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

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Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Column Editor: Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Editor’s Note: Hey, are y’all reading this? If you know of an article that should be called to Against the Grain’s attention … send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>. We’re listening! — KS

DROWNING IN A SEA OF SPAM
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

You know online video has come of age when it gets flooded by spam. Now you’re not limited to spam email. Type in “Britney Spears” and you’ll find a user has submitted misleading keywords to describe her. A recent search of “Playstation Xbox Nintendo PSP” resulted in an ad clip on touring Argentina, shots of super hot fashion models, a German parade and a pirated clip of a concerti by the band Queen.

And why do people do this? Free advertising of course. But some are merely after notoriety.


NON-STOP NUISANCES OF LIFE
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

A marvelous top-ten list of the modern world’s most hated inventions: high heels, jet skis, leaf-blowers, automated telephone assistance, television, video games, bass amplifiers, neckties, car alarms and last but not least, cell phones.


THE DIGITAL FUTURE GROWS FUZZIER
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Viacom is suing Google over copyright violations on YouTube. The defense claims it takes down clips when the owner complains and this procedure is provided for in the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998. This safe harbor was designed to protect access providers, search engines, Web-hosting services and others. Viacom argues the protection ends when a video site begins making money from the infringing behavior.


THE US GOES LIMP ON PROPERTY RIGHTS
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Abbott and Sanofi-Aventis will no longer be marketing new drugs in Thailand following the Thai government demand for compulsory licenses that would permit the production of generic copies. Now Thailand has cranked the threats up to a near-berseker level by threatening to hold Western tourists hostage in the event of a flu outbreak if vaccine is not provided free.

HHS secretary Michael Leavitt has developed a mild spine and sent a protest that hostage taking would “appear to contravene the spirit and provisions of the revised International Health Regulations” for curbing the global spread of disease.