

Posted on: Sunday, August 9, 2009

Casting your fate to the wind

By Charles Memminger

It is hurricane season and two storms have already headed our way from the coasts of Mexico and Central America. This is an "El Nino year," which means that weather pattern will be directing storms toward Hawai'i the way a bowler aims for the ten pin. The main thing is to be prepared should a hurricane come our way. Here are some tips that should help keep you safe, or at least amused:

- Take videos of your house before you leave for the hurricane shelter. This will enable you to later identify your house out of the pile of houses that have been blown down the street like Monopoly pieces. And if you can't find your house after the storm, you'll still have the video to show your grandkids.
- Consider booking a room in a nearby town or state. That's what the official "Hurricane Tips" list says. Doesn't really work in Hawai'i, since if your town is in danger it's likely every town on the island is, too. And from Hawai'i, the closest nearby state isn't even nearby. If you have the bucks, go to Las Vegas. You'll be able to bet on the latest odds that you'll find your house when you get home.
- If you have compromising photos at home of your boss making hoochie-koochie with the members of the office night cleaning staff that you are keeping for job security purposes, they should be relocated to a safe-deposit box in a storm-proof bank. Any special photos of your family (i.e., children growing up, graduations, successful parole hearings, etc.) should also be moved to a safe location, but the boss photos are the most important.
- Put your pet in a secure location. Duct-taping your dog or cat to your garage wall is not a great idea. It would be better to duct-tape them to a shower stall. If you don't have duct tape, use a surfboard leash — that way at least they'll stay with the house.
- Stockpile a "hurricane kit" to help you get through the post-hurricane days, when there is likely to be no power or water. The kit should include beer, water, beer, Spam, beer, duct tape, beer, flashlights, beer, candles, beer, beef jerky, beer, potato chips, beer and beer. Also: beer. Your corner bar also could be considered your "hurricane kit," since it comes already stocked with the necessities.
- If you decide to stay in your house during the hurricane proper, be prepared to experience some unusual atmospheric phenomena, not limited to barns flying by outside your window, flying cows, witches on bicycles and some annoying little girl crying "Auntie Em! Auntie Em!" for hours.
- Put big masking tape X's on all of your windows. This will give flying debris something to aim at.
- Some people put plywood over their windows, but it has been shown that plywood attracts hurricanes in the same way that trailer parks attract tornados. Listen, just forget the darned windows, OK? They're windows, for cripes sakes. Get to duct-taping that cocker spaniel to the shower stall.
- After the storm, keep an eye out for looters. Sometimes they have quality merchandise at very reasonable prices.

Read Charles Memminger's blog at <http://charleyworld.honadvblogs.com>.

Kaneohe Refinance at 3.41% APR!

\$160,000 mortgage for
only \$712/mo. No SSN
reqd. Get 4 FREE Quotes!
www.fondco.com

KAPIDEX (dextlansoprazole)

Official Site. Save up to
\$55 on KAPIDEX
www.KAPIDEX.com

Need Credit Card Debt Bailout?

10K+debts? We get rid of
high credit card debt. Save
60%! List...
www.DebtReliefCent...

Killer Penny Stock Alerts

Make Money FAST with
our FREE alerts. www.killerpenny.com

NSNC Writing Contest
Charles Memminger
Honolulu Advertiser
Cat. B (Humor over 100,000)

Posted on: Sunday, September 27, 2009

A-list adopters take to the road

By Charles Memminger

American celebrities, facing increasing criticism for adopting children from Third World countries (and possibly the high cost of supporting those children in a global economic recession) have turned their attention to what is rapidly becoming a new fashion trend: the adoption of highways.

Angelina Jolie, who adopted children from Cambodia, Vietnam and Ethiopia, apparently set off the new craze when she adopted Samdach Preah Sihanouk Boulevard in Phnom Penh.

Explaining her decision to adopt a Cambodian highway, the actress said, "Families are what ground you. But a well-made roadway, whether constructed of concrete, macadam, cobblestone or asphalt, really helps you on your journey through life."

Ms. Jolie has since adopted three more roadways throughout Asia — including a cul de sac in Bali she named after her dog, "Dexter" — and reportedly is negotiating the adoption of the entire Trans-Siberian Railway.

Actress Mia Farrow reportedly has adopted the Seoul Ring Expressway in South Korea and warned her former boyfriend, Woody Allen, to "keep his degenerate hands off of it."

In retaliation, Allen adopted the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Vietnam, changed its name to the Soon Yi Greater Mekong Sub-region Bypass and applied to the Vietnamese government for permission to marry it.

Meg Ryan, who previously adopted a daughter from China, has expanded her "international family" with the adoption of Beijing Beltway, as well as a side road that leads to the main parking structure, the Olympic Swimming "Cube."

Other celebrities have turned their attention to African streets where they say "you get more roadway for your rand." Madonna donated 237.56 million "kwacha" to the government of Malawi (approximately \$43, American) and was allowed to adopt several of that country's highways.

"They aren't really highways yet," she gushed. "More like goat paths. But they are the cutest little things! And the best thing is you don't have to feed them!"

Most governments allow people to adopt roadways with minimal restrictions and obligations, which appeals to increasingly cash-strapped celebrities who want to remain viable. "An adopted kid will cost ya, like, a couple of million bucks by the time you put him through college," said one A-list celebrity who asked not to be named. "I just adopted a lovely little lane in Cape Cod and it doesn't need shots or nuthin'."

Sadly, replying to an e-mail she received via the Internet, actress Nicole Kidman paid \$300,000 to adopt a 400-mile stretch of highway in Abuja, Nigeria, only to find out the e-mail was a scam and that there are no actual roads in that country. Additionally, she lost \$120,000 to facilitate the transfer of more than \$50 million to her personal bank account in Beverly Hills.

The money allegedly belonged to former emperor "Highly Selassy," who said he needed Kidman's help in getting the money out of the country.

Tom Cruise, Kidman's former husband, had better luck when, under the alias "Elron H. Ubbard," he adopted a German autobahn and handed it over to the Church of Scientology in retaliation for that country's refusal to show any John Travolta movies.

It is unknown where this passion for the adoption of highways by celebrities will lead. Former Beatle Paul McCartney reportedly is attempting to adopt "a long and winding road" in Mongolia.

And an angry Elton John, blocked by a judge from adopting a Ukrainian baby, reportedly vowed to "adopt every highway in Ukania, wherever that is."

Read Charles Memminger's blog at <http://charleyworld.honadvblogs.com>.

ADVERTISEMENT

Ads by Adblade™



Hawaii Drivers Overpay?
6/17: Obama backs new insurance regulation. See if you qualify for new 2010 rates starting at \$1/day [Learn more](#)



Shocking Test
Take Dr. Oz and Dr. Roizen's shocking RealAge Test and find out how old you really are. [Learn more](#)



Mortgage APRs Hit 3.62%
Only 85,000 homeowners have taken advantage of Obama's refinance plan. Calculate new payment. [Learn more](#)



Don't Buy Wrinkle Creams!
Until you read our reviews. Top wrinkle creams of 2010 rated for results and value. Try them free. [Learn more](#)



E-Cigarettes Investigated
Are they really better for your health? Do you they really save you money? We Report. [Learn more](#)

[Add Your Link Here!](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

PROGRESSIVE

Switch to Progressive.
You could save \$550.
Wow that's a lot of
CASH.



Enter
ZIP Code:

[Get Your Free Quote](#)

NSNC Writing Contest
Charles Memminger
Honolulu Advertiser
Cat. B (Humor over 100,000)

Posted on: Sunday, August 2, 2009

Suffering from a reptile problem

By Charles Memminger

I'm a bit embarrassed to report that I suffer from A Reptile Dysfunction. I know, A Reptile Dysfunction should be a private issue. But I've learned that A Reptile Dysfunction is spreading to households all over the island. And it's time that we all speak publicly about this scourge. A Reptile Dysfunction threatens the very culture of Hawai'i.

You have probably guessed that the dysfunctional reptile I am referring to is the insidious "brown anole" lizard, a creature of frightening appearance and even more frightening appetite. If you, too, suffer from A Reptile Dysfunction, then you know that these lizards are brownish in color, aggressive in nature and quite comfortable in your living room. Unlike those charming knucklehead house geckos who have the courtesy to hide behind curtains or framed pictures on the wall, the brown anoles live on the ground and tromp through your house like they own the place. They apparently came to Hawai'i from the Caribbean. And like that famous bobsled team in the movie "Cool Runnings" that was told it didn't belong in the Olympics, it's time we told these Caribbean reptile interlopers: "You don't belong here, Jamaica."

Why? Because they just have a very dysfunctional attitude. They don't know how to hang loose like other mellow species that have made Hawai'i home. They run at the speed of sound, are able to leap small lawnmowers and, although they are only the size of a ballpoint pen, have no fear of any other animal. One of them jumped on my dog Boomer and rode him around the garage like a rodeo pony. I saw three brown anoles roughing up the neighbor's cat just for sport. I came across one brown anole in the driveway after getting home from running errands one day (I was running the errands, not him) and he stared me down like Al Pacino in "Scarface." I mean, I actually walked AROUND the brute just to avoid a nasty confrontation.

Brown anoles eat just about anything, including crickets, grasshoppers, roaches and spiders. They even eat their own skin. For real. They molt their skin in large flakes and eat them like pita chips. They also are known to be fond of chowing down on their cousins, the much more laid-back green anole lizard. But the worst thing is that the brown anoles are eating our beloved Official State Reptile, the gecko, out of house and home. Literally.

These brown beasts consider geckos "the other green meat" and not only eat them but devour their eggs, too. That's the reason you don't see as many geckos anymore; they've either been eaten alive or have entered the Gecko Protection Program and are living elsewhere on the island under false identities. ("Gecko? Me? No, no ... I'm just a very small mongoose with a skin condition.")

The brown anole is threatening to disrupt the entire animal kingdom of Hawai'i and there is nothing to stop it. Their main predators are snakes and birds. Sadly, we are short on snakes and, as for birds, well, I saw a brown anole riding on the back of a mynah bird like Harry Potter on a broom stick. Apparently birds also suffer from A Reptile Dysfunction.

Kaneohe Refinance at 3.41% APR!

\$160,000 mortgage for
only \$712/mo. No SSN
reqd. Get 4 FREE Quotes!
www.LendGo.com

KAPIDEX (dexlansoprazole)

Find Out What Other
MD's Know about
KAPIDEX
www.KAPIDEX.com

Get Debt Relief and a Debt Bailout Today

Can't Pay Credit Card
Debt? Erase Up to 60% or
More! List...
www.DebtReliefCent...

Killer Penny Stock Alerts

Make money easily with...

NSNC Writing Contest
Charles Memminger
Honolulu Advertiser
Cat. B (Humor over 100,000)