

Business Briefs



Dutch Windmill

Got Milk? Mr. Wang of Quindao, China found a worm in a carton of Frisolac powdered milk that had been imported from Holland. Mr. Wang returned the milk to the grocer who provided him with a replacement. However, Mr. Wang maintained that he was entitled to additional compensation because of the worm's presence. So far, Frisolac has refused to pay any additional compensation insisting that the milk was made under strict sanitary conditions making it impossible for the worm to have entered the milk carton in Holland. Rather, Frisolac contends that the worm is Chinese and entered the powdered milk due to improper storage in China. The company is willing to pay if Mr. Wang can prove conclusively that the worm is Dutch. The observant Mr. Wang may have the final say in determining the worm's ethnicity - it was found with a tiny pair of wooden shoes.

ATM with Attitude. At an ATM outside the Caja Madrid Bank in the northern Spanish city of Llodio, a customer got more than he bargained for when attempting to make a withdrawal. Along with bills, a hissing snake was dispensed by the ATM. The customer managed to grab his cash and avoid being bitten by the snake before calling for help. The flustered bank manager said that this was obviously a mistake because bank policy dictated that only bank customers who opened new checking or savings accounts were to be given snakes.

Vine Grows in Brooklyn. The Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn NY is notorious as one of the nation's most polluted waterways. However, Joseph Mariano, a retired computer programmer for NYC's Department of Environmental Protection is cultivating a massive 50-foot grapevine a few blocks from the Gowanus Canal and pro-

ducing a wine he has labeled *Vinum Nostrum* (Latin for "Our Wine"). "People are afraid of everything - from secondhand smoke to wine made near the canal," said Mr. Mariano. He has been an amateur winemaker since 1994 and said that he has suffered no ill effects from drinking *Vinum Nostrum*. "I once fell into the canal, and I'm still here. I have no fear about the wine. It has a very unique flavor," said Mr. Mariano as he hopped onto a rock at the edge of canal and quickly extended his long tongue to capture one of the many flies that inhabit the canal environs.



Business Moments in History

1826: John Stevens places the first steam locomotive on train tracks in Hoboken NJ. Passengers unanimously agree to purchase one-way train tickets out of New Jersey.

1936: MGM production executive Irving Thalberg advises studio head Louis B. Mayer to pass

on buying the film rights to *Gone With the Wind* saying "Forget it, Louis. No Civil War picture ever made a nickel."

2001: In a team-building exercise in Key Largo FL, 125 *Burger King* employees "fire-walk" across a bed of burning coals and receive 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree

burns. Event coordinator Cork Callen says "some people just have sensitive feet." Cork later visits a local *Burger King* restaurant where he is flame-broiled and placed on a large bun.

2006: Northwest Airlines goes bankrupt and lays off thousands of workers providing them

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with the handy guidebook *101 Ways to Save Money* in their layoff packets. Tips include "Don't be shy about pulling something you like out of the trash" and "Take long walks in the woods as a low-cost dating alternative." The latter tip also happens to be favored by frugal serial killers.

Kevin Pentony, Editor
(send comments to kpentony@ogenviro.com)

Upcoming Events

Weds., Jan. 18th, Evening: General Membership Meeting
Weds., Feb 15th, Evening: General Membership Meeting
Weds., March 21st, Evening: General Membership Meeting

All RMA Las Vegas General Membership Meetings are held at Sierra Gold, 6515 S. Jones Blvd. (at CC 215)

For further RMA information, contact Jodi Graham, Chapter Administrator (Jodi.Graham@nsbank.com, 855-4537)

Upcoming RMA Classes

Feb. 9th: Global Cash Flow
March 9th: Advanced Bankruptcy Class*
Register at: <http://www.rmahq.org/RMA/>

* Home-Grown Class - contact Jodi Graham for registration



New Jersey (see No. 3) →

Top 10 Changes For the Better After the Robots Arrive

10. Robots don't own cats
9. If you're on a sinking ship, a robot won't expect you to give up your seat in the lifeboat
8. On *Celebrity Apprentice*, Donald Trump will follow the phrase "You're Fired" with a blast from the blowtorch attachment on his newly fitted robot arm
7. Once the robots take over Hollywood, *I Will Smith* will be the first robot-produced movie
6. When not in use, robots can be stacked in the garage so you can keep that extra bedroom free for your collection of *Star Trek* action figures
5. If you've had too much to drink, a robot makes a perfect designated driver (just make sure that its not a reconditioned crash test dummy)
4. Undocumented robots will build a border fence to keep themselves out
3. The movie industry will have a blockbuster with a remake of *The Wizard of Oz*. In this version, the *Tin Man* attacks Emerald City with his robot hordes and in a cruel twist, Dorothy and Toto are sent back to New Jersey instead of Kansas (see photo at left)
2. If you send food back in a restaurant, robot waiters won't spit in your food (expect a few ball bearings though)
1. Mitt Romney will seem almost human by comparison

Career Corner

Career Moves

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Career Reads

Great Failures of the Extremely Successful by Steve Young

Great Failures of the Extremely Successful by Steve Young (a man who failed college four times; discharged from the army after three months; divorced; fired from 23 jobs in the summer of 1968; failed businessman; losing contestant on both "The Dating Game" and "The Gong Show"; dropped from four literary agencies; and the recipient of a gazillion book, television, and film rejections) is a collection of unique anecdotes about the stumbling blocks many famous and wealthy people encountered on the way to success, ranging from basketball star Bill Walton, to humorist Steve Allen, to advocate Erin Brockovich. Offering valuable life les-

sons, and most of all, emphasizing the importance of getting back on the metaphorical horse after being thrown, *Great Failures of the Extremely Successful* is an enjoyable, enlightening, motivating, and highly recommended addition to any self-help, self-improvement reading list or library reference collection.



Kick Your Career Into Gear