

Nielsen News

News to Help You Save Time and Money ... and Enjoy Your Life!



**Bob Sez...
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Me, Micro-Manage? Certainly Not!

Executives and business leaders often don't see themselves through their employees' eyes, as this tale illustrates:

A Hollywood mogul became president of a struggling new television network. With his career on the line, the CEO was determined to oversee every aspect of program development—right down to the set design.

One day a television producer at the network called his lawyer to complain about the CEO's overbearing ways. He was fearful that the debut of his new show would be delayed because the CEO was obsessed with the design of the sets.

The attorney, who had worked with the executive before, agreed to help. He invited the CEO to lunch.

As they finished their meal, the attorney opened his briefcase and began taking out carpet and drapery swatches. "I have a question for you" he said to the puzzled executive.

"My wife and I are redecorating and I'd like your advice on the best carpet to coordinate with this drape."

The savvy CEO quickly saw the point. "You think I'm micro-managing, don't you?"

Thanks to his creative approach, the attorney helped the CEO see that his energy would be better spent focusing on his strengths—and letting his employees focus on theirs.

Sometimes a little creativity is just what it takes to get the point across.



Dick & Karla and Bob



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August Quiz Question

Q: What was the relationship between the Walt Disney characters Mickey and Minnie? Were they:

- 1/ *Married*
- 2/ *Engaged*
- 3/ *Friends*

Everyone who texts, emails or calls in the correct answer by the last day of this month will be entered into a drawing for a **\$25 gift certificate to Carabbas Italian Grill**.

July Quiz Answer

Q: What was the first openly all-professional baseball team?

A: Cincinnati Red Stockings

Congratulations to Andre Marque

Your name was drawn from all the correct answers and you win a **\$25 gift card to Lee Roy Selmon's**. Enjoy!

Corner lots: These lots offer the look of two front lawns and convey a certain street presence with twice the potential for increasing curb appeal and a property's value. On the downside, some people feel they lose privacy when both front and side yards are visible to the public. Sometimes, these lots have small back yards. You also might find that neighborhood kids like to take shortcuts across your front lawn.

Here's the Scoop on Corner Lots...and More

When shopping for a new home, one of the most important considerations is one that many people don't pay enough attention to - the type of lot. Selecting the right lot can significantly affect your enjoyment of your family's home.

In addition to conservation settings, there are three types of lots that homeowners find very desirable. Each has its own pros and cons.

Cul de sac lots: These lots are located at the end of non-through streets where homes encircle the roadway. For obvious reasons, a cul de sac is a popular choice for buyers with children because there is less traffic. Front yards may be smaller, but the pie-shaped rear yards are typically spacious. Homes on these lots often are higher priced than comparable properties. From a lifestyle standpoint, however, the extra price may be more than worth it.

Quiet streets: Who doesn't want a home on a quiet street? The benefits are obvious. However, don't dismiss properties that are located on or near busy streets. These lots often are priced lower, and you may find that the traffic noise isn't as bothersome as you expected. In fact, some neighborhoods in these areas feature special soundproof fencing. If the home seems otherwise ideal, then set an appointment to judge the noise level for yourself.



Want more tips on what to consider when shopping for a new home? Call us at **813-294-5786** or email us at **info@dickandkarla.com**. We love helping families find their "right-size" homes.

Lunch Pail-eontology

In preparation for back-to-school, one of the most important decisions a young child will make is choosing the right lunch box.



Lunch boxes have become a child's personal billboard, colorfully depicting a child's favorite movie hero, cartoon character, TV show, hobby and much more. How did the lunch box become so important?

In the 1880's, when children wanted to imitate their dads who carried their lunches to work in sturdy metal containers, they resorted to repurposing cookie and tobacco tins as their lunch caddies. In 1902, the first commercially produced lunch boxes for children became available, made of metal and colorfully decorated with scenes of playing youngsters.

In 1935, Mickey Mouse became the first "pop" character to be displayed on the front of a lunch box. It wasn't until the 1950's (synonymous with the advent of TV) that the lunch box turned into a personal statement. Aladdin, a Nashville manufacturer of lunch boxes, realized they could sell more of their indestructible boxes if they decorated them in a variety of kids' favorite icons. Hopalong Cassidy, the Lone Ranger, Gunsmoke, Woody Woodpecker, Barbie and a host of other characters soon appeared on lunch containers. What had begun as a working man's product evolved into a back-to-school fashion statement that reflected the current times and culture.

By the 1980's, the metal lunch box had given way to molded plastic carriers. Today's lunch containers are typically insulated polyester versions; still styled in a youngster's favorite colors and characters and still just as important as ever.

When Your Boss Steals the Credit

Have you ever poured your heart into bringing a good idea to life—only to have your boss take the credit? Maybe this advice will help you see the big picture, and perhaps even get your due.

- **Don't jump to conclusions.** Your boss probably is not determined to ruin your morale. He or she simply may not understand your role in the project, or may have perceived his or her role as bigger than it was. Look for a constructive way to make your case, and be clear about what you want.
- **Document your work.** Keep notes of your ideas, meetings, overtime work and any other effort you put into your project or solution. You can use these to establish the level of your commitment and the amount of work you've put in.
- **Meet with your boss.** Once you can discuss the situation calmly, schedule a meeting with your boss. Don't make accusations; just point out the work you've done and reaffirm your commitment to your organization's success. If he or she is a reasonable person, you will achieve the results you want. Again, be clear about what you want.
- **Be prepared to let it go.** Should your manager not understand your point, you then need to decide whether the dispute is worth the effort. Sometimes it's better to back off and concentrate on being a supportive team member instead of winning a short-term victory.

Trust Goes Up With Age



In a cynical world, trust can seem hard to come by. But new research suggests that trust may actually increase as we grow older. The World Values Survey, collecting data from more than 200,000 people in 83 nations, found that more than a third of people 80 years old or older agreed that most people can be trusted. Just a quarter of 20-year-olds said the same.



The results were consistent regardless of nationality, gender, education and income. A similar study, analyzing data from the General Social Survey of 1,230 US citizens, also found that willingness to trust increases as we age.

One possible explanation: As time goes on, people tend to simplify their lives and spend more time with their families, resulting in a more positive and generous attitude about the world. In other words, they project their family's good will onto the world at large. Or, it could be a generational factor where older people come from a more trusting era.



Prep for a Worry-free Vacation

If you're planning a late summer or Labor Day vacation, take time to do some planning now. Who wants to spend their vacation worrying about possible problems at home or on the road? For real peace of mind, be sure to include these items on your to-do list:

- **Health insurance.** Double-check your policy so you know what to do if you or a family member needs medical care while you're out of town.
- **Homeowner's policy.** Look over the provisions for replacement of property in case there is a theft or fire while you're away. Also check to see if your coverage extends to the possessions you take with you on your vacation.
- **Important documents.** Make sure all your important papers such as your will, power of attorney for health and finances and your life insurance policy are stored in a safe-deposit box and that each trustee has a copy.
- **Auto insurance.** Review your policy to make sure it covers you in the event of an accident when you're driving a rental car. This way you'll know if you're going to need the rental agency's liability waiver.



Are You a Crier?



Many people—both men and women—cry at the drop of a hat. They sob in sad movies and silly movies, sniffle at the sound of violins and the sound of sirens going by and are especially weepy in personally touching moments. If this describes you, and you find yourself in a situation where crying would subject you (or Heaven forbid, your teenage children) to embarrassment, simply rub the roof of your mouth with your tongue. This tends to confuse your brain and helps to stifle the tears.

Don't Count on Extra Sleep

You work long hours during the week, so you probably look forward to some extra sleep over the weekend. But if you're counting on those couple of extra hours to help you catch up on all the rest you've missed, you may be fooling yourself.

In a study conducted at Penn State University, 30 healthy men and women aged 18-34 years spent 13 nights in a sleep lab. For four nights, they slept a full eight hours; then they spent six nights sleeping only six hours, followed by three 10-hour nights.

The participants' brain function dropped after their nights of sleep deprivation and did not return to normal until after the third day of extra sleep, even though they said they felt physically refreshed by their extra sleep.

The experts say you shouldn't count on a few extra hours of sleep to bring you back to peak efficiency. Instead, make a point of getting a full night's sleep every night to stay safe and productive at home, work and on the road (even if it means skipping the Late Show.)



Cincinnati Red Stockings

According to 1869reds.com, the Cincinnati Red Stockings were the first baseball team to go under contract, creating the first all-professional team in 1869. The team played across the nation, posting a perfect record in their first year. The attention the all-pro team drew proved that the American public would support a professional game. Although the team folded under financial strain after the 1870 season, the way had been paved for more professional teams, and the first National Association of Baseball Players was formed. The Red Stockings later reorganized and were members of the new National League, except in 1881 "when the Reds were thrown out of the National League for selling beer at the ballpark and allowing games to be played at their ballpark on Sundays."



Natural Odor-eaters



Whether you're battling cigarette smoke, pet pungency or a stinky gym bag, these tricks may be just what you need to freshen up. Test a small area first to make sure no damage occurs to fabric furniture or flooring.

Bowl of Vinegar Overnight — Vinegar is a real trooper when it comes to household use. To soak up unwelcome scents, place a bowl of vinegar in a smelly spot overnight.



"Happy Hour" Spray — Combine 2-parts water and 1-part cheap vodka in a spray bottle and spray away. The mixture mysteriously grabs the smell and then evaporates.

Coffee and an Orange — Coffee grounds and orange peels are great odor neutralizers. Add one of them to a bowl in the room, inside the trash can or down the garbage disposal to help eliminate odors.

Funny School Excuse Notes



Normally school jokes poke fun at teachers. However, these excuse notes from parents, collected from around the country and with the original spelling, certainly turn the tables on some parents.

- My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.
- Dear School: Please excuse Cecil being absent on June 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.
- Ray was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.
- Bethan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.
- Please excuse Eddie for being. It was his father's fault.
- I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I don't know what size she wears.
- Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday..



Bob Sez....Even 68 Degrees Is Too Hot!



We are still enduring sweltering heat, so it's a good time to review the risks that our pets face with Florida's hot weather. **Dr. Jeanne Hart is a veterinarian at Tampa Mobile Veterinary Services**, a full service mobile vet clinic that brings state-of-the-art animal care right to your door. "High temperatures and humidity can be really dangerous for pets as they can overheat quickly," Dr. Hart explains. "They can't sweat like humans do so their tolerance for heat is much lower." Dr. Hart has these reminders to keep all your critters cool and safe.

- ⇒ **Try to limit a pet's time in the heat** and be sure to provide ample shade and water when it is outside. Limit exercise to early mornings and evenings when the temperatures are cooler
- ⇒ **Remember that asphalt can become very hot**, potentially burning dogs' sensitive paw pads. Check the asphalt and sidewalk temperature with your hands before you go for a walk. If possible walk your dog in the grass.
- ⇒ **Never, EVER leave a pet unattended in a parked car!** Interior temperatures can quickly top 100 degrees, even when parked in the shade with the windows cracked open. This can prove deadly for most pets and humans.
- ⇒ **Know the signs of overheating:** excessive panting, drooling, thick salivation, dry mouth & gums, redness around mouth and eyes, skin warm to the touch, anxiety, weakness and collapse.
- ⇒ **If you suspect your pet is overheating:** cool with cold wet towels, water and fans **BUT NOT ICE** as this can constrict blood vessels, making the situation worse.
- ⇒ **Seek immediate veterinary attention** as heatstroke can be fatal. Breeds with short muzzles are at particular risk such as pugs, boxers, bulldogs, Persian cats, very young and very old pets, overweight pets and those with heart or respiratory disease.
- ⇒ **Don't forget:** never leave pets unattended near swimming pools; introduce them gradually to water. Use safety flotation devices when boating and rinse their fur thoroughly to remove chlorine or salt.



Dr. Hart and her team focus on delivering high-quality customer service—right at your doorstep. Tampa Mobile Veterinary Services include wellness exams, vaccinations, in-house diagnostic testing, radiology, dentistry, surgery, hospice care and euthanasia.

Dr Hart see patients **Monday - Friday from 8:30-5:30. Call 813-598-8505** for appointments or visit **www.tampamobilevet.com** for more information.



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New Listings—You Get First Choice!



4811 San Pablo Pl \$149,900

Cute 3 bedroom home in a nicely maintained neighborhood with nearly 1600 SF has ceramic tile floors, newer kitchen and more. It's on a big pie-shaped lot close to Hillsborough Ave and Vet. Expressway. No flood insurance required.



11422 Galleria Dr \$165,000

Rare find — a one story villa with 3 bedrooms and over 1500 SF. It's located in N Tampa near N Dale Mabry and features hardwood floors, screened lanai and no close rear neighbors. Very convenient to everything in Carrollwood.

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