

AllCovered NEWS

The news YOU need to grow your business and stay ahead of your competition

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

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Monday, 6 June 2005 --- Edition #439

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AllCovered-NEWS

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SMALL BIZ – BUSINESS INTERRUPTION - ARE YOU COVERED?

Many US small business owners face a major gap in their insurance coverage or do not fully understand coverage they have according to a new national survey by Trusted Choice.

--- BUSINESS INTERRUPTION ---

The gap and misunderstanding is in a coverage area known as “Business-Interruption Protection.”

This insurance pays for lost income if a firm is temporarily closed or its income reduced or diminished due to a covered loss such as a fire that destroys the building, natural disaster or other named peril.

It also can pay for operating expenses that continue after business has come to a temporary halt... such as rent, salaries and operating at a new location.

--- UNDER-COVERED OR CONFUSED ---

“Three out of four respondents either don’t have business-interruption insurance, or don’t know what it is or when it applies if they do have it. In the aftermath of a disaster, how do they and their employees plan on operating the business without income for what could be many months? Business-interruption insurance provides the resources that allow them to move, rebuild and minimize the impact on their business,” says an analyst.

“This coverage not only protects against catastrophes, but gives employees, banks, vendors and customers more confidence in a firm’s stability.”

--- RISK IS GREAT WITHOUT BI COVER ---

“Running a small business without business-interruption protection, or understanding how it works, is akin to ignoring the warning signs of a fatal heart attack. You can’t always predict or prevent natural disasters, fires or any other potential business-closing catastrophe, but you can be prepared.

“A business that has to close down completely while its premises are being repaired may lose out to competitors, lose market share, lose employees, lose suppliers, lose inventory... A quick resumption of operations is essential... and this can done through business-interruption coverage.”

--- SURVEY FINDINGS ---

Among small business owners:

54% do not have Business Interruption insurance

20% have never heard of Business Interruption insurance

26% have BI insurance (most bought because lenders forced them to)

SMALL BIZ – BRING IN THE NEXT GENERATION NOW

It does not just affect small businesses... even multinational firms owned or controlled by families have the same problem... they are not grooming the next generation to take over. Why is that?

No one counts on mind reading to help children learn to use the little fork for salad and the big one for meat. We don't assume that if they watch their parents go through the morning newspaper enough times kids will be able to read. But in some family businesses young people are left to absorb crucial skills and understanding through their pores, and it's an unnecessarily long process that's fraught with hazards of inaccuracy and misinterpretation.

--- ROADMAP PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ---

Instead of the old pick-it-up-as-you-go- along approach, the preparation of family members to work in and eventually lead the family business should take the form of professional/executive development.

Over a period of time, young family members should be trained in the technical knowledge and skills that capable professionals in their industry or field must have. Their goal is to meet the educational and performance criteria that define competence in their professional area.

In addition, they prepare to be executives, a related but distinctly different role.

They apprentice themselves to successful senior people.

They learn to handle the tools of management.

This demands a substantial commitment from the senior generation in the business. If it's to be done well, professional/executive development will require analysis, attention to detail, oversight and quality control, and unstinting involvement by those who have to teach what the younger people have to learn.

MORE: http://www.bizjournals.com/extraedge/consultants/family_business/2005/05/23/column215.html

WORKING WITH IDIOTS CAN KILL YOU

Idiots in the office are just as hazardous to your health as cigarettes, caffeine or greasy food. In fact, those dopes can kill you!

Stress is one of the top causes of heart attacks -- and working with stupid people on a daily basis is one of the deadliest forms of stress, according to researchers at Sweden's Lindbergh University Medical Center.

The author of the study, Dr. Dagmar Andersson, says her team studied 500 heart attack patients, and were puzzled to find 62% had relatively few of the physical risk factors commonly blamed for heart attacks.

"Then we questioned them about lifestyle habits, and almost all of these low-risk patients told us they worked with people so stupid they can barely find their way from the parking lot to their office. And their heart attack came less than 12 hours after having a major confrontation with one of these oafs.

"One woman had to be rushed to the hospital after her assistant shredded important company tax documents instead of copying them. A man told us he collapsed right at his desk because the woman at the next cubicle kept asking him for correction fluid -- for her computer monitor.

"You can cut back on smoking or improve your diet," Dr. Andersson says, "but most people have very poor coping skills when it comes to stupidity -- they feel there's nothing they can do about it, so they just internalize their frustration until they finally explode."

Stupid co-workers can also double or triple someone's work load, she explains. "Many of our subjects feel sorry for the drooling idiots they work with, so they try to cover for them by fixing their mistakes. One poor woman spent a week rebuilding client records because a clerk put them all in the 'recycle bin' of her computer and then emptied it -- she thought it meant the records would be recycled and used again."

MORE: <http://www.weeklyworldnews.com/features/science/50720>

SMALL BIZ – HURRICANE CENTRAL SUPER-SITE: With the first of June comes the start of the Hurricane season. The Florida Insurance Council has put together a great web site with tips, tricks, reminders and help.

MORE: <http://www.flains.org/HC/>

TECH BIZ – EMAIL ADDICTION: Are you addicted to e-mail? Do you check it dozens of times a day and, when you're not looking at it, wonder what's in it or who is mailing you? You are hooked.

MORE: <http://ct.enews.pcmag.com/rd/cts?d=184-1797-1-53-255970-198245-0-0-0-1>

TECH BIZ – ULTRA-PORTABLE NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS: Tired of lugging a 10-pound (5kg) notebook computer? Here is a review of the top four small notebook computers... all full power but under 1.5kg (3.5 pounds).

MORE: <http://ct.eletters.whatsnewnow.com/rd/cts?d=181-464-1-278-829574-21995-0-0-0-1>

PERSONAL BIZ – IS YOUR NOTEBOOK A PAIN IN THE NECK?: Notebook computers are great for powerful portability, but they were never designed with the human body in mind. How you are at risk and ways to ease the strain are here.

MORE: <http://news.com.com/Is+your+laptop+a+pain+in+the+neck/2100-1022-5723559.html?part=dht&tag=ntop&tag=nl.e703>

EU ECONOMY – AFTER CONSTITUTION DEFEAT... WHAT NOW?:

MORE: http://news.yahoo.com/s/bw/20050602/bs_bw/nf20050625913db039_vlt=Am5pQZJz.33Mfs1vkxMH1TqyBhIF_vlu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCl

US ECONOMY – FACTORY ORDERS AT 5-MONTH HIGH:

MORE: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050602/ap_on_bi_gg_ec_f/economy_vlt=AmMeo0JfJzn90mRhogyOirOyBhIF_vlu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCl

>>>>>> TRUCKING SECTION <<<<<<<

TRUCKING – ROADCHECK THIS WEEK: More than 3 million roadside inspections will be conducted during the 18th annual Roadcheck, starting tomorrow (Tuesday 7 June) and running through Thursday 9 June. This year's Roadcheck focuses on safety belts, motorcoach safety and commercial vehicle security. The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance sponsors Roadcheck in collaboration with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=47486>

TRUCKING – DIESEL UP: The US national average retail price of a gallon of diesel increased less than a penny, to \$2.160, for the week ending May 30.

STATE-BY-STATE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/promiles/fuelprices.asp>.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=47618>

TRUCKING – REPOS UP

Nassau Asset Management reports a 45% increase in the volume of truck repossessions in 2005 compared to the same period last year.

"It's too early to call this a trend, but Q1 is the first time in a long time that repossession and liquidation activity increased for most sectors," Edward Castagna, senior executive vice president. "We are monitoring the situation to see if our statistics reflect deeper economic issues."

Nassau speculates higher fuel prices, higher insurance premiums and an overall economic slowdown may have contributed to the spike in truck repossessions.

-- NOT JUST TRUCKS --

Other types of equipment saw a much steeper increase in repossessions. For example, repossession of medical devices increased 258%, personal computers 79%.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=47488>

>>>>>> SECURITY SECTION <<<<<<<

SECURITY – WILL 'SMART BOXES' RAISE SECURITY?

Container shipments account for 90% of world trade and are growing at a 5% compound annual rate -- with 14 containers entering US ports every minute.

At present 95% of these containers are not inspected for weapons or other types of security threats, according to a study conducted by A.T. Kearney in conjunction with the International Cargo Security Council (ICSC).

Executives interviewed for the report believe that new technology solutions, such as Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)-enabled 'Smart Boxes,' could enhance container security as well as improve container visibility throughout the supply chain.

"It now makes good business sense to improve security using advanced technologies such as RFID because of the associated benefits in operational and administrative efficiency. We found that most companies were already building a solid business case for deploying advanced technologies to solve the new-age issue of security and the age-old issues of reliability and efficiency" says Omar Hijazi, an A.T. Kearney principal who oversaw the report, titled, "Smart Boxes: RFID Can Improve Visibility, Efficiency and Security in the Global Supply Chain."

The study also notes that following security, supply chain concerns were reducing inventories, lead-time variances, stock-outs and preventing the loss of containers. "Unreliable data" due to manual data entry combined with disparate information systems was a major concern.

DOWNLOAD STUDY: <http://www.atkearney.com/main.taf?p=5,3,1,98>

MORE: <http://www.industryweek.com/ReadArticle.aspx?ArticleID=10339&SectionID=2>

SECURITY – BOX TRACKING SLOW TO START

Someone has to take the lead. In short, that is the finding of a new study.

“Electronic container tracking growth depends not only on mandates, standards, joint ventures and network deployment, but also on smoothing out any lingering technical issues,” says David Schrier, analyst with ABI Research. “Among the remaining technical challenges are achieving high read rates in the port environment, and routing appropriate cargo information to the customer.”

Partnerships between information technology firms and ports are the real stepping stones to widespread adoption of container tracking technology, even in the absence of government mandates, he explained.

“If the network is deployed at a vigorous pace, we could begin to see high volumes of electronic container tracking by the end of this decade,” says Schrier. “Firms that can efficiently and securely transmit cargo information to the end-user are well positioned in the container tracking market [because] streamlining accurate shipping information adds tremendous business value.”

MORE: http://fleetowner.com/news/container_tracking_port_abi_053105/

SECURITY – AUSSIE AIRPORTS UNSAFE SAYS CARGO WORKER

A Qantas cargo worker has claimed lax security at Melbourne Airport has seen tampering with passengers' bags and allowed unsupervised access to aircraft on the tarmac.

The Qantas cargo handler, who has worked at Melbourne Airport for six years and asked that his identity not be disclosed, claimed:

+ Cargo workers and cabin cleaning staff could enter and leave secure areas of the airport, including the tarmac, and not have bags checked by security.

+ Passenger luggage had been tampered with by baggage handlers.

+ A lack of security cameras focusing on aircraft on the "air-side" of the airport meant there was a risk corrupt workers could transfer drugs or weapons to or from planes without detection.

MORE: http://www.heraldsun.news.com.au/common/story_page/0.5478.15473716%255E2862.00.html

SECURITY – AUSTRALIA EYES BAGGAGE HANDLERS: State and territory governments are urging the Australian Federal Government to ensure baggage handlers at all Australian airports undergo stringent security checks on a daily basis.

MORE: <http://www.news.com.au/story/0.10117.15475772-29277.00.html>

SECURITY – RFID PRIVACY WARNING: If you were as sloppy with privacy as the government, you'd probably be sued. Many of the US government's largest agencies are already using RFID (Radio Frequency ID) tags but few are paying any attention to privacy issues or even telling anyone they are using the technology.

IN-DEPTH REPORT: <http://p2pnet.net/story/4999>

SECURITY – SANTOS JOINS CSI: Brazil has enrolled the Port of Santos, the largest port in South America, in the US Container Security Initiative, and will selectively inspect cargo bound for the United States. CSI is a US maritime security program designed to push the concept of border inspections to the port of origin before a dangerous weapon of mass destruction can be smuggled into the country.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/firm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21305>

FOCUS - TRADE – THINKING OF EXPANDING IN CHINA?

The huge boom in cargo exports from China to the rest of the world has logistics companies large and small either expanding existing operations in China, starting operations, or at least thinking about it.

Caveat Emptor. Buyer Beware.

There is growing unease among those already in the country that the high-flying economy may be in for a hard landing. Cargo operators are nervously trying to sort out whether there really are danger signals even as they keep their feet on the accelerator for fear of being left behind.

Foreign firms' investment averages about \$1-Billion a week. In their wake, logistics firms are relentlessly expanding their footprint in China.

--- SO FAR, SO GOOD ---

"In the first quarter, China exceeded all our expectations," says Ed Hernandez, senior vice president of sales and marketing for Polar Air Cargo, which entered the market late last year.

DHL claims to control about 40% of the country's express market through its joint venture with Sinotrans and has embarked on a \$273 million expansion program in China over the next five years.

UPS had 20 logistics centers in China at the end of last year and is adding 10 in 2005 and 10 more in 2006.

--- WARNING SIGNS ---

A slowdown would be good. A hard crash would hurt.

- + Beijing's attempts to slow down the rampant growth to avoid an overheating of the economy has fallen short of its goals. The central government had aimed for 8% growth in the first quarter, well below the 9.5% clip it reported.
- + Factories in the Pearl River Delta suffer frequent power shortages, contributing to China's soaring oil bills, as manufacturers run their production lines on generators when the power grid fails them.
- + Southern China is experiencing a labor shortage of at least five million people. This is pushing up wages from Guangdong to Shanghai.
- + Housing costs have soared... reportedly doubling in Shanghai in the last few years.
- + Infrastructure... highways and railways... cannot support moving production further inland to less costly areas.
- + Cargo flights into China are running at 10% capacity while outbound flights are at 100% capacity.

MORE: http://www.aircargoworld.com/features/0605_2.htm

--- TIPS FOR CHINA GROWTH ---

If you are considering opening or expanding operations in China, treat that investment as you would any risky placement of money.

+ RISK ONLY WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD TO LOSE:

As though you were placing money in the commodity markets or betting at a casino, only risk money you can afford to lose in case everything goes wrong.

+ THINK LONG-TERM:

Build your business for the generation to come, not next quarter. Operating in China as in much of the Far East is a relationship-driven long-term investment.

TRADE – SCHNEIDER OPENS IN SHANGHAI: Schneider Logistics is changing from a trucking company to a full service international logistics provider. The newly opened Shanghai office will provide global freight audit and payment, transportation management and import logistics services. With the opening of its Shanghai office, Schneider Logistics now provides end-to-end international freight management on three continents – North America, Europe and Asia.

MORE: <http://www.logisticstoday.com/displayStory.asp?sNO=7200&OASKEY=BreakingNews>

TRADE – EU CONTINUES CARRIER ANTITRUST: The European Union's Internal Markets Commissioner, Charlie McCreevy, will handle all antitrust cases passed on by Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes to avoid any conflict of interest. The cases will include the ongoing probe into ocean shipping. Kroes served on the boards of numerous companies, including P&O Nedlloyd, while McCreevy, former Irish finance minister, faces no similar conflict of interest difficulties because he has held no post outside politics for the past decade.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20050602/sections/ocean/w47189.asp>

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MORE: <http://www.allcovered.net>

AIR – GLOBAL AIRLINES TO LOSE \$6-BILLION: The global airline industry will likely chalk up losses of USD 6-Billion this year, up from USD 4.8-Billion in 2004 because of high fuel costs according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1117455854.html>

FOCUS – THE FUTURE OF AIR CARGO:

MORE: http://www.joc.com/whitepapers/Air_Cargo_Future2004.pdf

AIR – UNITED MECHANICS & OTHER WORKERS OK CONTRACT: United Airlines appears to have avoided potentially crippling strike after reaching an agreement in principle on a new contract with 20,000 ramp agents and customer contact employees represented by the International Association of Machinists. The airline's mechanics announced agreement a day earlier.

MORE: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050531/ap_on_bi_ge/united_airlines:_ylt=Avp2vtpch0Q3QBx35bOVUSGyBhIF:_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=1188>

AIR – UNITED APRIL LOSSES: UAL, parent company of United Airlines, reports a \$124-million loss for the month of April.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=1208>

AIR – US XPRESS SELLS AIRPORT OPS TO FORWARD: US Xpress Enterprises has agreed to exit its airport-to-airport operations and sell the customer list to Forward Air Corporation, a provider of air freight services. The price is said to be about \$12.8 million.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/lede/20050531/sections/air/w91274.asp>

AIR – SAS CARGO 2004 NET PLUMMETS: Scandinavian Airlines Systems' cargo division reports its net income for 2004 was down 68% at SEK 11 million (\$1.5 million) compared to SEK 34 million in 2003.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21330>

AIR – CONTINENTAL CARGO DOWN 8.2% IN MAY: Continental Airlines reports an 8.2% decrease in cargo revenue ton-miles for May compared to May 2004.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21329>

AIR – DELTA NON-STOP ATLANTA-MOSCOW: Delta Air Lines Wednesday started daily non-stop flights between Atlanta and Moscow using a Boeing 767-300ER. It flies daily from June to September and four times weekly during winter.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21328>

AIR – AIR CANADA NON-STOP TO BEIJING: Air Canada Thursday inaugurated Toronto/Beijing service, the first-ever non-stop service between eastern Canada and mainland China. Air Canada plans to increase flights from four times per week to a daily frequency by 2006.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21344>

AIR – SAA BEGINS SHANGHAI FLIGHTS: Saudi Arabian Airlines (SAA) has started operating regular cargo flights between Saudi Arabia and Chinese city of Shanghai at an average of 2-weekly flights on Saturdays and Tuesdays through MD-11 aircraft.

MORE: <http://www.spa.gov.sa/newsview.php?extend.266154>

AIR – LH BOOSTS CHINA FLIGHTS: Lufthansa will boost its service between Germany and China, including Hong Kong, to 41 weekly flights from this summer. Lufthansa will fly daily from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong to Frankfurt as well as from Shanghai to Munich.

MORE: <http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2005/05/30/afx2064317.html>

AIR – US AND EU STRIKE ON AIRCRAFT SUBSIDIES: The US and European Union have filed complaints with the World Trade Organization. The US says EU Airbus aircraft development loads are illegal. The EU says letting Boeing make money on defense contracts is an illegal subsidy.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=1189>

AIR – A380 DELAYED SIX MONTHS: Airbus says deliveries of its 21st-century flagship, the double-decker A380 superjumbo, will be delayed by up to six months. The announcement, coming after the much lauded first flight, has airlines grumbling. The delay adds to a growing list of headaches at the European aircraft builder as it slides into a major trade dispute over subsidies with rival Boeing and struggles to fill an internal power vacuum created by its squabbling shareholders.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1117579736.html>

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=1196>

AIR – A380 HAS FLOWN ELEVEN TIMES:

MORE: http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/Display_news.asp?section=Business_News&subsection=market+news&month=May2005&file=Business_News2005052815633.xml

AIR – FAA UP TO 12 YEARS LATE IN NEW TECH: Sharp cost increases and delays in implementation are harming efforts to modernize the US air traffic control system according to the Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General (IG). Upgrades and modernizations are running up to 12 years behind schedule. At a time when air travel continues to grow, the Federal Aviation Administration has become focused on maintaining the system it already has, rather than increasing capacity through system enhancements. The report cites contractor Raytheon as by far the worst performer with programs far behind schedule and far over budget.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1117578309.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.

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

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OCEAN – TRANS-PAC DEMAND MORE THAN SUPPLY: Demand for shipping services will outpace available capacity on the busiest Asia-US trade lanes this summer, stretching the limits of the container supply chain infrastructure, according to trans-Pacific carriers. Lines in the Transpacific Stabilization Agreement say, "Rate increases achieved in those (just finalized) contracts, plus a \$400 per 40-foot container peak season surcharge, will help meet service and schedule commitments during the June-November peak period but additional cost pressures continue, the Oakland-based group said in an announcement." First-quarter 2005 cargo volumes grew by 11.1% over the same period in 2004.
MORE: <http://www.joc.com/lede/20050601/sections/ocean/w92727.asp>

OCEAN – TSA SAYS PLAN PEAK SEASON CRUSH: Planning is essential as double-digit container growth continues and infrastructure capacity remains limited in the run up to the peak season. That's the warning to shippers from the Transpacific Stabilization Agreement (TSA) carriers. "Cargo is moving steadily, lines are reporting 90% utilization or better, and the infrastructure will really be tested as we head into summer," says TSA executive director Albert Pierce.
MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=21336>
MORE: <http://business-times.asia1.com.sg/sub/shippingtimes/story/0,4574,157754,00.html>

OCEAN – RATES TO CLIMB IN 2005: Ocean carrier container capacity is forecast to increase by 9% in 2005 while demand for space is forecast to rise between 12% and 14%. Freight rate increases are expected in the second half of the year, especially in the Transatlantic and Latin American trade lanes. Looking ahead, analysts see container ship supply increasing by close to 16% in 2006 and another 11% in 2007. Reason: With the growth in exports from China, the charter ship owners and the container shipping companies for the Asian trade lanes are adding significant capacity. Moreover, there appears to be little if any moderation in new orders.
MORE: <http://www.purchasing.com/article/CA604931.html>

OCEAN – TACA HIKES TARIFF: The Trans-Atlantic Conference Agreement confirms it will raise tariffs. Beginning 1 July eastbound rates will be \$160 per 20-foot and \$200 per 40-/45-foot container. Westbound rates rise to \$240 per 20-foot and \$300 per 40-/45-foot container.
MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20050603/sections/ocean/w16497.asp>

OCEAN – CONTAINER PRICES JUMP: The rising costs of steel has had a big impact on both the new and second-hand container markets, according to Christopher Lee, MD of container supply and conversion majors, Container World. "The Chinese... hiked their prices by 40%-50% in just weeks. In just over a year, global prices nearly doubled... with containers currently between 60% and 70% more expensive than at the start of 2004."
MORE: <http://www.cbn.co.za/dailynews/May2005/article725.htm>

OCEAN – PAKISTANI FREIGHT RATE RISE: Members of major conference lines operating in and out of Pakistan's ports have increased freight charges on an average of 25% under GRI (General Rates Increase) and are contemplating to impose around 14% Peak Season Surcharge (PSS). The PSS would be effective from June 15 to November 30, 2005 for US inbound cargoes at a rate of \$300 for a 20-foot container and \$400 for a 40-foot container, including High Cube and Reefer containers.
MORE: <http://www.dawn.com/2005/05/31/ebr1.htm>

OCEAN – COSCO EYES ROTTERDAM STAKE: China Ocean Shipping Company, China's biggest container shipping line, says it is interested in acquiring a stake in a massive container terminal in Rotterdam being jointly built by ECT, the port's leading stevedore, and P&O Nedlloyd, the Anglo-Dutch ocean carrier about to be taken over by A.P. Moller-Maersk. The move underscores the growing trend among major ocean carriers to exert greater control over the handling of their containers.
MORE: <http://www.joc.com/lede/20050601/sections/ocean/w82169.asp>

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

SOUTHERN ROMANCE

Why do Southern men's hearts beat quicker, get all weak in the knees, get dry throats and think irrationally when their lady wears leather clothing?

BECAUSE SHE SMELLS LIKE A NEW TRUCK!

BIZARRE ALCOHOL TRIVIA

* Abraham Lincoln observed that "It has long been recognized that the problems with alcohol relate not to the use of a bad thing, but to the abuse of a good thing."

* Chicha, an alcohol beverage which has been made for thousands of years in Central and South America, begins with people chewing grain and spitting into a vat. An enzyme in saliva changes starch in the grain to sugar, which then ferments.

* The U.S. has the strictest youth drinking laws in Western civilization.

* Many high school cafeterias in Europe serve alcohol to their students who choose to drink.

* Early recipes for beer included such ingredients as poppy seeds, mushrooms, aromatics, honey, sugar, bay leaves, butter and bread crumbs.

* While in some countries the penalty for driving while intoxicated can be death (yes, death), in Uruguay intoxication is a legal excuse for having an accident while driving. "Please believe me officer, I really was drunk."

* The entire Encyclopedia Britannica is banned in Texas because it contains a recipe for making beer that can be used at home.

USEFUL LAWS AND AXIOMS

[1] Jone's Motto:

Friends come and go, but enemies accumulate.

[2] Terman's Law of Innovation:

If you want a team to win the high jump, you find one person who can jump seven feet, not seven people who can jump one foot each.

[3] O'Brien's Variation:

If you change queues, the one you have left will start to move faster than the one you are in now.

[4] Conway's Law:

In any organization there will always be one person who knows what is going on. This person must be fired.

[5] The Peter Principle:

In a hierarchy, every employee tends to rise to his level of Incompetence.
Work is accomplished by those employees who have not reached their level of incompetence.

[6] H.L.Mencken's Law:
Those who can, do. Those who cannot teach.

[7] Martin's Extension:
Those who can't teach, administer

[8] Belani's Extrapolation:
Those who cannot even administer, become consultants.

[9] Lieberman's Law:
Everybody lies; but it doesn't matter since nobody listens.

[10] Kovac's Conundrum:
When you dial a wrong number, you never get an engaged one.

[11] Van Herpen's Law:
The solving of the problem lies in finding the solvers.

[12] Murphy's Law of Government:
If anything can go wrong, it will do so in triplicate.

[13] Bell's Theorem:
When the body is immersed in water, the telephone rings.

[14] Ruby's Principle of Close Encounters:
The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

[15] Young's Law:
Great discoveries are made by mistake.

[16] Kin Hubbard:
A good listener is usually thinking about something else

[17] One Anonymous Great Seer's Law :
Money can't buy love, but it sure gets you a great bargaining position.

[18] The Law of Processes:
a. If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It
b. Some Idiot Will Always Try to Fix It
c. The Idiot's Fixing It Will Break It
d. You Will Then Have to Fix the Fix
e. The Idiot Will Then Be Praised For Fixing the Break He Broke But You Fixed
f. You Will Be Asked By Management Why You Cannot Be More Like the Idiot.

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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