



"I never should have helped transfer that cash for that nice Nigerian who e-mailed me."

VIKRAM PANDIT
CITIGROUP CEO, EXPLAINING WHY HIS COMPANY NEEDED A CONGRESSIONAL BAILOUT



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CARBOLIC SMOKE BALL HEADLINES

Obama names TV pitchman Billy Mays his new press secretary

Ford CEO urges all male CEOs to lower salaries to \$1, all female CEOs to 77 cents

Owner of local Army-Navy store conflicted about outcome of Army-Navy game

More men with erectile dysfunction opting for claymation

Assaults, maimings down this year as shoppers prepare to welcome Christ

READERS RESPOND:
Which Endangered Entity Should Congress Rescue?



- Detroit Automakers
- The Detroit Lions
- The CBS Evening News w/ Katie Couric
- Wal-Mart Stock Clerks

Big Three to Congress: 'We'll do whatever, except build a better car'

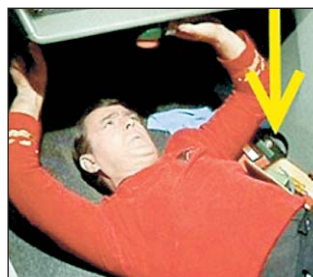
WASHINGTON — Detroit's Big Three automakers told Congress they will do whatever the lawmakers want in exchange for a \$34 billion bailout, but they drew the line at building a decent car.

"We will slash executive salaries and forego bonuses," the automakers' lobbyist Noah Swayne told Congress. "We will force the unions and suppliers to renegotiate their contracts. But we insist on our right to put out a subpar, second-rate, shoddy product."

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid asked Mr. Swayne if the Big Three could meet Japanese automakers' quality standards within five years. A perplexed look shot across Swayne's face. "Senator, until just now when you mentioned it, Detroit was totally unaware that the Japanese were making automobiles."



Tools lost in space turn up in old 'Star Trek' episode



The tools that accidentally floated away from a shuttle astronaut into space last week were identified as the same tools used in an episode of the original "Star Trek" series broadcast in 1967.

Objects lost in space frequently turn up in old televi-

sion programs that are set in the future because of a space-time continuum scientists are unable to explain.

For example, the robot's head in the old "Lost in Space" series was actually a light fixture from the men's room of the International Space Station.



Hear da JUDGE

By the Hon. Rufus Peckham
Editor of Carbolic Smoke Ball

Dear readers: It's time for the annual office holiday party. Most people dread these affairs, but that's because they don't realize they are a most appropriate forum to get things off your chest, to settle scores, and to show up your co-workers.

First and foremost, you need to drink to excess. Only then will you lose your inhibitions and "tell it like it is."

Contrary to popular belief, bosses respect subordinates who throw drinks in their faces, swear at them, and angrily smear food on their shirts.

Second, be stand-offish. This will tell people, "I'm a serious person who has no time for you." Make sure you hold a plate in one hand and a drink in the other, so it's impossible to shake hands.

It is much better to be feared than to be liked.

Better yet, skip the whole thing, and you'll really make an impression.

Happy holidays!

BUCS GM TRADES 3 PLAYERS FOR OVERCOAT



Pirates' General Manager Neal Huntington arrived in Las Vegas for Baseball's Winter Meetings and told every GM who would listen that he is willing to trade up to three players for an overcoat and matching scarf.

Huntington hopes to have the same success in trades that he had last season when he traded outfielder Jason Bay to the Red Sox for an ironing board and an appliance to be named later.

Huntington also unveiled the team's 2009 slogan: "The 2009 Pirates: Why Bother?"



'He shot his eye out!'

The kid from "A Christmas Story," all grown up, returned to his childhood home to serve a civil complaint on his father. The lawsuit contends the kid's father was negligent for giving him a Genuine Red Ryder 200 Shot Carbine Action Air Rifle.