

Today's Amalgam

By: eRin pheil, timeforcake creative media inc.

I searched high and low! I scoured the Internet! I ventured to the far corners of the world! And I did it all so that I could bring you, the wonderful people of Summit County, the most useful news and websites on this lovely day in June. Let's get going!

I love learning about the latest gadgets and technological advances. I never cease to feel amazed by the rapid development within the tech industry and the speed with which incredible technology advances are made.

Do you share this excitement with me? If so, you simply must visit the following url: <http://tinyurl.com/2vbkj>. Visiting this link will take you to a recent article on the ABC News website that covers a "Gadgets Exhibition" held in Seattle at the end of May. This short article is sure to tantalize your technology taste buds in giving you a glimpse of the future of technology. 3-D computer monitors, anyone? How about thin and flexible super-slim screens that you can actually wear?

Changing course a bit here, let's talk politics. Or rather, let's learn about a new tool that allows you to gather the information you need so that you *can* talk politics!

A company by the name of StreamSage has developed a fascinating new technology that actually scours audio and video broadcasts--by analyzing speech. Rather impressive, if you ask me! Utilized at CampaignSearch (www.campaignsearch.com), StreamSage's technology allows normal folk like you and me to "search a database of keywords and topics from campaign-related Audio/Video content." How cool is that?

Search for campaign topics that are important to *you*. Educate yourself on campaign issues you feel unsure about. At the very least, try out a search or two and be amazed at how this technology can present relevant audio and video information to you in a matter of seconds.

Now. For those of you who don't feel the need to conduct additional political research, I have a question for you. Do you like LEGOs?

Oh who am I kidding?! Whether you like LEGOs or not you're sure to be amazed by the content shown at Henry Lim's LEGO Sculpture website: <http://www.henrylim.org/LEGOSculptures.html>. Mr. Lim's sculptures and exhibits are nothing other than extraordinary. (Seriously; when was the last time *you* created a fully functional harpsichord out of LEGO blocks?)

Moving forward: I think it's timetosmile. I ran across a website a while ago that I bookmarked as a Favorite because it never fails to make me chuckle. "Signs of Life" (<http://signsoflife.goose24.org>) is an ongoing community photography project with a goal of "capturing images of signs that somehow reveal our humanity." Often, our

humanity is revealed via signs with funny spellings, grammatical errors, bizarre placements, and possible alternative meanings.

Everyone is welcome to submit photos of signs. In fact, Signs of Life just added its 100th sign on May 14th. One of my favorite signs, number 83, shows a street corner in Virginia with a 20mph Speed Limit sign. Not twenty yards behind the sign is a School Crossing sign with flashing lights stating that the speed limit is 25mph when children are present. Nice.

See you next week everyone!

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