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**BUZZWORTHY**

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**JUNE 10, 2004**

**Life fails to imitate art**

Valuable Life Lesson No. 3,141: Mary Poppins to the contrary, [umbrellas do not make viable parachutes](#).

(**Updated:** Original link replaced with one that shouldn't require registration.)

Category: [You can't make this stuff up](#)  
 Posted by [Brian Chin](#) at 07:17 PM (Permalink) | Comments (0)

**Good as a raise**

You'll just have to imagine that I'm typing this with a deadpan expression.

The most e-mailed story from the Wall Street Journal this week is [Pleasure Principle: Study Says More Sex Akin to Higher Pay](#).

Category: [You can't make this stuff up](#)  
 Posted by [Brian Chin](#) at 07:07 PM (Permalink) | Comments (0)

**Offshoring quantified**

The U.S. Labor Department today released [the first official numbers](#) on how many American jobs have been lost to overseas outsourcing.

Bottom line: Out of the 239,361 non-agricultural, private-sector jobs lost in the first quarter of 2004, a total of 4,633 were associated with "the movement of work outside of the country," according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' preliminary data. Another 9,985 jobs were lost to "domestic relocation of work."

As Reuters [sums it up](#):

The bulk of outsourced jobs never leave U.S. shores, the government said on Thursday in a new report suggesting concerns over American workers losing jobs to cheaper foreign labor may be exaggerated.

The Associated Press [notes](#) that "the Labor Department figures aren't comprehensive. They only include layoffs at companies employing 50 workers or more, where at least 50 people filed for unemployment benefits during a five-week period and were out of work for more than 30 days. About a third of all mass layoffs extend for more than 30 days, the report said."

Category: [Zeitgeist watch](#)  
 Posted by [Brian Chin](#) at 03:01 PM (Permalink) | Comments (1)

**Most annoying co-workers**

Hall Monitors. Repeating Rifles. Screaming Me-mes. Those are some of the 15 personality types that St. Louis Post-Dispatch readers nominated for [a list of annoying co-workers](#).

It's a follow-up to an earlier list of the [top 10 office annoyers](#) compiled by the paper. That one includes classics such as Loud Talkers and Super Parents but, frankly, isn't as entertaining.

Category: [Zeitgeist watch](#)  
 Posted by [Brian Chin](#) at 01:10 PM (Permalink) | Comments (0)

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- Get published -- instantly

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The [InstaBook Maker](#) isn't just for vanity publishing, though. It can also produce bound copies of any of 10,000 public-domain works stored on the company's servers, downloaded on demand.

Category: [March of progress](#)

Posted by [Brian Chin](#) at 09:38 AM ([Permalink](#)) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

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## Seattle Post-Intelligencer

101 Elliott Ave. W.  
Seattle, WA 98119  
(206) 448-8000

Home Delivery: (206) 464-2121 or (800) 542-0820

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