

# AllCovered NEWS

## HIGHLIGHTS TO HELP YOU THIS WEEK

- 2007 Biz Planning - Hiring For Your Business Culture
- 2007 Biz Planning - A Futurist Looks Ahead To 2007
- Appalling Airport Security Gaps
- Weather Chaos in London & Denver Affects Flights
- 2007 - Get Ready for Paperless Air Cargo

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### DETAILED CONTENTS THIS WEEK

#### SMALL BUSINESS:

Biz-Planning  
Focus for 2007  
Hiring For Your  
Business  
Culture  
Tools To Help  
Find the Right  
Employee  
A Futurist  
Looks Ahead

#### TRUCKING:

Driver Turnover  
Jumps  
Highway  
Congestion  
Worse

#### SECURITY:

ID Theft &  
Terror Risk  
Newspaper  
Finds Appalling  
Airport Security  
Gaps  
Leading  
Lawmaker  
Wants 100%  
Screening

#### OCEAN & AIR FORWARDING:

Get Ready For  
Paperless Air  
Cargo  
New US  
Customs Tariff  
Codes Delayed  
November  
Trans-Pac  
Cargo Strong  
Surcharges Up  
in Trinidad and  
St. Petersburg  
Weather Air  
Travel Chaos in  
London &  
Denver

### 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

**Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays  
From Allcovered.net & the Allen Insurance Group**

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

**Monday, 25 December:** All Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday  
**Tuesday, 26 December:** US Offices Open - UK Office Closed  
**Monday, 1 January '07:** Offices Closed for New Year's Holiday

## >> SMALL BUSINESS SECTION <<

### BIZ PLANNING 2007 - HIRING FOR YOUR BIZ CULTURE

--- Excerpted from an article by Tommy Peterson - Link at end ---

Every time you have to replace an employee, for whatever reason, it costs you between 1.5 and five times the employee's salary in lost productivity, overtime, search costs and more.

Employee turnover is expensive. When a bad hire is involved, the process can be a budget buster. Human Resources professionals say most bad hires occur because the hiring manager places too much emphasis on the résumé and not on the person sitting on the other side of the desk.

"We've gotten in trouble when we've focused on qualifications in the hiring process rather than on attitudes," says one employer. "We hire well when we focus on fit with our company and with our value culture."

Understanding the corporate culture and being able to clearly communicate it to a candidate is the most critical part of avoiding hiring gaffes, hiring managers say.

"You have to be honest about the culture to the candidate and to do that you need to be honest with yourself about it. You've also got to remember that each department has its own culture, which may be a little different from the organization as a whole."

"You need to know the job, and what kind of person does well in the job -- that sounds obvious but it takes a lot of preparation and thought."

When it goes wrong and someone is fired, normally the employee's work was fine, "...they're usually just an experienced person who has a different way of doing business," and does not fit your company says another human resources specialist.

To choose the right employee:

- Remove distractions and listen to the job applicant
- Let the applicant do 90% of the talking (most interviews are just the opposite)
- Beware first impressions, whether positive or negative
- Use multiple interviews to get to the know the real person who is applying
- Check all references

MORE: [http://boston.bizjournals.com/boston/stories/2006/12/11/focus1.html?fe=et152&b=1165813200\\*1387505&hbx=e\\_vert](http://boston.bizjournals.com/boston/stories/2006/12/11/focus1.html?fe=et152&b=1165813200*1387505&hbx=e_vert)

**JUST FOR FUN:**

George Carlin's New Rules For 2007

**NEXT WEEK**

Biz Lessons From Machiavelli

Links to source stories at end of excerpts

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**SMALL BIZ – TOOLS TO HELP FIND RIGHT EMPLOYEE**

--- Excerpted from an article by Linda Goodspeed – Link at end ---

It's an old business maxim: "Hire for skills and fire for attitude."

In an effort to reduce bad hires and increase retention, a number of employers are assessing employees' personality before hiring them through tests.

"Yes, we know companies need skills, but unless employees have the right attitude, the right motivators, they don't fit in your organization," says Greta Roberts of Target Teams, a consulting firm. Roberts feels the answer is in behavioral tests for applicants.

Questions usually have four responses. Potential employees are asked to select the response that is most like them and the response that is least like them. For example, "Are you easily led? Bold and daring? Loyal, faithful and devoted? Charming and delightful? Of those four, which is most like you and which is least like you?"

Linda Stewart, executive vice president of Veritude, says "Retention is so important in this marketplace. The success of a person in a job is connected to their personality and what motivates them. Those are things you can't interview for. Behavioral assessments are a scientific way to identify people who will fit in your organization."

MORE: [http://boston.bizjournals.com/boston/stories/2006/12/11/focus2.html?f=et152&b=1165813200\\*1387507&hbx=e\\_vert](http://boston.bizjournals.com/boston/stories/2006/12/11/focus2.html?f=et152&b=1165813200*1387507&hbx=e_vert)

**BIZ PLANNING 2007 – A FUTURIST LOOKS AHEAD**

--- Excerpted from an article by Jim Louderback – Link at end ---

As Allcovered continues its look ahead to 2007 to help you with your planning, we turn to Analyst and Futurist Mark Anderson who makes his living predicting the future for multinational corporations and financiers. Anderson is the author of the Strategic News Service newsletter and claims a 93.5% accuracy rate. Perhaps some of the trends and concerns expressed here by Anderson will help you plan for 2007:

**OPEC, CHEAP LABOR & MONEY**

"I think about oil, cheap labor and money. These are things which we have no control over." They will greatly affect the US economy, & through it, the world economy.

**IN GENERAL**

- An end to Home Refinancing boom as consumers start cutting debt
- Economy will depend on business spending, not consumer spending
- Companies have cash. Will they spend it?

**e-Phones Go Mainstream**

"Next year will see the first market acceptance of ePhones in the US. The ePhone is a phone where you use it to pay people. It's mobile commerce... mobile transactions. Go to a (supermarket), swipe, pay. Go to a gas station, swipe, pay... The phone guys are ready this year." Visa & MasterCard are worried.

**Electric Cars Get Serious Attention**

Forget hybrid cars. "Why not just plug it in? Go 250 miles and plug it in [again]. 73% percent of oil imported into (the US) is used for gas. This is all electric. They will start building cars (like this) in this country and outside. Lithium-ion battery technology is good enough here. If we can power most of our cars with our existing electrical infrastructure, then we (US) have a quick way out of our dependence on foreign oil."

**Energy – Oil Prices Up and Solar Gets Going**

Oil prices move up, not down, returning to \$70 to \$80 a barrel, continuing an unmatched wealth transfer to oil producing countries that dwarfs the trade imbalance between the US and China that politicians continue to complain about.

Solar goes mainstream with multiple subsidy programs. New breakthroughs greatly increase solar efficiency. (For more, see "Free Solar Energy" in Allcovered News 27 November 2006, here: <http://www.allcovered.net/AC-News-PDF.htm> )

**Dollar Woes Continue**

The dollar falls further against the Euro and the Yen. "Oil countries and others are buying fewer dollars now. This is a real war, but we don't pay attention to it."

**Flash Chips**

"Get ready for flash computers. Anything that is a computer will be a flash computer. Samsung is bragging that you can have a computer without a disk drive now. It'll be more rugged and faster with plenty of memory..." for most computer users' needs.

**Anderson's Bonus Predictions**

- The European Union will reject Turkey
- China-Pan (China & Japan) will be seen as a new integrated manufacturing center.
- Everyone in Europe is going to the right, because of immigration, but Ségolène Royal will be the next premier of France anyway.

MORE: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,2073631,00.asp>

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

### TRUCKING – DRIVER TURNOVER INCREASES

The driver turnover rate among truckload carriers increased during the third quarter according to the American Trucking Associations.

Large truckload carrier line-haul driver turnover increased to an annual rate of 121%, up from 110% in the second quarter. Small truckload carrier turnover was 114%, up from 100%.

ATA defines large truckload carriers as those with at least \$30 million in annual revenue. Less-than-truckload line-haul driver turnover was 14%.

"As more and more large carriers try to get out of the long-haul market, more small carriers are filling the gap," says ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello. "This is resulting in higher turnover rates."

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=57154>

**TRUCKING – HIGHWAY CONGESTION WORSE:** According to the newly released "Highway Statistics 2005," an annual compilation of data reported to the FHWA by all US states and territories, Americans drove nearly three trillion miles on American highways last year, up 8% from 2004, but highway lane mileage did not increase significantly.

REPORT – "HIGHWAY STATISTICS 2005": <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/ohpi/hss/hsspubs.htm>

MORE: [http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news\\_id=57692](http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=57692)

**TRUCKING – DIESEL DOWN:** The US national average price of a gallon of diesel fell roughly one cent for the week ended 18 December according to the US Department of Energy. At \$2.61 per gallon the price is about the same as this time last year.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=57127>

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2006/12/18/Averageon-highwaydieselpricedrops15cents.aspx>

**TRUCKING – BARR-NUNN ADDS APUS TO FLEET:** Barr-Nunn Transportation is adding more auxiliary power units (APU) to trucks operated by the company's driver teams. APUs can reduce idling by up to 90%, while providing Barr-Nunn drivers with air conditioning, heating, enhanced electrical current, battery charging and a warm engine.

MORE: [http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news\\_id=57714](http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=57714)

**TRUCKING – FUEL ECONOMY GUIDE FOR FLEETS & DRIVERS:** Kenworth has produced a new guide to assist fleets and owner-operators improve fuel economy.

KENWORTH PDF: <http://www.kenworth.com/brochures/FuelEfficiency.pdf>

MORE: [http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news\\_id=57668](http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=57668)

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

### SECURITY – ID THEFT & TERROR RISK

Recent raids to capture illegal immigrants point to a huge problem. On the streets of Phoenix, Arizona (or most major US cities) if you know where to go, you can buy fake documents to allow work, driving and more for as little as \$160 in less than three hours.

Recent raids to capture illegal aliens have highlighted a growing challenge. Most of the illegal immigrants had fake documents that were so good they are almost impossible to tell from real ones.

One officer said buying illegal documents is easy. Show up with a photo and buy a "three-pack," a driver's license, permanent resident card, and social security card for about \$160 on the street.

The documents are returned within hours. Many contain legitimate drivers license numbers and social security numbers. That means the legitimate holders of these numbers will have their records affected by anything the illegal immigrant does.

But in a larger sense, if it is this easy for an illegal immigrant from Latin America to get fake documents allowing him/her to work in the US, then what is to stop a potential terrorist from getting these documents?

MORE: [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2003476730\\_idtheft14.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2003476730_idtheft14.html)

## SECURITY – APPALLING AIRPORT SECURITY GAPS

--- Excerpted from an article by Lee Wolverson – Link at end ---

A Florida newspaper, the News-Press of Fort Myers, sends a reporter to check the security around airports. Only one airport stopped the reporter.

If this test were run anywhere else, would the outcome be different?

In the shadow of the control tower, the man stands hands on hips in a crisp white shirt watching from behind aviator sunglasses as the intruder scribbles in a notebook and glances nervously over his shoulder.

Signs on the fence guarding the tower at Southwest Florida International Airport warn: VISITORS ENTERING THIS FACILITY CONSENT TO INSPECTIONS FOR WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES.

The intruder is close enough to the tower's darkened windows to hit the glass with a stone, or some other object, if his aim is true. When he peers again over his shoulder at the airport's fire and rescue station, the man in the sunglasses is gone.

The intruder is harmless... a reporter from The News-Press. But how could anyone at Southwest Florida International have known?

For more than an hour, the reporter and a photographer walked alongside a 6-foot (2-meter) chain-link fence on the airport's northern perimeter. Lee County Port Authority police are responsible for patrolling the area, but no officers approached. No squad cars cruised by along the perimeter road, the desolate tarmac where the old airport terminal once stood, or an adjacent cargo road.

An hour on the perimeters of two of the state's busiest airports, Orlando and Tampa, along with Naples Municipal Airport, produced the same results. Police were rarely seen and never confronted the journalists.

Of five airport perimeters investigated by The News-Press, only at Miami International did authorities respond. Eleven minutes after a reporter and photographer began walking along an 8-foot fence on the airport's west side, Miami-Dade police arrived in three cruisers. Officers demanded identification, ran background checks, then ordered the journalists off the property.

The contrast between the response and conditions at Miami and the other four airports was stark.

Holes large enough for a person to squeeze through were found in perimeter fences. At Orlando, such a gap was found within 20 feet of a heavily used taxiway.

Some sections of fence were rusty and crumpling. Strands of barbed wire topping the barriers were loose or fallen. Gates were held closed in some places only by a rusty chain and padlock.

The findings illustrate what some former federal investigators and security researchers call a deep flaw in the nation's airport security system. They charge that as holiday travelers inside airports jump through a maddening array of security hoops... from packing shampoos in plastic baggies to having their bodies X-rayed by federal screeners... the tarmacs, runways and taxiways beyond the terminals are exposed to the kind of intruders 9/11 taught travelers to fear.

"Perimeter security? What perimeter security?" said Steve Elson, a retired Navy SEAL who in the 1990s headed a crack team of agents charged with testing airport security for the Federal Aviation Administration.

### TESTING SECURITY

#### TESTING THE BOUNDARIES

A look at The News-Press investigation of perimeter security at the state's three busiest airports along with Southwest Florida International:

#### WHAT NEWS-PRESS DID

A reporter walked along the perimeter, observing the condition of the fence and gates, police presence, ease of access and police response time. The time spent in the perimeter area was recorded. Unless interrupted by police, the investigation was concluded after one hour.

#### SW FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Elapsed time\*: 1 hour, 12 minutes

Result: Never confronted by authorities

#### MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:

Elapsed time\*: 11 minutes

Result: Miami-Dade police questioned reporter and photographer, conducted criminal background checks and ordered reporter and photographer off property.

#### NAPLES MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Elapsed time\*: 1 hour

Result: Never confronted by authorities.

Observations: Mostly new fence with 20-foot section badly bowed and pulled from post in south-central area of perimeter along work site and near terminal.

#### ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL

Elapsed time\*: 1 hour, 8 minutes

Result: Never confronted by authorities

Observations: Saw one police cruiser, none along perimeter roads. Fence 6 feet high topped by three strands of barbed wire in most sections. Large hole in fence near heavily used taxiway, offering quick access to aircraft.

#### TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Elapsed time\*: 1 hour

Result: Never confronted by authorities

Observations: Saw one police cruiser along inside of perimeter. Fence 6 feet high, rusty and crumpled, topped by loose strands of barbed wire in some sections. Saw large hole at bottom of fence in one area; bottom of fence easily pulled up so that an intruder could squeeze through in other areas.

"Perimeter security is a joke. No one's paying any attention to it," he said, "and no one's going to until there's another 9/11 and a lot of people are killed."

The problem is nationwide. "There are many... cases that that you never hear about," said Robert Sproc, vice president of the Airline Pilots Security Alliance, one of two pilots groups that gave perimeter security low marks in recent airport security report cards. "People who don't even know what they are doing are getting in. It's alarming."

"Here's the reality," Elson said. "When you're talking about (passenger) checkpoints, you're talking about something that everybody can see, something that gives people the feeling that the government is doing something. It's political. Passenger screening is important, but it's only part of it. If you're X-raying my body, and somebody's walking in through an open gate somewhere or getting in through a fence, what good does it do?"

MORE: <http://www.news-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061217/NEWS01/61217001/1075>

**SECURITY – LEADING LAWMAKER WANTS 100% CARGO SCREENING:** Incoming US House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi said at a news conference that Democrats, as part of their priority agenda to implement the recommendations of the Sept. 11 Commission, will push legislation to inspect 100% of ocean containers prior to arrival in US ports.

MORE: [http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW\\_story.asp?news=44903](http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=44903)

**SECURITY – TASK FORCE WANTS NATIONWIDE SECURITY FEE:** The Port Authority Port Security Task Force has called for a mandatory nationwide security fee for all cargo, for federal mandatory cargo security standards, and the appointment of a national official in charge of port security issues. The task force is a nonpartisan group of government and business officials formed to generate public discussion of port and cargo security matters and to provide recommendations that address current gaps in port and supply-chain security.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/lede/20061218/sections/ocean/w27536.asp>

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

### BIZ PLANNING 2007 – PAPERLESS AIR CARGO

Air cargo shipments are on the threshold of moving to a simple, industry-wide, electronic, paper-free environment, courtesy of IATA's "e-freight." In 2007 we'll see the beginnings of this global structural change for air cargo.

Looking for every advantage, every efficiency, every faster or more secure method of moving freight is one secret to survival in today's logistics environment.

Right now air cargo movements need a lot of paper forms. Different countries require different forms. Each time you enter data the chance for a mistake multiplies. Forms take time and manpower, and that all costs money.

That is changing. Enter "e-freight," a paperless initiative pushed by the International Air Transport Association.

E-freight offers IT solutions covering the gamut of air cargo operations, from booking of cargo to delivery. It eliminates the need to transport paper documents for air cargo shipments by moving to an industry-wide, simpler, electronic and paper-free system.

After successfully motivating airlines across the world to switch from paper ticketing to e-tickets, IATA is confident that the new paperless cargo concept will take off, though it will take another 10 years (or perhaps even more) before e-freight is used across the world. An initial e-freight project was launched in 2004.

So, what are the benefits of this new concept? IATA claims the first and foremost being reduction in costs.

Increased use of electronic data interchange (EDI) messages and improved data quality will reduce costs further by reducing the number of system rejected messages and the requirement to check, correct and re-enter shipment data. Upon full implementation of the project, e-freight would bring savings to the tune of \$1.2 billion per year, according to aviation analysts.

#### e-freight BENEFITS

- Today average of 38 documents per shipment at a cost of \$30
- 35-million MAWBs per year
- 25 years ago it took average 6.5 days to send an air cargo shipment internationally – that has not improved

#### IMPLEMENTATION

- e-freight pilot projects between five countries in 2007
- 100% e-freight for air cargo by 2010

Then, there is improved customer service. Improved data quality and reduced reliance on paper documents will reduce transport and clearance times and will improve transit and delivery times. Besides, the high quality electronic data facilitates stakeholder compliance with customs requirements, avoiding large penalties resulting from non-compliance.

The pilot projects to launch in 2007 will link the air cargo markets of Canada, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

MORE ON E-FREIGHT: <http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/efreight.htm>

MORE: [http://www.financialexpress.com/fe\\_full\\_story.php?content\\_id=148623](http://www.financialexpress.com/fe_full_story.php?content_id=148623)

MORE: [http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW\\_story.asp?news=44821](http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=44821)

**TRADE – NEW CUSTOMS TARIFF CODES DELAYED:** US Customs and Border Protection officials expect to begin enforcing new tariff codes in February. The World Customs Organization's updated Harmonized Tariff Schedule significantly changes for 2007 about two-thirds of the commodity categories used to determine tariff rates. WCO tariff code changes are supposed to go into effect around the world on 1 January, but the United States will miss the deadline because the International Trade Commission was late in adding US suffixes to the WCO's six-digit code. CBP, the agency responsible for collecting duties, projects the HTS changes will go into effect around 1 February.

MORE: [http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW\\_story.asp?news=44904](http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=44904)

**TRADE – UKRAINE PERFECT FOR FREIGHT, BUT... :** Ukraine is in a perfect geographical position to become a major transit hub for goods... but forwarders there worry that a weak freight transit infrastructure, coupled with draconian customs regulations, is holding the Ukrainian freight forwarding sector back.

MORE: <http://www.kyivpost.com/business/industglance/25711/>

**TRADE – SHANGHAI FIRMS STRUGGLE TO HIRE GRADUATES:** Graduates of maritime-related university programs are a hot commodity in Shanghai, home to the Chinese mainland's biggest port. The city's booming shipping industry struggles to find enough qualified workers. Shipmen and other industry professionals are in great demand, receiving monthly salaries of USD 1,000, much more than the average Chinese college graduate can expect to earn right out of college.

MORE: [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2006-12/18/content\\_761056.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2006-12/18/content_761056.htm)

**OCEAN – NOVEMBER TRANS-PAC STRONG:** Containerized imports moving through Southern California ports in the eastbound Pacific trades eased off from October as expected, but traffic was stronger than the same month a year ago. Los Angeles handled 382,404 loaded TEUs (20-foot Equivalent Units) from Asia, an increase of 17.6% from November, 2005. It was the first month since June that imports dropped below 400,000 TEUs. Imports through Long Beach totaled 332,806 TEUs in November, up 9.1%.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20061218/sections/ocean/w92669.asp>

**OCEAN – EMERGENCY SURCHARGES IN ST. PETERSBURG:** Faced with long delays at the Port of St. Petersburg, member lines of the ESPMC-WITASS conference have added emergency surcharges for cargo calling at the Russian port starting tomorrow (26 December). Charges: \$150 per dry TEU, \$300 per dry FEU, \$275 per reefer TEU, \$550 per reefer FEU.

MORE: [http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW\\_story.asp?news=45138](http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=45138)

**OCEAN – HIGHER CONGESTION SURCHARGE IN TRINIDAD:** Member lines of the ESPMC-WITASS conference that covers the Europe/Caribbean/South America trade, will more than double its congestion surcharge for all shipments to and from the Port of Spain in Trinidad effective 1 January.

MORE: [http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW\\_story.asp?news=44908](http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=44908)

**AIR – LONDON & DENVER WEATHER STRUGGLES:** Travelers struggling to get home for Christmas faced chaos and frustration as London's Heathrow Airport was blanketed in fog... Gatwick was affected... and Denver began digging out from two feet (61 centimeters) of snow. Thursday & Friday some 350 flights were cancelled from Heathrow each day. Though some morning flights were canceled Saturday Heathrow planned a full schedule for the afternoon. All flights at Denver were cancelled from Wednesday until DIA reopened at noon Friday.

MORE ON LHR: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/6205247.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/6205247.stm)

MORE ON DIA: <http://www.rockymountainnews.com/>

**AIR – DELTA FORMALLY REJECTS US-AIR TAKEOVER BID:**

MORE: [http://money.cnn.com/2006/12/19/news/companies/delta\\_usair/index.htm?postversion=2006121907](http://money.cnn.com/2006/12/19/news/companies/delta_usair/index.htm?postversion=2006121907)

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=7413>

**AIR – DELTA CREDITORS PONDER REORGANIZATION PLAN:** Delta Air Lines' Official Creditors' Committee declined to give a swift thumbs-up to the airline's proposed Plan of Reorganization. While stating that it supports the company's decision to file the reorganization plan, the Committee said it "will continue to consider potential alternatives in order to maximize the ultimate recoveries" for unsecured creditors.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/other.html?issueDate=12%2F21%2F2006>

**AIR – DELTA CREDITORS WANT TALKS:** An unofficial group of Delta Air Lines creditors says it looks forward to discussing the carrier's plan to exit bankruptcy, but added it expects Delta to fairly consider alternatives to the plan like US-Air's takeover bid. The unofficial committee of unsecured claim holders now consists of 17 members that hold more than USD\$2.25 billion of unsecured claims against Delta.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1166791617.html>

**AIR – US-AIR CALLS DELTA REORGANIZATION PLAN UNREALISTIC:** Doug Parker , the chief executive of US Airways, dismissed as "unrealistic" a plan by Delta Air Lines to emerge from bankruptcy as a stand-alone company worth up to USD\$12 billion. Delta on Tuesday formally rejected US Airways' takeover bid, which currently amounts to USD\$8.3 billion, and filed a plan to emerge from Chapter 11 as an independent company. US Airways says it remains a bidder for Delta and hopes that the carrier's creditors committee will persuade management to reconsider. US Airways is seeking to examine Delta's books.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1166741222.html>

**AIR – CARGOLUX ADDS SERVICE:** Starting Saturday all-cargo airline Cargolux is adding a weekly roundtrip service calling Luxembourg, Gothenburg, and New York before heading back to Gothenburg and Luxembourg using 747-freighters.

MORE: [http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW\\_story.asp?news=45346](http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=45346)

**AIR – QATAR AIRWAYS BUYS FREIGHTERS:** Qatar Airways has ordered two 777-200 freighters to be delivered in 2009 and used on long-haul routes to the Far East and Europe.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/other.html?issueDate=12%2F19%2F2006>

**AIR – SIA SETTLES A380 DELAY & ORDERS 9:** Singapore Airlines says it has settled with Airbus over super-jumbo delivery delays and ordered 20 A320 narrow-body planes worth USD\$1.33 billion for its SilkAir regional airline arm. Airbus will deliver the first A380 super-jumbo to its launch customer in October 2007. SIA signed an agreement to order nine A380s, and holds an option for an additional six planes. The plane was originally due to enter service with Singapore Airlines this month.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1166616525.html>

**AIR – QANTAS ORDERS MORE A380S:** Qantas ordered eight more A380 super-jumbo planes from Airbus, taking its total order for the 550 seat plane to 20. "A repeat order from a premier carrier like Qantas is more than a vote of confidence in the A380," Airbus president and chief executive officer Louis Gallois said.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1166702722.html>

**AIR – THAI CONSIDERS AIRBUS DEAL:** Thai Airways is considering whether to order more planes as part of compensation for delayed delivery of six Airbus A380 super-jumbo aircraft. Airbus offered discounts if Thai Airways ordered more planes.

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1166616265.html>



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

**GEORGE CARLIN'S RULES FOR 2007**

Comedian George Carlin is well known for his insightful skewering of society. Here, his "New Rules" for the coming year:

**NEW RULE:** Stop giving me that pop-up ad for classmates.com. There's a reason you don't talk to people for 25 years. Because you don't particularly like them!

**NEW RULE:** Don't eat anything that's served to you out a window unless you're a seagull. People are acting all shocked that a human finger was found in a bowl of chili. Hey, it cost less than a dollar. What did you expect, Lobster Bisque?

**NEW RULE:** If you need to shave and you still collect baseball cards, you're a dope. If you're a kid, the cards are keepsakes of your idols. If you're a grown man, they're pictures of men.

**NEW RULE:** Ladies, leave your eyebrows alone. Here's how much men care about your eyebrows: do you have two of them? Okay, we're done.

**NEW RULE:** There's no such thing as flavored water. There's a whole aisle of this stuff at the supermarket, water, but without that watery taste. Sorry, but flavored water is called a soft drink. You want flavored water? Pour some bourbon over ice and let it melt. Now that's flavored water.

**NEW RULE:** Stop messing with old people. Target is introducing a redesigned pill bottle that's square, with a bigger label. And the top is now the bottom. And by the time grandpa figures out how to open it, he'll be in the morgue. Congratulations, Target, you just solved the Social Security crisis.

**NEW RULE:** The more complicated the Starbucks order, the bigger the jerk. If you walk into a Starbucks and order a "decaf grande half-soy, half-low fat, iced vanilla, double-shot, gingerbread cappuccino, extra dry, light ice, with one Sweet-n'-Low, and one NutraSweet," ooh, you're a huge jerk.

**NEW RULE:** I am not the cashier! By the time I look up from sliding my card, entering my PIN number, pressing "Enter," verifying the amount, deciding, no, I don't want cash back, and pressing "Enter" again, the kid who is ringing me up is asleep.

**NEW RULE:** Competitive eating is not a sport. It's one of the seven deadly sins. ESPN televises this stuff because watching those athletes at the poker table was just too exciting, huh? What's next, competitive flatulence?

**NEW RULE:** I don't need bigger mega M&Ms If I'm hungry for M&Ms, I'll go nuts and eat two.

**NEW RULE:** If you're going to insist on making movies based on bad, old television shows, then you have to give everyone in the Cineplex a remote so we can see what's playing on the other screens. Remember the reason something was a television show in the first place is that the idea wasn't good enough to be a movie.

**NEW RULE:** No more gift registries. You know, it used to be just for weddings. Now it's for babies and new homes and graduations from rehab. Picking out the stuff you want and having other people buy it for you isn't gift giving, it's the white people version of looting.

**NEW RULE:** No more bathroom attendants. After I zip up, some guy is offering me a towel and a mint like I just had sex with George Michael. I can't even tell if he's supposed to be there, or just some freak with a fetish. I don't want to be on your web cam, dude. I just want to wash my hands.

**NEW RULE:** When I ask how old your toddler is, I don't need to know in months. "27 Months." "He's two," will do just fine. He's not a cheese. And I didn't really care in the first place.

**NEW RULE:** If you ever hope to be a credible adult and want a job that pays better than minimum wage, then for God's sake don't pierce or tattoo every available piece of flesh. If so, then plan your future around saying "Do you want fries with that?"

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

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