

# Inventors Society of South Florida

## Inventare Maximus

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

January 2004

### Last Call for ISSF Members Directory

As we noted in the November Newsletter and announced at recent meetings, we are attempting to compile an ISSF Members Directory including names, contact information, and areas of expertise of our members. We hope to have the Members Directory available in early 2004. To facilitate this effort, each member was provided a revised Membership Application form with the December 2003 Newsletter. **The revised Application form includes a series of check boxes for members to designate information they would like to have included in the Members Directory.** If you do not want to be included in the Directory, simply do not check any box, however, we once again ask that all members complete and return the revised Application form so that we may update our internal membership records. Please return the completed forms to John Fulton, Jr. before the end of the year: c/o Malloy & Malloy, P.A., 2800 SW Third Avenue, Miami, FL 33129, or by fax: (305) 858-0008.

Unfortunately, a number of members have returned the forms without checking any of the boxes for information to be included in the Members Directory. **IF YOU DO NOT CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX TO INCLUDE INFORMATION IN THE DIRECTORY, WE CANNOT PUBLISH YOUR INFORMATION, SO PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FORM, OR RESUBMIT IF NECESSARY!!!** Additional application forms may be printed from our website at [www.inventorssociety.net](http://www.inventorssociety.net).

With regard to Membership Dues, each member has been provided a statement indicating the date your dues were last paid, and the amount due by the end of this year, for calendar Year 2004. Please note that this will be your **FINAL MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER**. ❖

### 2004 Edison Regional Science and Inventors Fair

The Edison Inventors Association is seeking volunteers to act as judges or as general volunteers for the 2004 Thomas A. Edison Regional Science and Inventors Fair, which will be held at Harborside on Saturday, January 31, 2004. If you would like to volunteer, or are simply interested in spending a Saturday afternoon in the Fort Myers area to provide support and encouragement to the young inventors, please contact **Gary Nelson**, President of the Edison Inventors Association, via e-mail at [DRGHN@aol.com](mailto:DRGHN@aol.com) for details. You may also contact **John Fulton** at (305) 858-8000 for further information. ❖

### Rube Goldberg Invention Contest

**Stephen W. Frey**, President, Inventors Council of Dayton, [swfday@aol.com](mailto:swfday@aol.com)

In honor of that great inventor of a past generation, Rube Goldberg, The Engineers Club of Dayton announces the Rube Goldberg Invention Contest. This is a fun contest in the spirit of Rube Goldberg. Entrants' devices should accomplish some task in a perhaps overly complex series of steps involving moving parts. Rube Goldberg was a creative cartoonist. Check him out on the web if you don't know about his work.

#### Entry rules

- Entries must exemplify the spirit of Rube Goldberg
- Entries may utilize any or all of mechanical, electrical, optical, fluidic, digital or analog principles
- Entries must involve actual physical movement of at least part of the device
- Entries must fit within a space 3 ft. wide, 18 in. deep, and 3 ft. high
- Entries must be self-contained, except that a connection to 110 v. 60 Hz. outlet may be used (i.e., no water line, Internet connection, or other external connection permitted)
- No fluids other than water or alcohol (ethanol or isopropyl but not methanol) are permitted in open containers



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#### SCORE for Inventors

[www.score.org](http://www.score.org) offers a business toolbox, e-newsletters, and a diverse learning center with business tips, 60-second guides, and resources for specific entrepreneurs (Hispanic, women, young, etc.). While visiting the web site, subscribe to the SCORE eNews for the latest in small business news and resources. Also, subscribe to the SCORE Expert Answers eNewsletter. ❖

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## Mission Statement

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



## Officers

President: Abby Waters  
Vice President: John Fulton, Jr.  
Secretary: Joanna Zaremba  
Treasurer: Lucy Pettersen  
Pres Emeritus: Richard Loughlin  
Founding President: Robert White

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Membership and Education: Howard & Paula Silken  
Member Liaison: Joanna Zaremba  
Public Relations: Bill Seymour and Bob Levy  
Good Will Ambassador: Paula Silken

## Contacts

Stuart: 772-287-2224  
Delray Beach: 561-496-1140  
Boca Raton: 561-241-7373  
Broward: 954-486-2426  
Miami: 305-751-5450

## Disclaimer

The Inventors Society of South Florida, Inc. (ISSF) disclaims any responsibility for any financial investment and/or legal, accounting, or other professional advice which may be rendered by individual officers, directors, sponsors, members, speakers and/or guests, at/or as a result of contacts made at any ISSF activity. ❖

- Entries may use components from Erector Sets, Legos, Basic Stamps, or other similar devices, including standard ICs and similar components
- Team entries are permitted
- Entry deadline is Jan 15, 2004. Entry forms must be accompanied by check for \$15.00 made out to Engineers Club of Dayton.
- Judging will take place on Feb 27, 2004, during Engineers Week. Judge's decision is final.
- Photos and videos of the entries may be used by the Engineers Club of Dayton for promotional purposes.

## Judging

- Entries will be judged according to the following criteria:
  - Adherence to the spirit of Rube Goldberg
  - Compliance with the rules for entries
  - Originality
  - Imagination
  - Creativity
  - Humor
- Entries will be judged in two categories
  - Student (full-time high school or college student)
  - Senior (all other entries)
- First, second and third prize awards will be made in each category. ❖

## Rube Goldberg Bio

Paul Niemann, <http://www.InventionMysteries.com>, 800-337-5758

Rube Goldberg was a popular cartoonist whose work appeared in newspapers throughout the United States from the early 1900's to the 1960's. His drawings included sports cartoons, comic strips and political cartoons, but he is best known today for the complicated machines that he drew.

Born in San Francisco in 1883, he earned a degree in engineering upon his father's insistence. This engineering background served as a basis for his cartoons of machine contraptions that would take an easy task, such as swatting a fly, and require at least a dozen steps to accomplish it. Rube made sure that every one of the machines in his drawings could work.

Webster's New World Dictionary describes Rube Goldberg as an adjective: "Designating any very complicated invention, machine, scheme, etc. laboriously contrived to perform a seemingly simple operation."

To illustrate this point, take a look at a typical Rube Goldberg invention -- his method for a simple fly swatter -- without the drawing: Carboic acid (A) drips on a string (B) causing it to break and release elastic of bean shooter (C) which projects ball (D) into bunch of garlic (E) causing it to fall into syrup can (F) and splash syrup violently against side wall. Fly (G) buzzes with glee and goes for syrup, his favorite dish. Butler-dog (H) mistakes hum of fly's wings for door buzzer and runs to meet visitor, pulling rope (I) which turns stop-go signal (J) and causes baseball bat (K) to sock fly who falls to floor unconscious. As fly drops to floor, pet trout (L) jumps for him, misses, and lands in net (M). Weight of fish forces shoe (N) down on fallen fly and puts him out of the running for all time. If fish catches the fly, the shoe can be used for cracking nuts.

In addition to being a Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist and an engineer, Rube was also a sculptor and author, but it was his cartoons that earned him fame and fortune. Many people think that the inventor pictured in his cartoons is Goldberg himself, but it was actually a fictional character that Rube named Professor Butts.

What do Dilbert, Calvin & Hobbes, Garfield and Bart Simpson have in common with Snoopy, Blondie, Hagar the Horrible and Beetle Bailey? Or, to put it another way, what do they all have to do with Rube Goldberg?

Their creators are all past winners of the National Cartoonists Society's Reuben Award, which

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is given out annually to the year's top cartoonist. The "Reuben," as you may have guessed, is named after Rube Goldberg, the Society's first president.

His legacy also includes the various Rube Goldberg Machine Contests that are held each year among engineering students, which honor him by designing machines that use the most complex processes to complete a simple task.

Rube Goldberg succeeded while tens of thousands of other people who created cartoons, inventions and sculptures failed to get them off the ground. Rube Goldberg succeeded by taking an easy task, and telling how to devise a complicated contraption to achieve it.

He died in 1970 at the age of 87. Today, more than 30 years later, his name is synonymous with inventions -- even though he was not an inventor himself. ❖

## Service Corps of Retired Executives Helps Inventors

Marvin Percher, [EMpercher@aol.com](mailto:EMpercher@aol.com)

I am a recent member to the ISSF, having joined the society a scant two months ago. Fortunately, I discovered its presence via your publication that was given to me by a member of SCORE where I volunteer as a counselor. It is a most rewarding volunteer service since it provides FREE assistance for those who are in the throes of product development, marketing, home business, finance, mail order, research, franchising, import & export, accounting, advertising and a host of other areas of business expertise.

Many persons are under the mistaken impression that SCORE is merely a vehicle to borrow money with which to finance a business, or to obtain grants. This is furthest from the truth. The volunteers in this organization, like you & me, started businesses & made good & poor decisions. Fortunately, they made more good ones than bad ones because they were able to stay afloat & succeed in their initial undertaking.

Most start-up businesses fail within one year for lack of the proper planning that ordinarily is needed prior to initiating such a venture, such as a valid business plan which, is designed to spell out projected cash flow, advertising expense, marketing costs, competitive pricing, labor, insurance, existing products, distribution & a multitude of other essentials. These SCORE volunteers can provide you with valuable assistance for FREE, since they have already experienced the pitfalls of a start up business.

On the other hand, if your idea for starting a company is impracticable you will determine this fact for yourself in conversation with these counselors. They will save you a lot of future heartburn & frustration. But, I might add, if you are able to survive in business & succeed in your undertaking you will feel euphoric. It's great to be in business since it provides one of life's great challenges almost as great as marriage.

Another plus is the opportunity to be put in touch with other persons who have business interests or aspirations similar to your own. Since the SCORE offices handle a lot of traffic this is a strong possibility. Moreover, these counselors, with their many years in the business field may be able to suggest persons or companies to contact, perhaps even a personal introduction. (They know a lot of business people.) In short, the message is all too clear "don't leave any stone unturned." Pursue all the opportunities open to you so you will never have to say that "I would have, I should have, I could have" availed myself of this opportunity.

During the course of the two meetings I attended I heard questions asked by members of the ISSF regarding ways of initiating a business, the advantages or disadvantages of an LLC (limited liability corporation) versus a Subchapter "S" corporation or a company. Since the volunteer CPAs on staff at SCORE are well versed in this knowledge, I felt that I should impart this knowledge to the members as well as acquaint them with the real purpose of SCORE which is to *help people help themselves*. ❖

## SCORE Business Plan Contest

A team of SCORE business counselors will judge a business plan contest sponsored by Ford and Diversity Inc. SCORE clients are encouraged to apply for this contest, which will award one grand prize winner with \$50,000 to use towards their business or business idea, and two first prize winners with \$25,000. Visit [www.sscore.org](http://www.sscore.org) for more information on the contest and to find a SCORE counselor to review your business plan. Click on [Ask SCORE](#) to find a counselor available to assist you with your business plan. ❖

### 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 Abby Waters. 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 mailed 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 15<sup>th</sup> St  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442  
877-523-6693  
[www.ligitool.com](http://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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> St, Exit 40; turn right on SW 10<sup>th</sup> St (West); left on Powerline Road; left on SW 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> St (pass the first stoplight on Powerline Rd, look for two cement towers and the **Enterprise Center** sign).

**Contact**  
Abby Waters 561-241-7373  
[abbysideas@aol.com](mailto:abbysideas@aol.com)



The General Meeting is located at  
**Ligi Tool**

**President's Corner**



Sometimes we are our own best company! We had an unusually small turnout, probably due to the chill. I know my inventors probably did not want their hot light bulb ideas to chill. We had one of the most productive meetings sharing our good moves and bad experiences in the inventor jungle. Hats off to Freddy Lee, who assisted in our discussions. And a big thanks to the group for participating.

In discussions I had yesterday with QVC, please go to [www.inventnow.org](http://www.inventnow.org) for a big upcoming event backed by the Inventors Hall of Fame and the USPTO. Also, stay tuned for an Edison Inventors event.

The January 3rd meeting will honor our young inventor award recipient, Andrew Lenoir. He, John Fulton, Howard and Paula Silken, and Cathy VerSchneider will be honored that evening at a private cocktail party.

This year has seen royalties for Freddy, recognition for Eva Thomas, and sadness at the loss of members Bob White, Jay Morton and Dan Abramson. It has been a bittersweet year, but that is life. One thing is certain: our passions will never be extinguished.

I leave you with my poem the inventive writer and wish you all a happy and healthy....words flow freely from my hands lapping waters drenching sands...verbal blanket on the beach rolling words too deep to reach ...thoughts unspoken can be heard through quiet hand and blazing word.....I often question if I'm a writer...no you see...I'm a **THOUGHT IGNITER!**

*Abby*

**The Tale of the Scale: An Odyssey of Invention**

In the mid-1980s, Solly Angel had a technological mini-vision. He saw in his mind's eye a quarter-inch thick personal scale weighing a pound--a travel scale--and he decided to make it a reality, to bring it to market. The Tale of the Scale is a rare first-person account of the process of invention and design as it unfolds in the remaking of the familiar bathroom scale. It is rare because inventors seldom have the inclination to articulate their thought processes and to recount their experiences in great detail.

Written by an inventor, the book stands apart from recent books about inventors. Angel, an urban planner by profession, had no mechanical skills as he embarked on his journey. The Tale records his transformation, over the course of a decade, from a bungling ignoramus to an expert on thin scales. Readers know as much about scales--or about invention for that matter--as Angel does at the beginning of the journey. Listening to Angel's unfolding story, they learn about the intricacies of invention and design as Angel finds out about them. ❖

**The Toy and Game Inventors Handbook**

This handbook (ISBN 1-59257-062-3), published by Alpha Books, is available through local and online bookstores, as well as [www.greatideagear.com](http://www.greatideagear.com). The emphasis is on conceiving, preparing, and selling ideas for the \$30 billion toy industry. ❖

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## How to Research any Company

Research a company with whom you intend to do business! You could type "research a company" at the Google search engine prompt and press the Enter key. Review the return listings and scroll to ones that meet your needs, such as <http://home.sprintmail.com/~debflanagan/> where you will find a business research tutorial presenting a step-by-step process for finding free company and industry information on the World Wide Web! Other research options include:

- Visit [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) and search for the company name.
- Visit your county clerk online (e.g. [www.browardclerk.org/bccoc2/disclaimer.asp](http://www.browardclerk.org/bccoc2/disclaimer.asp) and [http://oris.co.palm-beach.fl.us/or\\_web1/or\\_sch\\_1.asp](http://oris.co.palm-beach.fl.us/or_web1/or_sch_1.asp)) or in person to search for legal documents such as releases, judgments, liens and many other transactions.
- Visit the county clerk online where the company is located (corporate and local addresses).
- Search the BBB online where the company is located (corporate and local addresses) to search for consumer complaints and company standing with the BBB.
- Contact industry groups in which the company may have membership. Is the company a member in good standing? Do they participate in member functions?
- Use a search engine like Google and type the company name with location (e.g. Hines Faucets Florida). Look for information about customers of the company on the web pages listed.
- Use a search engine like Google and type the company name followed by the word 'complaint' or 'customer' or 'customer service' or whatever else you want to learn about the company. No web sites found is a good indication but does not mean there is no information on the search words.
- Visit your public library and ask the reference librarian to guide you to books with information about the company/industry of interest. They will direct you to the Thomas Register and industry specific books that may be of use. Also, ask about periodicals and newspapers relevant to the company's industry.
- Contact Chambers of Commerce in the area via email to inquire of the company's membership and community presence.
- If the company has a web site, search it for a client list, business address, contact person, telephone numbers and email address. The client list may offer a hint of where the client may be contacted. Try contacting the client. If the web site lacks contact information (no geographical address), beware!
- Contact a nearby competitor of the company and suggest that you are calling because the company seemed a bit pricey for the products/services offered.
- When you speak to a company representative, ask for three clients you may call for references. If they give you three references this is a positive indication, although they could be ringers.
- Network: speak to your other team members and business associates about the prospective company; they may know about the company or can ask someone who may know.
- When you introduce yourself at the next ISSF meeting, ask the attendees if any of them know anything about the company!
- Make inquiries through an inventor forum or business forum relevant to the product/service the company provides. Be sure to use a brief, specific and meaningful title for the subject field of your posting.
- Attend a business fair that this company would likely show its products/services and make inquiries of other vendors, perhaps by way of comparison. You need to be familiar with the offerings of the company you want to evaluate. ❖

*Seasons Greetings!*

### 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 167<sup>th</sup> St, Exit 17, turn right on NW 167<sup>th</sup> St (East); Pass 163<sup>rd</sup> Street Mall and turn left on NE 16<sup>th</sup> Ave one block to NE 164<sup>th</sup> St. The library is straight ahead through the stoplight.

**From I-95 Southbound:** Exit at Miami Gardens Dr (N.E. 183<sup>rd</sup> St); Straight through stoplight onto NE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave; left on NE 167<sup>th</sup> St (East); Pass 163<sup>rd</sup> Street Mall and turn left on NE 16 Ave one block to NE 164<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:boblevy@bellsouth.net) ❖



### Business Information

Visit [https://wesley.stanford.edu/library/articles/additional/business\\_sites.html](https://wesley.stanford.edu/library/articles/additional/business_sites.html) for several hundred web sites (listed alphabetically by subject) offering relevant business information at no charge, though some offer additional information for a fee. Some may also require individual user registration (name, address, phone number, email address) prior to displaying data. ❖

### P&T Reference Specialist

Ran Raider, Patent and Trademark Reference Specialist, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435. Tel. 937-775-3521 ❖

### The Hunt is Over

The Hunt for the Next New Hot Consumer Product is over. The Top Ten Finalists and the Grand Prize winner can be seen at <http://www.uiausa.com/HuntUpdate.htm>. ❖

**Inventory Considerations**

- Keep accurate records on what is ordered and what is received
- Have a process for dealing with damaged/returned merchandise. Negotiate this with the vendor when placing an order.
- Know where merchandise will go before it arrives. Typically new merchandise goes in front of the store, older merchandise in the middle of a store and clearance items in the rear.
- Think through how each item or group of items is going to be merchandised to facilitate sales.
- Review sales data weekly.
- On average, half of proceeds from sales goes back into inventory with the other half representing overhead (rent, salaries, fixed costs & profits).
- Every day a piece of merchandise sits on the floor costs the seller money.
- Determine how long merchandise will sell at full price and when it should be marked down. Proper turn rate is determined by several factors including what is being sold, the kind of store and location of the store. The average turn rate for the retail industry is five times per year.
- Do not be out of stock with quick-selling merchandise.
- Create an appropriate timeframe for items. (If you want a turn rate of 4, then items are replaced every 3 months. Therefore unsold items are marked down every 90 days. ❖

**PTAWS Web Site**

The Patent and Trademark Assignments on the Web System, announced in the Official Gazette of August 26, 2003, will be deployed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Web Site in two phases. The first phase, Trademark Assignments on the Web, will be deployed on 12/01/2003. The second phase, Patent Assignments on the Web, will be deployed on 01/26/2004. Please refer to 1273 OG 163, August 26, 2003, for more information concerning the Patent and Trademark Assignments on the Web System. Visit <http://www.uspto.gov/web/assignwebsys/ptaws.htm> ❖

**Canadian Securities**

The **Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA)** and the Canadian Depository for Securities (CDS) have operated <http://www.sedar.com/> since 1997 to make Canadian public securities filings easily accessible to all. Use it to find and retrieve company/mutual fund profiles, SEDAR public securities filings, and the latest news about SEDAR.

The System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval (SEDAR) was developed in Canada for the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) to:

- facilitate the electronic filing of securities information as required by the securities regulatory agencies in Canada;
- allow for the public dissemination of Canadian securities information collected in the securities filing process; and
- provide electronic communication between electronic filers, agents and the Canadian securities regulatory agencies

This web site provides a listing of filings that became publicly accessible in the SEDAR database as of the most recently completed business day.

Information on the rules for electronic filing can be found in [SEDAR Rules and Forms](#). ❖

**Advertiser's Corner**

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tel. 305-893-5989  
cell 305-205-2884  
[boblevy@bellsouth.net](mailto:boblevy@bellsouth.net)

## Securities Information

Fran Finnegan & Company provides [Securities Information](#) from the SEC EDGAR® database for sophisticated business professionals. You can search by Name, Industry, Business, SIC Code, Area Code, Topic, CIK, Accession Number, File Number, Date, ZIP, etc. Fran Finnegan & Company **is not** the SEC, nor the CSA, nor the company whose SEC/CSA filings you may have accessed. Fran Finnegan & Company **publishes** SEC/CSA **electronic filings**, filed by companies, institutions and individuals, as a service.

Beginning in 1996, all U.S. companies that report to the SEC are subject to the SEC's EDGAR® electronic filing requirements. Beginning in 1997, all Canadian companies that report to the CSA are subject to the CSA's SEDAR® electronic filing requirements. Not only the company's own filings, but also most third-party filings with respect to that registrant, have to be filed electronically. Only a few specific filings (such as Form 144 in the U.S.) are exempt from mandated electronic filing.

Foreign private issuers and foreign governments are not mandated to file on EDGAR®, but may do so voluntarily, provided that the filing/form type is available on EDGAR®. ❖

## SEC and EDGAR Database

The primary mission of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is to protect investors and maintain the integrity of the securities markets.

The SEC (<http://www.sec.gov/>) is concerned primarily with promoting disclosure of important information, enforcing the securities laws, and protecting investors who interact with these various organizations and individuals.

### Common violations that may lead to SEC investigations include:

- insider trading: buying or selling a security in breach of a relationship of trust and confidence while in possession of material, non-public information about the security;
- misrepresentation or omission of important information about securities;
- manipulating the market prices of securities;
- stealing customers' funds or securities;
- violating broker-dealers' responsibility to treat customers fairly; and
- sale of securities without proper registration

File a complaint or provide the SEC with tips on potential securities law violations through <http://www.sec.gov/complaint.shtml>, where you will find lots of helpful information including a link to various forms.

The *SEC News Digest* (<http://www.sec.gov/news/digest.shtml>) provides daily information on recent Commission actions, including enforcement proceedings, rule filings, policy statements, and upcoming Commission meetings.

All companies, foreign and domestic, are required to file registration statements, periodic reports, and other forms electronically through EDGAR. Anyone can access and download this information for free. Visit <http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml> to find links to a complete list of filings available through EDGAR and instructions for searching the EDGAR database. ❖

## Internet Resources

- [www.savetz.com/cheappc](http://www.savetz.com/cheappc) has compiled reviews of popular no-frills PCs.
- Computer security expert Fred Cohen provides advice about keeping your information secure at [www.all.net](http://www.all.net). Click on "The Fifty Ways Series".
- [www.couponcraze.com](http://www.couponcraze.com) has printable coupons from retailers like BestBuy, Hallmark and others.
- Get answers to your questions with easy-to-understand explanations and plenty of user-friendly graphics at <http://home.howstuffworks.com>.
- For an interactive guide to how everyday things are made, visit <http://manufacturing.stanford.edu>. Take the jelly bean tour.
- Computer users who have back problems check out [www.office-ergo.com/a.htm](http://www.office-ergo.com/a.htm) for a checklist of potential risky activities and suggestions to prevent further problems.
- The Coalition Against Unsolicited Commercial E-mail ([www.cauce.org](http://www.cauce.org)) focuses on spam issues, pending legislation and the latest news.
- If you need demographic information, visit [www.ameristat.org](http://www.ameristat.org) for instant summaries presented graphically and textually.
- Producers of [www.bestratecreditcard.net](http://www.bestratecreditcard.net) monitor credit card rates daily to provide the best programs and rates available on the Internet.
- Launch your business with help from [www.allbusiness.com/articles/SAB\\_articles.asp](http://www.allbusiness.com/articles/SAB_articles.asp), where you will find information on business plans, incorporating, tax breaks and more. Includes article "Finding Professional Advisors You Can Trust". ❖

*Happy Holidays !!!*

**Dremel Idea Winners**

The 15 winners of the **Dremel Idea Hunt** include ISSF member **Eva Thomas**.

Winners will be awarded a Dremel rotary tool and their ideas will be evaluated for licensing. The winners are: Sol Aisenberg, Olin Brown, Robert Carlsen, Steven Daniels, Richard Eckhardt, George Freedman, Joe Grand, Chris Hoffman, Mike McFall, Rich Pignata, Rodney Shields, Joe Shumaker, Jude Tan, Eva Thomas and Leslie Wallant. ❖

**LIGI Tool**

January 3rd

*Suzanne Lasky*

*&*

*Lee Jennings*

discussing

**Infomercials**

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

**InventorsSociety.net**

For any comments about the content of this newsletter email [cever@ix.netcom.com](mailto:cever@ix.netcom.com)

**Flooding Stopper Invention**

**Karl R. Smith**, [floodplug@aol.com](mailto:floodplug@aol.com)

As a master plumber, I had tried to buy a plumbing fixture backflow valve, but there were none on the market. On one occasion, I was asked to clear an overflowing commode at a pregnant lady's apartment. The problem occurred during a heavy rainfall. The flushing of commodes from upper floors along with the heavy rain made the commode on the first floor overflow with unsanitary waste water.

After looking at the pregnant lady, I was inspired to invent a device that stops commodes from overflowing. I thought if I hide a heavy ping pong ball valve in a belly on the sewer pipe under the toilet, sewer water will back up in the pipe. The baby or ball will flow out of the belly on a track and pop up in the pipe seating itself against the taper inside the mouth of the sewer pipe. When sewer water flows down the pipe, the baby or ball floats back into the pregnant lady belly and goes to sleep until the next flooding. The path of the sewer stays wide open with no obstruction in the sewer pipe due to the pregnant lady belly. ❖

**BizBashFla Magazine**

**BizBashFla** is a new magazine targeting the special events and meeting planner industry. The publication chronicles the vendors and suppliers in the meetings and events industry, focusing on the business of bashes covering the industry from the perspective of planning and staging, but not the events themselves.

The magazine's premier issue was circulated in November. **BizBashFla** will be published six times a year out of the offices of **Communications and Show Management Industry Publishers Inc.** in North Miami. ❖

**Gulf Coast Law**

Joel I. Rosenblatt, Attorney at Law, is a Registered Patent Attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, who practices in the commercial law of technology and the Internet and the law of patents, trademarks, and copyrights. He is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator, a Florida Bar Approved Mediator for Computer Law Disputes, certified as a Mediator and Arbitrator for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida and is admitted to all U.S. District Courts for Florida. Mr. Rosenblatt has a monthly legal column posted at <http://www.gulfcoastlaw.com/Rosen/home.html>. He may be contacted at (321) 727-7626; FAX: 727-8209 or by email to [jrosenblatt@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jrosenblatt@cfl.rr.com). The Gulf Coast Law web is a great place to find a wide range of legal information. ❖

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