

Order of The Iron Test Pattern



Volume 1

Number 5

November 23, 2002

This is your Newsletter and your input is, of course, most welcome.



With less than a week to Thanksgiving, it's time to get out another newsletter or find ourselves next week deprived of the traditional feasting. God only knows that's not going to happen

Among many other things, we can be thankful for the plug in **DigitalTV**'s November edition.



Look on page 13
November 2002 edition.

Order Of The Iron Test Pattern Now Online

Through snow and glitches, dropouts, ghosts and now cliff effect, we survive—undaunted. That's the motto of the Order of the Iron Test Pattern, which now has a website: www.oitp.org. Old members of the Order are encouraged to reconnect with the group and new members are always welcome, although no one is quite sure why. If you can't curl your fingers enough to work a computer keyboard, you should get a friend to write Larry Bloomfield at: 1920 25th Street, Florence, OR 97439.

The correct address is 1980 25th St.

Drop them a line and tell them thanks: sstanfield@uemedia.com
<http://www.digitaltelevision.com/>



I understand that we will also be getting a plug in the next edition of The Signal; The Society of Broadcast Engineer's journal. Looking forward to that. We submitted an article, but due to space limitations, we'll only get a mention this time, but we'll take any press and space wherever we can get it. Remember, we once had a membership of well over 2000 and we'd like to get back up there. The press will certainly help. Any of you guys who are in local SBE Chapters and/or SMPTE Sections, a little press like this in your local newsletters would also help. Remember, our membership rules have change; we'll accept most anyone who has had any television or other related media experience. Any questions? Give us a call or a line to membership@OITP.org

We've added a number of NEW members to our list and found a few who've dropped through the cracks. Even got some from the United Kingdom – that's England to us older types and from our neighbors to the north, Canada. As you know, all are welcomed. The only sad part about getting member's update information is finding out about those who've passed on.

As such, we regret to inform you that Order of the Iron Test Pattern Sage Phil Stack died December 3, 2001. Phil, a retired Sony VP, had been with General Electric Broadcast Division and Conrac during his time in the television industry. A special memorial fund has been set up in his name at the Vision Fund in New York. When you get to the web site <http://www.visionfund.org> click on "ways to contribute" and then "memorial funds".

Phil supported the Order of The Iron Test Pattern as one of the original Sages and by contributing great ideas colored by his sly sense of humor. He will be missed.

There are a number of names we have, but don't have a clue where they're at. HELP! If you know where any of these folks are at, either let us know or ask them to contact us.

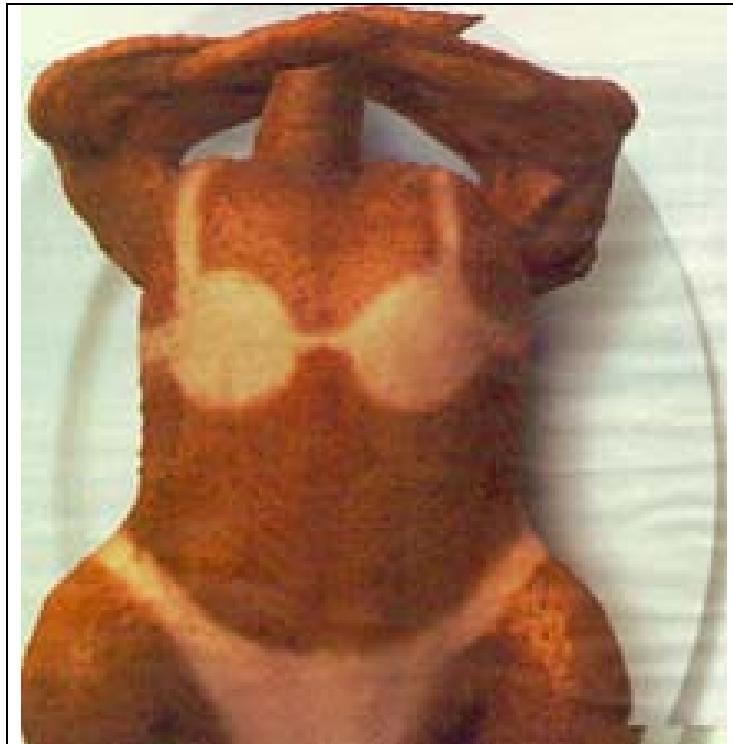
Wayne Christiansen, last know to be in Honolulu, HI.
Kevin P. Conboy, last known to be in Las Vegas, NV.
Stuart E. Corpe, last known to be in Traverse City, MI.
Kevin J. Drost, last know to be in Auburn Hills, MI.
Glenn G. Elliott, last known to be in Wyckoff, NJ.
John A. Fazackerley, recently moved to Florida.
Pat Gallagher, last know to be in Whitehaven, PA.
Bill Howard, last know to be in Casper, WY
Bob Huntsman, last know to be in Fountain Valley, CA.
Ross E. Ivett, last known to be in St Laurent, PQ, Canada.
Larry Jandro, last know to be in Hercules, CA.
John B. Karpus, last know to be in New Hyde Park, NY.
Jacques Kellner, last know to be in Forest Hills, NY.
Mike Lang, last know to be in Cameron Park, CA.
Gilbert Larsen, last know to be in Sandefjord, Norway
David B. Lowater, last know to be in Kitchener, ON Canada.
Michael Mallory, last know to be in Atlanta, GA.
Ralph Martinis, last know to be in Fort Wayne, IN.
Paul T. Monte-Bovi, last know to be in Washington, DC.
Nancy O'Brien, last know to be in Houston, TX.
Patrick O'Brien, last know to be in Lafayette, LA.
Dennis R. O'Dell, last know to be in Durham, NC.
Eugene A. Reich, last know to be in Northbrook, IL.
Rod Reid, last known to be in Barrie, ON, Canada.
George G. Sheehan, last known to be in Brick, NJ.
Steven A. Smith, last known to be in Greenville, SC.
Barry Stevens, last know to be in Carshalton, UK.
James R. Therrell, last known to be in Washington, DC.



We had a rush – here on the Central Coast of Oregon, standing up is a rush – of folks who've asked us to put links on the membership page to their personal information. As you now this is for those members who'd like to let their friends and associates know where they're at and what they've been up to, to find out. If you don't already have a website, we'll help you – just give us a call. Submit your link or your text (No books please) and pictures to: Webmaster@OITP.org. We're not charging for this, but maybe we should.

In talking to many of the members, we've had a lot of promises for a lot of things. Promises to get hundreds of new members, promises to put business cards on our website and the list goes on. Go ahead, tax our abilities. We love it.

We're still looking for ideas for our party at NAB 2003 and a possible place to hold it. We've found a place to get the medallions and lapel pins made. We just placed an order for 300 Lapel pins. (We were running out.). Due to the increase in the cost of the medallions that go on the certificates, we'll be raising the price of the certificates to \$10.00 each on January 1, 2003. If you have any one interested in getting an upgrade, becoming a member or what ever that revolves around a certificate, get those orders and checks in before the first of the year.

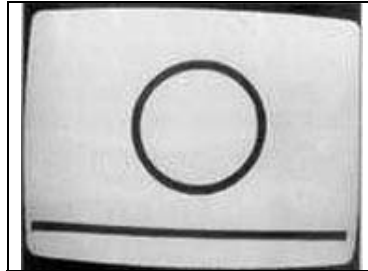


A Florida Thanksgiving Turkey

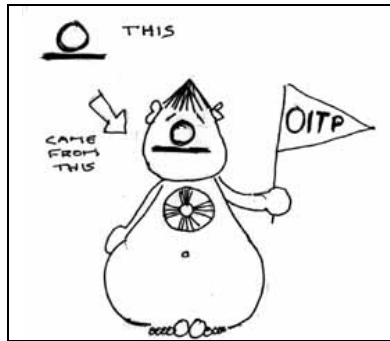
Tech-Notes has been lagging it. Their #112 edition probably won't get out until this next Monday. When it is out, it can be seen as their current edition at: <http://www.tech-notes.tv/> It is in PDF format.

From: OITP member, Admiral Jim Edwards, KD4TGA

I ran across something similar in aligning monochrome yokes. The Straight line allowed a rotational check for being aligned with the Horizontal. The circle was for setting the linearity, drives and gains on the Vertical and Horizontal amplifiers.



In our last edition, we asked: "Do you know what this is? Or where it came from? Or what it was used for?" Well our beloved founder, Father Bob, sent us the following drawing as a stab at what he thinks it is:



Nice try, but no Bob. The upper picture is a picture of the very first TV Test Pattern ever used. According to the BBC, it was used in both the Baird mechanical scan system and the electronic scan system developed by Philo T. Farnsworth, much the same way the all-familiar Indianhead test pattern was used for aligning pictures on kinescopes (the proper term for picture tube).



Captain Kangaroo

For those of us of a certain age...Captain Kangaroo turned 75 recently, which is odd, because he's never looked a day under 75. (Birthday 6/27/27) It reminded me of the following story. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Some people have been a bit offended that Lee Marvin is buried in a grave alongside 3 and 4 star generals at Arlington National Cemetery. His marker gives his name, rank (PVT) and service (USMC). Nothing else. Here's a guy who was only a famous movie star who served his time, why the heck does he rate burial with these guys?

Well, this may be why: I always liked Lee Marvin, but did not know the extent of his Corps experiences. In a time when many Hollywood stars served their country in the armed forces, often in rear-echelon posts where they were carefully protected, only to be trotted out to perform for the cameras in war bond promotions, Lee Marvin was a genuine hero. He won the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima. There is only one higher Naval award... the Medal Of Honor. If that is a surprising comment on the true character of the man, he credits his sergeant with an even greater show of bravery.

Dialog From The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson: His guest was Lee Marvin. Johnny said, "Lee, I'll bet a lot of people are unaware that you were a Marine in the initial landing at Iwo Jima... and that during the course of that action you earned the Navy Cross and was severely wounded."

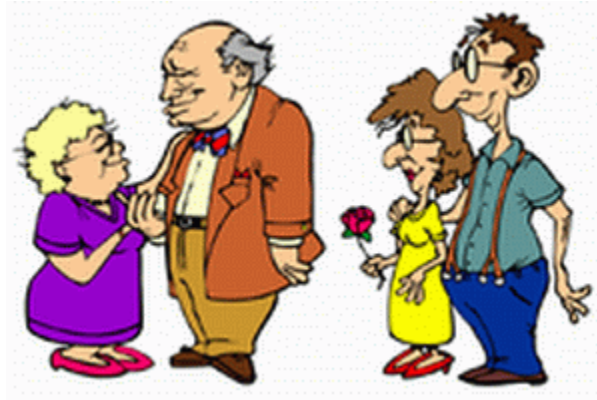
Yeah, yeah... I got shot square in the ass and they gave me the Cross for securing a hot spot about halfway up Suribachi... bad thing about getting shot up on a mountain is guys gettin' shot hauling you down. But Johnny, at Iwo I served under the bravest man I ever knew... We both got the Cross the same day, but what he did for his Cross made mine look cheap in comparison. The dumb bastard actually stood up on Red beach and directed his troops to move forward and get the hell off the beach. That Sergeant and I have been lifelong friends. When they brought me off Suribachi we passed the Sergeant and he lit a smoke and passed it to me lying on my belly on the litter and said, 'Where'd they get you Lee?' Well Bob... if you make it home before me, tell Mom to sell the outhouse!

Johnny, I'm not lying... Sergeant Keeshan was the bravest man I ever knew..... Bob Keeshan... You and the world know him as Captain Kangaroo.



How babies are delivered.

How about a picker-upper that is so true, it's scary?



(Music: When I'm Sixty-four)

Senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. We know we take responsibility for all we have done and do not blame others.

BUT, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was NOT the senior citizens who took:

The melody out of music, The pride out of appearance, The romance out of love, The commitment out of marriage, The responsibility out of parenthood, The togetherness out of the family, The learning out of education, The service out of patriotism, The religion out of school, The Golden Rule from rulers, The nativity scene out of cities, The civility out of behavior, The refinement out of language, The dedication out of employment, The prudence out of spending, or The ambition out of achievement, And we certainly are NOT the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from personal relationships and interactions with others!!



Does anyone under the age of 50 know the lyrics to the Star Spangled Banner? Just look at the Seniors with tears in their eyes and pride in their hearts as they stand at attention with their hand over their hearts!

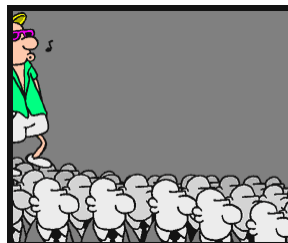
Remember.....Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what the heck happened!



YES, I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN! The life of the party...even if it lasts until 8 p.m. I'm very good at opening childproof caps with a hammer. I'm usually interested in going home before I get to where I am going. I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up. I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying. I'm very good at telling stories; over and over and over and over... I'm aware that other people's grandchildren are not as cute as mine. I'm so cared for -- long term care, eye care, private care, dental care.



I'm not grouchy, I just don't like traffic, waiting, crowds, lawyers, loud music, unruly kids, Toyota commercials, Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather, barking dogs, politicians and a few other things I can't remember. I'm sure everything I can't find is in a secure place. I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg. I'm having trouble remembering simple words like..... I'm realizing that aging is not for wimps. I'm sure they are making adults much younger these days, and when did they let kids become policemen? I'm wondering, if you're only as old as you feel, how could I be alive at 150? I'm a walking storeroom of facts.....I've just lost the key to the storeroom door.



Yes, I'm a SENIOR CITIZEN and I think I am having the time of my life! Now if I could only remember who sent this to me, I would send it to many more!

Now- Have I already sent this to you???????




Hostesses New Kind of Twins

From one of our readers:

By the way, you earned the following:

A hunter walking through the jungle was surprised to find a pigmy standing beside a very large dead beast. Amazed, he asked, "Did you kill that?" The pigmy answered, "Yes." The hunter then asked, "How could a little bloke like you kill a huge beast like that?" Said the Pigmy, I killed it with my club." The astonished hunter asked, "How big is your club?" The pigmy replied, "There's about 60 of us." Just think: we now have 5 times that many in the OITP.

OFFICIAL IRAQ VOTING FORM 

INSTRUCTIONS: MARK YOUR DECISION CLEARLY WITH AN **X***

SADDAM HUSSEIN ☐

**PLEASE TORTURE ME
AND KILL MY FAMILY** ☐

* IF YOU HAVE NO HANDS, PLEASE SMUDGE THE BOX WITH YOUR BLOODY STUMPS

The heaviest element known to science is Managerium.

This element has no protons or electrons, but has a nucleus made up of 1 neutron, 2 vice-neutrons, 5 junior vice-neutrons, 25 assistant vice-neutrons, and 125 junior assistant vice-neutrons all going round in circles. Managerium has a half-life of three years, at which time it does not decay but institutes a series of reviews leading to reorganization. Its molecules are held together by means of the exchange of tiny particles known as morons. Ever work for an element like this one?



Friday, we had a tornado drill. We're underneath a parking garage and there's a PA announcement "This is a tornado drill. Please move quickly away from all windows." Somebody yelled out: "Quick, get to a DOS prompt!"



New Refrigerator Surfs Web, Takes Dictation, Makes Ice
By WALTER S. MOSSBERG

Cheer up, Americans. The economy may be weak and war may be on the horizon, but you can finally buy the dream product of the digital age: the Internet refrigerator.

For years, Internet zealots and digital hucksters have dreamed aloud about kitchen appliances that could be made smarter by connecting them directly to the Internet. Endowed with the power of the Net, these appliances would supposedly help cook and preserve your food, diagnose their own malfunctions and more. Well, as of this month, thanks to the Korean giant LG Electronics, you can have the king of these Internet appliances: the 26-cubic-foot, titanium-clad, LG Internet Refrigerator.

The big chill: The LG Internet Refrigerator will play your favorite oldies while you cook.

At \$8,000, this behemoth, with a built-in Windows PC on top and a 15.1-inch color flat-panel screen in the door, is probably the largest, least-mobile digital gadget in the world. But it might be worth considering -- especially if you're sick of spending your money on Porsches and summer homes in the Hamptons, and you've promised your live-in chef a kitchen upgrade.

Released on Oct. 1, LG's refrigerator (also known as the Multi-Media Refrigerator) is sure to impress your friends and catch the eye of anyone wandering into your kitchen. Once you hook up your cable TV and broadband Ethernet connections to handy ports on the back, this fridge can be a computer for e-mail and Web browsing; a television; a music player; a digital still and movie camera; an address book; and a calendar. But would a normal person -- or even an extremely wealthy person -- use its functions frequently enough to make it worth \$8,000?

We decided to see for ourselves, and about two weeks ago asked LG to install this mammoth fridge (it measures roughly 38" x 34" x 70" and weighs 356 pounds) in a back corridor of our office. Even our wide office doorways couldn't accommodate the thing until one of its doors was temporarily removed. Suddenly, one of the least-traversed hallways in our office became the social hangout. Everyone had to see this thing, if only to laugh at it.

This novelty factor may not last long. LG's Korean rival, Samsung, has announced plans to introduce a similar-looking Internet fridge in the U.S. early next year. Samsung promises that its model will even have a removable screen. If either or both of these units prove popular, other companies are likely to follow, not only with refrigerators, but with other Internet-connected appliances.

From a distance, the LG fridge might be mistaken for the very symbol of excessive spending on food coolers: the luxury Sub-Zero refrigerators with the stainless-steel doors. We found one of their models with almost the same cubic space as the LG, the same layout -- side-by-side doors -- and same metallic-type finish. That particular Sub-Zero costs more than \$6,500, though it should be noted that, unlike the LG, the Sub-Zero is meant to be built into your kitchen, and would require added contractor fees. And, of course, it can't display "Malcolm in the Middle," or Google.

The most striking physical feature on the Internet Refrigerator is the 15.1-inch color monitor on its right-side door, which tilts out for better viewing. This flat touch-screen serves as the TV and video screen and controls the custom-made PC, with its modified

version of Windows and its 20-gigabyte hard disk. On the home screen, nine circular icons are displayed, which, when touched, chime and launch one of the computer's applications. There are various wallpaper displays available. We chose one of large green peapods that might encourage healthy eating.

Alas, we found the refrigerator's Internet capability to be one of its most useless and awkward features. Browsing on your fridge works similarly to that of a regular computer, but its e-mail is limited to Web e-mail such as Hotmail, Yahoo or AOL.

The biggest problem with using the Internet on the fridge is that entering text for Web addresses and e-mails is uncomfortable, slow and frustrating. There's no actual keyboard. By clicking the "text" button, a "virtual" keyboard appears on the screen so you can type Web addresses by either touching letters with a finger or the included stylus, which tucks into the side of the screen. You can also try to enter text in the same fashion as you would with a personal digital assistant, by using handwriting recognition, but this method is even slower than the keyboard.

Either way, the angle and position of the monitor on the fridge door make text input awkward, and many Web links took multiple taps to work. LG does offer a wireless keyboard and mouse you can use, but that costs \$50 and takes up scarce counter or table space.

By contrast, one of the most useful functions is the television, which often sucks up valuable counter space in kitchens. The picture is decent, as is the sound from four speakers located at the top of the fridge. It comes with a small, silver remote, but, annoyingly, the remote lacks numbers for specific channel entry. You must arrow up or down to change channels. We thought this remote might magnetically stick to the fridge, but it has a pen-like clip instead.

Another nice function is the digital camera, whose lens is mounted right above the flat-screen monitor. This camera takes your picture and stores it in a special screen, or album, on your computer. After taking pictures, we e-mailed them right from the refrigerator by opening a Hotmail account and attaching a picture to our e-mail, which is easy. You can also use your pictures as screen savers. (At this time, the camera can't be used as a diet aid by automatically photographing people making midnight snack raids.)

The camera also helps power the fridge's very useful "memo" function. You can choose to leave a memo for a family member who will see it on the fridge. Your memo can be left in four different formats: text, handwriting, audio and video. So, if you can't be there to warn the kids to do their homework, you can just record an audio nag. Or better yet, videotape the nag. The audio and video quality are surprisingly good.

Another icon on the main screen labeled "cook" takes you to a built-in cookbook with 100 recipes grouped by course, ingredient and country. In this same section, a nutrition zone lets you look up just about any type of food and learn how many calories it will cost you -- not information you are likely to seek out all the time.

Music can be played on your tech-savvy fridge by listening to pre-programmed Internet radio stations, pre-loaded song selections and downloaded MP3s. However, while the music is on, you can't use the fridge monitor for other things, such as surfing the Web or reading recipes. Instead, going back to the main screen shuts the music off automatically, which seems like a waste of a feature. LG hopes to change this in the future.

Perhaps the dumbest function of the fridge is a "stored food" program. This calls up a diagram of the fridge and lets you manually record the various foods that you're putting in different compartments. The refrigerator is programmed to know how long food will last from the date you enter your purchases, and it notifies you when food may be spoiling with a message on the main screen.

We can't imagine anyone standing in front of a fridge and typing in this information, especially with the annoying virtual keyboard. Besides, do you really need a fridge to notify you that your milk is sour? Isn't that why you have a kitchen staff? At the very least, for \$8,000, the fridge could come with a bar-code reader you could use to swipe the frozen pizza box.

You can purchase your very own Internet Refrigerator by accessing LG's Web site at www.lgappliances.com, and entering a ZIP code to find a store near you that's posh enough to carry one.

Right now, this is an amusing, even slightly silly, toy for the rich. But if it had a few improvements, and could be sold for maybe a \$1,000 or \$1,500 premium over the \$1,200 or so normal refrigerator, it might get real. Then we could move on to inventing the Internet garbage disposal.

-- With reporting by Katherine Boehret

Write to Walter S. Mossberg at mossberg@wsj.com.



A Tale of Two Telcos

Here's a story that started when the techno freak in our house decided we need to try telephone via the cable system. Given our business, that seemed reasonable so we called our local operator, AT&T Broadband. No problem, they said,, just call Qwest to arrange the switchover. So we called Qwest where we needed to answer a few questions if we wanted our numbers turned over to AT&T. Things like our name ... address ... our mother's maiden name ... every address where we'd ever had service from Qwest ... and our birth date.

Our birth date? Qwest wants to know how old we are before it will hand over those numbers? Yep, they said. So we coughed up the date and were declared set to go. We called AT&T to make an appointment. The first appointment came and went with no technician. But we did get a nice, although late, call on the matter. On the second appointment, the installer showed up pronto. And told us we had a problem: Qwest wouldn't release our second number. After divulging top secret information, Qwest won't let us have our number? Yep, said the lady installer. And she rolled away in her truck.

We call Qwest. Problem? they say. What problem? Of course you can have your number. We called again just to make sure. Same answer. No problem.

We call AT&T and they call Qwest. Which says we can't have our second number. It's not authorized for release. Hmmm. But okay, we tell Randy, the AT&T guy, we'll keep our first number and you can make our second number anything you want.

"Don't even tell me that," says Randy.

"Huh?"

"You gotta tell Qwest to disconnect the second line."

"So we'll tell Qwest. Now can we have our first number and one other?"

"That'll be \$26.95, with Call Waiting and Caller ID and 7 cents per minute long distance."

"For both lines?"

"It's \$35.95 for both lines."

"So what if we just want basic telephone service?"

A mighty sigh comes over our phone.

"That'll be \$14.95."

"For one line?"

"The second line is always \$9."

"Okay, so that's \$23.95. And do the lines roll over?"

"Whaddya mean?"

"What happens when someone calls the first line and it's already busy?"

"They gotta wait, that's what."

"So one line doesn't automatically switch to the other?"

"What's that called?"

"It's called a rollover."

"Never heard to that. I gotta check."

Ten minutes and some scratchy phone music later, Randy gets back on the line. AT&T, it appears, doesn't have that feature. And they're clearly not too thrilled to have us either, not at the basic price. Besides, Qwest is still holding our second number hostage. And that's how we decided to stick with POTS, at least until the folks at AT&T figure out what rollover means.



Are you feeling a little old?

Just in case you weren't feeling too old today, this will certainly Change things. Each year the staff at Beloit College in Wisconsin puts together a list, to try to give the faculty a sense of the mindset of this year's incoming freshmen.

Here's this year's list:

The people who are starting college this fall across the nation were born in 1984. They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up. Their lifetime has always included AIDS. Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic. The CD was introduced the year they were born. They have always had an answering machine. They have always had cable. They cannot fathom not having a remote control. Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show. Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave. They never took a Swim and thought about Jaws. They can't imagine what hard contact lenses are. They don't know who Mork was or where he was from. They never heard: "Where's the Beef?", "I'd walk a mile for a Camel", or "de plane Boss, de plane". They do not care who shot J. R. and have no idea who J. R. even is. Michael Jackson has always been white. McDonald's never came in Styrofoam containers. They don't have a clue how to use a typewriter.

Do you feel old yet?



From our good friend: Burt I. Weiner

A letter from a health insurance carrier. Ever feel like writing something like this?

Superior Health Insurance
ATTN: Claims Review
1423 W. 90th St.
New York, NY 05016

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to your recent letter requesting a more detailed explanation concerning my recent internment at Methodist Hospital. Specifically, you asked for an expansion in reference to Block 21(a)(3) of the claim form (reason for hospital visit). On the original form, I put "Stupidity." I realize now that this answer was somewhat vague and so I will attempt to more fully explain the circumstances leading up to my hospitalization. I had needed to use the restroom and had just finished a quick bite to eat at the local burger joint. I entered the bathroom, took care of my business, and just prior to the moment in which I had planned to raise my trousers, the locked case that prevents theft of the toilet paper in such places came undone and, feeling it striking my knee, unthinkingly, I immediately, and with unnecessary force, returned the lid back to its normal position.

Unfortunately, as I did this I also turned and certain parts of my body, which were still exposed, were trapped between the device's lid and its main body. Feeling such intense and immediate pain caused me to jump back. It quickly came to my attention that, when one's privates are firmly attached to an unmovable object, it is not a good idea to jump in the opposite direction. Upon recovering some of my senses, I attempted to reopen the lid. However, my slamming of it had been sufficient to allow the locking mechanism to engage. I then proceeded to get a hold on my pants and subsequently removed my keys from them. I intended to try to force the lock of the device open with one of my keys; thus extracting myself. Unfortunately, when I attempted this, my key broke in the lock.

Embarrassment of someone seeing me in this unique position became a minor concern, and I began to call for help in as much of a calm and rational manner as I could. An employee from the restaurant quickly arrived and decided that this was a problem requiring the attention of the store manager. Betty, the manager, came quickly. She attempted to unlock the device with her keys. Since I had broken my key off in the device, she could not get her key in. Seeing no other solution, she called the EMS (as indicated on your form in block 21(b)(1)). After approximately 15 minutes, the EMS arrived, along with two police officers, a fire-rescue squad, and the channel 4 "On-the-Spot" news team. The guys from the fire department quickly took charge as this was obviously a rescue operation. The senior member of the team discovered that the device was attached with bolts to the cement wall that could only be reached once the device was unlocked. His discovery was by means of tearing apart the device located in the stall next to the one that I was in. (Since the value of the property destroyed in his examination was less than \$50 (my deductible) I did not include it in my claim.) His partner, who seemed like an intelligent fellow at the time, came up with the idea of cutting the device from the wall with the propane torch that was in the rescue truck.

The fireman went to his truck, retrieved the torch, and commenced to attempt to cut the device from the wall. Had I been in a state to think of such things, I might have realized that in cutting the device from the wall several things would also inevitably happen. First, the air inside of the device would quickly heat up, causing items inside the device to suffer the same effects that are normally achieved by placing things in an oven. Second, the metal in the device is a good conductor of heat causing items that are in contact with the device to react as if thrown into a hot skillet. And, third, molten metal would shower the inside of the device as the torch cut through. The one bright note of the propane torch was that it did manage to cut, in the brief time that I allowed them to use it, a hole big enough for a small pry bar to be placed inside of the device.

The EMS team then loaded me, along with the device, into the waiting ambulance as stated on your form. Due the small area of your block 21(a)(3), I was unable to give a full explanation of these events, and thus used the word which I thought best described my actions that led to my hospitalization.

Sincerely,

S.C. Anderson

Rules of Order

1. I can only please one person per day. Today is not your day. Tomorrow is not looking good either.
2. I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.
3. Tell me what you need, and I'll tell you how to get along without it.
4. Accept that some days you are the pigeon and some days the Statue.
5. I don't have an attitude problem, you have a perception problem.
6. Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level, then beat you with experience.
7. Don't be irreplaceable - if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
8. If it weren't for the last minute, nothing would get done.
9. Following the rules will not get the job done.
10. When confronted by a difficult problem, you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question, "How would the Lone Ranger handle this?"



If Computer Operating Systems Ran The Airlines...

UNIX Airways

Everyone brings one piece of the plane along when they come to the airport. They all go out on the runway and put the plane together piece by piece, arguing non-stop about what kind of plane they are supposed to be building.

Air DOS

Everybody pushes the airplane until it glides, then they jump on and let the plane coast until it hits the ground again. Then they push again, jump on again, and so on...

Mac Airlines

All the stewards, captains, baggage handlers, and ticket agents look and act exactly the same. Every time you ask questions about details, you are gently but firmly told that you don't need to know, don't want to know, and everything will be done for you without your ever having to know, so just shut up.

Windows Air

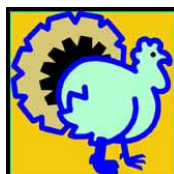
The terminal is pretty and colorful, with friendly stewards, easy baggage check and boarding, and a smooth take-off. After about 10 minutes in the air, the plane explodes with no warning whatsoever.

Windows NT Air

Just like Windows Air, but costs more, uses much bigger planes, and takes out all the other aircraft within a 40-mile radius when it explodes.

Linux Air

Disgruntled employees of all the other OS airlines decide to start their own airline. They build the planes, ticket counters, and pave the runways themselves. They charge a small fee to cover the cost of printing the ticket, but you can also download and print the ticket yourself. When you board the plane, you are given a seat, four bolts, a wrench and a copy of the seat-HOWTO.html. Once settled, the fully adjustable seat is very comfortable, the plane leaves and arrives on time without a single problem, the in-flight meal is wonderful. You try to tell customers of the other airlines about the great trip, but all they can say is, "You had to do what with the seat?"



Closing Thoughts for today:

1. Birds of a feather flock together and crap on your car.
2. There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.
3. When I'm feeling down, I like to whistle. It makes the neighbor's dog run to the end of his chain and gag himself.
4. If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
5. Don't assume malice for what stupidity can explain.
6. A penny saved is a government oversight.
7. The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.
8. The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.
9. The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
10. He who hesitates is probably right.
11. If you think there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.
12. If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.
13. The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.
14. Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words "The" and "IRS" together it spells "THEIRS"



Well that's about it for this time. Don't forget to check out the industry news in the Tech-Notes: <http://www.tech-notes.tv/>

As we said earlier on, stay tuned – things can only get better! – But only with your help. Tell a friend or associate about us.

Until next time Happy Thanksgiving and FADE TO BLACK! ☺ .