

Just in case it matters to you:

- **EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY IS ON THE RISE DUE TO TOUGHER TIMES**, so many companies have been expanding internal software controls – particularly over computer protection and expense reporting – with “continuous monitoring and surveillance of electronic records.” Employees rationalize cheating and outright theft with attitudes like: ‘I have no choice,’ ‘I’m underpaid and being exploited,’ or “I could get laid off anyway, so might as well dip in while the getting’s good... According to a Deloitte survey, two-thirds of executives expect insider crime to rise in the next two years...and managers are eager to crack down on fraud which, on average, equals 7% of revenues” according to the Ass’n of Certified Fraud Examiners. DCG has assisted clients in implementing cost-effective systems for decades; let us help you be proactive. [BUSINESSWEEK – Feb 15, 09]
- **‘CYBER-HEDONISM’ IS THE NEW TERM DESCRIBING THE TREND OF YOUNG INTERNET SURFERS** “exposed to facts, sights, sounds and a range of interlocutors that are far beyond their parents ken, ...to be giving up the political struggles of previous generations and opting instead for a sort of digital nirvana – revelling in a vast supply of movies, music, instant communication and, of course, sexual opportunity.” Virtual travel tours, online gambling, “teenagers with odd hairstyles gathering to engage in electronic kissing” and pornography have all captured the attention of global youngsters to a point where idealists are concerned about the extent to which today’s global youth are *using* their internet access, and whether their future is headed towards “trying to change the world, or simply settling for enjoying themselves... preferring pleasure-seeking to politics... Political leaders and religious establishments are placed in a dilemma by the rise of cyber-hedonism: do they follow their youngsters onto the net, or try vainly to lure them away from the computer?” [THE ECONOMIST – Feb 7, 09]
- **“FOR EVERY EXTRA HOUR A TEEN SPENDS WATCHING TV OR PLAYING VIDEOGAMES** on an average day, he or she is 8% more likely to develop depression as an adult,” based on a several year study of 4,000 adolescents. It seems that “being parked in front of a screen often replaces positive social, academic and athletic activities that give kids a sense of mastery and self-respect. Instead it teaches them to be passive, and to judge themselves against fictional characters whose looks and accomplishments seem out of reach...changing a normal brain to a depressive one.” Big surprise. [THE WEEK – Feb 20, 09]
- **IMPORTANT FOR CALIFORNIA ‘FLOW-THROUGH’ ENTITIES (P-ships, S-corps, LLCs):** The budget mess has prompted Franchise Tax Board to more fully scrutinize entities which are required to (even though many do not) withhold income taxes on ‘foreign’ (i.e. non-resident) partners, independent contractors, trust/estate beneficiaries and rental income/royalty recipients. The law requires such withholding based on allocated income, regardless of whether such amounts are distributed to the partner/beneficiary/recipient. FYI, a catch-up Program (essentially amnesty without penalty) is in effect until March 16 for past transgressions. Remember that an ‘audit’ often goes way beyond the initial issues at risk.
- **“A GLASS OF WINE OR BEER A DAY CAN HELP TO STAVE OFF SEXUAL IMPOTENCE.”** An Australian study of nearly 1,600 men “who drank moderately, found them up to 30% less likely to experience sexual difficulties later in life than those who didn’t drink at all.” This is consistent with previous studies concluding that “drinking a glass of wine a day promotes cardiovascular health, thanks to the anti-oxidants, and men with healthy circulatory systems maintain sexual function longer in life... This calls for a toast.” [THE WEEK – Feb 13, 09]
- **THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK:** ***We hold these truths to be self-evident: You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down. You cannot build character and courage by taking away people’s initiative and independence. You cannot help people permanently by doing for them, what they could and should do for themselves.*** - Abraham Lincoln

“U.S. paper dollars carry the world’s highest level of cocaine traces, up to 30 micrograms per bill, depending on the year and city. Some 1996 bills registered more than 1300 micrograms.”

Secrets for men desiring happier relationships: Whenever you’re wrong, admit it; Whenever you’re right, shut up; Accept reality – as Sigmund Freud put it: “I had some words with my wife, and she had some paragraphs with me.”