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Jeanne's Home News

News To Help You Save Time And Money

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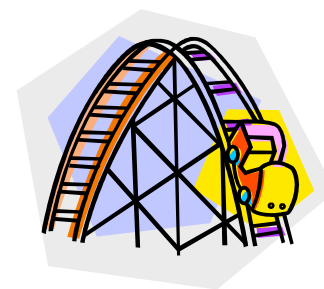
A Dad's Lesson In Integrity

A father who had been laid off from his job had been watching expenses closely for months. But he'd made a promise to his two sons, who were twins, that he'd take them to a nearby amusement park for their tenth birthday.

When the day came, the father withdrew some money from his savings and he took his two sons on the bus to the amusement park. When they reached the front gate, he saw a sign:

"General admission: (ages 10 and up) \$10."

"Children under 10: \$5."



If he'd come a day earlier, the father realized, he could have saved 10 dollars—five for each of his twin sons. But with a sigh he led the boys up to the ticket window and said,

"Three general admission tickets, please."

The woman in the booth looked them over and smiled. "How old are you boys?"

"I'm 10 years old today," said one son.

"So am I," said the other. "We're twins!"

The woman leaned forward. "You know," she whispered, "you could have asked for two 'Under 10' tickets, and I never would have known."

"Yeah," said the father, "but they would have."

Remember that actions speak louder than words, especially to kids.

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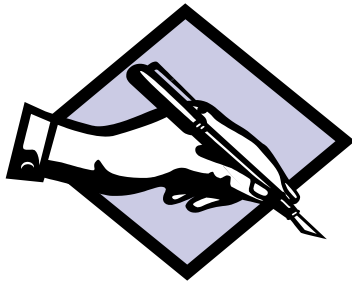
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Entrepreneurs: Loving the Lifestyle

If you're itching to be your own boss, start your own business, and take charge of your own career, you're not alone. According to an Aflac survey, 77 percent of adult full-time employees say they'd leave their current jobs to become entrepreneurs; 69 percent report that the main reason they stay on their jobs is the promise of a regular paycheck.

Among those who have taken the entrepreneurial plunge, almost 60 percent report that they're satisfied with their situations (according to a survey by MBO Partners). Despite lingering long-term unemployment rates, more than half (55 percent) say they made a proactive decision to go independent, and 63 percent plan to remain on their own regardless of the direction the economy takes.

English Majors Make Good!



Being an English major doesn't mean you'll spend your life discussing poetry in coffee shops while plotting your novel and wondering where your next rent payment is going to come from.

Here's a list of some rather successful English majors who defied the stereotype:

- **Alan Alda** (actor), Fordham College
- **Michael Eisner** (business executive), Denison University
- **Sally Ride** (astronaut), Stanford
- **Diane Sawyer** (journalist), Wellesley College
- **Paul Simon** (singer), Queens College
- **David Duchovny** (actor), Yale
- **Conan O'Brien** (talk show host), Harvard
- **Joan Rivers** (comedian), Barnard
- **Martin Scorsese** (director), New York University

The Power Of Why

Whether you're managing a team of employees or you're on your own, remember that although what you do and how you do it are important, it's the "why" that provides real motivation to succeed. An experiment conducted by the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business demonstrates the power of "why."

At a university call center where employees phone alumni to solicit contributions to scholarship funds, the staff was randomly divided into three groups: The first read stories written by former call center employees about the benefits of the job (improved communication and sales skills, and so forth); the second read accounts from former students about how their scholarships helped them with their education, careers, and lives; the third, a control group, read nothing.

Measuring the results of the three teams after a month, the researchers found that the first group and the third group raised roughly the same amount of money from alumni after the experiment began as before. But callers in the second group, who'd read inspirational stories about the impact of the scholarships they were raising funds for, raised twice as much money from twice as many alumni as they had before.

Understanding the importance of their work—the "why"—apparently motivated them to get better results.

Can You See Me Now? High-Tech Glasses May Help

A new set of glasses may help people with serious vision impairments. The *Popular Mechanics* website reports that scientists at Oxford University are adapting technologies used in smartphones and gaming systems for use in frames that can help people with age-related macular degeneration and other eyesight problems.

The high-tech glasses have small video cameras mounted at the corners. Facial recognition software, running on a device that the wearer carries in his or her pocket, can identify people and objects. Then the minuscule LED arrays embedded in the lenses can highlight those objects in a specific color that would help the wearer identify them.

The Oxford scientists also believe they might be able to use optical character recognition that would enable people to hear text read through headphones in the glasses. They're hoping to produce the glasses for about the same cost as a high-end smartphone.

**Go Green:
Recycle This Newsletter!**

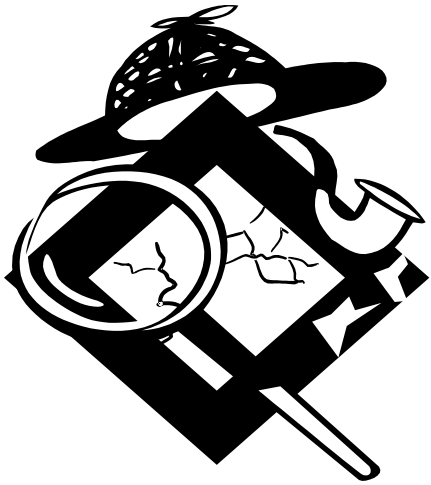
After you've enjoyed my enewsletter, please "recycle" it by passing it along to a family member, friend, neighbor or coworker.

Conan Doyle's First 'Case'

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is famous for creating the enduring character Sherlock Holmes. But he started out doing far less creative and glamorous work.

He once commented that the turning point in any writer's career is not when he or she first starts sending stories to publishers, but when publishers begin commissioning stories from the writer.

Doyle's first commission is said to have been a translation of a German article for *The Gas and Water Gazette*. The title: "Testing Gas Pipes for Leakage."



Cucumbers To The Rescue!

The humble cucumber can be useful for more than salads. Here are a few creative uses for this common vegetable:

Battle the mid-afternoon slump. Instead of guzzling a Red Bull, try nibbling a cucumber. It contains B vitamins, Vitamin C, calcium, and other nutrients that can perk up your energy level.

Soothe your tired eyes. Place a slice of cold cucumber over each of your eyes for about 15 minutes. The moisture will cool your skin and allow the blood vessels in your eyes to contract, easing the swelling.

A Diamond In The Sky?

Astronomers and gem dealers alike were no doubt excited by the discovery of a distant world that appears to be crystalline in its structure and chemical makeup—in other words, it's a big fat diamond. The planet, which orbits a pulsar some 4,000 light-years from Earth, is about 20 times denser than the planet Jupiter (the largest planet in our solar system) and is about five times the diameter of Earth.

As reported by the journal *Science*, scientists in Australia, Europe, and the United States detected the planet by analyzing the radio signals emitted from the pulsar it orbits. (A pulsar is a neutron star that gives off bursts of electromagnetic radiation as it rotates.) It's located in the constellation Serpens (the Snake). The world is currently known as PSR-J1719-1438, but we're hoping for something with a slightly catchier ring.

How about Zirconia?

Attack Of The Giant Red Crabs—For Real!



It sounds like a 1950s science fiction movie: Giant red crabs attack and cause devastation wherever they go. But it's real, and it's happening in the Antarctic. The New Scientist website reports that king crabs measuring more than a meter across are invading the waters underneath the South Pole, laying waste to an ecosystem more than 14 million years old.

Over one million *Neolithodes yaldwyni* (king crabs) have migrated to Palmer Deep, a basin beneath the continental shelf of the Antarctic Peninsula, where they're crashing through the fragile sediment of the ocean floor with their long legs.

They appear to be devouring sea urchins, starfish, and other aquatic life, reducing the number of species in colonized areas to just a quarter of that in other, not-yet-invaded regions. Scientists say that warming temperatures have allowed the crabs to expand their home base; if the warming trend continues, the invading crabs could spread to areas as shallow as 400 meters within the next 20 years.

Where will they go next? Who knows...?

Mothers: They're Human, Too!

Being a mother can be stressful. But admitting that you sometimes need a break can be hard, given the expectations that society has for the "perfect" mother. A survey of some 25,000 moms (reported on the Parenting.com website) uncovered some secrets about what mothers secretly want, and don't want, from their lives. Some of the findings:

- 23 percent of mothers say what they want most is some time alone.
- 49 percent of mothers have sent their children to school when they were sick.
- 18 percent of mothers have medicated their children to ensure a quiet car trip or flight (and 8 percent have done so for the sake of a quiet night at home).
- 88 percent of moms harshly judge other mothers for such things as a child's misbehavior or weight.
- 14 percent of mothers favor one child over another.
- 84 percent of moms use their parental responsibilities as an excuse to avoid other obligations.



The Power of Belief

A devoutly religious woman lived next door to an atheist. Although she was poor, she began each day by standing at her front door and shouting, “Thank you, Lord, for this day you have given us!”

This annoyed the atheist, but he tolerated it because the woman had so little to be happy about. One day he decided to do her a good deed by leaving a big basket of food at her front door so she would have enough to eat.

The next morning the woman opened the door, found the basket, and cried, “Thank you, Lord, for the food you have given me!”

The atheist leaned out his window and called, “Actually, that wasn’t God, ma’am. I left that food for you.”

The woman cried, “Thank you, Lord, for giving me this food and making this atheist pay for it!”

Because Underwater Basketweaving Is Sooo 20th Century

College is an opportunity to explore new ideas and challenge your assumptions about life, work—and what a college class should be. Take a look at some of the more offbeat courses offered by U.S. colleges this year (as listed on the CNN website):

- **Sociology and Fame of Lady Gaga** (*University of South Carolina*). “This is not a course in Lady Gaga but in sociology; and it is not a course about Lady Gaga as much as about the culture of the fame as exemplified by the career of Lady Gaga.”
- **“Oh, Look, a Chicken!” Embracing Distraction as a Way of Knowing** (*Belmont University*). “This course will pursue ways of knowing through embracing [little ants, carrying a morsel of food across the table] what it means to be a distracted [I could sure enjoy a peanut butter sandwich right now] learner as well as [OMG—I get to go to the beach this summer] developing an awareness [I need to trim my fingernails] of one’s senses.”
- **Theory and History of Video Games** (*Swarthmore*). “Historical, cultural and formal perspectives on video games, tracing their emergence as new medium, big business, and social force.”
- **The American Vacation** (*University of Iowa*). “Social history of vacations; cultural significance of contemporary patterns; how experiences and meanings are shaped by race, class, gender.”

Quotes:

Accidents, and particularly street and highway accidents, do not happen—they are caused.
— Ernest Greenwood

We must respect the past, and mistrust the present, if we wish to provide for the safety of the future. — Joseph Joubert

If a man loves the labor of any trade apart from any question of success or fame, the gods have called him. — Robert Louis Stevenson

Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats. — Howard Aiken

You miss 100% of the shots you don't take – Wayne Gretzky

You have enemies? Good! That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life - Winston Churchill

Want To Save Money On Breakfast?

When it comes to our morning meal, you can spend lots of money on milk, eggs and packaged cold cereals. Or you can slash your breakfast expenses significantly if you switch over to eating hot cereal in the morning.

Don't buy the little packages of instant oatmeal – they're expensive. And the one- or two-pound cylinders of oats can be a bit pricey, too. Check out co-ops and similar stores to see what kind of bulk prices you can find. You may be able to purchase about 25 pounds of oats for around \$10, and then divide the oats into smaller portions and store in them in air-tight containers in cool places. You can serve the oats as a hot breakfast or even make your own granola, which is significantly cheaper than what you buy in stores.

Also, consider keeping powdered milk in the house to make your recipes. It's cheaper and more convenient than keeping stocked up on fresh milk.

Could You Benefit From New Skills?

A recent survey by staffing company Accountemps determined that the number one career-related resolution is to learn new skills. If you can't afford to go to formal classes or add another degree, think about picking up extra skills on the job by filling in for others on vacation, through volunteer work that challenges you, and/or from a professional mentor.