

Parting Shots

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Incoming WTCA President Embraces Casual Dress Code on Capitol Hill

This Ohio man and future WTCA President was spotted on Capitol Hill at the 2005 WTCA Legislative Conference wearing an exquisite fine-grade Italian wool suit and bright white New Balance sneakers, proof that you can be comfortable and still get the job done. The man, known best for sporting Component Manufacturer-chic style, told industry peers, "Comfort has been the key to my success."

Well Don, you can be proud of one thing: New Balance are made in the USA!

Independence Day by the Numbers

[SOURCE: www.kwbx.com/news/headlines/1656632.html]

Americans celebrated this Independence Day with food, fireworks and fun, and the U.S. Census Bureau is keeping track of the numbers.

296.5 MILLION: Projected number of U.S. residents on this July 4th. Back in July 1776, there were about 2.5 million people living in the colonies. (2005 population from unpublished data; 1776 population from Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970.)

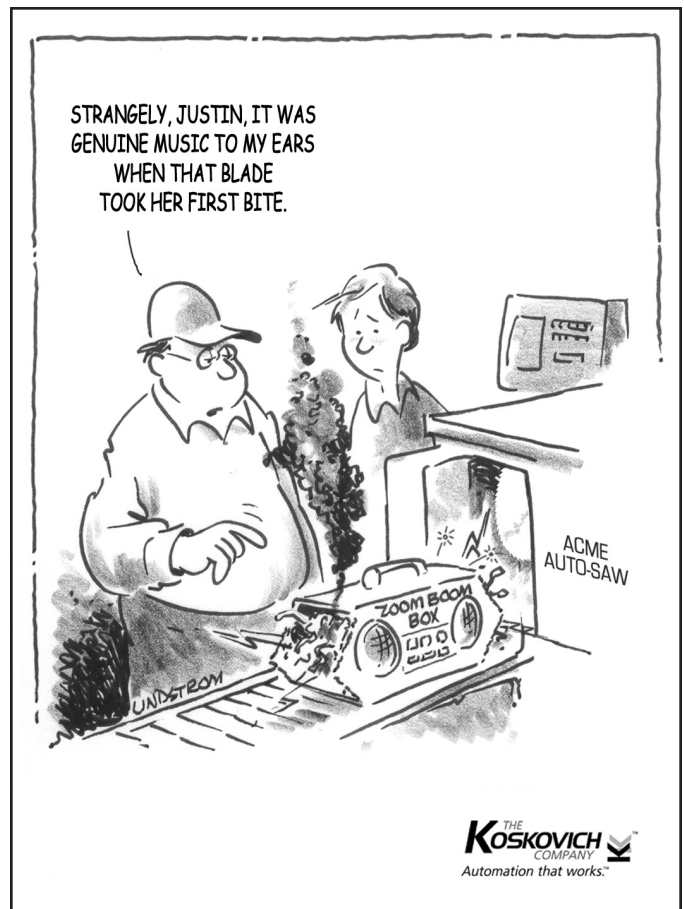
150 MILLION: Number of hot dogs (all varieties) expected to be consumed by Americans on the Fourth. (That's one frankfurter for every two people.) There's about a 1-in-4 chance that the hot dogs made of pork originated in Iowa, as the Hawkeye State had a total inventory of 16.2 million hogs and pigs on March 1, 2005. This represents more than one-fourth of the nation's total. (Data on hot dog consumption courtesy of the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council.)

NEARLY 69 MILLION: Number of Americans who said they have taken part in a barbecue during the previous year. It's probably safe to assume a lot of these events took place on Independence Day.

\$164.2 MILLION: The value of fireworks imported from China in 2004, representing the bulk of all U.S. fireworks imports (\$172.5 million). U.S. exports of fireworks, by comparison, came to just \$14.3 million in 2004, with Japan purchasing more than any other country (\$4.7 million).

\$5.2 MILLION: The dollar value of U.S. imports of American flags in 2004; the vast majority of this amount (\$4.8 million) was for U.S. flags made in China.

34 MILLION: The number of foreign-born residents in the United States in 2004; they accounted for 12 percent of the nation's total population. Another 30 million Americans were "second-generation," meaning that at least one of their parents was born abroad.



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