

## Financial Briefs



Chopsticks

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rma vegas voice

**Out-Outsourcing.** Everyone knows that the US has a massive trade deficit with China, but a small manufacturer in Georgia is doing its part to help reverse the deficit. *Georgia Chopsticks*, located in the recession-weary town of Americus, expects to be exporting 10 million pairs of chopsticks to China by the end of the year, each with a label marked "Made in USA." The company says that the wood shortage in China and the abundance of poplar and sweet gum trees in Georgia (ideal for chopsticks) make for a can't miss business model. And *Aegis Communications*, a company located in Mumbai, India announced in May that it will hire 10,000 new employees to work at its call centers addressing customer service problems for US-based companies. Ironically, the company will outsource those jobs to Americans right here in the good old USA at nine regional call centers.

**No Chicken for You.** On the Pacific island paradise of Fiji, The Colonel is taking a possibly permanent break. KFC has closed its three outlets on the island, forcing Fijians to literally go *cold turkey*. Since October 2010, the Fiji Quarantine and Inspection Division has prevented KFC from importing its special secret recipe herbs and spices and other key ingredients. Fiji Biosecurity Authority spokesman Elvis Silvestrini said that he believed tough economic times had led to the closures, but that the company had chosen to blame the quarantine service instead. The issue has yet to be resolved but for the near future at least, Fiji's residents will have to find an alternative finger-lickin'-good way to satisfy their cravings for mega-doses of saturated fat and salt.

**Saturday Night Fever.** Australian Qantas airline pilots are feverish after learning that the

airline from down-under had removed a safety video starring John Travolta (who is an accomplished pilot) from all of its flights. Pilots are concerned that removal of the video, in which Travolta says "There's no one I'd prefer to have at the controls than a Qantas pilot" signals the airline's intent to outsource Qantas jobs to foreign pilots. Airline management denied the pilots' claim and said that the Travolta video had been removed because the actor insisted on doing the entire video in character as Vinnie Barbarino from his 1970's TV series *Welcome Back Kotter*. Asked for his opinion on the controversy, Travolta said "Up your nose with a rubber hose."



## Business Moments in History

**1830:** March 31st is the slowest day in the history of the New York Stock Exchange - 31 shares sell for the day.

**1876:** Western Union decides not to buy the patent for the telephone from its inventor, Alexander Graham Bell. They tell him "Mr. Bell, after careful consideration of

your invention ... we have come to the conclusion that the telephone has no commercial possibilities."

**1927:** Transmission of TV signals begins. First TV show to be aired is *Who Wants to be a Millionaire for Two Years* (the Great Depression is right around the corner).

**1933:** The Revlon, Toyota and Nissan companies are founded. This permanently alters the way women apply makeup while driving.

**1961:** Decca Records turns down *The Beatles* for a recording contract because they sound too much like *The Shadows*, another popular group at

**RMA Las Vegas Board 2010/2011**

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## Golf Tournament

RMA held its 3rd annual golf tournament on June 9th at The Revere at Anthem golf course in Henderson. The event was held jointly with the Commercial Marketing Group (CMG).

Awards, prizes and trophies were awarded to the enthusiastic golfers and also benefiting will be Susan B. Komen Foundation, Opportunity Village and Police Athletic League. Kudos to Bob Stewart for RMA and Richard Lybbert for CMG for a job well done.

the time. *The Beatles* are eventually signed by EMI Records.

**1982:** The makers of *M&M's* refuse to allow their candy to be used in the movie *ET*. *Reese's Pieces* are used instead and sales of *Reese's Pieces* soar after release of the Steven Spielberg blockbuster.

Kevin Pentony, Editor  
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#### Upcoming Events

Weds., Sept. 21st, Evening: General Membership Meeting  
Weds., Oct. 19th, 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](mailto:Jodi.Graham@nsbank.com), 855-4537)

#### Upcoming RMA Classes

October 13, 2011: Analyzing Business Tax Returns  
October 14, 2011: Analyzing Personal Financial Statements and Tax Returns

Register at: <http://www.rmahq.org/RMA/>



The Big Nickel (see No. 3) →

## Top 10 Lesser Known Financial & Business Facts

10. Wooden currency bills were issued in Tenino, Washington during the Great Depression of the early 1930s because of a cash shortage (this coincided with an increase in splinter injuries among pickpockets)
9. On his deathbed, railroad tycoon Cornelius Vanderbilt, the wealthiest man in America at the time, sang the hymn *I Am Poor, I Am Needy* (then he laughed and laughed)
8. In the early 1950s, Sears sold automobiles under the brand name *Allstate* (poor sales were attributed to including a refrigerator as standard equipment instead of a radio)
7. The Japanese Ice Cream Association promoted *Raw Horse Flesh* as a flavor in 2004 in hopes that it would boost the popularity of ice cream (soon after, Ben and Jerry introduced their special version of *Chunky Monkey* ice cream to the Japanese market)
6. As a farmer, George Washington grew marijuana on his farm and promoted its use as hemp and for soil stabilization (footnote - GW's favorite band was the *Doobie Brothers*)
5. The matchbook cover phrase "Close Cover Before Striking" is the most-often printed warning in the history of the printed word (its popularity is followed closely by the most-often spoken phrase: "I am on fire, please put me out")
4. Although Xerox was founded in 1948, xerography was not perfected commercially until 1949 (Xeroxing one's posterior became popular the very same year)
3. The *Big Nickel* in Sudbury, Ontario is the largest coin replica in the world measuring 30 feet high and 2 feet thick (see photo at left)
2. The Financial Sector is considered the safest area of employment with a 1 in 100 chance of having a nonfatal injury or illness (most common injury - having the *Big Nickel* fall on you)
1. Starbucks gets its name from Starbuck, a character in the novel *Moby Dick* (Starbuck was eventually killed by the ship's crew for brewing burnt and overpriced coffee)

## Member Profile

**Nikki Giroux** has been a mainstay on the board of directors of RMA's Las Vegas chapter where she currently serves as 1st Vice President. Nikki is an AVP/Special Assets Officer with City National Bank in the Special Assets Division. She has been a banker in Las Vegas since 2004 and moved here from Michigan where she was born and raised.

A graduate of Michigan State University (Go Spartans) where she received an undergraduate degree in Economics, Nikki also completed an MBA at the University of Phoenix.



Nikki's leisure interests include golfing, travel and

watching reality TV and she even admits to being a fan of *Jersey Shore* (Vegas Voice is partial to *Billy the Exterminator*). Nikki is also involved as a volunteer for local charities including the United Way Young Philanthropists Society (Co-Chair) and Special Olympics of Southern Nevada (Advisory Board member).

Nikki attended RMA's Chapter Leaders Conference in Atlanta in June and met with Vegas Voice recently to talk about the experience.

**Vegas Voice:** "So tell me about the conference."

**Nikki Giroux:** "The Atlanta conference was wonderful! It got me motivated for the upcoming year. Board members from other chapters shared some of their best practices - things that RMA's Las Vegas

Board can implement and local RMA members can look forward to in the upcoming year. And, the food was really good!"

**VV:** "Did you learn anything new during the breakout sessions?"

**NG:** "As a matter of fact, I learned that the death of a borrower is actually considered an event of default. Who knew?"

**VV:** "Of course, the obvious question is did you have any fun in Atlanta?"

**NG:** "Piedmont Park was next to the hotel, so I took advantage of the running/walking trails as much as I could and tried to ignore the mosquitoes. Also I met some great people from the Oregon Chapter and we shared a few RMA ideas over the sharing of libations."