



Bush's unguarded moment

July 18, 2006 - 9:31AM

A microphone picked up an unaware George Bush saying that Syria should press Hezbollah to "stop doing this shit" and that his secretary of state may go to

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the Middle East soon. The US president was talking privately to British Prime Minister Tony Blair during a lunch at the Group of Eight (G8) summit in St Petersburg about an upsurge of violence in the Middle East. Neither immediately realised a microphone was transmitting their candid thoughts on that and other issues. "I think Condi (Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice) is going to go (to the Middle East) pretty soon," Bush said. Blair replied: "Right, that's all

that matters, it will take some time to get that together". Rice headed back to the United States after the G8 summit closed today and will decide when to make her Middle East trip, a State Department spokeswoman said. Blair added: "See, if she (Rice) goes out she's got to succeed as it were, where as I can just go out and talk". Bush replied: "See, the irony is what they need to do is get Syria to get Hezbollah to stop



doing this shit and it's over".

Blair eventually noticed the microphone and hastily switched it off but not before the conversation had reached news media.

To view the entire article visit <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2006/07/18/1153166350300.html?from=top5>

To view the actual embarrassing moment visit http://media.theage.com.au/?source=theage.com.au%

Copyright law caught in its own time warp

Graeme Philipson, July 18, 2006
The pirates are everywhere and it's obvious that 19th-century legislation can't control 21st-century technology. Often in this column I have written of the threat to the concepts of copyright and intellectual property posed by the internet and other digital technologies. When the transmission and copying of digital material is so easy that it is impossible to police, it is the law that needs examining, not the technology. Consider the three following recent events:
Event one. On June 19, Bill

Gates, Microsoft's founder and one of the key defenders of the old 20th-century style of software development (where private companies develop proprietary software for personal gain), admitted in an interview with *The Wall Street Journal* that he watches pirated videos.
Event two. Virgin Records has admitted to downloading a Madonna song (Hung Up) from a France Telecom website, breaking the DRM (digital restrictions management) code and reselling it on its own website.
Event three. The French Gov-

ernment has backed down on a controversial law that would have required Apple to allow music from its iTunes store to be made available to other portable music players. When *The Journal* pointed out to Mr Gates that the material he was watching was stolen, Mr Gates said, "Stolen's a strong word. It's copyrighted content that the owner hasn't paid for."
To view more visit <http://www.smh.com.au/news/perspectives/copyright-law-caught-in-its-own-time-warp/2006/07/17/1152988468292.html>



Catherine at the beach. Photo: www.petiteanglaise.com

Secretary sacked for blogging

July 19, 2006 - 12:03PM
A 33-year-old British secretary has launched a test case before a French employment tribunal after being sacked from her company for writing a blog about her day-to-day life in

Paris. The blog - written under the pseudonym "La Petite Anglaise" - has built up a sizeable international following over the last two years, with up to 3000 people a day reading diary-style accounts about work,

relationships and the travails of single-motherhood.

View the full article @ <http://www.theage.com.au/news/web/secretary-sacked-for-blogging/2006/07/19/1153166429844.html>



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HUH! Eggs-in-undies smuggler fined

July 17, 2006 - 3:54PM
A man who smuggled native bird eggs in his underpants has escaped a jail sentence of up to 10 years but was instead fined \$25,000. In February, Wayne Frederick Floyd pleaded guilty to exporting a regulated native specimen without a permit or exemption, an offence that carries a maximum 10-year prison sentence.

Floyd claimed he was trying to take the eggs overseas "to surprise his girlfriend", Judge Martin Sides said in the NSW District Court today. The judge rejected his story, saying it was a premeditated and commercial venture, and that Floyd intended to sell the eggs overseas. However, the judge did not impose a jail term, as Floyd had not taken the eggs from the wild, but produced them

from the collection of birds he kept at his Box Hill home.



Full article @ <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/man-fined-for-bird-eggs-in-underwear/2006/07/17/1152988458841.html>

The bird eggs seized from Wayne Frederick Floyd last November. Photo: *Australian Customs Service*

Rebate does little to ease health-care costs: study

Ruth Pollard Health Reporter - July 17, 2006
PEOPLE who signed up to private health insurance to avoid tax or financial penalties were younger, healthier and less likely to be admitted to hospital as private patients, new research has shown. The findings cast doubt on claims that a rise in the num-

ber of people with insurance would relieve pressure on public hospitals. "The rebate is a blunt instrument, relying on the notion that people with private health insurance are going to use it," said Denzil Fiebig, of the University of NSW school of economics. "It's clear from our research that is not the case."

The Government has spent more than \$2 billion each year on the rebate since it was introduced in 2000 - money critics say would be better spent on public hospitals. "While private health insurance coverage ... has increased by 50 per cent as a result of the rebate, that is not necessarily easing

pressures on the public hospital system," Professor Fiebig said.

To view more visit <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/rebate-does-little-to-ease-healthcare-costs/2006/07/16/1152988413952.html>

Technology Review - Maxtor OneTouch III Mini

David Flynn June 24, 2006
<http://www.maxtor.com.au>
60GB, \$199;
100GB, \$299
Rating: 4.5/5

The more you've got, so the wise men say, the more you've got to lose. That's certainly true when it comes to PCs - especially after the explosion in digital photography plus

downloaded and ripped MP3 music tracks, on top of all your usual precious documents.

That's one reason external hard drives, with at least 10 times the space of a DVD, have become the new back-up buddy. Maxtor's popular OneTouch series of external hard drives

added the benefit of a simple button which launched a supplied back-up program.

Got to have one! To see the full review visit <http://www.smh.com.au/news/reviews/maxtor-onetouch-iii-mini/2006/06/21/1150845243199.html>



Maxtor OneTouch III Mini


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Life's a Balancing Act—Don't Let Your Workers

Think of employees as tightrope walkers.

For a lot of your employees, there's a tightrope that stretches between your workplace and their homes. Every workday they have to walk that tightrope. The problem is that it's all too easy for some of them to lose their balance. The demands of a busy life often cause people to become overwhelmed and lose that delicate balance between their home and work responsibilities.

- Work-related stress builds up as a result of long work hours and commutes, pressures from deadlines, conflicts with co-workers or the boss, or uncertainty about goals and priorities.
- Trying to manage a personal life, in addition, produces additional stress, what with family problems, the usual ups and downs of marriage and other relationships, major life changes, or tension between the demands of work and family.
- Attitudes and beliefs contribute additional stress for many employees who demand perfection in themselves or others, are unable to handle failure, or believe that they can and must do it all.

Look what can happen when they lose their balance.

All that stress can really throw an employee's life out of balance. They start teetering on the tightrope, and when that happens, they're at greater risk of making mistakes and having accidents at work. What this means, in terms of training, is simple: Teaching employees techniques and strategies for balancing their work and home lives better makes good business sense. In 21st century America, work/life training really has to be considered a basic form of job training. And it really isn't all that hard to put together a program. There are plenty of experts out there in your community who can come in and give a short talk to your workers about balancing work and home responsibilities. You might already have such contacts through your organization's employee assistance program. If not, try your community mental health center or a nearby university extension program.

Why It Matters...

Trying to balance work and home responsibilities is a major cause of stress for most American working families. When workers are stressed because of work/life issues, they are at greater risk of making mistakes and having accidents—it's estimated that upwards of 60 percent of workplace accidents are stress related. Providing work/life training makes good business sense, since it helps create a safer, more productive workforce.

Show them how to get their balance back.

In the meantime, here are some tips you can share with employees in a handout or in your employee newsletter to help them restore their balance:

- *Get real.* Set realistic goals. Don't expect to achieve everything at once. Ease up on yourself whenever possible. Realize that you've got a lot of demands on you right now and appreciate the fact that you're doing the best you can.
- *Get organized.* Don't work harder; work smarter. Find the most efficient ways to get your work done on the job and at home. You'll be surprised how a little more organization can allow you to get so much more done in the same amount of time.
- *Get prioritized.* Let's face it; not everything is equally important. Rank your tasks according to importance and do the most important ones first. That way if you don't have time to get everything done, it'll only be the small stuff that gets put off.
- *Get flexible.* Build a lot of flexibility in to your schedule. Expect the unexpected and don't let it throw you off track.
- *Get help.* If you're starting to feel overwhelmed at work, ask your co-workers for a hand (you can reciprocate when things ease up) or talk to your supervisor and ask for some advice. At home, get your family's help. Delegate as much as you can.

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Foxtel boss 'sceptical' of media reforms

July 16, 2006 - 3:14PM
Foxtel chief executive Kim Williams says he is sceptical about the federal government's media reforms which give no certainty to pay TV operators.

Communications Minister Helen Coonan has unveiled the government's blueprint for re-shaping media regulations, lifting restrictions on foreign and

cross media ownership and setting out plans for the move to digital television.

Mr Williams said the announcement had given free to air television a lot of certainty about its future but left pay TV operators like Foxtel hanging on for more detail.

"There is clarity and certainty for the terrestrial networks where

they know they're not going to have a fourth network competitor at least before 2013," he told the Nine Network. "They know they're going to be given, gifted additional services, on spectrum which was gifted by the government - and we have a review.

"Until we actually have clarity on that, you'll forgive me, I'll remain sceptical."

To view the rest of the article visit <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2006/07/16/1152988403376.html>

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