

Ever feel like someone has flipped a switch on your life into over drive? I don't know what it is but I can't seem to keep up lately. Maybe it's that we all try to do too much in this stress laden world that we live in. I'm sure information overload and multi tasking have something to do with it.

My family suffered a tragedy last week. My brother in law, (Jay) who was only 38 died unexpectedly. You know when something like this happens it just stops you in your tracks and makes you question everything in your life. When you see someone you love in a casket you know inside that one day you too will be there. Will you have any unfinished business?

His death came totally out of left field and caught all of us off guard. My sister is left with his 7 year old child to raise. She's poor and they didn't have much in life. No life insurance so there was no money to bury him with. Lucky for my sister my mom found a funeral parlor who was willing to take 200.00 down and the rest on payments. Not that my sister can make the payments, but everyone else wanted cash up front or they wouldn't help. My brother in laws father refused to give any money to help bury him (isn't that lovely) and his mother put up a few hundred dollars for the wake service in West Virginia.

His wish was to be buried in West Virginia (we live in Ohio) and it was going to be another 750.00 to have the body transporter there. My mother being the resourceful person that she is found out that there's a special permit you can get to transport a body yourself. So that's what we did. Jay's best friend, Taylor had an 8 foot bed in which we loaded the coffin and after having a service for him here drove the 3.5 hours for another service with his family and then to the cemetery. Luckily another family member had a plot and she donated it to Jay. It was next to her dead husband so I think it was very generous of her to give it to him. Where she's going to go now I don't know. Thank god for gifts of charity.

My brother in law was an Eskimo Indian so we're researching that angle to see if there is any "f-r-e-e money" to help with the burial costs. They have also put money jars in the local bars to help defray costs. At this point there is no money for a headstone but my mom said the ground has to settle for a year before they will put one up anyway. Who knows where the funds will come for that.

Jay might not have had any money but he was rich in spirit and always had a nice word for everyone he met. He was always willing to lend a hand and would give you the shirt off his back, even if it meant he had no shirt for himself. That's just the kind of guy he was. More people could learn from someone like him. I feel bad for my sister and her children. Death is a part of life but when it happens like this it just seems so senseless. His 7 year old was very close to him and I know she will miss her daddy dearly. I have vowed to do what I can to help but I am not a rich woman by any means. But if being there means anything, I promise I will be. Make sure you tell your loved ones you love them today. Who knows, it may be your last.

If you'd like to leave your comments or have a question or problem post em on the board.
<http://www.merlesworld.com/webbbs/>

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The Computer Help Center <http://www.thecomputerhelpcenter.com>

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## 1. NEWS FROM THE NET

Michael Fortin Pops the question at seminar

<http://michelandsylvie.com/>

Blocking of Legit E-Mail Still High

<http://www.clickz.com/news/article.php/3555486>

Yahoo Adds Blogs to its News Section

<http://www.bizreport.com/news/9387/>

Google Announces Site Targeting

<http://tinyurl.com/7fedd>

Lyris (J.L. Halsey Corporation) Acquires EmailLabs

<http://EmailUniverse.com/list-news/?id=1000>

Comcast, Google Said in Talks Over AOL

<http://www.bizreport.com/news/9391/>

U.S. Pilot of MSN AdCenter- Sign up to participate

<http://advertising.msn.com/adCenterPilot/89620.asp>

How to set up your blog for RSS Autodiscovery

<http://tinyurl.com/8hwu7>

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## 2. FEATURE ARTICLE

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A slight change from my usual web related articles, but I thought I'd share my latest rant.

### **"Times, They are a Changing!"**

**By Merle** <http://MerlesWorld.com>

When I was a kid if I even looked at my Mother the wrong way it could earn me a bloody lip. Today, that would be called "child abuse," but back then it was called "discipline." Today my mom would be serving life in prison for her past actions. Of course, back then there was actually someone home to raise the kids. That someone was called a Mother.

Today's young generation are severely lacking in manners, respect and responsibility. In our race to have it all, greed has blinded us to society's most important asset "our children." Instead of taking the time to raise them correctly, we throw things at them to make ourselves feel better for not being there. When you're busy climbing the corporate ladder it's hard to keep track of what's going on in your own home.

All of the materialistic things have spoiled kids to the point they expect everything to be handed to them and think things such as driving, which used to be a privilege, is also automatically given to them when they come of age. Don't forget the insurance and new car they demand as well.

Remember when you were younger? If you wanted to drive, first you had to buy your own car and be able to pay for your own insurance. That meant that ugly three letter word, JOB. Your parents made it obvious from the beginning if you wanted something you had to work for it. There were no "car fairies" pulling a brand new SUV into the driveway with a red bow on it like some teenagers have today.

Our cars were not new. They were usually at least ten years old with rust holes so big you could stick your head in them. Sometimes the only thing holding up the exhaust system was a coat hanger. Try getting a 16-year-old to buy something like that in today's world. If it isn't new, they don't want it. They think

money grows on trees and Mommy and Daddy should just go into debt so they don't have to be embarrassed in front of their friends.

By not allowing kids to work for what they want, they never learn responsibility. Many times these are the same people still living at home at 24 years old. They're still laying on the couch waiting for the world to hand them something; usually their life. Are parents really doing them any favors by not teaching them to stand up on their own two feet? I think not.

Whatever happened to manners? That used to be something instilled during the early growing years. I called people "Mr." and "Mrs.," as my mother said it was rude for children to call adults by their first names. I said "please" and "thank you," held doors open for the elderly and actually had table manners when I ate at the dinner table.

Somehow along the way in our scurry for the American dollar, we threw manners out the window. Are these lessons no longer worthy of our limited time? I see kids with foul mouths who don't even know what "excuse me" means, let alone ever use it. They've never written a thank you note in their life and are the same people who display no courtesy on our already over crowded roadways. We've raised a generation of ill mannered kids who unfortunately have turned into rude adults.

Without manners and respect how far can they get in this world? A basic understanding of simple etiquette is essential in life. No one likes inconsiderate people, and once exposed as such those that know them will isolate themselves from further exposure for fear of catching the very disease they have.

Society now is quick to blame someone else for everything that happens to them. That's lack of responsibility rearing its ugly head. Along with the "blame game" has come lawsuits. We've become a very litigious society. Why work for a paycheck when you can simply blame others for your misfortune and take their hard earned cash? What we have going on in society today was created by a generation of two parent working households with no one home raising the children. We've brought this on ourselves, and for what? The love of money?

There's a problem here, a big problem. Everyone needs to stop what they're doing and step down

from the corporate ladder and listen. Manners, respect and responsibility need to be brought back into child rearing. If it means finding the wise elder up on the hill who still remembers these values and have them teach them to our children or breaking the glass, and releasing these ancient teachings back into the mainstream. Our future depends on it.

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By Merle- Want to Know the SECRETS of Article Promotion? Discover everything you need to know in this brand New Ebook, "How to Use Articles to Drive Website Traffic". Get your F-r-e-e Copy now at <http://articleannouncer.mcpromotions.com>

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(2X)

## **3. WEBMASTER RESOURCES**

### **Yahoo Site Explorer**

Brand spanking new from Yahoo. "Site Explorer allows you to explore all the web pages indexed by Yahoo! Search. View the most popular pages from any site, dive into a comprehensive site map, and find pages that link to that site or any page." You can also use it to submit missing url's to Yahoo.

<http://siteexplorer.search.yahoo.com/>

## **ESnips**

Get 1Gb of free storage and put your files and Net stuff all online in one place. Save Web content, images, upload documents from your computer so you can access them from anywhere you are.

<http://www.esnips.com/signin/index.jsp>

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## **Code Avenue**

Need snippets of code? No matter if you need ASP, Java or CSS, CodeAve.com has something for you. For example need to add a button that says "print current page" or maybe code that displays the current date. All this and more.

<http://www.codeave.com/>

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## **CSS Cheat Sheet**

So cheat sheets weren't allowed in school but they are on the net. If you use CSS to design websites you need to go and download this reference chart which gives you all properties and selectors on one sheet. Print it out and use it.

<http://www.ilovejackdaniels.com/css/css-cheat-sheet/>

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### **Tip**

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Make sure to spell check your web pages before uploading them to your server. It's less embarrassing if you catch your mistakes rather than a visitor

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## **4. PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES**

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### **PageRank Checker for Blogs**

You've heard of web rank for your website but what about your blog? Now you can find out your blogs ranking and display it proudly.

<http://pr.blogflux.com/>



## Ultimate Article Directory

"Your one-stop source for free articles. Do you need content to add to your web site? Or articles for use on your opt-in newsletters and e-zines? Ultimate Article Directory has scoured the web and indexed a huge collection of articles on various subjects." Browse by category or if you're a writer add your own work.

<http://www.ultimatearticledirectory.com/>

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## XonGoo

If you're looking for another place to submit your articles to XonGoo is for you. Tell me I didn't just rhyme. Anyway, you can find plenty of articles to use in your ezine or site as well and they offer free Content Management Software as a download.

<http://www.xongoo.com/>

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## 6. JUST FOR FUN OR USEFUL

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### Shutterfly Collections

Create up to two photo Collections, each with an web address you choose, like TheMartinsPhotos.shutterfly.com. Your Collection gives you a "meeting spot" to gather pictures for everyone to enjoy. People can view your photos, add comments or add their own photos.

<http://www.shutterfly.com/learn/collections.jsp>

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### Magazine Cover Fun

Have you always wanted to see your face on the cover of a magazine? Here's your chance. Upload your digital photo and put together the magazine cover of your dreams. Who says you can't be on the cover of "Rolling Stone".

<http://www.flagrantdisregard.com/flickr/magazine.php>

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### JussPress

Not just a place to store your photos but you can also easily upload your videos for sharing. They support .mpg, .avi, .mov, and .wmv from all major digital cameras. You simply drag and drop the video and they resize, transcode and host the video on their site.

<http://jusspress.com/>

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### Google Video Search

I love Google! It seems they're always introducing some handy tool that makes my life as an online entrepreneur oh so nice. Now you can search the web for videos. The interface is a plain search box but the power is unbelievable.

<http://video.google.com/>

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<http://inetgoodies.com/seo2b.html>

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## **7. E BOOKS AND THINGS OF INTEREST TO EZINE PUBLISHERS**

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### **F-r-e-e Report- How to OutSource Article Writing**

Need articles for your ezine or website? No time to do it yourself? There are plenty of talented writers online who would love to write them for you. Find out how in this informative guide.

<http://www.mcpromotions.com/ebooks/outourcing.pdf>

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### **BayRaider**

If you're into strange items for sale at Ebay don't pass this up. This Blog focuses on the insane items that only Ebay could have up for sale. Gee, I was stuck between the lady with the huge tumor on her head and the Lost in Space Robot. So many auctions so little time.

<http://www.bayraider.tv/>

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### **Fr.e PDF Editor**

Need to edit a PDF file. Download this software and you can make all the changes you need, even add graphics. "With the 11 new tools you can move and zoom the text and pictures and you can edit textblocks, insert empty lines or change the line breaks".

<http://tinyurl.com/udxc>

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## 8. FREeware- SHAREware- TRIALS TO DOWNLOAD

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### Podcasting Alley

"Podcast Alley is the podcast lovers portal. Featuring the best Podcast Directory and the Top 10 podcasts (as voted on by the listeners). You will also find podcast software, the podcast forum and great podcasting info."

<http://podcastalley.com/>

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### Audio Blogs

"Podcasts are the latest coolest trend online these days. Audio Blogs gives you Podcasting and Videoblogging features such as:"

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Compatible with most major blog services and software.  
Podcast by phone (up to 60 minutes)  
Record podcasts or videoblogs over the Web using  
BlogRecorder™  
Add multiple weblogs  
Upload MP3, WAV, or AVI files  
Organize your audioblogs with playlist  
Customize your players style and color

7 day free trial then a basic account is only 4.95 a month.

<http://www.audioblog.com>

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### Vamp Media Center Software

"Get Great Photos, Distribute Photos to Family & Friends, Create and Listen- Get your family and friend's photos and distribute your own, Create Greetings, Mix & Edit clips, Build Screen Savers, Wallpaper and enjoy online games!" All in this f-r-e-e software.

<http://www.imvamp.com/>

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<http://tinyurl.com/4b2xa>

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## 9.IMPORTANT STUFF

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Well, that wraps it up, once again thanks for joining me. If you have any comments please send them to [comments@merlesworld.com](mailto:comments@merlesworld.com) or visit <http://www.merlesworld.com>  
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If you are not a subscriber and would like to be send <mailto:subscribe@merlesworld.com>

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