, you would not fall for it. However, if yours is a large concern, the telephone call may bypass you. The person who receives the call and the person or persons to whom the details are passed on may think that this is genuine. Result: your company has loses £500.

Make sure that all members of your staff are aware of the nature of scams.

BE AWARE, BE SECURE, AND HAVE A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Ruth Hoffmann

U.S. Law Enforcement Gains Direct Access to Interpol Criminal Databases

Unnamed Author (WebWire)

WASHINGTON - The U.S. National Central Bureau of INTERPOL(USNCB) today announced that it has provided the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Law Enforcement Support Center (ICE LESC) in Burlington, Vermont, with direct access to criminal records from law enforcement agencies in 186 INTERPOL member countries.

LESC is a critical point of contact for the U.S. law enforcement community. It operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide information on the immigration status and identities of individuals who have been arrested or are under investigation for criminal activity. In 2006, the Center supported 800,000 inquiries from state and local law enforcement nationwide. At the touch of a button LESC law enforcement technicians will now be able to search INTERPOL's indexes on foreign Fugitives, Stolen Vehicles and Lost/Stolen Travel Documents.

Historically, U.S. access to INTERPOL databases was limited to the USNCB, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice and the official U.S. point of contact for all INTERPOL matters. In an effort to bolster homeland security through enhanced information sharing, the USNCB has initiated an ambitious connectivity program to provide the 18,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies with direct query access to INTERPOL data.

LESC's access to Interpol data is made possible through a customized international query on the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS). With more than 500,000 devices in the U.S. and Canada, NLETS seamlessly connects 18,000 law enforcement agencies with close to 1 million users, and transmits more than 50 million messages each month. The USNCB is pursuing agreements with each state to incorporate INTERPOL database queries for all NLETS users within a state's jurisdiction.

LESC joins an ever-expanding list of U.S. police departments having direct query access through existing law enforcement networks: New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, Miami-Dade, Houston, San Diego, Los Angeles and most recently the Virginia State Police.

"Our goal is to provide direct, international query capability to each federal, state, and local law enforcement agency in the United States and, ultimately, to the officer on the street. LESC connectivity directly supports this goal." said USNCB Director Martin Renkiewicz. Renkiewicz is a senior ICE Agent, currently serving a three-year term as USNCB's Director.

PIs Look Into St. Maarten Airport Thefts

The Daily Herald St. Maarten

Security at Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA) may come into question again as a result of another theft in which jewelry and computer parts reportedly were stolen from the cargo section on Monday.

Police spokesman Chief Inspector Johan "Janchi" Leonard said Tuesday that detectives were probing the incident, which had been reported to them by a pilot of Ameriflight 695.

Ameriflight is a California, USA-based air-cargo company.

According to the report, the flight arrived in St. Maarten around 2:15pm Monday and the pilot accidentally slammed into the security gate in the cargo section at the airport. This resulted in some cargo falling from the aircraft.

The pilot exited the aircraft to examine the damage to one of its wings and it was later discovered that a bag containing jewelry and another bag containing computer parts were missing. The bags were to have been delivered to UPS courier service for delivery on the island.

Authorities said they weren't certain whether security personnel had been in the area where the aircraft was at the time of the reported theft.

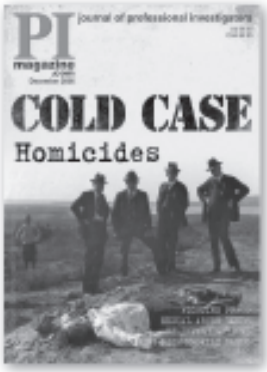
Meanwhile, KLM private investigators who arrived last week to investigate a recent heist of more than US $800,000 in watches and jewelry at Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA) are still here trying to find out, amongst other things, how the breach in security at PJIA's cargo facility was possible.

Chief Prosecutor Taco Stein told The Daily Herald on Tuesday there were still no new developments since the seven jewelry companies' Christmas shipment was stolen from the cargo building.

Local attorneys representing a major jewelry retailer on the island had said the heist was most likely an "inside job." They had also indicated that they were concerned about security at the airport.

However, PJIA President Director Eugene Holiday had released a statement later in which he said there had been no breach of security at the cargo building.

The items stolen had been flown into St. Maarten on a KLM flight and stolen within 12 hours of their arrival. The cargo was delivered to Swiss Port Cargo Service, formerly Aero Cargo NV, where it reportedly was being kept in a safe. But two boxes belonging to one jewelry company were found in an open area during an inspection of the facility after the theft was reported.



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Alberta Video Piracy Case Cracked by PIs

Calgary Herald, January 18, 2008

A 20-year-old man has been charged with illegally videotaping a movie in a Calgary theatre, making him the first person in Alberta and only the second in Canada to be charged with the act since changes were made to the Criminal Code in June to crack down on film piracy.

Calgary Police say the arrest came after a six-month investigation by a local security company, which had been hired by the Canadian Motion Picture Distribution Association. The suspect allegedly smuggled a camera into Empire Studio 16 during a matinee showing of the Johnny Depp movie Sweeney Todd on Dec. 21, the film's opening day. Acting Det. Asif Rashid of the Calgary Police Service said the suspect was spotted in the back of the theatre.

"The camcorder was concealed in his clothing," Rashid said.

In November, a 23-year-old man was arrested in Montreal after allegedly recording the Steve Carell film Dan in Real Life in a multiplex. Before the amendment, it had to be proven that a suspect was intending to distribute an illegally recorded film before action could be taken under copyright laws.

"The fact that now it's a crime to record allows us to go after these individuals," said Mike Robinson, vice-president of anti-piracy operations for the Motion Picture Association of America, the umbrella organization for the Canadian Motion Picture Distribution Association.

In August, the association ranked Calgary as the second-worst source of illegal movie recordings in Canada after Montreal. Robinson said private investigators are often hired to battle film piracy in specific cities where it's deemed to be widespread.

"We were aware of other camcording that had come out of Calgary and that Calgary was a hot spot for this activity," he said. "So we were focusing investigative attention in Calgary."

Neither Robinson nor the Calgary Police would elaborate on the six-month investigation by the private security firm. But Rashid said the investigation has been taken over by police and more charges could be laid.

Robinson said Calgary also has been identified by the Motion Picture Association of America as the hub of an international film piracy operation.

"Activities that are coming out of Calgary . . . have been used as a source for pirated products being sold around the world," he said. "So this has a big impact outside of Canada." Gregory Hagen, an assistant professor of law at the University of Calgary with expertise in intellectual property and Internet law, said the changes to the Criminal Code were the result of lobbying efforts by the association and other groups representing studios and filmmakers.

"This was not so much a legal effort but a public relations effort," he said. "It's to get people associating camcording in theatres with doing something that is criminal."

But Hagen said the law could have unforeseen ramifications. Under the new act, even those who record a film for legitimate purposes - such as for criticism or a review - could be charged. Under the old law, copying snippets of films for these purposes was protected as "fair dealing," he said.

"Under the Copyright Act, it had to be proven that the image in the camera was for some sale, or rental or distribution," he said. "Now all you have to do is find the image and prove it was recorded without consent and that person is liable for imprisonment for up to two years." But Robinson said the amendment targets film pirates, who can have a major impact on the economy.

"Movie piracy is an $18-billion worldwide problem that has serious impact, not only on the film industry in general, but also on the economy of every country and any country that does any sort of movie production," he said. "That includes movie houses and even the mom and pop DVD stores.

"It has the impact of creating a huge underground and illegal economy and that illegal economy is connected to other crimes. So this is not a crime without victims."

Richard Craig Lissaman, 20, of Calgary, has been charged with one count of unauthorized recording of a movie.

Protection Against Cell Phone Theft

Just in case you weren't aware of this information, I'm sure it is something almost everyone needs to know. If anyone ever loses their cell phone, the first thing they worry about is charges which might be applied to their bill. Well, with modern technology the phone can be silenced immediately upon realizing the loss. The phone can be totally disabled.

First you need your phone's individualized serial number. To check your mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: *#06#, that is, the asterisk then the pound sign followed by zero and six and then the pound sign again. A 15-digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe.

If and when your phone gets stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset, so even if the thief changes the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use or sell it, either. If everybody did this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones.

Tips to Help you Spot a Liar

SouthtownStar, December 16, 2007

In business, politics or romance, it would be nice to know when, and if, we are being lied to.

Private investigators deal with deception on a daily basis. Our agency specializes in the area of deception, as we are called in by clients who ask us to interview and interrogate their employees who are suspected of being involved in some type of fraud.

I have interviewed thousands of people in my career and have learned that when the proper techniques are imposed you can find most liars, but there are always a few that will not be found.

So how does it work? How do you turn yourself into a human lie detector and see through lies being told to you?

The leading school for fraud detection - the John Reid Institute - is right here in Chicago, and I attended their academy, as have many in law enforcement as well as military personnel. Many major retailers also send their loss prevention employees to the institute, as well.

If you don't have the experience or plan on attending the academy, what else can you do? Here are some secrets you can use to find out whether you are being told the truth.

Watch as well as listen. Non-verbal behaviors often give insight into whether someone is being truthful.

- Avoiding eye contact.
- Crossing of arms and legs. Shows a defensive posture.
- Wiggling or uncomfortable movements.
- Long pauses.
- Verbal cues can also be helpful in determining whether you are being told the truth.
- Talking fast. Liars sometimes speed up their talking.
- Parroting a question or repeating back a question.
- Religious oaths. "I swear on my mother's grave."
- Communicating in the third person.

We have all had the wool pulled over our eyes and been lied to. Even the best interrogators in the world miss one now and again. The more someone lies, the better he or she gets at it. The information above at least will give you a better chance against someone who may be trying to deceive you.

Fake "PIs" Are Actually Scammers Passing on Malware

Network World, November 19, 2007

It looks like Veronica Mars and Magnum, PI are getting into the malware business.

Commtouch, an Israeli security firm that specializes in protecting e-mail integrity, says that it has detected a new malware outbreak that is spread through e-mails claiming to be from private investigators. According to Commtouch, the e-mails tell recipients that a private investigator has been recording the recipients' phone calls and that an audio file of one of the calls is attached to the message. When unwitting recipients download the "call" to their hard drives, their computers become infected with malware.

"Preying on people's guilty conscience with a virus is an ingenious trick of social engineering," says Rebecca Steinberg Herson, Commtouch's vice president of marketing. "The e-mail messages are written generically enough to fit almost every possible transgression one might wish to hide, ensuring people will open the attachments."

Some common subject headings for the malware e-mails include "I'm monitoring you," "You're being watched" and "The tape of your conversation." Commtouch says that the malware is sent in the form of a password-protected, compressed file that appears to be an MP3 sound file.

While Herson says she doesn't know the particular nature of the malware, she suspects that it isn't meant to overtly damage most computers but rather to get information from them or turn them into zombie machines.

"Nobody's bothering to create malware to wreak havoc with the machines anymore," she says. "Instead, they're creating malware that is stealthy and can steal information like passwords through mining information on hard drives."

Herson also notes that the private detective malware e-mails employ tactics similar to what the early Storm worm malware e-mails used.

Those particular e-mails purported to be news alerts that lured recipients into inadvertently downloading malware by enticing them with sensationalistic headlines such as "Chinese missile shoots down USA satellite" and "230 dead as storm batters Europe."

Ireland's Home Buyers Hire PIs

The Independent.ie, November 12, 2007

House buyers are employing private investigators and specialist agencies to investigate their future new neighbours to check everything from whether they have criminal records to whether they are fond of throwing late-night parties.

The managing director of a company which offers the vetting service says that auctioneers have a "lot to answer for" by failing to tell housebuyers of anti-social behaviour in particular neighbourhoods. People are also contacting private investigators to make sure that the sweet old lady living next door is all she seems, and not a drug-dealer likely to be the subject of late night visits from clients.

"You have first-time buyers looking to buy everything from an ex-council house to a three-bed semi-detached and upwards, and property is such a valuable asset now they don't want to have to sell at a reduced price," said Donncadh O Cinnsealaigh of Investigate Services in Naas, Co Kildare.

"It can be problematic buying a house in a particular area. Everything is aligned to the value of a property, people aren't blinded at the chance of getting their first home.

"An elderly couple would want a nice quiet area. In the day time, it might be quiet; but at night, the young people come out. They also want to know what the age profile of an area is, and will there be problems in the future. They would say just check the immediate neighbours."

A dedicated service for homebuyers will also look at facilities in the area, so people can make an informed choice. "The concept was in the making for a number of years. I noticed a high number of people taking legal action against their neighbours," David Gibney of whoaremyneighbours.com said. "People pay a lot of money to buy a house. They pay for an architect to survey a second-hand property, so I thought 'why not survey the area'?

"The auctioneers in Ireland have a lot to answer for. "They might say there's a widowed woman living next door, but they don't mention her three sons who are unemployable and are out half the night."

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Personal Data Left in the Open at Superior Court

Ventura County Star, December 22, 2007

Documents containing four people's Social Security and bank account numbers were found, unshredded, in a trash bin outside of Ventura County Superior Court last month — a prime opportunity for identity thieves, though there's no evidence of theft.

"That's all you need, for sure," to steal someone's identity, said Larry Troxel, a private investigator in Camarillo, after he was shown the documents.

The documents, all of them records from the court's traffic division, were discovered and mailed to The Star by a courthouse employee who asked to remain anonymous. Two subsequent trips to the Ventura courthouse, including one accompanied by a court administrator, did not turn up any other sensitive documents.

Robert Sherman, the court's deputy executive officer, said he thinks leaving the documents intact and in an open bin was a one-time mistake.

"All of this should have been shredded," he said. One man whose bank account number was on the discarded documents said the security breach doesn't bother him.

"I'm glad they don't make a habit out of it, but I'm not that concerned," said Colin Brown, 29, a Camarillo resident who paid a traffic fine at the courthouse in July. "There's so much personal garbage with your information that you yourself throw out every day. If someone really wants it, they can get it."

Sherman said every court department has shredders, and employees are trained to shred anything with sensitive information, such as a Social Security, bank account or driver's license number. Anything that's not shredded is placed in a locked recycling bin that's picked up twice a week by E.J. Harrison & Sons.

Instead, the ones sent to The Star were thrown away in an open bin next to the locked one. Sherman said he will issue "a little reminder" to court employees on the proper procedures for document destruction.

"We can't have this kind of thing," he said. "In this day and age, it's all too simple for crooks to look for that type of information and steal your identity."

Howard Wise, a senior deputy district attorney who prosecutes identity theft cases, said thieves often go "Dumpster diving" outside of businesses for customer records, though no one's ever been caught trying it at the courthouse.

If the court were a private business, its actions would have violated state law. California's civil code requires businesses to take "all reasonable steps" to destroy both paper and electronic records with personal information.

However, "the government always excludes itself from these rules," said Paul Stephens, the director of policy and advocacy for the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a San Diego nonprofit consumer organization that advocates for consumer privacy and monitors business and government for data security breaches.

Stephens said the Ventura County Superior Court's carelessness is "absolutely outrageous."

"Those people are being set up for identity theft," he said. Thieves could use the information to open bank accounts, obtain credit cards and buy cars in their victims' names, he said.

PIs Looking into Car Accident Involving Hulk Hogan's Son

Tampa Bay's 10, November 9, 2007

While the only surveillance tape the state has doesn't show the tragic accident, experts say there are some telling signs.

On the tape you can see Bollea's yellow Toyota Supra stopping on Court Street before the light at Missouri as a silver Dodge Viper stops next to it. It appears to corroborate what one witness told investigators.

Clearwater Police Spokesperson Elizabeth Daly-Watts says the witness saw them playing a cat-and-mouse kind of game, where one car would speed up and slow down so the other would catch up.

According to this police report, 1267 feet after Bollea's car was captured at the light at Court and Missouri, he lost control of his car and crashed into a palm tree. His passenger, John Graziano, received the most serious injuries and witnesses say speed was a factor.

"We had several witnesses saying they witnessed the two cars racing," Daly-Watts says. "They heard turbo noise, acceleration noise."

Jeff Garland, owner of Jeff's Jeep Yard, says, "As soon as we knew we had a copy, we called the state attorney and let them have a copy."

Garland wanted to make sure the state had the video. Fortunately he kept his own copy. All the other surveillance video along Court Street as well as this one was gathered up by Bollea's defense attorneys. When Garland's employees first turned the video over, they thought they were giving it to law enforcement.

"Local law enforcement or the state attorney, I don't have a problem with them coming in at all and getting what they need," Garland says. "But private investigators…"

And those private investigators will most likely use the video to show the streets were wet, and insist Bollea was not driving fast or racing. The state will try to do just the opposite.

A Little Humor... To Be 6 Again

A man was sitting on the edge of the bed, observing his wife, looking at herself in the mirror. Since her birthday was not far off he asked what she'd like to have for her Birthday. 'I'd like to be six again,' she replied, still looking in the mirror.

On the morning of her Birthday, he arose early, made her a nice big bowl of Lucky Charms, and then took her to Six Flags theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park; the Death Slide, the Wall of Fear, the Screaming Monster Roller Coaster, everything there was. Five hours later they staggered out of the theme park. Her head was reeling and her stomach felt upside down. He then took her to a McDonald's where he ordered her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a chocolate shake.

Then it was off to a movie, popcorn, a soda pop, and her favorite candy, M&M's. What a fabulous adventure! Finally she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed exhausted. He leaned over his wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, 'Well Dear, what was it like being six again??'

Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed. 'I meant my dress size, you dummy!'

The moral of the story: Even when a man is listening, he is gonna get it wrong.

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INVESTIGATION OF A DROWNING

By Lloyd W. Davis

Memorial Day of each year is generally the opening day for most private and commercial swimming pools. It also brings with it a serious problem that faces all the parents who allow their children to go to these pools without their personal supervision. The safety of their children. In lieu of this personal supervision, parents rely on the owners or management companies of these pools to assure that the pools are operated in such a manner that their children will be protected, and the lifeguards are properly trained to save their children from water mishaps.

Recently, Davis Investigative Services of Waldorf, Maryland, was contracted by a local attorney to investigate the death of an African American nine year old male, who had drowned in a local, private, neighborhood swimming pool. On that summer evening, selected youths from various schools, were participating in a celebration of the "Say No To Drugs Program". The event was sponsored by several local middle schools, and the local county sheriff's department.

This was to be our first hurdle; realizing that most of the county personnel involved had already been advised not to talk to anyone and to refer all inquiries to their legal staff.

Another one of our problems was that most of the interviews, which we needed, would be of juveniles, and their identities are normally protected. We knew that our best resource for identifying the youths involved would be the other children and their parents who were present at the event.

Our client had advised us that the decedent was not one of the students invited to this private function; however, had arrived with his father and his sister, who was a member of the "Say No To Drugs Program". Even though the decedent's father was advised, by one of the sponsor members that his son was not supposed to be at the party, he was allowed to remain. Eventually the decedent was allowed to go into the 'kiddie pool. Being a curious nine year old boy, the decedent ventured into the main pool about thirty feet away. The main pool had depths from two to eight feet and two life guard stands.

About thirty minutes before the two hour event was to end, the decedent was found at the bottom of the pool in five feet of water, by a young female swimmer. With the assistance of another female swimmer, they recovered him and brought him to the deck before any of the three lifeguards on duty around the pool area, were aware there was a problem.

When the lifeguards did approach the decedent it was chaos, because none of the lifeguards wanted to start CPR without a face shield or a bag–valve–mask.

During our investigation, we later learned that one of the female lifeguards was alleged to have made several trips to the guard shack to retrieve the first aid kit, which was supposed to contain the plastic mask. For some unknown reason the face mask was not in the kit. Several of the adult witnesses, who had children attending the function, commented to the lifeguard nearest the victim "he's only nine years old" and offered to provide CPR without the mask. Their offer was rejected by the lifeguards and they were instructed to step back.

To begin with this type of investigation it was important to obtain copies of all police reports available and review them thoroughly. Normally the police reports would not be available to the public until the police agency responsible for the investigation had completed their investigation. We, as investigators, are all aware it is sometimes months before we are brought into a case, and the police should have generally completed their investigation by this time.

In cases where the police agency is involved in the function, like in our case, you may face some resistance in obtaining the assistance you would normally be given.

In this case the law firm had already obtained copies of the police report, and copies were provided to us. In preparing to begin our investigation we reviewed all the files available, outlined our investigation, and familiarize ourselves with all the witnesses that were located and interviewed by the police. In this case most of the witnesses interviewed by the police investigators were children, and the police agency blacked out all personal data, on their reports, before releasing any copies. National and local data sources were checked for possible names of parents of the children listed. From the interviews of the children identified by the police, we were able to identify other children and adults at the party.

No one was located who reported seeing the young boy going into the main pool. An adult witness was located who reported seeing the young boy playing a game in the pool, with older kids, such as climbing on their backs.

From the police report, it was determined that at the time of the incident, it was alleged that there were five lifeguards on duty. Two of the lifeguards reported that they were in the lifeguard stands at the time the victim was recovered from the pool. It was later learned that one of the lifeguards was in a lifeguard stand about twenty feet from where the body of the victim was recovered.

Why did this tragic death occur? Who was responsible for this child's death or was anyone responsible? Were the lifeguards, and the company who provided the lifeguards responsible for the death? Was the pool management company, who had the responsibility of the everyday operation of the pool and who hired the lifeguard company, responsible for the death?

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Was the neighborhood association, owner of the pool responsible? Were the five lifeguards on duty at the time of the drowning properly trained? Were the lifeguards exhausted from working longer hours than they should have been, therefore making them less alert than necessary? As you see, as an investigator, many questions can come to mind in determining who, if anyone, was negligent.

In this unfortunate situation someone was responsible and the parents wanted closure and needed to know "why" their son was dead. The family needed to know why did this death occur and could it had been prevented. They needed to know who was responsible for the senseless death and our job was to determine who was negligent.

/ (The following article is excerpted from West's Encyclopedia of American Law.) /

/Conduct that falls below the standards of behavior established by law for the protection of others against unreasonable risk of harm. A person has acted negligently if he or she has departed from the conduct expected of a reasonably prudent person acting under similar circumstances. To establish negligence, a plaintiff must prove that the defendant had a duty to the plaintiff, the defendant breached that duty by failing to conform to the required standard of conduct, the defendant's negligent conduct was the cause of the harm to the plaintiff, and the plaintiff was, in fact, harmed or damaged./

Also, remember in a negligence suit, the plaintiff has the burden of proving that the defendant did not act as a reasonable person would have acted under the circumstances. In establishing negligence, your client must prove that the defendant had a duty to them, the defendant breached that duty by failing to conform to the required standard of conduct and the defendant's negligent conduct was the cause of the harm to your client, and they, in fact, were harmed or damaged. At this point we felt that we had determined responsibility.

Prior to any interviews, we visited the swimming pool where the drowning occurred and thoroughly photographed the area where the body was recovered. Special attention was given to the locations of the lifeguard stands, and they too were photographed. A photograph of the overall view of the pool and surrounding area was obtained and enlarged. This photograph was used when we conducted our interviews. With a black marker, our witnesses were able to identify the locations of the lifeguards and other events that could have distracted the lifeguards from their duties and responsibilities.

We began our interviews by interviewing the adults listed in the police report, and their children. From these witnesses we were able to obtain names, addresses and phone number of other children present at the party. Our interviews established the activities of the lifeguards and other persons involved in the function.

In our investigation, to determine if the swimming pool facility was self managed or by a company, we visited a neighboring pool and inquired of them. After identifying the management company and visiting their web site, we were surprised to find that they listed their clients as references.

During the investigation it was learned that the pool in question was owned by a neighborhood association, which was managed by an elected Board of Directors, who retained a management company to handle the day to day operation of the pool, who then hired another company to provided lifeguards. Again, we found that they, too, have been advised of a possible law suit and were being very careful about providing information regarding their contract with the neighborhood association or the management company.

During your interviews, remember lifeguards are considered professional rescuers, which means that on the job they are legally obligated, within the bounds of their training, to respond to and provide care in an emergency.

In our interviews we attempted to determine the following.

1. Was there a warning from the lifeguards in reference to non swimmers in the main pool?
2. Did anyone see the Victim go in the main pool?
3. Was there anyone with the Victim when he entered the water?
4. Did anyone see the Victim in panic, thrashing about atop the water before slipping underwater and out of view?
5. Where were the lifeguards immediately prior to the victim being discovered?
6. What had been the activity of the lifeguards prior to the discovery of the Victim?
7. What rescue procedures were used to rescue the Victim from the water?
8. What resuscitation procedures were used to attempt to revive the Victim and how long was it before the rescue squad arrived?
9. Did the person being interviewed have an opinion of what could have been done to prevent this incident?

Before completing half of our interviews, we determined that the lifeguards were indeed negligent in their responsibility to provide a safe environment for the swimmers. Now we had to determine who was responsible for the lifeguards.

Further investigation revealed that the XXXX pool company managed the neighborhood pool where the incident took place, the XXXX Association managed the property where the XXXX Pool and Recreation Center was located, and the

cont'd on page 18

Drowning cont'd from 16

XXXX Neighborhood Association, Inc. owned the property where the XXXX Pool and Recreation Center was located, and all were responsible for conduct of their employees.

Based on our thorough investigation of this unfortunate death, the attorney filed a law suit in the Circuit Court, in which they alleged that the XXXX Pool Service, XXXX Management Services and the XXXX Neighborhood Association, were negligent in supervising the pool to prevent users of the pool, such as the Decedent, from drowning or otherwise being injured. It was noted that they were further negligent in caring, treating, and attending to the Decedent. It was also alleged that the three Defendants owed a duty to ensure that there were the proper number of lifeguards at the pool; to ensure that the lifeguards and pool personnel could properly monitor the pool to make sure that the users and patrons of the pool would not drown or otherwise be injured; to ensure that the lifeguards and pool personnel were properly trained in life-saving measures; to ensure that there was proper life saving equipment on hand; and to protect the Decedent against drowning or injury .

Death in a swimming pool is a reasonably foreseeable and preventable event which can arise as a result of the failure to have a trained lifeguard on duty to minimize and/or eliminate the risk of drowning at a pool. For example, the owner of a swimming pool must consider the possibility of a swimmer drowning. Failure to guard against such emergencies can constitute negligence.

Lloyd Davis
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Waldorf, MD 20604-1393
Phone: 301-843-7288
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<>:<>Brain Teasers <>:<>

1. A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in 3 years.

Which room is safest for him?

2. A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together.

How can this be?

3. There are two plastic jugs filled with water. How could you put all of this water into a barrel, without using the jugs or any dividers, and still tell which water came from which jug?

4. What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and gray when you throw it away?

5. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?

6. This is an unusual paragraph.

I'm curious how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so plain you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is unusual though. Study it, and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out.

.....answers on page 23

Make Your Hotel Reservations for the Bahamas Toady!!!

To all my friends who sent me best wishes in 2007 or promises of good luck if I forwarded something...IT DID NOT WORK.

So For 2008, could you please just send me either money, chocholate or gas vouchers!

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****

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Wednesday, May 14th	**Arrival Date**
7:00 pm– 9:00 pm	**Registration and Welcome Reception**
Thursday, May 15th	
9:00 am - 10:00 am	**Board Meeting**
10:00 am - 11:45 am	**General Business Meeting/Elections**
12:00 noon	**President's Luncheon**
	Evening on Your Own
Friday, May 16th	**Morning on your own**
	Dinner Cruise (times to be announced)
Saturday, May 17th	**Morning on your own**
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	**Farewell Dinner**
	2008 Awards Presentations
Sunday, May 18th	**Depart**

We encourage everyone to stay a few days before and after,
to fully enjoy the delights of the Bahamas!

For additional information on the hotels and sites to see in the Bahamas
visit www.sheraton.com/ourlucaya
or
www.westin.com/grandbahama

DHS Begins Collecting 10 Fingerprints from International Visitors at Dulles International

Wednesday, January 2nd, 2008 'Government Technology Magazine' / Folsom, CA

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is now collecting additional fingerprints from international visitors arriving at Washington Dulles International Airport (Dulles). The change, said DHS in a release, is part of the Department's upgrade from two- to 10-fingerprint collection in order to enhance security and fingerprint-matching accuracy.

"Anyone who's watched the news or seen crimes solved on television shows can appreciate the power of biometrics," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "They help the legitimate traveler proceed more quickly while protecting their identity and enable our frontline personnel to focus even greater attention on potential security risks. Biometrics tell the story that the unknown terrorist tries to conceal, and it causes them to question whether they've ever left a print behind."

Department of State (DOS) consular officers and DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers collect biometrics — digital fingerprints and a photograph — from all non-U.S. citizens between the ages of 14 and 79, with some exceptions, when they apply for visas or arrive at U.S. ports of entry. The Department's US-VISIT program checks this data against a joint Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)-DHS watch list of criminals, immigration violators and known or suspected terrorists. Watch list data comes from several sources, in particular the Department of Defense (DOD), FBI, DHS and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

Checking biometrics against these databases helps officers make visa determinations and admissibility decisions. It also improves the department's ability to compare a visitor's fingerprints against latent fingerprints collected by DOD and the FBI from known and unknown terrorists all over the world.

Dulles became the first port of entry to collect additional fingerprints from visitors on November 29. Nine other ports of entry will begin 10-fingerprint collection during the next few months, and the 278 remaining ports will begin this process by the end of 2008. This announcement is the result of an interagency partnership among DHS, FBI, DOD and DOS.

The next ports scheduled to collect 10 fingerprints from international visitors are: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport; Boston Logan International Airport; Chicago O'Hare International Airport; San Francisco International Airport; George Bush Houston Intercontinental Airport; Miami International Airport; Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport; Orlando International Airport; and New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

US-VISIT, in cooperation with CBP, is leading the transition to a 10-fingerprint collection standard. Since US-VISIT began in 2004, DHS has used biometric identifiers to prevent the use of fraudulent documents, protect visitors from identity theft, and stop thousands of criminals and immigration violators from entering the country.

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And this much we now know.....

NORMAN SMITH

by Michael P. Petchey

Way back in the early eighties, that is the last century for you clever Dicks out there, I was officially introduced to Norman, although I had been aware of his presence for a few years, as we were in opposing cricket clubs. He was a cunning bowler; he'd fool you by the flight of the ball whereas I'd hurl it down and cause maximum discomfort.

It was one of those rare occasions that I picked up a few wickets and as a result, Norman and one of my club mates struck up a conversation probably along the lines of how, by my bowling absolute rubbish, I managed a modicum of success, for which, I might add, I had to buy both teams a jug of beer.

Norman had been speaking to one of our best bowlers, Geoff Lloyd, and they had a great laugh at my expense. However, that great laugh was diminished considerably over the years by the innumerable good times and humour we have shared ever since. Geoff had met his second Private Detective, Norman Smith, and advised him that I was in the same line of business. We struck up conversation, swapped notes and numerous stories, and so it has continued.

Thanks to Norman, I learned about the Association of British Investigators, the foremost and oldest organisation of its type in the UK. I was unaware at the time that he was a former President and a life member, but that is typical of the man, totally unpretentious. For many years Norman was Editor of The New Investigator, the ABI's magazine and continues to serve as a Trustee of the Benevolent fund. He was also very active on the Board of Directors and his excellent thought process and presentation invariably persuaded fellow Board members.

Perhaps Norman's adeptness of mind can be attributed to his extensive legal experience, having attended court on innumerable occasions often to give evidence, or justify legal costings he had prepared for lawyers. Yes, a Legal Costs Draftsman; another string to his bow.

Cricketer, Writer, Costs Draftsman, Investigator – and that is not all he has to offer.

Spend a few quiet moments with Norman and you will discover that he has other surprises up his sleeve. He's a member of the Magic Circle. With sleight of hand he'll produce a chicken from his sleeve although, he's never been able to find a pint of beer there for me! He has some amazing tricks and I swear that he vanishes when on surveillance.

Quite how he manages to squeeze it all in is beyond me, a little like his snooker! Ah, he's excellent at that too and I only rarely beat him – and that's one of my tricks!

Over the last few years, Norman, having joined a repertory company (stock company) has featured in several productions to packed houses and I understand that their approach to the performance is extremely professional, so much so, that it excites Norman, to witness the transformation from the clear canvas to the finished painting – a work of art.

A work of Art indeed – the artist in action – Ladies and Gentlemen, the one and only, Norman Smith.

Answers to "Brain Teasers"

1. The third. Lions that haven't eaten in three years are dead.
2. The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry.
3. Freeze them first. Take them out of the jugs and put the ice in the barrel. You will be able to tell which water came from which jug.
4. The answer is Charcoal.
5. Sure you can: ..Yesterday,.. Today, and Tomorrow!
6. The letter "e", which is the most common letter in the English language, does not appear once in the long paragraph.

Suspicious Spouses Use Spyware

Stuff New Zealand, February 4, 2008

Nasty computer spyware isn't only used by hackers to steal your credit card details - suspicious spouses have adopted it as a way of monitoring and controlling their partners' every online move.

Spyware is software that is surreptitiously installed on a computer with the aim of collecting personal information and monitoring the user's activities. It is often used by hackers to steal personal data like passwords and, increasingly, by parents to monitor their kids' web activities.

But Anna Stepanov, manager of the anti-spyware program at McAfee Avert Labs, said the software was also being used as a surveillance tool in cases of domestic abuse. "With so much of our lives dependent on computers and other technologies such as cell phones, the use of spyware is ideal for abusers, who often feel the need to control all aspects of a victims existence," Stepanov wrote in a white paper released this week titled Spyware: A Morphing Campaign.

"Monitoring a victim's online, cell phone, or general computing activity is of more value than ever in controlling or hurting a victim."

Dennise Simpson, manager of the Domestic Violence Crisis Service in Canberra, said her organization had dealt with cases of domestic spying for years and "spyware really takes the whole thing up another notch in terms of being able to really watch your partner".

She said she knew spyware was being used for stalking overseas and expected it was already happening in Australia.

"I would call it the most blatant form of stalking - anyone who is being subjected to that sort of scrutiny is living in a domestic violence situation," said Simpson.

One commercially available software package, Spector, promises to covertly monitor and record all emails, chats, keystrokes, website visits, search entries and even activity on specific sites like MySpace.

A "digital surveillance tape" feature can play back a visual, step-by-step walkthrough of every activity performed on the computer.

The software, which costs $US99.95, can also be configured to warn the stalker by email or SMS text message whenever certain keywords and phrases are used.

Anne Hollonds, chief executive of Relationships Australia NSW, said the use of spyware by suspicious spouses was similar to hiring a private investigator but did not necessarily result in positive outcomes.

"Either you find something that confirms your suspicions or whatever and the relationship is over, but if you don't find anything then it doesn't necessarily make things better," she said.

"It's interesting to me that people will spend often thousands of dollars hiring private investigators or purchasing this software … and yet they won't pay for counselling."

While not surprised that spyware was being used for domestic surveillance, Hollonds said if the spying was used to control and intimidate it could certainly be classed as domestic abuse.

Internet safety tips published on the website of the US National Network to End Domestic Violence advise people who think they are being monitored to keep using their computer for normal activities while researching an "escape plan" on a safer computer. Sudden, abnormal behaviors like deleting your entire internet history could make an abuser suspicious.

"You don't need to be a computer programmer or have special skills to monitor someone's computer and internet activities - anyone can do it," the NNEDV said.

TSA plan to gather more data protested ... Fliers would be asked for birth dates, genders and full names

By Thomas Frank - 'USA Today'

(Edited for brevity and generic law enforcement pertinence)

WASHINGTON — A government proposal to start collecting birth dates and genders of people reserving airline flights is drawing protests from major airlines and travel agencies that say it would be invasive, confusing and "useless."

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) wants passengers to give the additional personal information — as well as their full names — so it can do more precise background checks that it says will result in fewer travelers being mistaken for terrorists. Travelers currently must provide only a last name and a first initial.

Airlines say passengers will resist providing more details and that the process will be time-consuming.

The plan centers on transferring the task of checking passenger backgrounds from airlines to the TSA. The transfer is required by a law enacted in 2004 and was urged by the 9/11 Commission that year.

The commission said the TSA can do a better job because it can check passengers against the complete government terrorist watch lists instead of partial lists used by airlines. The TSA expects to take over background checks next year, though many airlines said the agency's plans don't give them enough time to change their reservation systems and enable the switch.

Under a TSA proposal published in August, airlines and travel agents would be required to ask people reserving flights for their birth date, gender and full name. Travelers, however, would not be required to give the new information.

People who don't comply could be more easily mistaken for a terrorist and "may be more likely to experience delays, be subjected to additional screening (or) be denied transport," the TSA wrote.

The TSA proposal received support in recent comments from the Air Line Pilots Association and the Air Carrier Association of America, which represents low-cost airlines such as AirTran and Frontier.

Getting the extra personal information "will result in fewer holdups at the check-in counters and will allow airlines greater ease in processing passengers," the carrier association wrote.

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AIRPORT
Airport Name - Grand Bahama International Airport Freeport, Grand Bahama

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The Reef Club course is an 18-hole links-style golf course designed by renowned golf course architect **Robert Trent Jones Jr**. Jones is the son of RTJ Sr. who, along with Dick Wilson, were the top two American golf architects, with fierce competition for decades. It was no accident that the resort has a Jones course and a Wilson layout! The REEF CLUB opened in 2000 by hosting **The Our Lucaya PGA Senior Slam,** won by **Hale Irwin.** In recent championship play (Bahamas National Amateur) the Reef Club averaged two strokes more difficult than Lucayan, although to many it appears the easier test

Misfire at Justice

Wallstreet Journal -January 22, 2008

The Second Amendment's right to bear arms has rarely been considered by the Supreme Court, but this year the Court is hearing a case that could become a Constitutional landmark. So it is nothing short of astonishing, and dispiriting, that the Bush Justice Department has now weighed in with an amicus brief that is far too clever by half.

The case concerns a D.C. Circuit decision that overturned a Washington, D.C., law denying a handgun permit to plaintiff Dick Heller. Judge Laurence Silberman wrote for the majority that when the Second Amendment says "the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed," it means exactly that. He added that "the Second Amendment protects an *individual right* to keep and bear arms" (our emphasis), and is not limited to people serving in a modern "militia" such as the National Guard, as some gun-control advocates maintain.

The amicus brief filed by Solicitor General Paul Clement agrees with this part of the D.C. Circuit ruling. But then it goes on a bender about violent felons wielding machine guns, urging the Supreme Court to reject the legal standard applied by Judge Silberman. Instead, the SG invites the Supremes to hand down an elaborate balancing test that would weigh "the strength of the government's interest in enforcement of the relevant restriction" against an individual's right to bear arms.

This is supposedly necessary because of this single phrase in Judge Silberman's 58-page ruling: "Once it is determined — as we have done — that handguns are 'Arms' referred to in the Second Amendment, it is not open to the District to *ban* them" (our emphasis). This has alarmed the lawyers at Justice, eliciting their dire warnings that somehow Judge Silberman's logic would bar the regulation of M-16s, felons with guns, or perhaps even Sherman tanks.

This is bizarre. The key word in Judge Silberman's opinion is "ban." His opinion readily concedes that regulating guns and banning them are not the same. He explicitly notes that felons may be barred from owning guns without implicating the Second Amendment and points out that weapons of a strictly military nature are not encompassed by the right to bear arms. Nothing in Judge Silberman's opinion precludes reasonable restrictions on weaponry.

More ominously, if Mr. Clement's balancing test were adopted by the High Court, it would be an open invitation to judges nationwide to essentially legislate what is or isn't proper regulation. The beauty of Judge Silberman's standard is that it carved out wide Constitutional protections for arms — such as "most" hand guns and hunting rifles — that Americans now own and that might reasonably have been anticipated by the Founders. The Bush Justice Department is instead inviting the Supreme Court to uphold an individual right to bear arms in principle but then allow politicians and judges to gut it in practice.

The District of Columbia has argued that it has a strong governmental interest in a near-total handgun ban. To support its claims it has trotted out all manner of emotive appeals and dubious sociology to attenuate the right protected by the Second Amendment. Justice's balancing test would invite thousands of judges to allow fact-finding on the need for gun control and then issue what would essentially be their own policy judgments. This is precisely the kind of activist judicial nightmare that President Bush himself claims to oppose.

So why would his own Solicitor General do this? The speculation in legal circles is that Mr. Clement is trying to offer an argument that might attract the support of Anthony Kennedy, the protean Justice who is often the Court's swing vote. But this is what we mean by "too clever by half." Justice Kennedy would be hard-pressed to deny that the Second Amendment is an *individual* right, given his support in so many other cases for the right to privacy and other rights that aren't even expressly mentioned in the Constitution. No less a left-wing scholar than Laurence Tribe has come around to the view that the Second Amendment protects an individual right for this very reason. Mr. Clement is offering a needless fudge.

The D.C. Circuit's opinion in *Heller* is forceful, clearly reasoned and Constitutionally sound. By supporting that decision and urging the Supreme Court to validate it, the Bush Administration had the opportunity to help the Court see its way to a historic judgment. Instead, it has pulled a legal Katrina, ineptly declining even to take a clear view of whether Mr. Heller's rights had been violated. It dodges that call by recommending that the case be remanded back to the lower courts for reconsideration.

The SG's blundering brief only increases the odds of another inscrutable High Court split decision, with Justice Kennedy standing alone in the middle with his balancing scales, and the lower courts left free to disregard or reinterpret what could have been a landmark case. Is anybody still awake at the White House?

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