

THE VENDING MACHINE

Dispensing news and views of the vending industry

June 20, 2011

 "adopt a pet today" 

by Tony L. Buckholz

POST CARD REMINDER

Keep those postcards coming. We have only received a handful so far, so your chances of winning the gumball machine just went up!!!!

Please think of us while you're on vacation and we will give you a six-pack of TastyKakes. Also, whoever sends in a card from the farthest away place wins a gumball machine and gumballs. Postcard must be postmarked by August 31, 2011. Don't forget to include your name and where you work. The only rules are that you must work where we have our vending machines, and only one six pack per person. Send your postcard to us at 1000 Commons Boulevard, Reading, PA 19605.

HOW ARE WE DOIN'?

Don't forget that we are always available to meet with you to discuss any concerns, issues, or suggestions you might have regarding our services. Communication with our clients is vital to our continuous improvement. Any feedback you might have greatly helps in our efforts to provide you with superior service.

"GOOD" NEWS

Tony L. Buckholz, our President & CEO, was recently re-elected to a second term as the President of the Tri-State Automatic Merchandising Council. The Tri-State AMC represents the common business interests of vending machine operators, product suppliers, and related industry service companies in the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

Tony, who has served as a member of the Tri-State board of directors for over 20 years, was re-elected during the council's annual meetings held at the Caesar's Resort in Atlantic City in early June.

PINCH HITTERS

About this time of year you might be saying "who's that guy servicing our machines?". The answer is that he is probably a temporary service person cause your regular guy is on vacation.

Most of the time your "new" guy will be an experienced person who is either a "route jumper" or a supervisor. He has been given instructions on how and what to service from our regular service specialist. Even though service and cleaning instructions are all spelled out for him, you can bet that something tragic may

happen. You may get to many Cheetos instead of your favorite Doritos, or chocolate cupcakes instead of your beloved Krimpets. Please just grin and bear it, the "old guy" will be back soon.

Incidentally, you may not realize it but while most people enjoy themselves soaking up the sun and the sights at the shore, our service specialists say they have a tough time on vacations. They just lay on the beach and worry, wondering if their customers are being served correctly and if their machines are clean, full and working!

WHERE'S MY CHOCOLATE???

This is the time of the year when we start listening to the weather forecasts and prepare for the inevitable rising temperatures. Warm weather means we have to be careful when it comes to chocolate candy. The lower the melting temperature, the smoother the chocolate tastes. Confectioner's chocolate (the yummy stuff) contains cocoa butter. It not only melts faster than chocolate, but also if it gets too warm, the cocoa butter will separate, rise to the top, and turn a grayish color. Consumers refer to this as "old" or "stale" candy. The other type of chocolate is composition chocolate, and is used mostly as a warm weather replacement. Some popular bars that are covered with composition chocolate are Baby Ruth, Butterfingers, and Peanut Chews.

Because there is air-conditioning in many locations, we will be using more confectioner's chocolate this spring and summer. We will try to transport it in coolers in our trucks. If there is no air-conditioning in your location, we will continue to do as in the past - a few more jellies, hard candies, and licorice, along with the popular composition chocolate bars

HUMOR BREAK

According to PoynterOnline Multimedia Editor Larry D. Larsen, the following headlines have actually appeared on news stories. Here are a few of his favorites:

- Flying moose lands on car
- Snowstorms may be precursor of winter.
- Police find body in cemetery
- Flaming car with body inside labeled "suspicious" by police.
- Authorities seek flasher - Police say "man typically wears no pants".