

AllCovered NEWS

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A weekly service for clients and friends of Allcovered.net and the Allen Insurance Group

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JUST FOR FUN:

Y'all Might Like This

NEXT WEEK: Teach Clients: Outsource Strategically

NOTE: At the end of most stories excerpted within is a link to the full story at its source.

SMALL BIZ – SURVEY JOB APPLICANTS

Finding the right employee for the right job is always a challenge.

Applicants look their best and act their best during any interview.

How do you really know their personality and what their strengths are... how those strengths fit into what you need and the personality of your company?

You test.

Managers increasingly use personality and attitude surveys to gauge how potential employees will match the needs of the company and monitor concerns existing employees have about the work environment.

The tests can help you know, before you hire, what really motivates a person... and what kinds of feedback they need from you to do their best.

Finding the right person for the right job cuts turnover because people are more satisfied with their jobs.

Testing can take many forms. Some include just a written test. Some include work simulation, a behavioral-based interview, a case study that considers mental acuity and a planning exercise that looks at organizational skills.

Where do you find these tests? If you search "Employee Testing" on Google you will find more than 9-million links.

MORE: http://www.bizjournals.com/industries/business_services/human_resources/2005/04/25/kansascity_focus1.html?f=et152

SMALL BIZ HEALTH – ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS PRO & CON: Association health plan legislation is again moving through the House and Senate. Proponents hope that this year it will pass in the upper chamber for the first time. Legislation to allow AHPs to operate nationally has been approved by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, clearing the way for a full House vote.

MORE: <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2005/05/09/gvsvd0509.htm>

US ECONOMY – FED RAISES AGAIN: The US Federal Reserve Bank raised its key "Fed Funds Rate," the interest rate it charges banks for overnight loans, one-quarter percent as expected. The Fed Funds rate now stands at 3.0%.

MORE: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ft/20050505/bs_ft/911e85a8bcc611d9b1e30000e2511c8

US ECONOMY – MORE FED HIKE COMING: In coming months, consumers can expect more of what they have seen for nearly a year — a gradual increase in interest rates controlled by the Federal Reserve.

MORE: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050504/ap_on_bi_ge/fed_interest_rates;_ylt=AjpuwK_IWBk6EVNVNeQSYpCyBhIF;_ylu=X3oDMTBIMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

US ECONOMY – S&P CUTS GM & FORD DEBT RATING TO "JUNK":

MORE: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050505/ap_on_bi_ge/automakers_debt_ratings;_ylt=AgZo9q0ILRC3ETISx.21uzWyBhIF;_ylu=X3oDMTBIMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

US ECONOMY – PRODUCTIVITY UP 2.6%:

MORE: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050505/ap_on_bi_ge/ec/economy;_ylt=AsETAZfwfByqKVjveJtq2pGyBhIF;_ylu=X3oDMTBIMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

TECH BIZ – TEN CHEAP DESKTOP COMPUTERS: If all you or your employees are doing is email, word processing and basic office tasks, you don't need the latest and greatest computer. Looking for a fine desktop computer for less than \$700? PCMag.com just put 10 of the best low-price desktops under the microscope.

MORE: <http://ct.eletters.whatsnewnow.com/rd/cts?d=181-445-1-278-829574-21034-0-0-0-1>

TECH BIZ – EIGHT LOW-COST NOTEBOOKS: PC Magazine reviews 8 low-cost notebook computers.

MORE: <http://ct.eletters.whatsnewnow.com/rd/cts?d=181-445-1-278-829574-21037-0-0-0-1>

PERSONAL BIZ – HOW LONG WILL YOU LIVE?: This quiz shows how your lifestyle might affect how long you live... and offers suggestions on how you can live longer.

MORE: <http://www.agingresearch.org/calculator/quiz.cfm>

FUN BiZ – BA OFFERS DICTIONARY SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND "BRIT SPEAK"

MORE: <http://london.ba.com/index.asp?word=know>

TRUCKING – MARCH TRUCK SALES UP 39.6%

Class-8 truck sales were up 39.6% in March over March 2004.

- + Freightliner topped Class 8 sales in March with 6,204 units, up 10.0% from a year earlier
- + International sold 3700 units, up 27.0%
- + Peterbilt remained in third position with 2,469 units, up 35.3%
- + Fourth was Mack with 2,467 units, up 47.1%
- + Volvo with 2,191 units, up 34.4%
- + Kenworth with 1,864 units, up 7.4%

TRUCKING – NO FMCSA RESPONSE TO DRIVER TRAINING LAWSUIT

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has until May 23 to respond to a lawsuit challenging its entry-level truck driver training rule.

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, the United Motorcoach Association and the non-profit Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety filed challenges this past summer in the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The groups wanted a review of the rule.

FMCSA's final rule contradicts earlier agency statements and "fails to meet the 1991 congressional mandate to deal with driver training as it relates to safety," says OOIDA President and CEO Jim Johnston.

"In the proliferation of regulations over truck drivers in the last five years, it is a gross oversight that no mandatory training exists to teach someone how to drive a truck as a condition for obtaining a CDL," Johnston says.

--- NEXT STEPS ---

After the FMCSA files its response with the court, the petitioners will have until June 6 to reply.

A three-judge appeals court panel will hear the case.

No oral arguments have been scheduled yet.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=47265>

TRUCKING – AGENCIES MUST MATCH HAZMAT DATES: An interim final rule designed to eliminate any confusion between the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's and the Transportation Security Administration's hazmat endorsement compliance date was published in the April 29 Federal Register. The rule does nothing more than let the states know that the FMCSA and TSA dates are in sync. The rule forces the two entities to agree on January 31, 2005, and May 31, 2005, as important hazmat compliance dates.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=47229>

TRUCKING – 52 ARRESTED IN FLORIDA LICENSE SCAM

A five-month, multi-agency investigation led by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) resulted in the arrest of 52 individuals involved in a scheme to unlawfully produce and distribute Florida state driver's licenses.

36 of the 52 had obtained Florida State Commercial Driver's Licenses, certifications to haul hazardous materials or access to ports of South Florida according to a news release from ICE.

Three of the 23 defendants worked as State of Florida Driver's License examiners, five participated in the scheme as recruiters, and 15 were recipients of the illegally obtained driver's licenses.

--- SO WHAT? ---

Florida driver's licenses figured prominently in the terrorist attacks 9-11, with nine of the 19 hijackers having the licenses and three others possessing identification cards issued by Florida.

After the attacks, Florida revamped its licenses to make them more difficult to duplicate or counterfeit, but problems remain with fraudulent access to government identification documents.

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/showstory.aspx?id=9532>

TRUCKING – SAFER PARKING: On Friday, 29 April, a flatbed truck rolling down Interstate 65 sideswiped a semi parked on the outer shoulder of Interstate 65. The accident illustrates why, on Sunday, 1 May the Indiana State Police began stepping up ticketing of all illegally parked vehicles alongside highways. Some truck drivers contend that the state lacks public parking spaces at interstate rest stops. A recent federal survey revealed that Indiana, like most states, has an insufficient demand-to-supply ratio of public truck parking spaces.

MORE: <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/11551376.htm>

TRUCKING – MARCH TONNAGE INDEX FALLS 3.3%: The Truck Tonnage Index fell 3.3% in March according to the American Trucking Associations. That is 0.4% lower than a year earlier, the first year-over-year decrease since November 2001. This follows a revised 2.9% decline in February 2005. Tonnage volumes dipped because the economy was weighed down by slower consumer spending and higher energy costs, says Bob Costello, ATA chief economist.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=47267>

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/showstory.aspx?id=9525>

TRUCKING – DIESEL DOWN SLIGHTLY: Weekly retail on-highway diesel prices were down 2.7 cents Monday, May 2, compared with prices reported April 25 by the Energy Information Administration. But that's still 54.5 cents more than they were a year ago. The US National Average Price was \$2.262 per gallon, compared with \$2.289 the last week of April.

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/showstory.aspx?id=9533>

TRUCKING – DIESEL - NO PRICE DROP SOON

Although national retail diesel prices fell 2.7 cents, the federal government predicts that several factors will keep fuel prices fairly high this summer and on into September.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports:

- + Worldwide petroleum demand growth will remain "robust," as China's appetite for fuel grows.
- + Non-OPEC oil producers and the OPEC cartel aren't expected to produce enough oil for demand.
- + Spare crude oil production capacity is projected to stay low worldwide.

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/showstory.aspx?id=9550>

TRUCKING – EU DRIVERS EYE "BIG BROTHER"

Truck drivers across Europe could soon have "Big Brother" sitting in their cabs if a pioneering road safety initiative in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) bears fruit.

IBM engineers are designing an automobile-monitoring system and install a device in cars, trucks and buses to track drivers as they drive around the UAE.

The devices will not only be used to track the speed of drivers, but could also be used to inform drivers when they're approaching a car accident or nasty weather.

MORE: <http://www.tnn.co.uk/EuropeanNews/plonearticle.2005-04-29.9548446444>

TRUCKING – GE TRAILER FLEET'S NEW TECH: GE is launching "VeriWise Asset Intelligence System" that can be used to pinpoint the location of a trailer even when it's not attached to the tractor. The new GE Mobile Solutions Center -- a state-of-the-art, 53-foot mobile asset intelligence technology demonstration center -- is on a national tour. What is the advantage? "With the driver shortage, trucking firms are beginning to use technology to make sure that drivers are fully utilized," says Patrick Brennan, media relations manager. "They don't want them waiting for such things as loading, unloading and for repairs to be completed. Drivers are increasingly being asked to leave their trailer and come back later to maximize time."

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/showstory.aspx?id=9524>

TRUCKING – FEDEX BOOSTS RATES 5.6%: See "Air & Ocean" Section

SECURITY IN DEPTH – US TO REPLACE ALL SECURITY GEAR?

After spending more than \$4.5-Billion on screening devices to monitor the nation's ports, borders, airports, mail and air, the federal government is moving to replace or alter much of the antiterrorism equipment, concluding that it is ineffective, unreliable or too expensive to operate.

Most of the gear was bought in a rush after 9-11.

In its effort to create a virtual shield around America, the Department of Homeland Security now plans to spend billions of dollars more. Some of the changes are updates now that new technology has become available.

--- CURRENT PROBLEMS ---

RADIATION MONITORS that cannot discriminate between dangerous nuclear materials and natural low-level radiation.

PASSENGER SCREENING gear and personnel that independent tests show is no more effective, and in most places LESS effective since the government began running it.

Some experts believe that this high-priced push for improvements is necessary, saying the war against terrorism may require the same sort of spending on new weapons and defenses as the cold war did.

"You are in a game where you are continually upgrading and you will be forever," says Thomas S. Hartwick, a physicist who evaluates aviation-screening equipment.

MORE: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/08/national/08screen.html?ei=5065&en=d1983b251ada5456&ex=1116129600&partner=MYWAY&pagewanted=print>

SECURITY – SHIPS FROM 7 COUNTRIES FACE US SANCTIONS

Anti-terrorism safeguards are so lax in seven countries that US officials will now board and screen all ships that recently docked in those nations before allowing them to enter US ports, according to a Coast Guard report.

Madagascar, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritania, Guinea-Bissau, Albania and Nauru fail to comply with the ISPS international maritime security standards imposed last year and therefore lack effective anti-terrorism measures in their ports according to the USCG.

The Coast Guard says from May 23 all ships that dock in these states on one of their previous five stops would automatically be denied entry to the United States unless they take tough new security precautions, such as placing guards at all access points to the ship while in a blacklisted state.

Security boardings at sea or a denial of entry to the United States can trigger extremely costly delays, and perishable cargo can be lost.

MORE: <http://www.terrelibere.it/terrediconfine/index.php?x=completa&riga=01015>

SECURITY – PORT PROGRESS “LIMITED”

A Department of Energy effort to guard against nuclear traffickers by installing radiation detection equipment at foreign seaports has made "limited progress," chiefly because of troubled negotiations with some countries, according to a report by the Government Accountability Office.

The program complements the Container Security Initiative, run by the Department of Homeland Security, in which US inspectors are stationed in foreign ports to review the cargo manifests of US-bound containers to try to identify those with potentially dangerous materials.

MORE: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/03/AR2005050301598.html>

SECURITY – BILL FOR 100% CARGO SCREENING: Less than a week after the House Homeland Security Committee defeated an amendment in the Department of Homeland Security authorization bill for 100% inspection of all passenger planes, Rep. Edward Markey, (D-MA), and Rep. Christopher Shays, (R-CT), introduced a bill requiring all cargo on passenger and all-cargo planes be physically inspected for explosives.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21043>

SECURITY – AIR FORWARDERS ATTACK 100% SCREENING: David Wirsing, executive director of the Airforwarders Association, says "Having worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security, regulatory agencies, and members of Congress, the Airforwarders Association... continue to vigorously support screening 100% of elevated-risk cargo. However, the legislation introduced by Rep. Markey and Rep. Shays would have a devastating ripple effect on America's economy. There is simply no technology that currently exists that can screen 100% of cargo."

MORE: <http://www.securityinfowatch.com/article/article.jsp?id=3916&siteSection=307>

SECURITY – EPA WARNS OF EXPLOSIVE REFRIGERANTS: The US Environmental Protection Agency is advising truck owners to avoid hydrocarbon refrigerants being sold as inexpensive substitutes for HFC-134a and CFC-12. Marketed under such names as OZ-12, DURACOOOL 12a, and HC-12a, the refrigerants are sold online and at flea markets as replacements for EPA-approved refrigerants. The EPA said they may contain large quantities of propane, butane or other highly flammable gases.

MORE: <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/refrigerants/index.html>.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=47219>

>>>>>> AIR & OCEAN SECTION <<<<<<

IN DEPTH - DOCKS AND THE MOB

The meeting was a set-up.

More than a half-century after Marlon Brando starred in the film "On the Waterfront," law enforcement officials are still battling the mob's dark influence at New York Harbor.

A 1999 meeting between John Bowers of the International Longshoremen's Association and George Barone, a mobster who allegedly once controlled the ILA locals in New Jersey and Miami for the Genovese crime family is at the heart of the federal government's latest assault.

MORE: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?base/news-0/1115170272310390.xml>

AIR – UNITED ATTENDANTS & MECHANICS MAY STRIKE

As if a bankrupt United were not in trouble enough, flight attendants and mechanics at United Airlines both threatened to engage in strike action if the carrier's agreement to terminate its pension plans is approved by the US Bankruptcy Court at a May 11 hearing.

United says it must terminate and replace its pensions in order to exit Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Last month United reached an agreement with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. that calls for the agency to terminate and become trustee of the company's four pension plans.

Labor trouble with the mechanics union is often cited as what killed Eastern Airlines long ago.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=904>

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1115071340.html>

AIR – UNITED MECHANICS SAY THEY HAVE BACKING FOR STRIKE: The union representing mechanics at bankrupt United Airlines says mechanics at seven other US carriers have vowed to support their colleagues at United, "up to and including the right to strike."

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1115333348.html>

AIR – 26% PAY CUT FOR ALASKA PILOTS: Alaska Airlines pilots took a 26% pay cut and will contribute more to their health care under a new contract crafted by an arbitrator that went into effect 1 May. The contract also includes "various" work rule changes designed to boost productivity, but no changes were made to the pilots' pension or profit-sharing plans.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=902>

AIR – ROYAL JORDANIAN STOPS BAGHDAD FLIGHTS: Jordanian flag carrier Royal Jordanian (RJ) has suspended its daily flights to Baghdad after being told by the US military that it could not land on safety grounds. "As soon as there is clearance, RJ will resume its flights," said a spokesman.
MORE: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L03585684.htm>

AIR – EU AIR CARGO MARKET CHANGING

Europe's air cargo business changed dramatically in recent months. More change is likely coming. The convergence of Air France Cargo and KLM Cargo established a new fault line across the continent.

Lufthansa Cargo is chasing rather than heading market dominance.

Will Alitalia soon bow to the apparently inevitable and fold into the Air France grouping to help create an undeniably super cargo carrier combination?

That is just one of many questions enveloping Europe's airlines and its leading forwarding customers as deregulation and open competition take their toll on the continent's flag carriers and the map of airline service is redrawn.

It's also among the questions being asked across the Atlantic and in Asia, where the interweaving relationships and alliances that are shaping global airline business will be colored by the changes in Europe.

--- SHORT BY ROAD – LONG BY AIR ---

The cargo business is taking on a new character Europe, one highlighting long-haul services while short-haul operations seemingly are ceded to the roads. Intra-Europe passenger services are taken over by a new generation of low-cost carriers.

KLM Cargo's marriage with Air France has led to KLM's integration into the SkyTeam Alliance cargo services.

Alitalia is adding five MD-11 freighters.

Lufthansa has joint deals with DHL, the ambitious creation of a Chinese cargo operation and buying-up addition capacity on the North Atlantic, courtesy of US Airways.

MORE: http://www.aircargoworld.com/features/0505_2.htm

AIR – CONTINENTAL CARGO DOWN: Continental Airlines says cargo ton miles fell 4% in March to 81,903 compared to March 2004.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21022>

AIR - SAA TO EXPAND FREIGHT: With some air-cargo observers forecasting volumes to triple over the next two decades, South Africa's State-owned airline, South African Airways (SAA), is intensifying efforts to devise a comprehensive freight strategy.

MORE: <http://www.miningweekly.co.za/min/news/today/?show=66658>

AIR – NEW NON-ALUMINUM AIR CARGO CONTAINERS: When an aluminum air cargo container is damaged, it is expensive to repair. Now AeroBox Composite Structures has developed a "plastic" Unit Load Device (ULD). The AeroBox ULD is made from Aeroplaz sandwich panels, featuring a 13-mm/0.5 inch thermoplastic honeycomb core between laminated fiberglass/polypropylene skins. 12% lighter than aluminum ULDs, the AeroBox is, according to test reports, 100 times less thermally conductive than aluminum, making it ideal for airlines traveling to hot-weather destinations.

MORE: <http://www.compositesworld.com/hpc/issues/2005/May/849>

AIR – LH EYES 747-ADV: Lufthansa is studying the future 747 Advanced to supplement its A380s. "We have ordered the A380 which has to deliver to us around 15% lower seat-mile costs compared to our current 747-400s. The operating costs of a 747ADV, [if it is launched] have to be between a 777-300 and the A380," according to a spokesman.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=903>

AIR – A380 DELIVERY PUSHED BACK: Airbus reportedly will postpone first delivery of the A380 to Singapore Airlines, currently set for May 2006, to later in the year. SIA has negotiated a new agreement for the delivery to take place in the second half of 2006.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=905>

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1115156751.html>

BE CAREFUL MOVING USED GOODS

Used goods are always a challenge.

Most insurers will not allow full cover insurance on used goods.

We DO offer full cover on Used Goods with special approval, but we are careful, and you should be.

We would gladly insure goods under a broader coverage than only Clauses C if we could be sure of the condition of the goods before they move.

In case of a claim, USED goods pose special problems.

Underwriters have no way of knowing that the USED goods you are moving are in pristine condition when you accepted the shipment and placed the insurance... or that any damage was not already done to the gear.

Protect yourself – we have Step-By-Step help!

GO TO: www.allcovered.net

CLICK: "Training & Help" – then –

CLICK: "What Do I Do?" – and #B-1 will protect you and your Shipper.

www.allcovered.net We have logistics ALL covered!

OCEAN – TACA PLANS MORE RATE HIKES: The rising costs of containerized shipping are blamed for more rate hikes. The seven member-lines of the Trans-Atlantic Conference Agreement (TACA), which includes container majors AP Moller-Maersk Sealand, NYK Line and OOCL, say rising costs could not be absorbed, and will be seeking westbound rate hikes of US\$240 per 20 ft container and US\$300 per 40/45 ft container from 1 July. This seems to be in addition to an already announced surcharge of US\$200 per 20 ft container and US\$400 per 40/45 ft container from June 1.

MORE: <http://business-times.asia1.com.sg/sub/shippingtimes/story/0,4574,154104,00.html>

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21010>

OCEAN – CNAWFC HIKES RATES: Conference shipping lines in the trade between northern Europe and Canada are planning substantial freight rate increases, particularly westbound, only months after reducing ship capacity in the trade. The Canadian North Atlantic Westbound Freight Conference and the Continental Canadian Westbound Freight Conference say carriers will raise westbound rates \$280 per 20-foot container, \$350 per 40-foot dry container and \$350 per reefer container, effective 1 July.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21030>

OCEAN – NORDANA EXPANDS US-MED SERVICE: Nordana Line plans to add two roll-on/roll-off multipurpose vessels to its Mediterranean/Americas service in June and July.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21080>

OCEAN – CARRIER LEAVING CHARLESTON FOR SAVANNAH: Turkon America is said to have let its contract with the Port of Charleston in order to move to Savannah instead.

MORE: <http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050507/APN/505070729&cachetime=3&template=dateline>

OCEAN – LINER INDUSTRY GROWTH TO CONTINUE

The liner shipping industry is on a roll.

Ocean carriers are currently enjoying a boom, which started towards the end of 2002, when a shift of manufacturing to China - initially from North America and then Europe - produced double-digit growth in cargo volumes and with it, a rise in what shipping lines could charge their customers.

As a result, ocean carriers' bottom lines have been much healthier, with their return on sales averaging as much as 15% to 18% in 2004.

Analysts say this momentum will be sustained through 2005, with an expectation that freight rates will continue to hold their own for much of the year, despite a 14% growth in the size of the world containership fleet.

MORE: <http://business-times.asia1.com.sg/sub/shippingtimes/story/0,4574,154257.00.html>

OCEAN – LA & LONG BEACH PORTS CLEAR: With ship calls down in the first quarter of 2005 and cargo volumes up slightly, the Los Angeles-Long Beach port complex has been without congestion all year, according to the Marine Exchange of Southern California.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20050503/sections/ocean/w85195.asp>

OCEAN – LA BOXES TO GROW 10%: Container volume in Los Angeles-Long Beach will increase by 9.9% in 2005, further straining the physical capacity of the ports and the inland infrastructure, according to a report released Wednesday by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20050505/sections/ocean/w67651.asp>

OCEAN - APL BOXES UP 11%: APL increased its container traffic 11% to 154,000 FEUs during the four-week period ended April 8, compared to the same period last year. Average revenue per FEU rose 8% \$2,735.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21055>

OCEAN – INDIAN FORWARDERS BOYCOTT MAERSK: Danish shipping giant Maersk, the largest container shipping company in India, is at the receiving end of an agitation by freight forwarders. The two dozen freight industry associations, under the umbrella organization of Freight Interest Forum (FIF), have decided to boycott cargo owned and handled by Maersk and its group companies from tomorrow, May 9, in retaliation for withdrawing brokerage payments to freight forwarders and custom house agents (CHAs).

MORE: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1098857.cms>

OCEAN – EU PORTS DO NOT WANT SELF-HANDLING: Fearing port labor unrest, the European Sea Ports Organization, a Brussels-based lobby group, says it will seek amendments to the new directive proposal of the European Commission on market access to port services, including the exclusion of the so-called "self-handling" proposal. ESPO says the directive's controversial proposal on "self-handling" -- allowing the ship's crew or land-based personnel of the shipping line to carry out cargo handling activities instead of stevedores -- should be excluded from the directive.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21018>

OCEAN – KAZAKHSTAN EYES BUILDING PORT: The Kazakh government is considering the construction of another seaport on the Caspian Sea to handle increased volumes of output of oil from offshore and onshore fields. Kazakhstan is experiencing bottlenecks with the increase of oil transportation through the Caspian Pipeline Consortium's Tengiz-Novorossisk line, and therefore wants to develop marine infrastructure more intensively.

MORE: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story.asp?guid={896DC359-231D-4186-AF3F-E9CDF335D908}&siteid=mktw&dist=&cbsReferrer=www.maritime.com>

OCEAN – KUWAIT'S \$2-BILLION PORT PROJECT: Kuwait is the latest country to jump on the mega-container port bandwagon with the acceptance of bids for the first phase of a US\$2-Billion project.

MORE: <http://business-times.asia1.com.sg/sub/shippingtimes/story/0,4574,154310.00.html?>

OCEAN – PONY-NJ OPENS DEEPER CHANNELS: The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey says the 45-foot channels into the Port of New York and New Jersey are now officially open. The deeper channels allow ships carrying more than 4,500 TEUs to call on the port. The ports will now begin deepening the channels to 50-feet (15.1m).

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20050502/sections/ocean/w14498.asp>

OCEAN – HALIFAX EYES ASIAN CARGO: Starting next week a delegation from the Port of Halifax will visit an array of Asian countries in a bid to attract more liner calls.
MORE: <http://www.joc.com/lede/20050504/sections/ocean/w52371.asp>

OCEAN – ROTTERDAM BOX TERMINAL: The Port of Rotterdam and ECT, its biggest terminal operator will build a \$190 million container terminal with annual capacity of 880,000 TEUs to help keep pace with an unexpected surge in traffic that is threatening to gridlock the world's biggest port. The Delta Barge Feeder Terminal is due to open at the beginning of 2008.
MORE: <http://www.joc.com/lede/20050504/sections/ocean/w21528.asp>

OCEAN – CHINA SHIPPING PASSES COSCO: China Shipping Container Lines has overtaken COSCO Container Lines as the largest Chinese container carrier, when measured in container fleet capacity.
MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21062>

OCEAN – COSCO ORDERS MORE 10,000 TEU SHIPS: COSCO Container Lines has confirmed a shipbuilding contract for four 10,000-TEU containerships from COSCO KHI Ship Engineering Company to begin delivering in 2008.
MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21029>

TRADE – FEDEX BOOSTS RATES 5.6%: FedEx Freight, the LTL subsidiary of FedEx Corporation, will implement a 5.6% general rate increase effective next Tuesday, May 16, 2005. The increase will apply to interstate and intrastate traffic, and selected shipments between the US and Mexico and Canada.
SEE RATES: www.fedex.com/us/freight/main
MORE: http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=54708

TRADE – EU AIRPORTS NEED UPGRADE: Airports across Europe must build now to cope with a massive surge in demand over the next 20 years. So says the Airports Council International that represents the sector. The ACI estimates that by 2025, over 60 European airports will be seriously congested. Overall, these are the well-known airports which represent some 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe.
MORE: <http://home.eircom.net/content/unison/biznews/5482917?view=Eircomnet>

TRADE – TAIWAN WANTS MORE CHINA TRADE: Taiwan opposition leader Lien Chan called for greater trade and economic ties with China. Speaking in Shanghai to Taiwan business people whom he called "pioneers" and credited for contributing to China's economic growth, Lien reiterated his call to establish a common market akin to the European Union between the diplomatic rivals.
MORE: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2005-05-02T092437Z_01_N02398948_RTRIDST_0_INTERNATIONAL-CHINA-TAIWAN-DC.XML

TRADE – CP SHIPS BUYS FORWARDER: CP Ships has taken over Montreal-based freight forwarding company Borg International Freight Services.
MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21039>

TRADE – NZ FREIGHT FIRMS HURT BY SKILLS SHORTAGE: A chronic skill shortage affecting the freight industry could constrict New Zealand's importing and exporting ability, according to the International Forwarders Association. IFA president Brian Broom says, "Our concern is that it could well be staring us in the face in the short term. It's getting close to that." The freight and logistics sector has experienced strong growth during the past six months, and is competing against other industries for a limited pool of labor.
MORE: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,3271420a13,00.html>

(These are shared by readers – Please share yours. Thanks. Mike)

AllCoveredNEWS - EASY TO READ & PRINT VERSION:

<http://www.allcovered.net/AC-News-PDF.htm>

Y'ALL MIGHT LOVE THIS

NOTE: The US is a big country. We really are like seven different societies or countries. The South is mostly definitely a "world unto itself..." a state of mind as much as a region. For Southerners everywhere, and those who want to understand us, we pass along this email from a friend.

Someone once noted that a Southerner can get away with the most awful kind of insult just as long as it's prefaced with the words, "Bless her heart" or "Bless his heart." As in, "Bless his heart, if they put his brain on the head of a pin, it'd roll around like a BB on a 6-lane highway."

I was thinking about this the other day when a friend was telling about her newly transplanted Northern friend who was upset because her toddler is just beginning to talk and he has a Southern accent. My friend, who is very kind and, bless her heart, cannot do a thing about those thighs of hers, was justifiably miffed about this. After all, this woman had CHOSEN to move to the South a couple of years ago. Can you believe it?" said her friend, "A child of mine is going to be "taaaallllkkin liiiiike thiiiiissss."

Now, don't get me wrong. Some of my dearest friends are from the North, bless their hearts. I welcome their perspective, their friendships, and their recipes for authentic Northern Italian food. I've even gotten past their endless complaints that you can't find good bread down here. And the heathens, bless their hearts, don't like corn bread!

We've already lost too much. I was raised to say "swayya," not swear, but you hardly ever hear anyone say that anymore, I swayya you don't. And I've caught myself thinking twice before saying something is "right much," "right close," or "right good" because non-natives think this is right funny indeed.

I have a friend from Bawston, bless her heart, who thinks it's hilarious when I say I've got to "carry" my daughter to the doctor or "cut off" the light. She also gets a giggle every time I am "fixin'" to do something. And, bless their hearts, they don't even know where "over yonder" is, or what "I reckon" means!

My personal favorite was my aunt, saying, "Bless her heart, she can't help being ugly, but she could've stayed home."

Southern girls know bad manners when they see them:

1. Drinking straight out of a can.
2. Not sending thank you notes.
3. Velvet after February.
4. White shoes before Memorial Day or after Labor Day.

Southern girls always say:

1. "Yes, ma'am."
2. "Yes, sir."

Southern girls have a distinct way with fond expressions:

1. "Y'all come back now, ya heeah."
2. "Well, bless your heart."
3. "Drop by when you can."
4. "How's your mama?"
5. "Love your hair."

Southern girls know everybody's first name:

1. Honey
2. Darlin'
3. Shugah

Southern girls know the movies that speak to their hearts:

1. "Gone With the Wind"
2. "Fried Green Tomatoes"
3. "Driving Miss Daisy"
4. "Steel Magnolias"
5. "The Notebook"

Southern girls know their cities dripping with Southern charm:

1. Adlanna (Atlanta as outsiders say)
2. Richmon (translation: Richmond)
3. Challston (translation: Charleston)
4. S'vannah (translation: Savannah)
5. Buminham (translation: Birmingham)
6. Nawlins' (translation: New Orleans)
7. Oh! and that city in Alabama ? It's pronounced MUNTGUMRY!

Southern girls know the three deadly sins:

1. Bad hair
2. Bad manners
3. Bad blind dates

G.R.I.T.S. = Girls Raised in The South!

Now you run along, Shugah, and send this to someone else Raised In The South, i.e., Southern Belles, or ANY females aspiring to be GRITS.

Even the Northern ones, "Bless Their Hearts." It's not their fault they weren't born and raised in the South, and they can "get Southern" if they work at it.

If you have curious or interesting or funny or thoughtful items that might be good in "Just For Fun", Email them to mike.miller@allcovered.net . Thanks.

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