

- Employee or Self-Employed?
- DPW Out of US Ports?
- RFID Step-By-Step – Teach Yourself with Allcovered
- Revamping Port Security

Monday, 13 March 2006 --- Edition #479

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>> SMALL BUSINESS SECTION <<



SMALL BIZ – WORK FOR SOMEONE ELSE? OR ‘SELF-EMPLOYED?’ - HOW TO DECIDE

--- Excerpted from an article in AARP – Link at end ---

These ideas and questions apply to you if you are considering ways to grow in your existing job... excel and rise in your company... or considering going out on your own.

Do you want to be your own boss?

Are you:

- Retired, or soon will be?
- Downsized or laid off?
- An employee planning “What Next?”
- A worker wanting to stay in your job but also wanting “more?”
- A recent graduate that wants independence?

It's a big deal to give up a job - or even part of a job - with its steady salary and benefits to start out on your own.

Many people are searching for ways to be self-employed - now or later, part-time or full-time. Many people need a business to provide income. Others have different reasons for wanting to be self-employed.

Many new businesses do fail, but when they succeed, the satisfaction is far greater.

Business owners say they wanted to be their own boss, have fun, enjoy freedom for family and recreation, and help others. And half operate a business mainly for income.

But some people achieve those goals in a salaried job. Could you?

Think through some comparison questions to start making your choice between a salaried job and self-employment. Invest some time in answering these before you make decisions. Come back to the questions after you do more research on a specific business idea. Before you decide anything, see how your answers may have changed.

Here are questions to ask yourself:

- What risks are involved in starting your own business?
- Are you willing to take these risks?
- Are you willing to take moderate risks to achieve your goal? In some cases, the risks may be small. They would involve mostly the loss of your time and effort. Some ventures, though, would mean risking your life savings, your home, or even your personal relationships.
- What are the risks of not starting your own business?
- What are the risks of staying in your job? These risks could be financial, emotional, or both.
- Maybe you'll leave your job with a pension and health benefits.
- Maybe you're determined to strike out on your own no matter what.
- Why do you want to be self-employed?

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- How is this different for you than working at a salaried job?
- Do you want to be your own boss?
- Get to use more creativity?
- Try for financial independence?
- More fully draw on your knowledge and skills?

Many people new to self-employment fall somewhere in between. They keep their full-time job and do their own business on the side. Or they reduce their work hours and devote as much time as possible to starting up their business.

- What would you have to do differently to bring more creativity and independence to your job?
- Are you sure that starting your own business is the only way for you to apply your entrepreneurial skills?
- Can you successfully run your own business? **OR...**
- Could you apply your motivation and skills to a job just as well?
- Do you have the drive and energy to achieve what you want?
- Do your temperament and personality match those of business owners?
- Many business owners work seven days a week. Starting your own business and making it succeed can take years. This could be just the challenge you need. But there may also be other ways to stay motivated and use your best skills.
- Could you negotiate with your current boss for a new assignment or a different shift?
- What if you changed jobs, and put new energy into your work?
- Can you turn your ideas into a real business? **OR...**
- Can you use your ideas to get a promotion or a better job instead?
- Successful entrepreneurs typically plan their new businesses for a year or more. Are you willing to do this?
- Could you take a small-business start-up course to see if it is really what you want?
- Have you drafted a business plan and asked an expert to tell you how realistic it is?
- What if you spent six months or a year planning how to get a better job at your company?
- Or a different job somewhere else?
- Would the results satisfy you as much as your own business?
- Or be less risky for your family?
- How does your family feel about your plans, whatever they are?
 Maybe your family notices how much time you spend on your job now.
 Having your own business can take up much more time. It can mean extensive time away from your family. If you work at home, you may be with them constantly.
 How could those changes affect you and your family?
 The changes could also be better for everyone.
 Your own business could bring you the satisfaction and family closeness you're searching for.

MORE: <http://www.aarp.org/money/money/careers/selfemployment/a2004-05-21-jobselfemployment.html>

SMALL BIZ – LIFE BEGINS AT “YOU’RE FIRED”: So you lost your job. Don't worry, don't weep. Look at this as a brand-new start. That's the word from "Smart Company" columnist Bruce Freeman, who details what you need to do to get back on your feet. Bruce explains the key technology decisions you need to start your own company, even if it's just baking cookies in the kitchen. He's an expert -- because he did it himself 15 years ago. Want to know what's best for phones, computers, printers and more? Read his story. Want a positive push in the right direction? Read away.

MORE: <http://ct.eletters.whatsnewnow.com/rd/cts?d=181-615-1-278-261855-31793-0-0-0-1>

SMALL BIZ – HEALTH - SENATE TALKING ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS: The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee is scheduled for further consideration of S 1955 on Wednesday. The measure would allow small businesses to form association health plans under certain conditions.

MORE: www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/print_report.cfm?DR_ID=35901&dr_cat=3

SMALL BIZ – HEALTH – BIG COMPANIES WANT GOVERNMENT HEALTH CARE: Thirty percent of the nation's Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) are ready for Congress to consider a national health care plan, the highest percentage ever recorded by the annual survey of US senior finance executives.

MORE: <http://www.politicalaffairs.net/article/articleview/2887/1/152/>

TECH BIZ – DO YOU NEED A PERSONAL VPN?: A Virtual Private Network can keep you safe and secure while computing at public kiosks, coffee shops and other places. E-Letters has discovered a free software VPN that's simple to set up and lets you securely tunnel from public hot spots back to your own secure network--and then from there out to the Internet using your own firewalls and other security schemes.

MORE: <http://ct.eletters.whatsnewnow.com/rd/cts?d=181-620-1-278-261855-32216-0-0-0-1>

TECH BIZ – A TERABYTE OF STORAGE: In computing there is no such thing as too much speed or too much storage. You can get 1,000 gigabytes of storage now for very little money. Maxtor offers an external hard drive for well under \$1,000 with more storage and RAID redundancy and more.

MORE: <http://ct.eletters.whatsnewnow.com/rd/cts?d=181-620-1-278-261855-32231-0-0-0-1>

TECH BIZ – TEACH YOURSELF RFID: See "Security" section.

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>>>> TRUCKING SECTION <<<<

TRUCKING – RFID STEP-BY-STEP: Some simple and cheap projects you can do for your home or office that will teach you most of what you need to know about Radio Frequency ID tags. See "Security" section.

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TRUCKING – OOIDA – LANDSTAR – AND OWNER-OPERATORS: As part of a lawsuit challenging the legality of leases used by Landstar, the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) has notified 27,000 truckers that they are included in the court action and could ultimately be reimbursed for chargebacks. The trial for the case, which is against Landstar Inway, Landstar Ligon and Landstar Ranger, is scheduled to begin 1 October. The lawsuit contends that Landstar violated federal truth-in-leasing laws by illegally charging truckers for goods and services by marking up costs to boost its own profit margins. The chargebacks cited in the OOIDA case are related to fuel cards, tires, base plates, permit packages, Qualcomm air time and other items.

MORE: http://www.landlinemag.com/Special_Reports/2006/Mar06/030906_landstar.htm

TRUCKING – FMCSA NEEDS TO WATCH SUSPECT CDL HOLDERS: The US government's Office of Inspector General says the Federal Motor Carrier Administration needs to do a better job of tracking the status of suspect CDL holders prosecuted in fraud schemes. In an audit, OIG noted it could not determine the status of 45% of suspect CDL holders because of insufficient information from states. Most of those were from Florida or Pennsylvania.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=51966>

TRUCKING – FMCSA APPOINTS MED PANEL: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has appointed five physicians to look over a range of medical issues that affect drivers, including conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease that may prevent truckers from getting or retaining a commercial driver's license. The Medical Review Board will help FMCSA revamp its physical qualifications for commercial motor vehicle drivers, providing guidance on scientific and medical standards. In particular, the panel will help FMCSA decide whether its regulations need adjusting based on new research.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=52183>

TRUCKING – JANUARY TONNAGE UP: The us Truck Tonnage Index jumped 0.6% in January for the fifth consecutive monthly gain according to the American Trucking Associations. "The end of 2005 was much stronger than we originally reported and fit more in line with reports we were getting from motor carriers," says Bob Costello, ATA's chief economist. "January's improvement was another good sign for the motor carrier industry." ATA calculates the index based on member surveys.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=51973>

TRUCKING – DIESEL JUMPS: The US national average retail price of a gallon of diesel increased 7.4 cents in the week ending March 6, to \$2.545.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=52138>

>>>> SECURITY SECTION <<<<

SECURITY – DUBAI DEFENDS MARITIME SECURITY RECORD

The small white warehouse in a corner of the vast Jebel Ali container terminal in Dubai does not, at first glance, look like a vital link in the United States' defenses against terrorism. But the building contains one of the most powerful of a wide range of measures brought in since the September 11 attacks of 2001 to tighten the security of maritime trade.

An x-ray scanner inside is large enough to examine a whole truck with a container on its trailer and look inside at the contents. It has been built under the container security initiative (CSI), through which Dubai's ports and more than 40 other big container terminals worldwide host US customs officers who check US-bound containers for suspicious material. In return, cargo cleared at participating ports enters the US with minimal further inspection.

Dubai customs officials and managers at DP World say their record in Dubai and their cooperation with the CSI show they are just as interested in securing the world's container supply system as the US government.

Ahmed Butti Ahmed, the director-general of Dubai's customs service, says his customs service inspects every container from the highest-risk countries and uses blacklists of problematic companies circulated among worldwide customs services and systems designed to spot departures from normal patterns. "We have electronic systems as well as well-trained inspectors," he says.

MORE: <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/fee68606-afb6-11da-b417-0000779e2340.html>

SECURITY – DPW TO GIVE UP US PORTS?: See "Air & Ocean" Section

SECURITY – "THANKS, DUBAI"

--- Excerpted from a detailed article by Thomas Kellner in Forbes. Link at end ---

What good could come out of the politicized debate on who runs shipping terminals? Some new technology to stop terrorists.

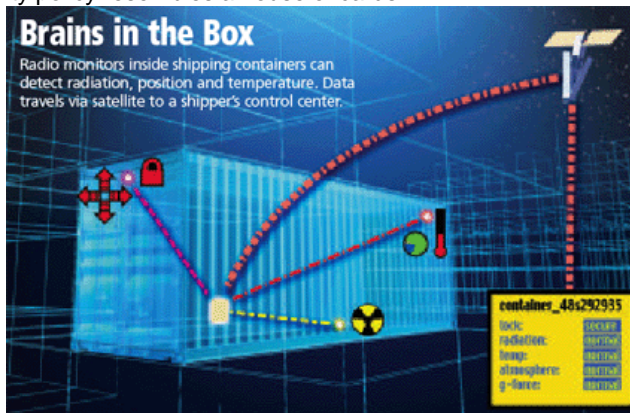
US seaports handle 9 million containers per year. Only 5% of these boxes are inspected by the Coast Guard or US Customs officials, a hole in security unaffected by port stewardship. (Of the 3.6 million containers coming in overland, 10% are inspected.)

As meager as this level of protection is, considerable sums are being spent on it-- \$1.5 billion last year by the Coast Guard, plus significant, and mostly uncounted, sums by shippers. To make things worse, the number of incoming containers will double by 2020.

Stephen Flynn, a retired Coast Guard commander and expert on port security at the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote in the Far Eastern Economic Review that "US government container security policy resembles a house of cards."

High-tech responses to this sorry state of affairs are coming from a variety of companies, including General Electric, IBM and shipper AP. Moeller-Maersk.

They are testing a system in which they rig cargo containers with nimble electronic brains and link them to a constellation of orbiting satellites.



>> RFID EXPLAINED – RFID STEP-BY-STEP BELOW <<

Customers and homeland security officials would be able to monitor where cargo goes second by second, from the minute it leaves a factory in China until it reaches a store in Wichita.

The project uses a rugged plastic box about the size of two cigarette packs that mounts with four screws between the ribs of a shipping container. The box contains a satellite modem, a lithium-ion battery that lasts seven years, a processor that stores data and communications circuitry connecting the box with disposable wireless sensor tags distributed throughout the container.

The tags monitor everything from the door lock, humidity and temperature to radiation and gases like carbon dioxide. It's sensitive enough to spot human breath--and even the ethylene exuded by ripening bananas--anywhere inside the container within 30 seconds. Sensors also measure the container's g-forces, altered when a container accelerates, a telltale indicator of dropped cargo.

The tags then zap the data via low-powered radio to the main box, which beams the intelligence to one of 43 satellites orbiting 875 miles above the Earth. The data takes less than five minutes to zip from a ship to GE's control center.

Thomas Konditi, head of GE's asset intelligence unit, says that the system, which costs as much as \$1,000 per container, allows clients to micromanage their supply chains, reduce theft and inventories, and buy cheaper insurance.

Shippers may balk at adding a \$1,000 piece of equipment to a container that costs only \$2,000. The radio systems still need to be certified by US Customs. The system is useless if the false alarm rate stays high.

MORE: <http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2006/0327/047.html>

SECURITY – MAFIA BIGGER THREAT THAN TERROR?: Justice Department lawyers warned eight months ago that a nefarious element had infiltrated important East Coast ports, but they weren't talking about terrorists or Arab shipping companies. They were talking about the Mafia.

MORE: http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--portsecurity-mob0309mar09.0.5599501_story?coll=ny-region-apnework

SECURITY – REVAMP OF PORT SECURITY DRAWS SUPPORT

A proposed overhaul of US maritime security programs, including changes aimed at beefing up cargo inspections at foreign and American ports, is rapidly drawing bipartisan support according to Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine.

Collins and Senator Patty Murray, D-Wash., told reporters they believe their "Greenlane Maritime Cargo Security Act" will address concerns that have been raised in recent weeks since news broke that a FPW might manage port terminal operations in the United States.

"Our goal is to make sure that we know from the factory door to the retail store floor how the cargo has been handled at each step of the supply chain," Collins said at a news conference.

Murray, who sits on the Appropriations and Budget committees, said she does not believe the Senate bill would require new funding, but rather could be paid for using 3% of existing fees and duties collected by CBP, which is part of the Homeland Security Department.
MORE: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0306/030706cdam2.htm>
MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=29340

SECURITY – ‘SOS’ BILL WOULD REQUIRE SCANS OF ALL BOXES: Two members of the House have filed legislation that would prohibit ocean carriers from loading containers at a foreign port unless they go through x-ray or gamma-ray scanners and radiation detectors. The "Sail Only if Scanned" (SOS) Act (H.R. 4899), sponsored Democrats James Oberstar of Minnesota and Jerrold Nadler of New York, would effectively put into law the equivalent of a program that is being tested at two marine terminals in Hong Kong.
MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20060309/sections/ocean/w50203.asp>

SECURITY – LIEBERMAN CALLS FOR \$1-BILLION ON PORT SECURITY NOW:
MORE: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/06/AR2006030601265.html>

SECURITY – TWIC CARD PUSH: Months overdue, now suddenly the Department of Homeland Security has put the Transportation Worker Identification Credential on a "substantially accelerated" schedule, and proposed rules should be issued "in a matter of weeks," Stewart Baker, DHS assistant secretary for plans and policy, told a House Transportation & Infrastructure subcommittee on Thursday.
MORE: <http://www.joc.com/lede/20060309/sections/ocean/w37512.asp>

SECURITY – PAKISTAN IN CSI: Pakistan has agreed to join Customs' Container Security Initiative. When it becomes operational for the anti-terror program, the Port of Qasim will inspect all cargo bound for the United States using a combination of real-time imaging and video monitoring. There are now 43 CSI ports worldwide.
MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20060308/sections/ocean/w62026.asp>

SECURITY – ICSC GLOBAL SECURITY CONFERENCE 27TH & 28TH: The International Cargo Security Council (ICSC) wants a leading role in supply chain security, and is holding a conference March 27-28, 2006, in London, England. ICSC Chairman Scott Smith will act as conference chair of Cargo and Container Traceability: RFID and Tracking Technologies in Freight Security and Logistics, a Lloyd's List event to be held at Jury's Hotel in London. The conference will examine RFID (radio frequency identification) and other technologies that help companies monitor and protect cargo throughout their supply chains.
(NOTE: RFID STEP-BY-STEP BELOW)
MORE: <http://www.ctl.ca/issues/ISArticle.asp?id=53016&issue=03012006&btac=no>

SECURITY – SHIPPERS LEERY OF EC PROPOSALS: The European Shippers Council says it welcomes the proposal by the European Commission this week for a voluntary security scheme for road, rail and inland waterway-based movement of freight. But the Brussels-based trade association expressed concern that the scheme would not be applied uniformly by the different EU member states, creating "unfair commercial disadvantages for those whose governments are less industry-friendly."
MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20060301/sections/ecom/w86279.asp>

SECURITY – THE FEAR OF FREIGHT: The political firestorm surrounding the takeover of American container terminals by Dubai Ports World, a United Arab Emirates company, is a political distraction, but in many ways a welcome one. Americans are finally taking port security seriously, says Stephen Flynn.
MORE: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/editorial/outlook/3700153.html>

SECURITY - FLYNN SAYS MUCH MORE NEEDED FOR SECURITY:
MORE: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33542&dcn=todaysnews

SECURITY – RFID STEP-BY-STEP

Keep hearing about Radio Frequency ID tags?...

Know you are going to have to have them someday but dreading it?...

What if a few simple do-it-yourself projects could show you what you need to know so when that RFID system salesman comes into your office promising the sun, moon and stars you'll know more than he does?

This week we begin an occasional series on simple projects you can do around the home or office to teach yourself RFID without spending a lot of money.

MORE: <http://www.extremetech.com/article2/0,1697,1933458,00.asp>

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>>> AIR & OCEAN SECTION <<<

TRADE – DPW TO GIVE UP US PORTS?

Dubai Ports World (DPW) is to transfer its US ports business to a "US entity" to end a row over its takeover of P&O.

Arab-owned DPW made the move as members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate warned they would block the takeover over security concerns.

The White House welcomed DPW's offer saying it should defuse the standoff.

DPW said it would "...transfer fully the US operation of P&O Ports North America to a United States entity." But the company did not make clear if it planned to find investors, spin off a new company or sell to an existing one -- which analysts said would most likely be another one that is foreign-owned, even foreign-government-owned.

The contracts to operate terminals in six ports and handle some cargo in 15 others represent about 10 percent of DP World's deal to buy P&O that was cleared to close by British courts last week.

Shipping experts said there was no obvious candidate to buy the ports from DPW. "All of the other terminals on both coasts are run by foreign-owned companies, so it is not clear who is going to take over," said Sidney Levine, a maritime economist.

And trade experts said the outcome will set a damaging precedent for other Middle Eastern companies planning to invest in the US. "This will send a chilling signal," said Daniel Griswold, director of the Cato Institute's Centre for Trade Policy Studies. "It is just assuming that if a company is from the Middle East it is de facto disqualified from investing in the United States, and I think that is a terrible message to send."

MORE: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/4791512.stm>

MORE: <http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060310/NATION/603100343/1020>

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=29597

MORE: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/POLITICS/03/09/port.security/index.html>

TRADE – INCHCAPE SHIPPING OF DUBAI RUNS 12 US PORTS:

MORE: <http://www.islamonline.org/English/News/2006-03/10/article08.shtml>

TRADE – DUBAI DEFENDS MARITIME SECURITY RECORD: See "Security" section

TRADE – "THANKS, DUBAI": See "Security" section

TRADE – DUBAI THREATENS RETALIATION: Reputation... or "face"... is very important in the Middle East. If the DPW port terminal deal does not go through in the US, Dubai and the Bush administration have both been embarrassed... lost "face." Dubai is threatening to retaliate against the United States if its deal to take over P&O's port operations is blocked by Congress. Washington-based publication The Hill quoted a source close to the \$6.8 billion deal as saying that the United Arab Emirate could refuse to allow US warships to dock at its ports, or threaten a multi-billion order with US aircraft maker Boeing.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20060309/sections/ocean/w82724.asp>

TRADE – UAE AND US POSTPONE FREE TRADE TALKS:

MORE: <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/E9599EA5-AC76-44FF-9617-2E12B4309BBD.htm>

TRADE – PWC LOGISTICS TO BE EYED NEXT?: A fast-rising transportation services company is based in the Persian Gulf region, with close ownership ties to the emir of the nation, acquires a large American corporation responsible for shipping goods in and out of critical US seaports, and is heavily relied upon to support the US military's war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Dubai Ports World? No, it's PWC Logistics. Will they draw fire from US lawmakers next?

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=29503

TRADE – RFID STEP-BY-STEP: Some simple and cheap projects you can do for your home or office that will teach you most of what you need to know about Radio Frequency ID tags. See "Security" section. **YOU DESERVE IT – WE DELIVER IT – allcovered.net**

AIR – US INTERNATIONAL AIR CARGO UP IN JANUARY: According to the latest US Air Transport Association statistics, international air freight and express shipments carried by US airlines increased 2.8% to 1.02 billion revenue ton-miles in January.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=29256

AIR – BA AIR CARGO DOWN IN JANUARY: British Airways carried 377 million cargo ton-kilometers in February, down 1.1% compared to the same month 2005.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=29254

AIR – HK AIR CARGO UP: Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Ltd. (HACTL) reports its February total cargo throughput rose 8.2% from a year earlier to 158,629 tons.

MORE: <http://sg.biz.yahoo.com/060308/15/3z7oz.html>

AIR – DFW AIRPORT RATED BEST IN WORLD FOR CARGO:

MORE: http://dallas.bizjournals.com/dallas/stories/2006/03/06/daily19.html?jst=b_in_hl

AIR – LH WILL COOP WITH AIR CARGO PROBE: Lufthansa has offered to cooperate with US federal prosecutors investigating possible price-fixing in the global airline cargo industry. The Wall Street Journal says such a move could give Lufthansa immunity from criminal charges if it provides evidence against other carriers.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1141820628.html>

AIR – AIR CARGO CARRIERS FACE LAWSUIT: Eleven international airlines are facing a class action suit in the US for fixing international cargo carriage prices. The lawsuit has been filed while the US Justice Department is investigating airlines' cargo carriage price-fixing charge. US law firms say that if the airlines are found guilty, they would have to pay an astronomical amount for damages, in addition to the fine imposed by the Justice Department.

MORE: <http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?bicode=040000&biid=2006031079358>

AIR – QANTAS SHELVES ASIAN FREIGHT JV: Qantas has shelved plans to start a joint-venture Asian freight operation because of high fuel prices and difficulties getting aircraft. The airline in 2004 took a 49% stake in Thai Air Cargo with local company CTI Holding. The joint venture was to provide intra-Asia freight services to complement an Asia-US freighter operation.

MORE: http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,18358599%255E23349,00.html

AIR – SAS CARGO HAS GOOD 2005: SAS Cargo says it had its best-ever result last year as it reported a pre-tax profit of SEK68 million (\$8.6 million). Improvement was achieved in spite of a 5.4% decline in yield.

AIR – DELTA PILOTS UNION ASKS FOR STRIKE VOTE: Delta Air Lines' pilots' union has begun polling members on a strike as the two sides head into arbitration this month over a new contract. The vote to authorize a strike is the latest move in a series of steps that the union must take before striking. Delta and its pilots have been negotiating a new contract but failed to reach an agreement on concessions by a March 1 deadline, triggering arbitration on the airline's bid to reject the labor group's contract. The union has said that it would strike if its

contract was rejected.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1141732908.html>

OCEAN – FREIGHT RATES DOWN: Drewry Shipping Consultants, a maritime consulting firm based in London, reports liner trades from Asia during the off-peak months of January and February witnessed double-digit freight rate decreases. The Hong Kong-to-Long Beach spot freight rate, a key pricing benchmark in the transpacific trade, declined 13% to \$1,600 per 40-foot container for low-cost carriers in the year to late February. Rates from China to Northern Europe and the Mediterranean fell 14% and 10%, respectively, with cargo in some cases moving from Hong Kong to Europe for as little as \$750 per container. Drewry forecasts that service contract all-in freight rates in the Asia-to-North America trade will decline 10% overall this year, despite higher bunker surcharges.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=29263

OCEAN – SHIPPERS HAPPY OVER EU LINER CARTEL OUTLAW: The Tripartite Shippers' Group, comprising organizations representing shippers in North America, Europe and Asia, is happy to see the European Commission's December proposal to repeal EC Regulation 4056/86, which grants liner conferences an exemption to set common freight rates and cooperate on capacity. "... the future is about service performance and not liner shipping regulation or structures that seek to replace the conference structures with new ones," says Nicolette van der Jagt, secretary general of the European Shippers' Council. "This one subject -- the removal of legislation that sanctions cartels in the liner shipping industry -- is one of the most important issues for international trade logistics, not just in Europe, but around the globe. A market driven environment that is not compromised by pricing agreements among the carriers that belong to conferences has long been the desire and goal of shippers in every region of the world." says Peter Gatti, executive vice president of the US National Industrial Transportation League.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=29264

OCEAN – EC GIVES UP ON PORT LIBERALIZATION: The European Commission has given up on efforts to liberalize port services across the European Union. The plan had sparked mass strikes by dockworkers and a violent protest outside the Parliament at the European Union. In January the European Parliament soundly rejected the proposal. The EU originally wanted to open cargo handling to competition in ports where loading and unloading is currently run by monopoly handlers.

MORE: <http://www.ihl.com/articles/2006/03/08/business/euports.php>

OCEAN – MOL LAUNCHES MONTREAL-EUROPE SERVICE: Mitsui OSK Lines will start a weekly service connecting Montreal in Canada with North Europe beginning 22 March calling Montreal, Le Havre, Bremerhaven, Rotterdam, and back to Montreal.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=29262

OCEAN – NOL REPORTS LOWER REVENUE: Neptune Orient Lines reports its container-shipment unit APL transported 211,200 40-foot equivalent units during the six-week period ended 10 February, down 2% from the same period in 2005. APL's average revenue per FEU in the same period also declined 2% to \$2,745.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=29261

OCEAN – PSA & MSC OPEN SINGAPORE TERMINAL: PSA International and Mediterranean Shipping Company have officially opened their jointly managed and operated container terminal venture in Singapore. MSC-PSA Asia Terminal (MPAT) occupies three berths at Pasir Panjang Terminal and is projected to have an annual capacity of more than 2 million TEUs.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=29245

OCEAN – HANJIN TO TAKE SPACE WITH YM: Beginning next week Korean ocean carrier Hanjin Shipping will take space from CKYH alliance partner Yang Ming on its recently started weekly Asia/Mediterranean AMS2 service.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=29513

OCEAN – TSA WILL CONTINUE: Albert Pierce, executive director of the Transpacific

Stabilization Agreement, says his voluntary coalition of ocean carriers would be just fine despite the departure of Maersk Line, the world's biggest shipping line. TSA is a forum of 11 major carriers that carry cargo between Asia and ports and inland points in the United States. MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=29400

>>>>> **JUST FOR FUN** <<<<<

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

WHEN I WHINE

Today, upon a bus, I saw a girl with golden hair
I looked at her and sighed and wished I was as fair.
When suddenly she rose to leave,
I saw her hobble down the aisle.
She had one leg and used a crutch
But as she passed, she passed a smile.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine
I have 2 legs, the world is mine.

I stopped to buy some candy
The lad who sold it had such charm
I talked with him a while, he seemed so very glad
If I were late, it'd do no harm.
And as I left, he said to me,
"I thank you, you've been so kind.
It's nice to talk with folks like you.
You see," he said, "I'm blind."
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have 2 eyes, the world is mine.

Later while walking down the street,
I saw a child with eyes of blue
He stood and watched the others play
He did not know what to do.
I stopped a moment and then I said,
"Why don't you join the others, dear?"
He looked ahead without a word.
And then I knew, he couldn't hear.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have 2 ears, the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go.
With eyes to see the sunset's glow.
With ears to hear what I would know.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.

If this poem makes you feel like I felt,
Just forward it to all your friends,
After all, it's just a simple reminder....
We have soooooo much to be thankful for.

Sorrow looks back,
Worry looks around,
Faith looks up.

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

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