



# ADVENT RESOURCES, INC.

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August 2005

Advent Resources Inc. (310) 241-1500

Volume 7 Number 7

## IN THE NEWS

Data from  
*Powergram*®

### Tax Break for Hybrids

Toyota and Ford gasoline/electric hybrid models will qualify for the largest U.S. tax credits in 2006 when new federal tax credits take effect to encourage alternative vehicle purchases, according to an energy policy group study. Buyers of the Toyota Prius should receive a \$3,150 credit next year, the most for any vehicle, while owners of hybrid versions of the Toyota Highlander and the Ford Escape SUVs should each receive \$2,600, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy said in a statement.

### GM Wants Fuel Efficiency

General Motors is teaming up with German supplier, Robert Bosch, and Stanford University to develop technology that could boost gasoline engine fuel efficiency by 20% and make diesel engines run cleaner, according to Detroit daily and wire service reports. The three-year project is funded with \$2.5 million from Bosch and GM. The three partners will work on a better combustion process called homogenous charge compression ignition (HCCI). The process uses a flameless ignition instead of a spark plug to create the explosion to move engine pistons. The Detroit News reports. Bosch's role in the program will be to develop sensors, actuators and other parts for engines using HCCI. Stanford is working on the research physics and training future engineers to work on the technology. The HCCI technology is still a few years away. If perfected, it could be installed in hybrid vehicles to make them more fuel efficient.

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## Advent Welcomes



Advent is pleased to welcome **Superior Nissan** in Fremont California. This northern California store is the newest acquisition for this group and we're delighted to be working with another member. Advent has several Superior Nissans as clients in Southern California, as well as a Superior Chrysler dealership

Located near the state capitol of Sacramento, **Auburn Nissan** in Auburn, California, also joins us this month, along with **Brentwood Dodge** located in Brentwood, right next door to Los Angeles. Both these new members have key staff that came on board and requested our software. We're pleased and flattered that our users value us enough to recommend us.

Welcome to our extended client family. We look forward to a long and mutually profitable relationship. 🌴

## Power User of the Month

**Vern Stern**  
Finance Manager  
Dave Smith Motors



Vern Stern pulls double duty at Dave Smith Motors in Kellogg, Idaho. Vern has taken on the job of liaison between the dealership and Advent in addition to his duties as Finance Manager. In an organization the size of this one, that's a lot to shoulder. When Vern asks a question, he makes note of every detail of the answer so he can follow along with directions and quickly solve the problem.

Vern is always willing to learn more about functionality and "help desk" routines

so that he can cut out the number of calls he makes to Advent. It's a pleasure to work with someone both knowledgeable and focused. Thanks, Vern. 🌴

## Battle of the Engineers Head to Head...to Head

Three engineers were in the bathroom standing at the urinals. The first engineer finished and walked over to the sink to wash his hands. He then proceeded to dry his hands very carefully. He used paper towel after paper towel and ensured that every single spot of water on his hands was dried. Turning to the other two engineers, he said, "At Hewlett Packard, we are trained to be extremely thorough."

The second engineer finished his task at the urinal and he proceeded to wash his hands. He used a single paper towel and made sure that he dried his hands using every available portion of the paper towel. He turned and said, "At Lockheed-Martin, not only are we trained to be extremely thorough, but we are also trained to be extremely efficient."

The third engineer finished and walked straight for the door, shouting over his shoulder, "At Apple Computer, Inc. we don't pee on our hands." 🌴

## Five Clues You Bought a Bad Computer

- 1) Lower corner of screen has the words "Etch-a-sketch" on it.
- 2) In order to start it you need some jumper cables and a friend's car.
- 3) It's slogan is "Pentium: redefining mathematics."
- 4) The "quick reference" manual is 120 pages long.
- 5) Whenever you turn it on, all the dogs in your neighborhood start howling. 🌴

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## Safety First – Again

### *Check Before Backing Up*


**W**e know we've run this article before, but the information bears repeating, because having a good backup can be a lifesaver.

Every Advent system is designed to have all its data backed up nightly to tape as part of your business disaster recovery plan. This means following a few simple rules:

- 1) Do not use the same tape every night; use several tapes in rotation. A good rule is to use a different tape for each day of the week that the store is open. Why? Sometimes a data problem will not be discovered right away and data will need to be restored from several days back. If the tape has been re-used and overwritten, this will not be possible and the data is lost.
- 2) Be sure to label the tapes for the appropriate day of the week and always use the proper day's tape.
- 3) Make sure someone is available for the tape change-out and storage duties when people are out sick or on vacation. Skipping even one day can be disastrous.
- 4) Be sure all personnel who share these duties fully understand how to properly change and store the tapes.
- 5) Store the tapes off-site or at least in a fire-resistant safe or strong box. If a disaster such as a fire or flood destroys your server, it will likely destroy the tapes sitting on the shelf next to it as well.

These common-sense rules insure that you are covered when the unthinkable happens. Without a viable backup tape, your data, past and current, could be lost forever.

As always, we are here to help in times of need, but ultimately it is your responsibility to follow these simple rules. Swap the tapes and store them properly – Advent does the rest.

If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call us at 888-9ADVENT (888-923-8368). 

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## Bulwer-Lytton

### *2005 Fiction Contest Results*

**A**n international literary parody contest, the competition honors the memory (if not the reputation) of Victorian novelist Edward George Earl Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873). The goal of the contest is childishly simple: entrants are challenged to submit bad opening sentences to imaginary novels. Bulwer-Lytton opened his novel Paul Clifford (1830) with the immortal words that the "Peanuts" Beagle Snoopy plagiarized for years, "It was a dark and stormy night."

Dan McKay, a 43-year-old quantitative analyst for Microsoft Great Plains is the winner of the 23rd running of the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest. A resident of Fargo, North Dakota, McKay is currently visiting China, perhaps to escape notoriety for his dubious literary achievement.


#### *First Place*

As he stared at her ample bosom, he daydreamed of the dual Stromberg carburetors in his vintage Triumph Spitfire, highly functional yet pleasingly formed, perched prominently on top of the intake manifold, aching for experienced hands, the small knurled caps of the oil dampeners begging to be inspected and adjusted as described in chapter seven of the shop manual.

*Dan McKay, Fargo, ND.*

#### *Dishonorable Mention*

Because of her mysterious ways I was fascinated with Dorothy and I wondered if she would ever consider having a relationship with a lion, but I have to admit that most of my attention was directed at her little dog Toto because, after all, he was a source of meat protein and I had had enough of those damn flying monkeys.

*Randy Blanton, Murfreesboro, TN* 

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## Real Men Don't Hug?

**A** Panama City, Florida man who got angry with his wife because she wanted to cuddle after sex when what he really wanted to do was watch sports on television was sen-

tenced to death for killing her with a claw hammer.

Christopher Offord, 30, was sentenced Wednesday by Circuit Judge Dedee Costello, who said the brutality of the crime outweighed any mental problems Offord may have had.

"The defendant struck his wife approximately 70 individual blows after spending a happy interlude with her," the judge said. "Her desire to cuddle after sex does not justify the extremely violent, brutal response of the defendant."

Offord pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in the 2004 slaying of Dana Noser, 40, at his apartment. He confessed to a bartender at a sports bar before his arrest. He told investigators that his wife had been nagging him to come back to bed. 

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## Assembly Required

### *Style a Bonus*

**A** gynecologist tired of his profession, and wanting less responsibility, decided a career change was in order. After some serious thought, he decided that being an engine mechanic, something he had once enjoyed prior to college, would be a good choice. However, it had been a long time since he had tinkered with an engine and he knew that in order to compete with the younger workforce, he would have to go to school.

He enrolled in a technical institute that specialized in teaching auto mechanics. He aced the course, but the final exam required each student to completely strip and reassemble an engine. It was with some trepidation that he took the test. At completion, he turned the engine over to his instructors for evaluation and awaited his final grade.

When they were handed out, he did a double take at the 150% grade he received. Rather confused, he asked his instructors how it was possible to have a grade like this. "It is really quite simple," they said. "We gave you 50% for correctly disassembling the engine, 50% for correctly reassembling it, and an additional 50% for doing it all through the muffler." 