Bet You Missed It -- Press Clippings -- In the News -- Carefully Selected by Your Crack Team of News Sleuths

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Biting The Hands That Feed It
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Two years ago, Bertelsmann, the world’s fifth largest media company, abandoned its efforts to become an AOL-Time Warner and refocused on publishing, its traditional trade. It closed the NY office to remain stodgily German.

But then in a surprise move, it merged its music division BMG with Sony Corp’s to become Sony BMG. Enter Avril Lavigne, Britney Spears, Aerosmith and Bob Dylan. How’s that for stodgy?

Now they’re on the front-lines of the music piracy business. They see themselves handling it through a combination of 99 cent pricing, user-friendly downloads and — yes, litigation. And they want a bigger piece of the artists’ share to compensate for losses.


All Is Vanity
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Hollinger International, the brain-child of Conrad Black, owns multitudes of small newspapers and big ones like the Chicago Sun Times and the Telegraph. But now Black has been shoved out and an investigation by a board committee has detailed how he ripped the company off via lavish expense account living and exorbitant fees to management companies he owned.

Black had a gay old time while it lasted. $42,000 tab for an intimate dinner for 80 at La Grande, $90,000 to refurbish the Rolls Royce. $218,4 million in management fees to his outside companies doing the work he was supposed to be doing as CEO.

Litigation rages, and board members like Henry Kissinger are growing distinctly uneasy. They seem to have rubber-stamped all these expenditures while the board functioned “more like a social club or public-policy association” than as a real life board with fiduciary duties.


And Speaking of Hubris
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Google’s attempt to cut out Wall Street backfired and forced them to halve the offering size and slash the price. The hottest IPO of the 21st century finally muddled through. $108-to-$135 became $85-to-$95. Which was where the Wall Street analysts had estimated the price to begin with.

And then there was the famous Playboy interview that riled the SEC with its “quiet period” rule barring public solicitation by the company.


Adventures in Librarianship
from page 88

will evaluate pricing schemes for commercial database access. Graduate-level calculus and statistics coursework is required. Some casino experience is preferable.

- Candidate will be responsible for the Library’s home page. This involves adapting to the changing needs of the University, the Library, its patrons, mark-up languages, and the information marketplace. Please include with your application an itemized list of your current anti-depressants. Generic names only, please.
- Candidate must demonstrate a commitment to customer service and should not have continued on page 90