

Deep thoughts

Dailly headlines stir endless banter



Lost man's alibi

with Trevor Johnson

Liberal white man wakes up. Brushes teeth. Showers. Starts coffee. Gets newspaper. Headline Reads: "Football great Walter Payton dies at 45 ... Family mourns death."
"Mourns" is skipped over in man's mind. Thoughts race through his head: "Walter Payton won't be able to read this headline this morning. Wonder if he read yesterday's headline? ... He won't know what 2000 is like ..." Says to himself, "Payne Stewart, Wilt Chamberlain, Walter Payton ... hmm, not a good time to be a sports hero."

Next Headline: "wreckage found in Egyptian Flight 990." Under headline man reads: Officials excited to find ...

Man wonders how officials are excited about anything to do with death of 214 people. Probably not such a big deal. Man remembers hearing somewhere that 10,000 people die every day. Wonders if world death toll was up on Sunday when Flight 990 crashed.

What about Walter Payton, Payne Stewart or Wilt Chamberlain? If the overall death count was down, wouldn't it be a better day overall, even if one of them did die?

Thinks, "Maybe every day there should be a section on the number of deaths that happen in the world, sort of like the Dow Jones. 'Dow is up 3.5 percent today, but world death toll falls from 10,761 to 9,811. However, heavy flu epidemic in Western United States promises to push that toll up in coming days.' At least that way people would know who's really crying. Did anyone outside Payne Stewart's family and close friends cry the day he died? Sort of sick if they did."

Coffee pot is beeping. Man looks over. Sees coffee is overflowing. Frantically runs to try and clean up mess. Out of paper towels, no rags available. Uses old newspaper to clean up mess. Burns hand slightly trying clean up mess. Applies ointment. Has to wrap his hand to cover burns.

Man is late to work. Runs to bathroom. Too much coffee. People try and stop him. Ask why his hand is wrapped. Personal headline: "Stupid coffee incident prompts local news."

Man on toilet. Three-day-old paper still on floor. Headline: "Pat Buchanan switches to Reform Party: GOP member reformed."

Sounds like he went to a juvenile detention center. Smells like liberalism. Definitely good for Democrats. Reform the GOP. Can't be Reformed Grand Old Party.

Reformed Old Party? No more GOP.

Other old papers. Headlines: "Bush takes straw poll in Iowa." "Quayle ends GOP campaign."

"Elizabeth Dole backs out of attempt to be first woman in the White House; claims Bush has too much money."

Man on toilet tired of news.

Wonders if anyone else realizes the election isn't for another year. Wonders if U.S. shouldn't copy England, where campaigning lasts for only a month.

Man wipes, zips up his pants. Talks to guy in bathroom about his burnt hand.

Man goes home. New copy of Playboy arrives. Man opens magazine and turns on news.

Woman on TV is saying Bush opponents beware, Bush is not losing the steam that opponents said he was losing.

Man is turned on by woman in magazine. Man realizes that over 90 percent of men in the country masturbate so does not feel guilty. Wonders why there is no coverage on masturbation.

Man thinks if Bush got caught masturbating,

he would certainly lose the election. Gore's a Democrat. He's liberal. He'd get away with it. He can masturbate all he wants. Bush is Republican, his party is conservative, they'd never forgive him.

Democrats can masturbate, Republicans can't.

Gore catches Bush masturbating, gets it on tape, leaks it to the press, becomes president. Screw the issues. There's no coverage on issues. Republicans are repressed. Democrats should take advantage.

Man goes to local bar to have drink. Friend Michelle hands him copy of local college paper, tells him to look at article. Columnist condemns National Coming Out Week for gays. Man puts down paper. Orders drink. Michelle asks what he thinks.

He says he's sick of hearing about people being discriminated against, based on things they can't control. Says he's tired of issue. Sick of yelling at deaf people.

Tells Michelle about the time he was with a lesbian friend, and he bought her the most non-penis-resembling dildo she could find. One of those silver shiny ones. Knew he wouldn't be able to watch. Bought it anyway.

Man says he once let gay friend mired in slump grab his butt and hold on for a while ... to motivate him, get him back on the scene. Man says this is true support for the gay community.

Friend Michelle laughs. They talk about his burnt hand. Her trip to Florida. A few words on Walter Payton. He was a good man. Death was sad. They move on.

Man goes home. Turns on TV.

Evening news. GOP. Elections. Seven die in Hawaii shooting. Suspected shooting plan

gets Cleveland students expelled. Gun control talked about. Abortion protesters harass teens at clinic.

Man shakes his head. Abortion, elections, gun control. Wonders, why are they issues? Why are they still talked about? The answers are too obvious.

Turns off TV. Brushes teeth. Falls asleep. Wakes up. Brushes teeth. Makes coffee. Reads paper. Goes to work. Goes to bathroom. Goes home. Turns on TV. Jacks off. Goes to bar. Goes home. Brushes teeth. Falls asleep. Gets up. Brushes teeth ...

The color of money

Greed becoming demise of capitalism



“He says that one man will continue to want without limits – however many times he can fulfill that desire until the game is over.”

Once upon a time I thought greed was getting away with an unfair trade of baseball cards.

A good decade later, greed is something far different – a way of life in a capitalist world.

And people are getting nothing but greedier. You don't need to look any further than news headlines to see the evidence of it. No, not the Page 1 headlines of the Wall Street Journal. Not even the covers of Money, Wealth or Fortune.

Greed can be found in the Page 8, odd headlines that make their way to the printed page just because they're interesting enough to warrant coverage.

Like Oct. 28's Reuters wire story about how Coca-Cola, already one of the most wealthy corporations in the world, is experimenting with vending machines that would raise the price for a Coke as the temperature outside increases.

So if it's 60 degrees, you may pay 85 cents a bottle. Ninety degrees? Make it a buck.

Greed? You bet. Coca-Cola says it's a simple matter of supply and demand – but I hardly suspect that there will ever be a shortage of Coca-Cola due to a heat

Nothing of hers could be junk!

Yeah, right. Would you pay \$222,500 for six color snapshots of her pet dog? I sure wouldn't – no matter how good her dog might look. It's her DOG, people, not the dress she wore to sing to the president in, not original photos taken of her that appeared in Playboy. We're talking about six color photos of a dog!

Other pieces of junk that sold for big bucks included handkerchiefs for \$12,000 and make-up compacts that went for \$35,000.

Now why anyone would pay \$12,000 for a piece of cloth an "American Legend" blew her nose in is beyond me.

But greed seems to be a pretty good reason. The people at this auction had money to burn, a hunger for Monroe possessions and an inability to stop bidding on six snapshots of a dog originally valued at \$600.

A final Reuters wire story from Oct. 28 might just seal the deal on greed.

This time, the story comes from Hungary. It goes without saying that the men and women living in Hungary aren't materialistic people who try to boast the best lawnmower on the block.

Just ask Attila "Whisky" Ambrus. This man robbed 28 banks before being put in jail. In July, he managed to escape.

Here's where the story gets interesting. In an Internet poll, 1,008 Hungarians hoped "Whisky" wouldn't get caught. Only 91 thought he should wind up behind bars.

And while Ambrus was caught on Oct. 27, many Hungarians saw him as a hero. Kind of like Robin Hood – except he kept every cent he stole.

What does "Whisky" say about greed? Perhaps more than you might think.

He says that one man will continue to want without limits – however many times he can fulfill that desire until the game is over.

And in the process people might love him for it.

It really says a lot about the excesses of capitalism. Each of us wants more – more compact discs, a bigger TV, a better car, a bigger house. And a healthy economy, like Hungarian citizens, urges us on. We want and want until we run out of time and die.

Then our relatives want and want over our last will and testament. And while I'll never denounce capitalism – it is, after all, the most stable economic principle in the world – I will say this:

We'll reach a point where we and everyone else want too much.

Companies will have tried to take too much from us, the government will have tried to take too much from us, and we, too, will have taken too much with the help of pieces of plastic and personal checks.

A healthy economy and capitalist desires don't last forever. Like Marilyn Monroe, her dog, an empty Coke bottle and a Hungarian behind bars – all things are sure to come to an end.

When it does, hopefully we won't be digging into our pockets, searching for something that just might not be there.



SHAWN DRAPAL/DN

wave. And heck, when it only costs you a nickel a bottle to make, perhaps you should just lay the hell off of us poor and thirsty college students.

Or how about another Reuters wire story from the very next day. An auction was held to sell some of Marilyn Monroe's prized possessions. More than \$125 million was spent on Marilyn possessions – many of which were absolute junk.

Marilyn Monroe junk, you say? Impossible! She was a legend, the original sex symbol.

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