

**March, 2005**

### **Social Security is SSIC?**

The Bush administration has created a "Social Security 'war room' to coordinate and refine the the administrations message on the issue" according to the Washington Post article For GOP, Urgency On Social Security dated 1 March 2005. The "war room" is called the Social Security Information Center, SSIC. I ponder the significance and/or coincidence in the naming..... How subliminal!

### **"Murphy's Law" for Commuters**

I don't know if there is a "Murphy's Law" for commuters but there sure should be one...and it should be even more screwed up than the regular one. Today I am driving home a day after we were supposed to have received 4-10 inches of snow. We did not get it but traffic was as light as it has ever been since I started commuting to Sterling from Fredneck six months ago. As bad luck or some evil commuter's Murphy's Law would have it, I get stuck behind someone on 15 N between Leesburg and Point of Rocks who is just barely doing the speed limit. There are no cars in sight in front of this individual. This is not a fluke, it has happened before. The less traffic during rush hour, the greater chance of getting stuck behind some non-driving moron!

It is bad enough that 15 is one lane each way, 45 MPH, and fronted by more wealth than I can conceive of. Accordingly this road is not likely to get widened in my lifetime. If it does, I will have lived too long! Too add insult to injury, they recently installed a stoplight at the corner of 28 and 15 in Point of Rocks just on the north side of the bridge over the Potomac. Going south the light is after a blind, downhill corner...can't wait for a semi to screw that one up. Heading north, you can enjoy sitting on the bridge over the Potomac wondering how many cars the bridge can really support. If you are really lucky, like I was today, you can hit the light on a red behind a tractor trailer. Just wait for that bad johnny to get up to speed on the hill up from the river! You're smokin now baby!

### **Debatable Social/National Security**

I like these debates about how to take care of problems like the future inability to fund Social Security and Medicare and the issues of legal/illegal immigration to the U.S. It seems to me that we should focus on ensuring that immigrants, be they legal or illegal, are productive members of society and not leeches on our social welfare system.

Try to keep the criminals and miscreants out but document those that work productively and tax them. I should think that, though many of these workers start out at the bottom of the pay scale, they will escalate themselves to a position where their contributions to the tax base and Social Security will be significant.

I am probably way off base on the significance of these contributions. If anyone has any figures on how much money the U.S. could make if everyone paid their taxes and how it would affect our national deficit, I would love to hear it.

Don't even get me going on corporate loopholes and offshore tax shelters. That's a whole other story.

### **Business Smarts (and it hurts too)**

From my experience, when there is a computing emergency in the work environment, everyone wants everything all the time. But forget about it if it is a Friday night. No one answers your email or responds to your calls. Come Monday morning, everyone wants your balls.

### **Shopping for My Kitty**

Went to PetsMart today to get cat food. That place is a freakin' zoo!

### **Inappropriate Word Usage**

What does it mean if you are ill or injured and are in "grave condition?" Are you seriously afflicted or ready to be buried?

## **How Big is "Small" Government**

I had a good rant going the other night on the current predominantly Republic administration and legislature but I accidentally blew it away. Ya hit one wrong button and, bam, your post is gone, or if you are George Bush, nuclear Armageddon.

Anyhow, my understanding is that Republicans and conservatives in general are opposed to big, intrusive governments. Yet this one cannot keep out of the "Right to Live or Die in Fla" case or the MLB steroids issue. Do we not have bigger issues such as an overly extended military, huge budget and trade deficits, weak economy, AID's, poverty, global warming, terrorism, etc? Will this anti-big government stop "Schiavo"ing its nose where it does not belong and start worrying about their own "roid" problem?

## **To Serve or Not to Serve**

This chaps me more than a little. According to the Washington Post, Monday, March 28, 2005, "some pharmacists across the country are refusing to fill prescriptions for the birth control and morning after pills." Read the article "Pharmacists' Rights at Front Of New Debate." The refusals are based mostly on religious beliefs.

Get it out of the workplace! Asking to wear a yarmulke or a veil is different. It impacts you personally but does not have to impact your customers...they can go elsewhere if it bothers them. But if your job requires you to provide a public service that is repugnant to your religious, social, or religious beliefs, then get another job!

What is next? Am I as a computer support technician going to refuse to provide support for users who espouse views different from mine be they religious, social, or political? This is f'ing ridiculous. No publicly traded company should support an employee who performs their job based on religious, social, or political standards. You work, you provide a service or a product, and you get paid. If you don't like it, suck it up and get another f'ing job.

Next thing you know, I will stop providing technical support to users because I think they are stupid. There's a career builder....