

AllCovered NEWS

HIGHLIGHTS TO HELP YOU THIS WEEK

- The Value of a Vacation
- Peterbilt & Chevy Tops In Medium Duty
- \$14-Million Malaysian High Tech Heist
- Record Month for LA and Rotterdam

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AllCovered News

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

NOTE: All links to stories in PDF version work – just click them

>> SMALL BUSINESS SECTION <<

SMALL BIZ – THE VALUE OF VACATION

--- Excerpted from an article by Bob Nelson – Link at end ---

If workers are far more productive after taking time away from the office, why are so many employers quietly discouraging workers from vacations?

American workers are not taking enough time off. More than 574 million well-earned vacation days will be more likely spent in the office, instead of the beach according to the recently released Expedia.com 2006 Vacation Deprivation Survey.

Companies should encourage employees to plan a getaway because taking a break does have its benefits with 36% of employed US adults reporting that they felt better about their job and were more productive upon returning from vacation.

Why are workers choosing the office over Oahu? Many employees have the perception that planning a holiday ends up being more of a hassle with top barriers including the need to schedule vacation in advance (14%), being too busy at work to get away (11%) and getting money back for unused vacation days (10%).

Here are my recommendations on how managers can address the chronic problem of vacation deprivation plaguing the country:

Communicate. Let employees know that taking time off does not reflect that they are not truly committed to their job, career, profession or organization.

Be flexible. By accommodating employees' needs throughout the year, they are more likely to feel comfortable asking for time off down the road.

Recognize the need for a retreat. With over a third of US employed adults (38%) reporting that they regularly work more than 40 hours per week, managers should make it a point to give employees a deserving break. Reward individuals who put in long hours at the office with an extra vacation day or personal day. They will appreciate the time off and will return well-rested, & ready to tackle the next project. Managers can play a more active role in helping employees take the time they need to recharge their batteries by being more flexible and letting them know it is perfectly fine to take a vacation.

MORE: http://www.bizjournals.com/extraedge/consultants/return_on_people/2006/10/30/column374.html?hbx=e_scl

SMALL BIZ – THE VANISHING VACATION: A new survey makes the concept of a relaxing holiday, away from work, look like an endangered species.

MORE: <http://ct.eneews.eweek.com/rd/cts?d=186-4897-2-79-426122-567111-0-0-0-1>

HEALTH BIZ – 2007 COSTS COULD JUMP 10%:

MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/y985j6>

Targets
JUST FOR FUN:
Kitchen Signs
NEXT WEEK
Do You Really Want To Run A Business?
Links to source stories at end of excerpts
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SMALL BIZ – FREE SOLAR ENERGY?

--- Excerpted from an article by Shanarra Johnson – Link at end ---

What if you could power your business or home for almost no cost? That's the promise from a breakthrough in solar energy efficiency. A team of scientists led by Professor Vivian Alberts of the University of Johannesburg announced a huge breakthrough in solar technology: They developed solar panels that can provide heat and electricity for a whole house or business--at a fraction of the cost of conventional solar devices.

"In a perfect world," explains an article in Science in Africa, an online science magazine, "a silicon-based photo voltaic cell can convert roughly 25% of the incipient solar energy it receives into electricity. In reality, only 15% (under optimal conditions) of incipient solar energy is harnessed by the cell."

With Professor Alberts' invention, this output becomes much larger. The new panels contain no silicon and operate with a 5-micron film--a quarter of the thickness of a human hair. They use normal window glass and are much more efficient than the old panels; so much so that they don't even require direct sunlight to produce significant power. The panels based on this alloy will have a working life of about 20 years.

Through a special converter, energy can be fed directly into the wiring of the house. And with a price that will be less than a third of a normal solar panel, gaining power from sunlight will become a viable option for many more homeowners than it is now.

"With batteries, invertors and power management systems... the system will pay itself off in about 1 year," states Science in Africa. "For a more energy-thirsty system, it would take about 2 to 3 years and after that, a household would be looking at 17 years of just about free energy."

The South Africans plan to begin manufacturing the new, inexpensive panels in 2007. German partner company, IFE Solar Systems has already started manufacturing and will produce 500,000 panels before the end of this year.

MORE: <http://www.investorsinsight.com>

CARGO INSURANCE – BONDS – LIABILITY – E&O – BUSINESS INSURANCE

<http://www.allcovered.net> We have logistics Allcovered

HEALTH BIZ – HEALTH COSTS FOR 2007 RISE FOR ALL EMPLOYERS:

MORE: <http://www.businessinsurance.com/cgi-bin/news.pl?newsId=8839&print=Y>

HEALTH BIZ – MORE BANKS OFFER HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS:

The number of banks that offer health savings accounts has more than tripled since the end of 2005, as more employees enroll in high-deductible health plans that qualify for HSAs. Nearly 1,100 banks now offer HSAs, which allow consumers to set aside money tax-free for medical expenses.

MORE: www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/print_report.cfm?DR_ID=41039&dr_cat=3

HEALTH BIZ – WAL-MART ADDS 11 STATES TO \$4-DRUG OFFER:

Wal-Mart Stores expanded a \$4 offer for some prescription generic drugs to 11 more states in its plan to reach all 50 states by as early as January with the discount program. The world's largest retailer says the program now covers 38 states.

MORE: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/4340150.html>

HEALTH BIZ – SOME OBSERVERS CRITICIZE WAL-MART DRUG DISCOUNTS:

MORE: www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/print_report.cfm?DR_ID=41135&dr_cat=3

ONLY IN AMERICA - JAIL CELLS FROM CARGO CONTAINERS:

Luna County, New Mexico plans to add 120 beds to its detention center using modular cells made of revamped ocean cargo containers. Global Housing Solutions will build the cells onsite at a cost of \$15,000 each. County Chief Operations Officer Ed Gilmore says that's a dramatic savings over traditional cells whose prices begin at \$48,000 and rise from there.

MORE: <http://www.kobtv.com/index.cfm?viewer=storyviewer&id=28853&cat=NMTOPSTORIES>

TECH BIZ – LOOKING FOR AN OFFICE ALL-IN-ONE PRINTER?

If you need a multi-function printer, scanner, copier and fax, there should be one in this review to match your needs.

MORE: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,2059035,00.asp>

>>>> TRUCKING SECTION <<<<

TRUCKING – PETERBILT & CHEVY TOPS IN MEDIUM DUTY

Peterbilt ranks highest in customer satisfaction among conventional cab medium-duty trucks, while Chevrolet ranks highest in medium-duty truck dealer service satisfaction, according to the J.D. Power and Associates 2006 Medium-Duty Truck Customer Satisfaction Study.

TRUCK SATISFACTION

(Based on 1000 point scale)

Peterbilt	792
Kenworth	789
GMC Truck	783
Freightliner	780
Sterling	777
Chevrolet	768
Average for All Trucks	751
International	742
Ford	713

SERVICE SATISFACTION

(Based on 1000 point scale)

Chevrolet	802
GMC Truck	798
International	774
Kenworth	769
Average for All Service	766
Peterbilt	755
Sterling	755
Freightliner	745
Ford	736

MORE: http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=57578

TRUCKING – PROPOSAL TO MERGE MED & CDL PROCESS

The proposal is on the table. You have until 14 February to comment.

The plan: Merge medical certificate information into the Commercial Drivers License process.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration proposal would require interstate CDL holders subject to the physical qualification requirement to provide their medical examiner's certificate to their state driver licensing agency... and then have those files available electronically. CDL drivers would no longer have to carry the medical examiner's certificate because their certification status would be verified electronically.

TO COMMENT: <http://dms.dot.gov> – DOCKET: FMCSA-1997-2210

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=56601>

TRUCKING – OHIO CRACKDOWN: Officers from four states pulled over 1,459 commercial vehicles along Ohio's borders the week of 6 November. The stops resulted in 582 vehicle inspections and 197 out-of-service orders. One wanted suspect was apprehended, 870 citations were written, and 795 equipment violations were found.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=56667>

TRUCKING – US OFFERS LOANS FOR FUEL SAVING TECH: Small trucking companies can save money and reduce pollution with a new loan initiative that will help pay for fuel-saving technologies. The US Environmental Protection Agency is partnering with the Small Business Administration to make loans available to purchase "SmartWay Upgrade Kits." The kits include idle-reduction devices, low rolling resistance tires, aerodynamic equipment and exhaust after-treatment devices. It is claimed the kits can improve truck fuel efficiency by 15% and save more than \$8,000 in fuel costs annually, while significantly reducing emissions of soot and nitrogen oxides.

LOAN INFO: <http://www.epa.gov/smartway/financing.htm>

MORE: http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=57562

TRUCKING – BARR-NUN O-O'S TO GET BONUS: Starting in January, Barr-Nunn Transportation will add to its Owner-Operator Pay Program with a \$600 Appreciation Bonus.

MORE: http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=57584

TRUCKING – I-H SAYS IT CAN CUT DRAG BY 14%: International Truck and Engine Corporation says its newly developed aerodynamic devices reduce air drag by up to 14% in tests. The tests dealt with three main contributors to drag in a typical Class 8 tractor-trailer: the gap between the tractor and trailer, the trailer sides and the trailer wake.

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2006/11/20/InternationalTruckandEnginedevelopsdevicestoreduceairdrag.aspx>

MORE: http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=57566

SECURITY – \$14-MILLION MALAYSIAN CARGO HEIST

Malaysia's largest heist has left US semiconductor giant Intel shocked at poor cargo security, and industry players hinting an international syndicate was behind the crime.

The 50-million-ringgit (14-million-dollar) robbery occurred on Monday when 20 men armed with machetes and dressed in security uniforms attacked cargo workers and forced them to drink chloroform-laced liquid to knock them out.

Jacinta Vythilingam, Intel Malaysia media manager, said "This incident has come as a surprise, especially the lax security in such an area with high-priced cargo.

"We are cooperating with the police and hope to recover our products. We also trust that appropriate action will be taken to step up security in and around the area."

The gang escaped from the cargo complex, which was managed by Malaysia Airlines, after loading two trailers with microchips and computer parts that were waiting to be flown abroad.

Walter Culas, chairman of the Airfreight Forwarders Association, told AFP the robbers may have conspired with international criminal syndicates to dispose of the goods. "This is a hot product. It is easy to dispose of the items. There are always ready buyers overseas. From my experience, the goods would have left the country within six hours of the robbery," he said.

Koh Tsu Koon, Penang chief minister Wednesday ordered tight security to be implemented at airports and ports and demanded a revamp in security arrangement in sensitive areas.

Culas said the incident had rocked the confidence of IT manufacturers in Penang, which is dubbed Southeast Asia's "Silicon Valley" because it houses hundreds of international companies, including Dell and Motorola. "It is an embarrassment to Malaysia. It is going to hurt all related sectors in Penang. Investors will lose confidence in the security. People may be out of jobs," he warned.

MORE: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/Technology/Malaysian-IT-heist-likely-had-international-links-say-experts/2006/11/22/1163871484252.html>

SECURITY – MALAYSIAN FORWARDERS UPSET AT LACK OF SECURITY: The Airfreight Forwarders Association of Malaysia (AFAM) is taking Malaysia Airlines to task for their lack of security measures at the cargo complex. Malaysian Air is claiming they cannot be held responsible as the complex does not belong to them and that they are only in charge of security at the entrance and exit points. AFAM chairman Walter Culas says, "The issue is the main guard house at the entrance as the robbers were allowed to drive straight in without security checks. Nothing was done, the identity cards of the two truck drivers were not even checked by the security guards..."

MORE: http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/nst/Wednesday/Frontpage/20061122072438/Article/index.html

SECURITY – SUSPECT REMANDED IN HEIST INVESTIGATION:

MORE: <http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v3/news.php?id=232217>

SECURITY – IATA TACKLING CARGO SECURITY

"Cargo security is in a state of relative infancy when compared with aircraft, passenger and baggage security," says John Edwards, Head of Security for the International Air Transport Association.

"Developing an integrated solution, which involves all key supply chain stakeholder groups, is proportionate to the threat, effective, harmonized and sustainable... each supply chain member must accept and deliver their proper component of cargo security responsibility-is inadequately embraced."

Edwards is launching a Supply Chain Security Governance Group (SCSGG) within IATA with the first meeting proposed for early 2007.

--- SCSGG GOALS ---

- Broader industry understanding and consensus of supply chain security issues
- Improved communication between industry associations and regulators".
- Develop a global baseline supply chain security strategy
- Move from solely air carrier-based IATA positions to supply chain positions.
- Make IATA Cargo Security more accessible to and representative of the air cargo supply chain.
- Impact the development of emerging regulation and suitable, optimum cost, solutions.
- Recognize there are strong links between cargo security and loss prevention

MORE: <http://www.aircargonews.com/061109/IATAcargosecurity.html>

SECURITY – RFID TRIALS SHOW MIXED RESULTS:

MORE: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,2059865,00.asp?kc=EWSCUEMNL112206EOAD>

SECURITY – US DHS TESTING BOX SECURITY: The Department of Homeland Security is continuing to pursue development of an electronic, tamper-evident device for securing ocean containers despite technical setbacks with the product currently under evaluation. Customs and Border Protection officials within DHS have soured on the device from GE Security that was the focus of testing so far, and are going back to the drawing board to evaluate products from other companies. The main complaint has been the reliability of the GE device in terms of generating false alarms that force CBP officers to expend limited resources checking intact boxes. Other makers of tracking devices combined include IBM and Savi Networks.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=42860

SECURITY - STOLEN GOYA FOUND: A painting by Goya stolen two weeks ago has been found in New Jersey. The painting titled "Children with a Cart" was being transported from Ohio's Toledo Museum of Art to New York's Guggenheim Museum but was stolen from a truck while the drivers were staying the night at a motel in Pennsylvania. The FBI believes organized crime members saw the truck and just grabbed the biggest crate in it, calling it a "...typical New Jersey cargo theft."

MORE: http://www.gothamist.com/archives/2006/11/21/goya_recovered.php

2007-SECURITY – CASE STUDY OF LOCATION TRACKING & RFID: RFID can help you track your assets, but it can't actually tell you where one of them is at any one point in time. Adding this capability is the goal of Kristofer Pister, a professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at UC Berkeley. Pister gained fame for developing "Smart Dust," which refers to a self-organizing mesh network of wireless sensors called "motest." You'll hear a lot more about them in 2007.

MORE: <http://ct.eneews.eweek.com/rd/cts?d=186-4907-38-104-21585-568410-0-0-0-1>

>>> AIR & OCEAN SECTION <<<

OCEAN – RECORD OCTOBER AT PORT OF LOS ANGELES

Laid end to end, they would stretch 3,030 miles (5050km) or about the distance from Los Angeles to Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

More than 800,000 cargo containers of dolls, socks and other goods flowed through Los Angeles' port in October, the most ever for any US harbor. Of more importance may be the fact that there have been few delays and no snarl in the movement of goods.

No other US port has ever moved 700,000 containers in a month, a feat Los Angeles managed one other time in 2005. But this year, Los Angeles has moved more than 700,000 containers in each of the last five months, more cargo than the 15th-ranked container port in the nation... Jacksonville, Florida... handled in all of 2005.

At nearby Port of Long Beach October volume was 650,726 containers.

Through October, container cargo at the Port of Los Angeles is up 13% from the same period last year, and Long Beach is running about 9% higher.

MORE: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-port21nov21,1,2512206.story?coll=la-headlines-business>

OCEAN – RECORD BOXES IN ROTTERDAM: The Port of Rotterdam posted record container traffic in September of 840,000 TEUs (20-foot-Equivalen Units).

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/lede/20061120/sections/ocean/w88019.asp>

OCEAN – BECHTEL CHOOSES ANTWERP FOR PROJECT CARGO HUB:

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=43163

OCEAN – MATSON HIKING HAWAII RATES: Matson will raise rates for its Hawaii service by \$100 per westbound container and \$50 per eastbound container, effective 1 January. In addition, the company will raise its terminal handling charge by \$150 per westbound container to \$475 and \$75 per eastbound container to 240, also effective 1 January.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=42869

OCEAN – HORIZON HIKES HAWAII-MAINLAND RATES: Horizon Lines will follow Matson

Navigation in raising its freight rates to Hawaii.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=43176

OCEAN – INDIA-CHINA FREIGHT RATES COLLAPSE: Freight rates between India and China have dropped by more than half following introduction of express services between the two countries. Freight rates have dropped by 65% in the last six months, while sea cargo volume has grown by a staggering 30% this year. The current freight charge to ship a 20-foot container from Mumbai to Shanghai is just \$100, as compared with \$300 six months ago. "Shipping companies subsidize transport of cargo to China in order to make use of containers, which would otherwise lie unused and attract ground rent in India," a source says.

MORE: http://www.business-standard.com/common/storypage_c.php?leftnm=10&bKeyFlag=BO&auto=265596&chkFlg=

OCEAN – NO OVER-CAPACITY SAYS CMA-CGM: CMA CGM Chairman Jacques Saade believes ocean freight rates are falling because of a perception of over-capacity that he does not see. Saade told delegates at the Shipper Forum 2006 in Amsterdam that volume from Asia to North Europe and the Mediterranean increased by a combined 15.5% and sees good growth ahead for 2007. "There is no reason to panic for 2007," Saade said. "It is my personal opinion that Chinese growth, closely followed by growing Indian exports, and in a second stage by Vietnam and other neighboring countries, will fully justify the orders of the new container vessels up until 2010,"

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=42980

OCEAN – MISC SAYS OVER-CAPACITY HURTING RATES:

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=43177

OCEAN – SENATOR LINES CUTS: German container carrier Senator Lines will cut jobs and services amounting to more than 30% of its total capacity beginning in January.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20061120/sections/ocean/w7821.asp>

OCEAN – ACL ADDS LIBYA RO-RO SERVICE: The Grimaldi Group has enhanced its Mediterranean ro-ro service by adding the ports of Misurata and Tripoli, Libya to its rotation.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20061121/sections/ocean/w11722.asp>

OCEAN – CAR RACKS FOR 45-FOOT BOXES: Trans-Rak, a company that makes special racks for transporting automobiles in containers, says the Dutch intermodal company Unit45 BV of Rotterdam, is now offering automotive logistics companies a range of 45-foot high-cube containers fitted with the Trans-Rak car transport system.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=42977

TRADE – SHIPPERS MOVING CARGO FROM AIR TO OCEAN

Shippers and consignees are cutting back on the use of air freight and other premium services in favor of less costly transportation options. Increasingly this is spreading to commodities that have traditionally moved exclusively by air, such as cellular phones.

Members of the Supply Chain Consortium, an industry grouping representing some 110 companies with a combined revenue in excess of US\$1-Trillion, are trimming their air freight traffic. This year 27% of SCC members have signaled a decline in air freight, and 26% are seeing a reduction in parcel traffic.

Unable to absorb the high cost of air freight with the various surcharges, salmon exporters from Chile began to send some of their cargo frozen by ocean vessel last year. Initially, airline executives shrugged this off, arguing that typical air freight commodities would remain in the air, given the differential in transit times. However, that argument is losing ground.

"In the past phones went 99% by air; now it's only 70%," said Ken Choi of KAL Cargo.

Why the shift now? Sailing schedules have become more reliable, capacity is up, and the use of special equipment and containers, such as temperature and humidity control devices, make it possible to move electronics in ocean containers.

Forwarders have attributed the shift away from air freight in part to better planning on the shipper side. Demand planning is the key.

MORE: <http://www.cargonewsasia.com/ecna/preview.aspx?article=3171>

TRADE – OOCL SELLING PORTS BUSINESS?: Hong Kong-based Orient Overseas (International) Ltd., parent company of ocean carrier OOCL, suspended trading of its shares Wednesday, with an announcement expected about the sale of its North American terminal

assets valued at over \$1.1-Billion.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=43068

TRADE – CMA-CGM DP-PORT BID DEAD?: An American private equity group and stevedore have reportedly teamed up to thwart a bid by French carrier CMA CGM to acquire DP World's US port operations. "The Business," a British financial weekly, reports the Carlyle Group, a US private equity investor, has joined with Seattle-based stevedore SSA Marine to bid for the strategically sensitive terminals, which were acquired by Dubai in its \$6.8-billion takeover of Britain's P&O in March.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20061121/sections/ocean/w29848.asp>

TRADE – FEDEX TO FIGHT UNION: FedEx plans to fight an election at two FedEx Home Delivery stations that gave the Teamsters union a victory in its attempt to organize drivers at the carrier's ground unit. Drivers at two stations in Wilmington, Massachusetts voted 24-8 to join the Teamsters Local 25 in Boston. The vote made the stations the first in the FedEx Home Delivery network to join the Teamsters union, which is challenging FedEx Ground's use of 15,000 contractors, a foundation of the FedEx Ground business model.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20061122/sections/logis/w83070.asp>

AIR - INDIA AIR FREIGHTER DEMAND RISING: India forecasts it will need 125 freighter aircraft over the next 20 years in addition to passenger planes.

MORE: <http://www.business-standard.com/economy/storypage.php?leftnm=3&subLeft=2&chklogin=N&autono=265215&tab=r>

AIR – EMBRAER FORECASTS FUTURE MARKET: Brazil's Embraer is forecasting a demand for 7,500 jets in the 30/120-seat range over the next 20 years worth \$20-Billion.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=7117>

AIR – LH TO LAUNCH MUNICH-DENVER SERVICE: Lufthansa will launch daily Munich-Denver service on March 31 aboard an A340-300 and add a second daily Frankfurt-Detroit flight on March 25 aboard an A330-300.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/other.html?issueDate=11%2F22%2F2006>

AIR – ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN MAY HURT AIR FREIGHT: John Allan, chief executive officer of DHL Logistics, says air freight will grow faster than global GDP, but is concerned about environmental issues. "We are moving into an era where aviation is going to receive more and more scrutiny from governments and others because of its potential and actual environmental impact. I think that might lead to taxes of a level that cause many of us to think about switching to ocean freight..."

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=42975

AIR – US-AIR SAYS "NEW DELTA" WOULD BE "LOW-COST MAVERICK": Calling itself "a pro-consumer maverick," US Airways moved quickly to head off an antitrust challenge to its proposed \$8 billion takeover of Delta Air Lines, asserting in a government filing that the "New Delta" will offer "consumer-friendly fares" and will not stifle competition in a market in which LCCs (Low Cost Carriers) play a significant role. Delta CEO Gerald Grinstein reportedly held multiple conference calls with the bankrupt carrier's creditors to argue against the takeover and for Delta's re-emergence from Chapter 11 as a standalone airline. Creditors will play a big role in determining the fate of DL, and both Grinstein and US Chairman and CEO Doug Parker likely will court them aggressively.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=7114>

AIR – DELTA NOT SEEKING "WHITE KNIGHT": Bankrupt Delta Air Lines has "no plans" to seek a white knight but will propose a restructuring plan to counter a takeover bid by US Airways.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1164009843.html>

AIR – DELTA MAY HAVE HARD TIME AVOIDING US-AIR BUY-OUT: The management of bankrupt Delta Air Lines will have to work hard to fend off US Airways' unwanted USD\$8-Billion takeover offer. Delta's management, led by Chief Executive Gerald Grinstein, will have to persuade creditors that its plan to stay independent is better and more likely to succeed. "On a financial basis, the US Air offer looks pretty compelling to unsecured creditors," says

Clark Orsky, a bond analyst with KDP Investment Advisors.
MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1163973797.html>

AIR – DELTA BOND HOLDERS ORGANIZING TO BACK US-AIR BID:

MORE: http://money.cnn.com/2006/11/22/news/companies/delta_bondholders.reut/index.htm?section=money_news_companies

AIR – DELTA EMPLOYEES AGAINST TAKE-OVER:

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1164198955.html>

AIR – US-AIR BID FOR DELTA MAY SIGNAL MERGER TREND:

MORE: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/11/24/yourmoney/minvest25.php>

AIR – QANTAS BUY-OUT OFFER: Australia's Qantas Airways has received a buyout offer from investment firms Macquarie Bank and Texas Pacific Group that could be worth more than AUD\$10 billion (USD\$7.73 billion). "The approach is confidential and incomplete and is being investigated by Qantas," the airline said in a statement.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1164198758.html>

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=43076

AIR – AF IN TALKS TO BUY AILING ALITALIA:

MORE: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/business/air-france-in-talks-with-alitalia/2006/11/24/1164341394597.html>

AIR – CONTINENTAL WOULD CONSIDER MERGER:

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1164144487.html>

AIR – A380 TESTING GLOBAL FLIGHTS: The Airbus A380 has begun a series of global route proving flights as it approaches type certification.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/other.html?issueDate=11%2F20%2F2006>

AIR – AIRBUS EXPECTS A380 CERTIFICATION BY 13 DECEMBER:

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1164352852.html>

AIR – THAI A380 DECISION NEXT YEAR: Thai Airways may cancel its order for Airbus's A380s if the European plane maker doesn't adequately compensate it for delivery delays. "The final decision will be made by the new board in February." Thai has six A380's on order.

MORE: <http://quote.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000080&sid=a9sZ3GDK3GIM>

AIR – A350 DECISION DELAYED: Disagreement over the funding of the USD\$10 billion Airbus A350 project forced parent firm EADS to cancel a Friday board meeting which had been expected to address the matter. Airbus's single-aisle A320 family of planes is still selling well but the plane maker is losing to Boeing in larger models. The EUR12 billion A380 super-jumbo project is over budget and two years behind schedule.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1164367214.html>

AIR – AIRBUS RAISING A320 PRODUCTION: Airbus plans to boost production of its A320 single-aisle family of aircraft by 20% over the next two years to meet market demand. The A320 family embraces four models with a seating range of 107 to 185 passengers.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1164024231.html>

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

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

KITCHEN SIGNAGE

1. Kitchen closed - this chick has had it!
2. Martha Stewart doesn't live here!!
3. I'm creative; you can't expect me to be neat too!
4. So this isn't Home Sweet Home... Adjust!

5. Ring Bell for Maid Service ... If no one answer, do it yourself!
6. I clean house every other day ... Today is the other day!
7. If you write in the dust, please don't date it!
8. I would cook dinner but I can't find the can opener!
9. My house was clean last week, too bad you missed it!
10. A clean kitchen is the sign of a wasted life.
11. COOK CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
12. I came, I saw, I decided to order take out.
13. If you don't like my standard of cooking ... lower your standards.
14. You may touch the dust in this house ... but please don't write in it!
15. Apology ... Although you'll find our house a mess, Come in, sit down, and converse. It doesn't always look like this: Some days it's even worse.
16. A messy kitchen is a happy kitchen, and this kitchen is delirious.
17. If we are what we eat, then I'm easy, fast, and cheap.
18. A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.
19. Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.
20. Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.
21. A clean house is a sign of a misspent life.
22. Help keep the kitchen clean - eat out.
23. Countless number of people have eaten in this kitchen and gone on to lead normal lives.
24. My next house will have no kitchen - just vending machines.
25. Gardening forever ... Housework, never!
26. Dull women have immaculate houses.
27. I'd live life in the fast lane but I am married to a speed bump.
28. I cook with wine...sometimes I put it in the food.
29. No husband has ever been shot in the kitchen while doing the dishes.
30. Housework done properly can kill you.
31. I hate four letter words... Like cook, bake, dust and wash
32. I am the boss of this house, and i have my wife's permission to say so
33. There are two choices for dinner: #1) Take it or #2) Leave it

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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