
Posted on Mon, May. 28, 2007

LOOSE CHANGE

Editor's note: The original version of this report contained incorrect pricing information for the Mfuel Universal Power Bank.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. Promoters of *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer* altered 40,000 quarters, adding a colorized character. The U.S. Mint called the scheme illegal.
2. Perfluorooctanoic acid, a carcinogen associated with the manufacture and use of Teflon, is in the blood of nearly every American, new research shows.
3. Hamptons real estate yardstick: Lobster price at the gourmet shop in Sagaponack, N.Y. When you can spend \$100 a pound for lobster salad, what's \$15 million for a home on Long Island?
4. A large study testing the heart safety of Avandia is in trouble. Patients are quitting after hearing reports of risks.
5. Some 2-ounce bottles of Similac Special Care 24 Ready-to-Feed Premature Infant Formula are being recalled. Info: 888-899-9182.

GADGET

Mfuel Universal Power Bank

What it does:

With a single high-capacity (9,200 mAh) lithium ion battery, this supplies power to run or charge one or two portable electronic devices, such as digital cameras, music players, laptops and cellphones.

What it comes with:

World Jack travel plug with compatible tips (12 notebook, eight cellphone, two Ethernet and six USB) for universal compatibility, two 6-foot retractable power/data cables and a travel bag.

Key features:

This will power a laptop computer for up to 12 hours while away from an outlet. A display on the battery indicates the battery level and approximate charging time, along with how much time is left to power devices.

Other features: The Mfuel Web site has a guide to see if a tip is made for a specific device.

Size: 10 x 4 x 1 inches; weighs 1.5 pounds

Where to get it: www.mfueldirect.com, www.amazon.com, and Airport Wireless Palm stores.

Cost: Check dealers

-Gregg Ellman, 817-390-7717

Read it

Not all venomous reptiles rattle before they strike -- or can be readily discerned by distinctive markings. That is also true of those people who are prone to poison the workplace with predatory and psychopathic behavior, say psychologists Paul Babiak and Robert D. Hare in *Snakes in Suits*. They provide survival

guidance for all workers to help spot workplace psychopaths and pinpoint the tactics they use to manipulate and deceive to achieve their objectives. They offer antivenin for the different varieties of snakes that slither into corporations.

Snakes in Suits: When Psychopaths Go to Work

By Paul Babiak, Ph.D., and Robert D. Hare, Ph.D.

\$16.95

-- *Cecil Johnson is a Fort Worth freelance writer*

THE RIGHT LOOK FOR THE OFFICE

Too much exposed skin is never appropriate at the office, according to etiquette expert Mary Crane. She offers these wardrobe tips:

Check the culture of your organization; what's acceptable at a hip Internet startup may get you kicked out of a conservative law firm.

For women, skirts, dresses or shorts should rise no higher than two inches above the knee. Nothing above the ankle is acceptable for men.

Plunging necklines have no place in the office, on men or women. The same goes for flip-flops.

-- *The Associated Press*

THE WORRIES OF ENTREPRENEURS

If you've ever wondered about the burdens of entrepreneurship, here's the latest evidence.

Only 59 percent of small-business owners will take a vacation this summer. That compares with an average of 67 percent of small-business owners over the past four years, according to a survey by American Express.

Their fears?

39% say they fear a favored client won't get the service they expect.

26% don't trust staff judgment calls.

25% fear that the staff will slack off.

-- *Star-Telegram*