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Summer 2009

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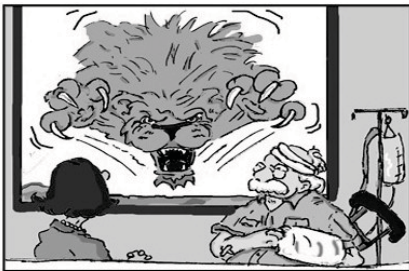
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"WHAT A STUNNING PICTURE!
AND THE CAMERA ANGLE IS INCREDIBLE!
HOW DID YOU DO IT PROFESSOR?"



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"PROFESSOR ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?"

David Showalter's...

Pleasantly Practical

Healthy, Successful & Fun Living...

Computer Users Beware!

Your computer is under attack -- from malware, botnets, Trojan horses, worms and zombies. They may sound like aliens, but they're really malicious software that infects your computer without your permission, often for evil purposes.

"Malicious software is one of the biggest threats computer users face today," says Jefferson County (CO) District Attorney Scott Storey. "Like an invisible thief in the night, you won't even know it's there."

What do all these words mean? TechEncyclopedia defines malware as software "designed to destroy, aggravate and otherwise make life unhappy." It may come bundled with other programs, from a website, or from an e-mail attachment, like a virus. Worms and Trojans are examples of malware.

A botnet is a network of compromised computers that can be controlled remotely -- not by you. Tens of thousands of computers can be linked together and run under a common command and control system.

To put it simply (and it can get much more complex), while connected to the internet your computer can be invaded by a virus or trojan and hijacked to become part of a botnet. Once it has been compromised, it's called a zombie.

The Symantec Corporation estimates that there are "millions upon millions" of botnet-infected PCs in existence today.

You must protect yourself. Here's how:

- Subscribe to a credible internet protection suite, including virus and spyware protection and a software firewall. You can research protection programs on such sites as www.pcmag.com.
 - Use common sense when it comes to e-mail. Don't open unsolicited items. Know that government agencies, banks and credit card companies will never e-mail you about financial or personal issues.
 - Think before you install anything. Weigh the risks and benefits.
 - Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!
- Tips For Keeping Food Fresh When Shopping...**

Property unnoticed is property unsold.

Inadequate photography disappoints sellers, buyers, and Realtors

Elevated photography produces the images that buyers notice!

Tips For Keeping Food Fresh When Shopping...

When you shop, buy cold and frozen foods last. Take food straight home to the refrigerator or freezer. Never leave food in a hot car! Don't buy anything you won't use by the "use-by" date. Don't buy food in poor condition. Make sure refrigerated food is kept cool by asking your grocery bagger to put cold and frozen foods together. When buying food, frozen food should be rock-solid. Canned goods should be free of dents, cracks, or bulging lids which can indicate serious food poisoning threat.

"It's Called A What??"

Most people know that a group of cattle is known as a herd, and chickens travel in broods. But some of our animal friends hang-out together in groups with very unusual names.

A group of baboons is known as a troop. Caterpillars travel in armies, and a set of cats is known as a cluster. Coyotes are grouped in a pack, and dolphins in a pod. A bowl of goldfish is a troubling, and ducks hang out in a brace. Owls gather in parliaments, but multiple ravens are an unkindness of ravens. A group of hippopotami is known as a bloat, and a bevy of eagles is known as a convocation. And a family of crocodiles is known as a bask. Whew!

Oxymorons!

An oxymoron is a figure of speech by which a phrase produces an effect by seeming self-contradicting.

1. Found missing.
2. Act natural.
3. Advanced basic.
4. Genuine imitation.
5. Same difference.
6. Almost exactly.
7. Alone together.
8. Small crowd.
9. New classic.
10. Synthetic natural gas.
11. Clearly misunderstood.
12. Extinct life.
13. Plastic glasses.
14. Twelve-ounce pound cake.
15. Awful good.
16. Exact estimate.
17. Gentle thunder.
18. Screaming silence.

Got An Unfair Traffic Ticket?

If you find yourself with a traffic ticket that you feel you didn't deserve, here's a little helpful advice.

Attorney Mel Leiding says some traffic tickets are unfair, undeserved, and easy to beat. He claims that about 60 percent of the tickets fought in court are won by average citizens without any legal training.

In his book "*How To Fight Your Traffic Ticket And Win!! 206 Tips, Tricks and Techniques*," Leiding advises everyone to plead "not guilty." He says not guilty doesn't mean you didn't do it – it means that the officer must come to court and prove beyond a reasonable doubt that you are guilty.

There's a 30 to 50 percent chance the officer cannot show, resulting in a probable dismissal of your ticket and return of your money.

"A simple way to increase the odds of a 'no show' is to ask for continuances. This will set the hearing date at your convenience, not the officer's convenience," he says.

The recent trend is to contest unfair tickets because they've become so expensive. Tickets average \$150 and go up to \$1,350 after penalty assessments.

Leiding's book also includes simple driving tips to avoid getting future tickets and some interesting ways to talk your way out of a ticket.

Other tips include how to handle the initial stop. He advises to roll your windows down, turn on the interior lights at night and put both hands on the wheel to show there's no danger to the officer.

And above all...smile and present a good attitude.

Other popular books on the subject are:

An Educated Guide to Speeding Tickets by Richard Wallace; *Beat Your Ticket: Go To Court & Win* by David Brown; and *Beat The Cops: The Guide to Fighting Your Traffic Ticket and Winning* by Alex Carroll.



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Typical Photo

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Trivia Tease ...

I have a mouth but do not speak
I have a bed but do not sleep
I run but have no feet
What am I?

(answer at bottom of page)

Wackiest Laws On The Books!

Did you know that in New Hampshire it is illegal to tap your feet, nod your head, or keep time to the music in a tavern, restaurant, or café? Or that state law in Colorado *allows* people to rip the tags off pillows and mattresses, despite dire warnings not to do so?

And in Alaska, while it's legal to shoot bears, waking a sleeping bear for the purposes of taking a photograph is prohibited.

The dumb laws web site, found at www.dumblaws.com offers an entertaining selection of silly laws on the books in the U.S. and foreign countries. Compiled by Andy Powell and Jeff Koon, the site offers a sidesplitting look at laws that are outdated...or simply incredibly stupid. Other examples include...

In Fairbanks, Alaska, it is considered an offense to feed alcoholic beverages to a moose. Sterling, Colorado has a law on the books that states that cats may not run loose at night without being fit with a taillight.

Did You Know?...

- The animal with the largest brain in proportion to its size is the ant.
- Temperature and crime are correlated. Many more crimes are committed in the hot summer months than in the cold winter months.
- Ancient Egyptians regarded the heart as the center of intelligence and emotion. They believed the brain to be totally insignificant, and during mummification, the brain was removed...thinking it would not be needed on the "other side."

Answer To Trivia Question:

A River!

Know Someone Needing Employment?

These Job Interview Tactics May Help...

Everyone wants to do their best during a job interview – especially if it's for a position you truly desire. But did you know this: If you're one of the first candidates interviewed for a job, odds are you will *not* get hired?

The first candidates frequently get overlooked simply because, after all the interviews are completed, the interviewer forgot details about the first person. Here are a few helpful strategies you might want to consider the next time you're interviewing for "a big job."

- ◆ First, pay attention to *when* you'll be interviewed. If you are offered an interview, for example, on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, select Wednesday. A mid-week interview will be close enough to the end of the week (many hiring decisions are made Wednesday through Friday), yet far enough from the beginning of the week to be remembered. If you're offered a choice of time for your interview, select the *last* interview appointment of the day.
- ◆ You'd be amazed at how many applicants never follow-up their interview. Those who do frequently take so long that their follow-up is meaningless. Send a personal thank-you note *the very next day* to everyone who interviewed you. Make sure you know the best way to communicate with the individuals, whether it be by regular mail, email or fax. Add something about your "company fit" you learned during or since your interview.
- ◆ Follow up your note with a phone call or email within a week to 10 days (sooner if the employer is on a faster hiring timetable). Continue to sell your strengths during the call. Most of all, be patient. Keep following up, but don't be annoying. Many times the hiring process takes longer than an employer anticipates.

"No loss of flood and lightning, no destruction of cities and temples by hostile

forces of nature, has deprived man of so many noble lives and impulses as those which his intolerance has destroyed."

--

Everyone Wins!

Elevated Photography reveals assets that can't be shown in typical photos. That attracts attention.

Buyers see more value and ask to be shown your listing.
We all know how important that is!

Keep spreading the word. Your clients will understand and appreciate the efficiency of Elevated Photography.

Realtors and clients have been very pleased with the results.

Helen Keller (1880 – 1968) American author and lecturer.

More Airline Yuks...

I was once on a Southwest flight that was delayed at the gate after everyone boarded. The flight attendant said over the intercom, "We're sorry for the delay. The machine that normally rips the handles off your luggage is broken, so we're having to do it by hand. We should be finished and on our way shortly..."

Figure This Out!

Read aloud the numbers in the diagram in consecutive order, starting at 1, 2, 3, etc. until you come to number 40. See if you can discover which number has been left out while doing this. Put the number in the space marked with a question. You're doing good if you can get this in 3 minutes!

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 21 | | 17 | | 3 |
| 9 | 32 | | | 23 |
| 27 | | 7 | | 40 |
| 24 | | | | |
| 39 | 10 | 34 | 26 | 15 |
| 6 | 29 | | | |
| 31 | | 13 | | 37 |
| 22 | | | | 8 |

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|---|----|----|
| 18 | | 12 | | 30 | 35 |
| | | 1 | | | |
| 16 | 28 | 20 | | 5 | |
| 11 | 33 | 25 | ? | 2 | |
| 38 | | 4 | | 19 | |
| | | 14 | | | |

SMILE- Sunshine is good for your teeth.

THANK YOU for reading my Pleasantly Practical newsletter. I intend to produce newsletters that have great content and are fun and valuable to you. Your constructive feedback is always welcome.

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Amazing Customer Service

The Department of Motor Vehicles is a very busy place. I needed to transfer the title for the car I had just purchased. Having heard from others how long they had to wait to be served, I took a book along to spend the time reading. When I entered the building I saw many people both seated and standing.

I received my customer number and settled down to read until I was called. Barely had I read one sentence and my number was called! I closed my book and grabbed my papers and hurried to the proper window for service. I smiled as bright as I could and told the lady in a teasing way that she had ruined my plans to read for several hours. She looked at me scowling and said, "IF YOU WANT TO READ SO BAD, GO SOMEWHERE ELSE, MAYBE THE PUBLIC LIBRARY WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY!" I mumbled, "Well, I heard that you are often very busy and that people sometimes had to wait a long time." She said nothing. Not only had she been fast with her words but also with the processing of my papers. As she handed the completed papers to me, I smiled big again and said, "Thank you ma'am." She looked at me with no facial expression and no verbal response.

As I left the building, I laughed to myself. "Now that she got this difficult customer off her hands, she can be happy and pleasant the rest of the day."

-Raymond P. Brunk

David's Photograph for *This Issue*

