

Inventors Society of South Florida

Inventare Maximus

Inventors Society of South Florida, PO Box 244306, Boynton Beach, FL 33424-4306

April 2004

Trademarks and Copyrights: The Other Intellectual Property!

Everyone attending our March 6 meeting was treated to an informative presentation by **David A. Gast**, interspersed with a lively round of questions from the audience. Mr. Gast is an attorney with **Malloy & Malloy, P.A.**, based in Miami, and his practice encompasses all aspects of Intellectual Property Law. He discussed the differences between the various forms of intellectual property, such as patents, trademarks, and copyrights, as well as providing examples as to where each may be applicable to assist inventors in securing and protecting their intellectual property rights. For further information, Mr. Gast may be contacted at (305) 858-8000, or via e-mail at dgast@malloylaw.com.

BioTech 2004 Conference in Miami

The **Third Annual BioTech** conference will take place Thursday, March 25, 2004 at FIU's Graham University Center on the Miami campus. The theme this year is "Today's Bioscience Environment in South Florida" and the conference will feature poster presentations in conjunction with corporate and university seminars and sponsor exhibits. **BioTech 2004** promotes collaboration among leading bioscience firms and university researchers within South Florida.

BioTech 2004 is a one-day conference beginning at 9:00am. Registration fees are: Corporate \$100, University Personnel \$30 and Students \$15. To register visit the EDC website: www.edc-tech.org or contact Chris Kennelly, Director of Programs at ckennelly@edc-tech.org. ❖

Nine Costly Misconceptions About Patents

John Rizvi, JohnRizvi@IdeaAttorneys.com

If life were like the popular board game Monopoly®, obtaining meaningful patent protection would be as simple as buying up Boardwalk and Park Place. In the board game, you simply purchase the property you want, place houses or hotels on them over time, and eagerly collect a continual revenue stream from the successful venture.

The rules governing monopolies on ideas, however, are significantly more complex. As you mull over the unique features of your newly discovered invention or method of doing business, I want to dispel a number of common, yet potentially dangerous, misconceptions about patents:

Misconception No. 1: All of the good ideas have already been patented.

Fact: In 1899, U.S. Commissioner of Patents Charles H. Duell reportedly stated that "everything that can be invented has been invented." His statement, as we all know, was followed by the invention of the airplane, television, radio, cars, computers, biotechnology, space travel, microwave ovens, cellular phones, digital cameras, the artificial heart, and the internet! The line of thinking that all the good ideas are gone is as wrong today as it was back then. Major pioneering inventions, such as the development of the internet, are being made on a daily basis and there appears to be no end in sight.

Misconception No. 2: It is necessary to include a working model of your invention along with an application for a patent.

Fact: This is a very common misconception. Working models, prototypes, or exhibits are very rarely required for most patent applications. Even the Wright Brothers had not flown when they applied for their groundbreaking aeronautical patents. Their famous Kitty Hawk



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Invention City

Invention City is currently seeking inventions with mass market appeal for licensing to partners such as Endeavor Tool Co., PowerShot Tool Co., Senco Products, DS Max, Mystic Industries and others. The web site describes the submission process and explains typical deals. Learn more about Invention City at www.inventioncity.com or write them at Invention City, Inc, PO Box 757, South Orleans, MA 02662. ❖

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Mission Statement

To provide a forum that fosters creativity, freethinking and education that will help further our members' innovations.



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adventure did not occur until March 23, 1903, a full nine months after the filing of their patent.

Although a working model is not generally required, the description of the invention in the specification and the drawings does have to be sufficiently clear and complete to permit the invention to be understood by someone familiar with the field of the technology.

Misconception No. 3: Mailing a description of your idea to yourself via certified mail will protect your invention.

Fact: There is a well-known myth that mailing a description of your invention to yourself will protect your idea. Variations on this theme include mailing via certified or registered mail. Some even advocate signing along the seal of the envelope in pen.

Regardless of how the description is mailed, you will obtain no exclusive rights to the idea, whatsoever, unless a patent application is subsequently filed. At most, the mailing may be used to show that you were in possession of the idea as of the date of the postmark. There are, however, far better ways of proving the date of conception of an idea, such as, for example, participating in the Patent Office's inexpensive Disclosure Document Program (\$10).

Misconception No. 4: A patent guarantees commercial success.

Fact: This line of thinking is similar to the "if you make it, they will come" syndrome typical of inexperienced entrepreneurs. Although a patent can prevent others from making or using your product or service without your permission, it does not guarantee that anyone will want to do so. In order for the patent to be valuable, there must be some pre-existing demand for the product or service.

Misconception No. 5: You can wait to file a patent application as long as you have evidence to prove that you are the original inventor.

Fact: Nothing can be further from the truth. For one thing, failure to file a patent application before disclosing an invention will result in the irrevocable loss of patent rights in most foreign countries. Even in the United States, you are required to file within one year of publicly disclosing or offering an invention for sale.

Another risk of waiting to file the patent application is that someone else may file first. The first person to file is presumed to be the inventor and any subsequent filers will have the difficult burden of proving an earlier invention date in an interference proceeding. This is not a good position to be in.

Misconception No. 6: If an idea is developed by an employee at work, the employer is the only one who can file for patent rights.

Fact: Assuming the company owns what an employee produces may be reasonable when employees are in a factory assembling widgets, but the rules of ownership of new ideas are not so simple. It is important to consider the facts surrounding the development of a new idea and whether or not an employee has signed an employment agreement assigning rights in their ideas to the company.

Misconception No. 7: Filing a provisional patent application is a less expensive alternative to filing a regular patent application.

Fact: Provisional applications are not examined and can never issue into a patent. The provisional application first became available in the United States in 1995, and simply allows an inventor to preserve their rights for a period of one year. In order for a patent to eventually issue, however, a regular non-provisional application must still be filed. Once this is done, the costs to file both applications will be more than if the regular patent application were filed right away.

Misconception No. 8: If an idea is in use overseas but not in the United States, it can still be patented here.

Fact: A patent can only be issued to the original inventor. If you are simply using an idea that you have seen in use elsewhere, then you have not "invented" it. You cannot obtain exclusive rights to an idea simply because you happen to be the first one to "import" the idea into the United States.

Misconception No. 9: The granting of a patent indicates that the patent office has verified that the invention works.

Fact: The patent office does not test inventions or verify that they will work as described. Nor does the patent office evaluate whether an invention solves a problem more effectively than prior attempts. The primary purpose of the patent office review is to determine whether the invention is sufficiently different from prior solutions to warrant the granting of exclusive rights to the inventor.

John Rizvi is an Adjunct Professor of Intellectual Property Law at Nova Southeastern University's Shepard Board Law Center and a Registered Patent Attorney at the Fort Lauderdale law firm of **Gold & Rizvi-The Idea Attorneys®** (<http://www.ideaattorneys.com>). He can be reached at (954) 583-9600 or at JohnRizvi@IdeaAttorneys.com ❖

Big Idea Group

Big Idea Group continues to expand their deal portfolio and client base. Since it's founding in 2000, Big Idea Group has helped license or bring to market over 40 products for inventors. The products cover many areas of consumer goods such as toys, storage, luggage, pets, office supplies, tools and stationery.

Their licensing partners and customers include Binney & Smith, Hasbro, Avon, QVC, Target, Solutions, Toys "R" Us, International Playthings, Basic Fun, Staples, Summit and Sunbeam.

BIG has expanded their market focus to include: home & garden, kitchen and house wares, toys & kids products, health & wellness, organization & storage, office supply, pets, holiday & seasonal, QVC items, and promotional/impulse. ❖

New Product Licensing

The UIA featured article for February was written by Ed Zimmer (edzimmer@TENonline.org). Visit <http://www.uiausa.org/FeaturedArticle.htm> to learn why your odds of licensing that idea are small, about 1 in 1,000 (and probably much lower). Plus, there are many reasons why any *single* company might not be interested in your product or improvement, including:

- The product's potential sales aren't large enough to be of interest.
- The required front-end investment is just too large or too uncertain.
- You approached them incorrectly.

Learn the obstacles to success to increase your chances of success! ❖

Create a Tailored Pitch for Your Invention

Publicity placements have always been a cost-efficient way to market a product/business, and generate clients or customers. Lack of knowledge or a misunderstanding of what publicity is and does, prevents many entrepreneurs from taking full advantage of publicity opportunities.

A positive editorial placement such as a product profile in a magazine or a newspaper can be much more persuasive than a glossy, over-hyped advertisement, and at a fraction of the cost. Editorial placements are often the overlooked marketing vehicle for a business, and entrepreneurs should understand the full benefits to make the most of their marketing efforts.

So, list one or two things about your product/business that make it unique, ask yourself if others are likely to think the same way, and tailor a pitch to the appropriate media. When you can sell the media, the story is run through affiliates, recast by other media groups and followed up with a later news article. ❖

Membership

The Inventors Society of South Florida membership application form is available online at <http://www.inventorssociety.net/appform.pdf>.

Members are entitled to all that is offered by the ISSF: events, meetings, contests, prizes, awards, nominations, and networking. Members also benefit from a monthly newsletter, full of important information, tips, publications, internet sites and outside expositions.

Membership is the primary source of funds to the ISSF, without which, it is difficult if not impossible to hold meetings, send newsletters, hold special events, and maintain an Internet presence.

During each General Meeting in Deerfield Beach, time permitting, a panel of experts will address questions pertaining to patenting, prototyping, and commercializing. This panel was formed to assist members in taking it to the next step in the inventing process. The panel may include:

Alvin Blum, Registered Patent Agent
John Fulton, Patent Attorney
Freddy Lee, Prototyping Expert
Bob Levy, Product Designer
Howard and Paula Silken, Commercialization Experts ❖



Newsletter Submissions

If you have something you'd like to see in the newsletter, please discuss with or send it to cever@earthlink.net. If it is something that has to be copied, please send the original or a high quality copy. If you need the original document returned, please note this in the submission package.

Please remember that the newsletter is black print only. Submissions that have color (especially over text, i.e. words in a colored box) may not be usable. Try to keep submissions simple and basic. ❖

ISSF Member Meetings

The General Meeting of the ISSF is at 1:30 pm on the **first** Saturday of each month at:

Ligi Tool & Engineering, Inc.
3220 SW 15th St
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
877-523-6693
www.ligitool.com

From the Florida Turnpike Exit at Sample Rd, Exit 69; turn right on Sample Rd (East); left on Powerline Rd; and right on SW 15th St (pass the first stoplight on Powerline Rd, look for two cement towers and the **Enterprise Center** sign).

From I-95 Southbound Exit at SW 10th St, Exit 40; turn right on SW 10th St (West); left on Powerline Road; left on SW 15th St (look for two cement towers and the **Enterprise Center** sign).

From I-95 Northbound: Exit at Sample Rd; turn left on Sample Rd (West); right on Powerline Rd; and right on SW 15th St (pass the first stoplight on Powerline Rd, look for two cement towers and the **Enterprise Center** sign).

Contact
Howard Silken 561-496-1140
silkhandp@aol.com



The General Meeting is located at
Ligi Tool

President's Corner



This is my last column as the ISSF president. It has been a great experience to work with all of you. I hope to continue to represent and consult with many of you through **Abby's Factory Connection, Inc.** I have brought aboard as CEO, veteran manufacturer **Shelly Smith**, who has a success rate of 40% commercializing products. She has 100,000 square feet of space in HONG KONG and employs over 4,000 workers. We have all the capability to bring products from start to finish. I can be reached at www.abbysideafactory.com, which links to the newly formed company.

The ISSF has been extremely helpful in widening my contact and knowledge base. Plus, I have made many life-long friends. A special thanks to one person who never got the credit she deserved, **Cathy VerSchneider**. She is someone who cares deeply for the inventors and she does excellent web design, technical writing and can source anything.

I wish you well. Someone recently said, 'In order to be an inventor you need a funny bone, a wishbone, and most of all, backbone.' Don't let anyone ever tell you that getting a patent without commercializing, is a waste. That serves to undermine the creative spirit. Believe in your vision and others will see it. Much luck and success to you all.

Love and best wishes,

Abby

Companies Looking for New Products

If you have an original automotive service tool invention, contact **Lisle Corporation** 807 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 89, Clarinda, IA 51632-0089, Phone: (712) 542-5101; Fax: (712) 542-6591; info@lislecorp.com; or online at http://www.lislecorp.com/inventor_program.cfm.

Contact **Gadget Universe** at High Tech Gadgets, 16060 Ventura Blvd., Suite 158, Encino, CA 91436 or hyeung@aroamarketing.com. See their product line at www.GadgetUniverse.com.

Hormax Products, national supplier of paint sundry, tile maintenance and fencing products, seeks products to market in the retail home improvement industry. Call 800-729-9029 or write 840 W. Horton Road. Bellingham, WA 98226 ❖

Engel Brothers Media, a documentary film production company based in New York City, specializes in science and adventure documentaries (PBS, National Geographic, Channel 4 and Discovery). They are producing a new show for **The History Channel** entitled **Eureka!**. Right now, they are in the process of looking for an invention and it's respective inventor to feature on their pilot episode. Contact **Steve Flynn**, sflynn@ebmedia.com, Associate Producer, Engel Brothers Media Inc., 535 Eighth Avenue, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10018; (212) 413-9200; www.ebmedia.com.

Visit <http://www.inventors.org/productsouts.html> to learn about opportunities to market your product. Companies include **The Sharper Image** and **National Presto Industries**. Also, learn about **Worldwind Entertainment** (more on page 8) and **CNBC/Wal-mart** projects featuring inventors and inventions. ❖

RadioShack Seeks Innovative Gadgets

RadioShack (<http://www.radioshackcorporation.com/>) is angling to work with inventors of small, innovative gadgets to jointly develop products. With a broad store network, design expertise and access to financing, RadioShack wants electronics inventors to view it as a matchmaker able to get new products to market quickly. The company says it will free up space at a RadioShack factory in China for new ideas, and invest its own money in innovative products. RadioShack says it can go further than rivals, in part by using its influence with suppliers to help newcomers get access to established brand-name manufacturers. Call 800-THE-SHACK and ask operator for information about the Idea Submission Program. ❖

A Successful Consumer Product is:

- Innovative – the product must clearly solve the problem better than any other solution.
- Simple – no need to educate the consumer.
- Obvious – attributes are self-evident so that marketing is not required to distinguish it from the competition.
- Low tech – less costly for better performance.
- Simple – works with low tooling, materials and processing investment.
- Priced to sell – impulse purchase.
- Lasting – conveys customer satisfaction without a dated design.
- Positive – safe; not harmful; not sexist, racial, etc.
- Complete – no additional parts or other products required to use it.
- Available – established distribution network with a known retail or catalog source.
- Desirable – irresistible as a "need" but must be a "want" as well.
- Targeted – does not appeal to everyone, but there is a significant market. ❖

Thomas Register Talks About Packaging

The Thomas Register magazine is "Keeping You Informed on Issues Affecting Industrial Businesses". Read Volume 4, Issue 10, Jan. 27, 2004 on packaging:

- Packaging Industry Set for Growth
- RFID is Finally on the Fast Track
- 5 Must-Have Machine Features
- Choosing a Contract Packager
- How to Prevent Counterfeiting & Tampering
- Food Packaging Responds to Health Crises.

Find a Supplier at info.thomasregister.com/home_page ❖

Inventor's Marketing Package

Invention Showcase Inventor's Marketing Package gets your invention seen by more than 7,000 viewers per month including those interested in licensing, distribution, retailers, product scouts, investors, TV producers and newspaper and magazine editors (only \$25 per month, 12 months prepaid). Be aware that they limit their showcase to only ten new inventions each month = 120 inventions per year. The fewer inventions that are shown, means that each invention gets more attention from visitors.

For more information, write: **Invention Showcase**, 2100 N. Beachwood Drive, Suite 407, Los Angeles, CA 90068 or email info@inventionshowcase.com. Call 800.856.9025 toll free; 323.856.3050 local; 530.684.7724 fax. Visit <http://inventionshowcase.com/services.htm>. ❖

ISSF Speakers in Miami

When the ISSF offers a second speaker, it is at 1:00 pm on the **third** Saturday of each month at:

N. Miami Beach Public Library
1601 NE 164th St
North Miami Beach, FL

From I-95 Northbound: Exit at NW 167th St, Exit 17, turn right on NW 167th St (East); Pass 163rd Street Mall and turn left on NE 16th Ave one block to NE 164th St. The library is straight ahead through the stoplight.

From I-95 Southbound: Exit at Miami Gardens Dr (N.E. 183rd St); Straight through stoplight onto NE 6th Ave; left on NE 167th St (East); Pass 163rd Street Mall and turn left on NE 16 Ave one block to NE 164th St. The library is straight ahead through stoplight.

Contact: Bob Levy at 305-893-5989 or 305-205-2884 cell or email boblevy@bellsouth.net ❖



Coming Events

Visit <http://www.uiausa.com/ComingEvents.htm> for an extended roster of invention related trade shows and events. ❖

Manufacturing Math

A new consumer product typically must be manufacturable at no more than 1/6 of its retail price to adequately compensate the product's distribution channel (e.g., the manufacturer must sell at 2 times their manufactured cost to cover their operating costs and profit, the wholesaler must sell at 1.5 times their cost and the retailer at 2 times their cost → $(2 \times 1.5 \times 2 = 6)$). ❖

Successful Inventing

Excellent series of articles on inventing by Andy Gibbs at <http://tenonline.org/art/imi.html>.

Mr. Gibbs' web site www.patentcafe.com, is one of the most informative inventor sites on the Web. ❖

Patent Delivery Site

Tim Uy created <http://patents.oncloud8.com>, because he was frustrated with downloading patent images from esp@cenet and the USPTO. His web site provides immediate batch-downloaded PDF-stitched EPO documents (US and international) for \$0.88 per patent. ❖

Networking Calendar

For a calendar of the Networking Opportunities in south Florida that is updated every 7-10 days, visit www.valjennings.com/network.htm. This includes a comprehensive list of area Chambers of Commerce. Have it emailed to you! ❖

IP Watchdog

Visit IPWatchdog.com, the source for Intellectual Property, Internet and Antitrust Law. All of the information contained on IPWatchdog.com can be accessed for FREE, so please browse the site at your leisure. If you are an inventor or entrepreneur, be sure to check out the **Inventors Workshop**, which has links to information every inventor needs to know. ❖

Radio Show on WBZT

The Entrepreneur Hour Radio Show on WBZT 1230AM Mondays, noon - 1:00pm offers great tips for inventors turned entrepreneurs. On March 1st, Suzanne Mulvehill and a guest discussed how your company can go from being "unknown to well-known" through media marketing. ❖

Ron Reardon
Patent Agent

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Inventors and Inventions

Visit <http://inventors.about.com/> to learn about inventors and inventions, avoid scams, obtain funding, and market your ideas. Here are some inventors in the A-Z listing.

- [James Naismith](#) – The Canadian physical education instructor who invented basketball in 1891.
- [Jean Nollet](#) – Invented the electroscope - a device for detecting electric charge - in 1748.
- [Byron and Melody Swetland](#) – The creators of Tekno Bubbles, an innovative variation on the old blowing bubbles that glow under black lights and smell like raspberries. ❖

Advertising Your Products & Services

PR Newswire, the world's largest electronic distributor of news releases, has over 40,000 members worldwide-many of which are small businesses just like yours. Each news release is distributed via Web, wire, fax and satellite networks reaching all your [critical audiences](#). The standard news release that runs about 400 words can be sent to all media in your state, plus trade publications, and also distributed to more than 3,800 websites, online services and databases for as little as \$150. If targeting a national audience, you can send to more than 22,000 media points across the country for only \$625. Visit <http://prtoolkit.prnewswire.com/tsnn/index.shtml> to get the word out about your products and services. ❖

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Internet Fraud

Email

- The safest approach is to immediately delete email from unknown sources, before opening the email.
- Avoid clicking on any links in unsolicited email, particularly emails that ask (either directly or by pointing to a Web site) for personal, financial, or identity information. Instead, directly type the Web site destination into your browser or use a trusted bookmark to verify the site or to log into your account directly.
- Inspect the company logo, if used in the email or the linked Web site, and compare it to that used on the legitimate Web site of that company. Be suspicious of emails or Web sites if the logo is distorted or looks as if it has been stretched.
- If you receive an email that warns you, with little or no notice, that an account of yours will be shut down unless you reconfirm your billing information, do not reply or click on the link in the email. Instead, contact the company cited in the email using a telephone number or Web site address you know to be genuine.
- Avoid sending personal and financial information over the Internet. Before submitting financial information through a Web site, look for the padlock icon on your browser's status bar (bottom right corner of window). It signals that your information is secure during transmission. If you double-click on the padlock, you can view the security certificate.

Web Sites

- Bookmark trusted Internet destinations or, if you enter the Web site address directly, recheck it to ensure you have entered the correct address before providing personal information on a site.
- Be suspicious of an information-collecting Web page that is an "orphan" page. In other words, you cannot locate a home page for the company, or the home page has an "under construction" message on it.
- Look for the presence of an "@" symbol anywhere in the page URL (Universal Resource Locator). This is usually indicative of a fraudulent Web site.
- Ensure you know the person/entity to which you are giving information over the Internet.
- Only do business with Internet companies that use a secure form to capture private information. To verify your session is secure, look for "https:" instead of "http:" in the URL address line, as well as the padlock icon on your browser's status bar.
- You should always review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them make sure there are no unauthorized charges. If your statement is late by more than a couple of days, call your credit card company or bank to confirm your billing address and account balances.

More Information Internet Fraud

- To learn other ways to avoid email scams and deal with deceptive spam visit ftc.gov/spam
- For updates on the latest email hoaxes visit symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html
- For information on how to manage and control spam visit ftc.gov/bcp/conline/edcams/spam/index.html
- For more information on identity theft visit usdoj.gov/criminal/fraud/idtheft.html ❖

Peter Wells Recognizes Waters' Marketing Expertise

Australian **Peter Wells**, presented "his mentor and friend, the delightful **Abby Waters** with this beautiful bouquet of spring flowers in recognition of Abby's outstanding effort and the countless hours Abby has spent in correspondence to secure a quality manufacturer for the Sandwich Mate. Thank you, Abby. You are Abbsolutely the best!"



House Passes Bill

By Drew Clark, [National Journal's Technology Daily](#)

A Wednesday afternoon deal between the chairmen of the House Judiciary and Small Business committees helped win House passage for landmark legislation that would eliminate the diversion of patent fees to other federal programs. The House passed the bill (379-28 vote).

Judiciary Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., acceded to one core demand by Small Business Chairman Donald Manzullo, R-Ill., who wanted independent and small-business inventors to retain the traditional 50 percent discount on patent filing fees.

The deal eliminated obstacles to bringing the bill, [H.R. 1561](#), to the floor. Originally, the bill would have raised patent fees by an average of 15 percent and authorized the Patent and Trademark Office to make additional reforms to expedite the patent-granting process.

One of those reforms that have proven somewhat controversial would split filing fees into three components: fees for filing, for researching evidence of prior inventions and for examinations. Now, the base fee is \$750; under the proposal, it would become \$300 for filing, \$500 for researching and \$200 for examination.

But an amendment approved last July by the Judiciary Committee would take the PTO off budget by eliminating congressional appropriators' ability to divert patent fees for general revenues.

Technology and other business leaders strongly supported that amendment, which they regarded as crucial to securing their support for patent-fee increases. But House appropriators -- including Frank Wolf, R-Va., chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Commerce Dept and PTO -- objected to such a precedent.

In January, Sensenbrenner brokered an agreement that appears to have quelled appropriators' vocal objections. The amendment drafted by Sensenbrenner would create a "refund" program to "eliminate the potential incentive for diverting PTO revenue to non-PTO programs," according to a House leadership summary of the amendment.

On Tuesday, the House Rules Committee ruled that amendment in order, as well as a Manzullo amendment to establish inflation-adjusted fees and to keep all filing fees for small business at 50 percent of the base level.

The panel also agreed to permit an amendment by Sheila Jackson-Lee, D-Texas, that would require that PTO contracts for researching patent applicants be awarded to U.S. and minority businesses. ❖

*Most of my
advances were by
mistake. You
uncover what is
when you get rid of
what isn't.*

- R. Buckminster Fuller

**Next Inventors
Meeting**

April 3, 2004

**1:30 PM
at**

*LIGI Tool
&
Engineering*

Visit us at:

InventorsSociety.net

For any comments about the
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email cever@earthlink.net.
Please tell us how the
newsletter and web site
have helped you.

'First to Invent' Letter

Karl R. Smith, Inventor, karlsmithfloodplug@aol.com

The new law is "first to invent"; previous law is "first to have a patent". A month after I got a legal patent, my wife saw the device I invented, stocked on a shelf at a major home improvement store in Pittsburgh. PA. I found out that a third party was the manufacturer and distributor. I filed a legal complaint against the store and the plumbing manufacturer.

In the hearing, the defendant produced a catalog with pictures of my device. This catalog was dated two months before my attorney filed my patent. I filed my paperwork for this patent 18 months before the date of the defendant's catalog. The defendant's attorney argued that my patent was not in existence then and that my 18 months of paperwork was self-serving (since my wife who witnessed my work was deceased). The court agreed with the defendant and I lost my case.

I made a deal. By not appealing the case, the manufacturer agreed to stop manufacturing my device and removed whatever was displayed at the store. I was advised by my attorney to take the deal because if I get into a big lawsuit, I could lose my patent and the plumbing companies could ban me from selling my device.

I was the first to invent but could not prove it legally. I could have made millions if I obtained a notarized signature from the inception date of my idea continuing along the timeline, which demonstrates "Patent in Progress". First time evidence supercedes any provisional or regular patent.

At the February ISSF meeting, I passed a one-page form to the attendees demonstrating the "Patent in Progress" documentation. Be sure to obtain the contact information for the notary in case you have to go to court. ❖

Worldwind Entertainment Wants Inventors

TV and film producer **Reyna Rosenheim** seeks amazing and charismatic inventors and inventions to feature on a new TV reality show. She requires the inventor to make a 5-10 minute tape showing the inventor and their invention, showing how they came up with the idea and how it works. Be sure the camera is on the inventor's face and the invention. For more information, email reyna@worldwindent.com. Mail VHS tapes to Reyna Rosenheim, Worldwind Entertainment, 233 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 400, Santa Monica, CA 90401. ❖

**Inventare Maximus
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