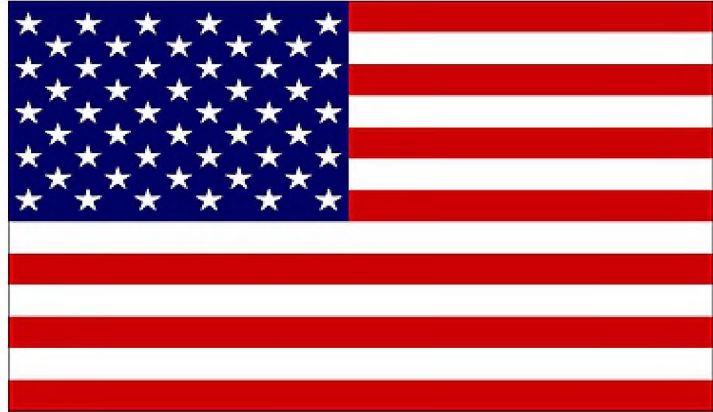


Law and Disorder

Stateside



A prankster smeared glue on the toilet seat at the Home Depot store in Louisville, Colo., causing Bob Dougherty to stick to it when he sat down. “This is not Home Depot’s fault,” he proclaimed, yet the store graciously offered him \$2,000 anyway. Dougherty complained the offer is “insulting” and filed suit demanding \$3 million.



Barbara Connors of Medfield, Mass. was being driven by her 70-year-old(!) son-in-law when they crashed into the Connecticut River, and sank. Rescue divers arrived within minutes and got her out alive, but Connors suffered brain damage from her near-drowning. Not only did she sue the driver, but she also sued the brave rescue workers who risked their lives to save hers.



Michelle Knepper of Vancouver, Wash. picked a doctor out of the phone book to do her liposuction, and went ahead with the procedure even though the doctor was only a dermatologist, not a plastic surgeon. Following complications, she complained that she never would have chosen that doctor had she known he wasn’t Board Certified in the procedure. (She relied on the phonebook listing over asking the doctor, or looking for a certificate on his wall). So she sued the phone company! She won \$1.2 million plus \$375,000 for her husband for “loss of spousal services and companionship.”



Rhonda Nichols says a wild bird “attacked” her outside a home

improvement store in Fairview Heights, Ill., causing head injuries. Nichols held the Lowe’s store responsible for “allowing” wild birds to fly around free in the air. She never reported the incident to the store, but still sued for “at least” \$100,000 in damages. The case was thrown out of court.



Barnard Lorence of Stuart, Fla. Lorence managed to overdraw his own bank account. When the bank charged him a service fee for the overdraft, he filed suit over his “stress and pain” and loss of sleep over the fee. A few hundred thousand bucks, he says, will only amount to a “slap on the wrist”, whereas the \$2 million he’s suing for is more like being “paddled”.



Wanita “Renea” Young of Durango, Colo. got scared when she heard two neighbourhood teens who had teens baked cookies for their neighbours as an anonymous gesture of good will, on her front porch. They apologized, in writing, but Young sued them anyway for causing her distress, demanding \$3,000. When she won \$900, she crowed about it in the newspaper and on national TV, but now, is shocked that everyone in town hates her for her spite, and is afraid she may have to move.



Christopher Roller of Burnsville, Minn. is mystified by professional magicians, so he sued David Blaine and David Copperfield to demand they reveal their secrets to him, or else pay him 10% of their lifelong earnings, which he calculates as

\$50 million for Copperfield and \$2 million for Blaine. Roller claims that the magicians defy the laws of physics, and thus must be using “godly powers” and since Roller is god (according to him), they’re “somehow” stealing that power from him.



The Tribune Co. newspaper chain of Chicago, Ill. owns several newspapers, as well as the Chicago Cubs baseball team. One of its newspaper carriers was Mark Guthrie, 43, of Connecticut. One of its ball players was Mark Guthrie, 38, of Illinois. The company’s payroll department mixed the two up, putting the ballplayer’s paycheck into the paper carrier’s bank account. The carrier allowed them to take back 90 percent of the improperly paid salary, and said they could have the rest after they gave him a full accounting to ensure he not only got his own pay, but wouldn’t have any tax problems for being paid \$300,000(!) extra. The Tribune Co., rather than provide that reasonable assurance, instead sued him for the rest of the money.



Sharper Image sells a lot of its “Ionic Breeze” air filters. As part of a comparative review of many air filters, Consumer Reports magazine (CU) found the “Ionic” unit was the worst performer. SI complained, saying it didn’t do a “fair” test. CU asked what sort of test should be done, but SI never replied until it sued CU. A federal judge ruled the suit not only had no merit, but was actually an illegal attempt to squelch public discussion. SI was ordered to pay CU \$400,000 in costs. ●