

Tightening down the Hatches

A Summary of Timely Articles of Special Interest to Businesses in Protecting your Assets,
and some lighter stories to bring humour into your day.

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Editorial:

Hello Everyone:

The New Year is now one month old, and I have already broken one of my resolutions. I wanted to get this newsletter out monthly, so a few days into February, here is the January newsletter.

Things have been quite hectic during the last few weeks, on a number of fronts outside of business. So now, I must get my nose back to the grind stone.

I hope this year to be doing a number of workshops on different material, so I will keep you posted on these upcoming workshops by noting them in the newsletter or on the website at www.daverodwell.com.

I have been doing some research on both the harassment and the working alone legislation that is the law in the Province of Alberta, and I note that a surprising number of companies have not examined this legislation and enacted the requirements to make their company or organization compliant with the law.

The penalties are quite substantial should you be audited by a provincial inspector.

They can not only impose the fine, but can also halt all activities until you are compliant with the law. Should a law suit ensue your insurance coverage could also be affected as the company is operating outside of the law.

Please have a look at your policies and directives on both Harassment in the Workplace and Working Alone to make sure your company or organization is compliant.

Should you require assistance in this area contact me, or attend an upcoming workshop.

If you would like to receive future issues of this newsletter or be removed from the newsletter list

Please advise contact me by:
Email at dave@daverodwell.com
Phone or fax 780-460-3028

I want to expand my readership with this newsletter, so I ask each of you that receive this newsletter that if you know of individuals that would find this information of value or entertaining to please pass a copy of this newsletter on to them, and if they would like to

receive this information on a regular basis, to email me to be added to the mailing list.

Additionally if the readership has an security items or trends that they feel would be of interest to the readership, please forward your thoughts and ideas to me. Any comments to improve my newsletter would be most welcome.

Thanks

Dave.

Upcoming Workshops and Speaking Engagements.

February 5th

Edmonton Garrison Toastmaster Charter

Keynote Speaker on at the Edmonton Garrison.
By invitation only.

March 18th

Designing a Security Program Workshop

Learn what it takes to make your company assets remain inside the company. Our 3 hour workshop will provide you with a blueprint to minimize your loss exposure. Cost \$100.00 per person. Next course at N. A. B. I. in St. Albert

April 21st

West Edmonton Business Association Luncheon

Presentation on Corporate Security. Contact WEBA for details to attend.

April 29th

Working Alone – Harassment in Workplace Workshop

This 8 hour workshop will provide you with all the necessary information to make your employees safe and your company compliant with the law. Cost \$295.00 per person.

Next session at N.A.B.I. in St. Albert.

Contact me if you are interested in any of these sessions at dave@daverodwell.com.

This warm weather has started me thinking about golf. Read the below facts

The year is 1923. In 1923, do you know who was:

1. President of the largest steel company?
2. President of the largest gas company?
3. President of the New York Stock Exchange?
4. Greatest wheat speculator?
5. President of the Bank International Settlement?
6. Great Bear of Wall Street?

Now, these men should have been considered some of the world's most successful men. At least, they found the secret to making bundles of money. Almost 80 years later, the history book asks us, do we know what actually became of these men?

ANSWERS:

1. The president of the largest steel company, Charles Schwab, died a pauper.
2. The president of the largest gas company, Edward Hopson, went insane.
3. The president of the NYSE, Richard Whitney, was released from prison to die at home.
4. The greatest wheat speculator, Arthur Cooger, died abroad, penniless.
5. The president of the Bank of International Settlement, shot himself.
6. The Great Bear of Wall Street, Cosabee Livermore, committed suicide.

However, in that same year, 1923, the winner of the most important golf championship, Gene Sarazan, won both the US Open and PGA Championship.

What became of him, you ask?

Well, he played golf until he was 92, died in 1999 at the age of 95, and was extremely financially secure at the time of his death.

CONCLUSION: Stop worrying about business and start playing golf.



Outrageous Lawsuits

Here is a few articles that show the ridiculousness of lawsuits around the world. These are the latest of the STELLA awards out of the U.S.A.

Lawsuits

1. Kara Walton of Claymont, Delaware, successfully sued the owner of a nightclub in a neighbouring city when she fell from the bathroom window to the floor and knocked out her two front teeth.

This occurred while Ms. Walton was trying to sneak through the window in the ladies room to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge. She was awarded \$12,000 and dental expenses.

2. Jerry Williams of Little Rock, Arkansas, was awarded \$14,500 and medical expenses after being bitten on the buttocks by his next-door neighbour's beagle. The beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard. The award was less than sought because the jury felt the dog might have been just a little provoked at the time by Mr. Williams who was shooting it repeatedly with a pellet gun.

3. A 19-year-old Carl Truman of Los Angeles won \$74,000 and medical expenses when his neighbour ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Mr. Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbour's hub caps.

4. A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay Amber Carson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, \$113,500 after she slipped on a soft drink spill and broke her coccyx (tailbone). The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument.

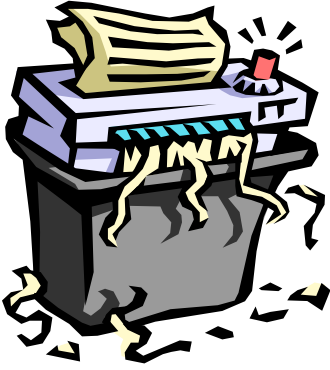
5. Terrence Dickson of Bristol, Pennsylvania, was leaving a house he had just finished robbing by way of the garage. He was not able to get the garage door to go up since the automatic door opener was malfunctioning. He couldn't re-enter the house because the door connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut. The family was on vacation, and Mr. Dickson found himself locked in the garage for eight days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found and a large bag of dry dog food. He sued the homeowner's insurance claiming the situation caused him undue

mental anguish. The jury agreed to the tune of \$500,000.

6. A jury of her peers awarded Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas, \$780,000 after breaking her ankle by tripping over a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering the misbehaving little toddler was Ms. Robertson's son.

7. This year's favourite could easily be Mr. Merv Grazinski of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Mr. Grazinski purchased a brand new 32-foot Winnebago motor home. On his first trip home, having driven onto the freeway, he set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the drivers seat to go into the back and make himself a cup of coffee. Not surprisingly, the R.V. left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Mr. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not advising him in the owner's manual that he couldn't actually do this. The jury awarded him \$1,750,000 plus a new motor home. The company actually changed their manuals on the basis of this suit, just in case there were any other complete morons buying their recreation vehicles.





THIS EDITION'S SECURITY TIP

I have been “Phished”. Recently I received an email from Ebay asking to verify information. I ignored this email, but later learned this was an attempt to get important information. I have been reading a lot lately about this latest trend that is attacking corporations and individuals through our computers. I have also been the subject of these attacks.

It is called “Phishing” Let me explain how this works. Phishing attacks use 'spoofed' e-mails and fraudulent websites designed to fool recipients into divulging personal financial data such as credit card numbers, account usernames and passwords, social security numbers, etc. By hijacking the trusted brands of well-known banks, online retailers and credit card companies, phishers are able to convince up to 5% of recipients to respond to them.

Consumer Advice: How to Avoid Phishing Scams

The number and sophistication of phishing scams sent out to consumers is continuing to increase dramatically. While online banking and e-commerce is very safe, as a general rule you should be careful about giving out your personal financial information over the internet. The Anti-Phishing Working Group has compiled a list of recommendations below that

you can use to avoid becoming a victim of these scams.

1. Be suspicious of any email with urgent requests for personal financial information unless the email is digitally signed, you can't be sure it wasn't forged or 'spoofed' . Phishers typically include upsetting or exciting but false statements in their emails to get people to react immediately. They typically ask for information such as usernames, passwords, credit card numbers, social security numbers, etc. Phisher emails are typically NOT personalized, while valid messages from your bank or e-commerce company generally are
2. Don't use the links in an email to get to any web page, if you suspect the message might not be authentic. Instead, call the company on the telephone, or log onto the website directly by typing in the Web address in your browser
3. Avoid filling out forms in email messages that ask for personal financial information. You should only communicate information such as credit card numbers or account information via a secure website or the telephone
4. Always ensure that you're using a secure website when submitting credit card or other sensitive information via your web browser. To make sure you're on a secure Web server, check the beginning of the Web address in your browsers address bar - it should be "https://" rather than just "http://"
5. Consider installing a Web browser tool bar to help protect you from known phishing fraud websites.

EarthLink ScamBlocker is part of a free browser toolbar that alerts you before you visit a page that's on Earthlink's list of known fraudulent phisher Web sites. Its free to all Internet users - download at <http://www.earthlink.net/earthlinktoolbar>

6. Regularly log into your online accounts. Don't leave it for as long as a month before you check each account
7. Regularly check your bank, credit and debit card statements to ensure that all transactions are legitimate. If anything is suspicious, contact your bank and all card issuers
8. Ensure that your browser is up to date and security patches applied in particular, people who use the Microsoft Internet Explorer browser should immediately go to the Microsoft Security home page -- <http://www.microsoft.com/security/> -- to download a special patch relating to certain phishing schemes
9. Always report "phishing" or "spoofed" e-mails to the following groups:
 - a. forward the email to reportphishing@antiphishing.com
 - b. forward the email to the "abuse" email address at the company that is being spoofed (e.g. "spoof@ebay.com")
 - c. when forwarding spoofed messages, always include the entire original email with its original header information intact

I hope this article is of value to each of you.

A Short Story with a wonderful message

Make Every Day Count

The first day of school our professor introduced himself and challenged us to get to know someone we didn't already know. I stood up to look around when a gentle hand touched my shoulder. I turned around to find a wrinkled, little old lady beaming up at me with a smile that lit up her entire being.

She said, "Hi handsome. My name is Rose. I'm eighty-seven years old. Can I give you a hug?" I laughed and enthusiastically responded, "Of course you may!" and she gave me a giant squeeze.

"Why are you in college at such a young, innocent age?" I asked. She jokingly replied, "I'm here to meet a rich husband, get married, Have a couple of children, and then retire and travel." "No seriously," I asked. I was curious what may have motivated her to be taking on this challenge at her age. "I always dreamed of having a college education and now I'm getting one!" she told me.

After class we walked to the student union building and shared a chocolate milkshake. We became instant friends. Every day for the next three months we would leave class together and talk nonstop. I was always mesmerized listening to this "time machine" as she shared her wisdom and experience with me.

Over the course of the year, Rose became a campus icon and easily made friends wherever she went. She loved to dress up and she revelled in the attention bestowed upon her from the other students. She was living it up. At the end of the semester we

invited Rose to speak at our football banquet and I'll never forget what she taught us. She was introduced and stepped up to the podium.

As she began to deliver her prepared speech, she dropped her three by five cards on the floor.

Frustrated and a little embarrassed she leaned into the microphone and simply said "I'm sorry I'm so jittery. I gave up beer for Lent and this whiskey is killing me! I'll never get my speech back in order so let me just tell you what I know." As we laughed she cleared her throat and began:

"We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing. There are only four secrets to staying young, being happy, and achieving success. "You have to laugh and find humor every day.
"You've got to have a dream. When you lose your dreams, you die. We have so many people walking around who are dead and don't even know it!"

"There is a huge difference between growing older and growing up. If you are nineteen years old and lie in bed for one full year and don't do one productive thing, you will turn twenty years old. If I am eighty-seven years old and stay in bed for a year and never do anything I will turn eighty-eight. Anybody can grow older. That doesn't take any talent or ability.

The idea is to grow up by always finding the opportunity in change."

"Have no regrets. The elderly usually don't have regrets for what we did, but rather for things we did not do. The only people who fear death are those with regrets."

She concluded her speech by courageously singing "The Rose." She challenged each of us to study the lyrics and live them out in our daily lives.

At the years end Rose finished the college degree she had begun all those years ago. One week after graduation Rose died peacefully in her sleep. Over two thousand college students attended her funeral in tribute to the wonderful woman who taught by example that it's never too late to be all you can possibly be.

**"We don't have enough time to premeditate all our actions."
~ Vauvenargues**

**"Those who wish to sing always find a song."
~ Swedish Proverb**



A Bit of Humour

A man with a nagging secret couldn't keep it any longer. In the confessional he admitted that for years he had been stealing building supplies from the lumberyard where he worked.

"What did you take?" his priest asked.

"Enough to build my own house and enough for my son's house. And houses for our two daughters and our cottage at the lake."

"This is very serious," the priest said. "I shall have to think of a far-reaching penance. Have you ever done a retreat?"

"No, Father, I haven't," the man replied.

"But if you can get the plans, I can get the lumber."

Paddy the famous Irishman is driving home after downing a few at the local pub. He turns a corner and much to his horror he sees a tree in the middle of the road.

He swerves to avoid it and almost too late realizes that there is yet another tree directly in his path.

He swerves again and discovers that his drive home has turned into a slalom course, causing him to veer from side to side to avoid all the trees.

Moments later he hears the sound of a police siren and brings his car to a stop.

The officer approaches Paddy's car and asks him what on earth he was doing.

Paddy tells his story of the trees in the road when the officer stops him mid sentence and says, "Fer Chris sakes, Paddy, that's yer air freshener!"

A cop got out of his car and the kid who was stopped for speeding rolled down his window. "I've been waiting for you all day," the cop said. The kid replied, "Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could."

When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

There was a middle aged guy who bought a brand new Mustang convertible. He took off down the road, flooring it up to 100 mph and enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left on his head.

"This is great," he thought and floored it some more. Then he looked in his rearview mirror and there was a highway patrol car right behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. "I can get away from him with no problem" thought the man and he floored it some more and flew down the road at over 100 mph. Then he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this kind of thing" and pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the Mountie to catch up with him.

The trooper pulled in behind the Mustang and walked up to the man. "Sir," he said, looking at his watch. "My shift ends in 30 minutes and today is Friday the 13th. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man looked back at the trooper and said, "Last week my wife ran off with a Mountie and I thought you were bringing her back." The mountie replied, "Have a nice day".