Domino’s Accidentally Delivers Cash Instead Of Chicken Wings

Hiding nearly $1,300 in cash in a box marked ‘chicken wings’ might seem like a great way to safely get money to the bank, but only if you don’t accidentally deliver it to a customer. Mike Vegas, a bartender in San Francisco, thought he was going to have the night off, so he ordered some pizza and wings. But when he got called into work, he stuck the box of wings in the fridge unopened. “I got off work really late, and when I came back home I found the cash in the delivery box – a refrigerated deposit,” Vegas told TV station NBC Bay Area. “I was rubbing my eyes at 5 a.m., laughing at myself.”

Vegas said the driver had called looking for the missing money, but since he had been at work, he ignored the calls. Vegas seemed inclined to return the money from the beginning. “Of course there’s a long list of people arguing you should keep it or shouldn’t keep it,” he told the station. “I wanted to keep it, believe me. But I couldn’t do that.” Some of Vegas’ friends also worried that the driver would lose his job over the botched delivery. “Driver is safe and keeps his job, money is back at Domino’s, I was offered free pizza for a year,” Vegas wrote in an update. “Thank you so much for this,” general manager Zia Mumtaz said, “honest people are hard to find these days.”

huffingtonpost.com.au, 2015
SuperValu apologises

SuperValu Ireland has apologised after one of its recipes in its Good Food Good Karma series apparently required the addition of a ghoulish ingredient. Eagle-eyed cooks were left confused when the recipe leaflet for a “Thai Massaman Curry” by the Happy Pear seemed to recommend adding a piece of “fresh finger”. The recipe was, of course, referring to a “half-thumb sized piece of ginger” instead. This week SuperValu, which is running the series to encourage Irish people to cook more, moved quickly to clarify that it would prefer that all home cooks preserve their fingers instead. “We would like to apologise for our little human error on our most recent recipe leaflets in store. We made a tiny mistake on The Happy Pear’s Massaman Curry recipe. We seriously do not ___ putting a half-thumb sized piece of fresh finger, peeled and finely sliced, into your dish! We also highly recommend that you are careful when slicing and dicing your ingredients – so watch your fingers please!”

independent.ie, 2016
Anything to declare?

Australian biosecurity

1 Live animals and plants, plant material, animal products and some food from overseas could introduce some of the world’s most serious pests and diseases into Australia, devastating our valuable agriculture and tourism industries and unique environment. Therefore it is important that people cooperate with the Australian declaration policy.

2 The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), along with other jurisdictions, industry and the community, plays a vital role in maintaining Australia’s clean and wholesome food supply – at home and abroad. Australia’s biosecurity system protects our human, animal and plant health by reducing the risk of unwanted pests and diseases arriving in the country. Everyone benefits from a strong biosecurity system so everyone has a role to play.

3 You will be given an Incoming Passenger Card before you arrive in Australia. This is a legal document. If you are carrying food, plant material or animal products, you must tick YES on your card to declare them. You can take these declared items with you to the clearance point where they will be assessed by a DAFF officer. Alternatively, you may dispose of food, plant material or animal products on arrival in the quarantine bins located in the airport terminal.

4 On arrival your baggage may be assessed by x-ray, detector dog or inspected by a DAFF officer. If you fail to declare or dispose of any biosecurity risk items, or make a false declaration:
   – you will be caught
   – you could be fined $340 on-the-spot, or
   – you could be prosecuted, fined more than $66,000 and risk 10 years jail and a criminal record.
You will not be penalised if ALL items are declared, even if they are not allowed into Australia.
5 What happens to items I declare?
Any items that present a biosecurity risk will be withheld. However, in many cases items you declare will be returned to you after inspection.

For products that are withheld you can choose to:
- pay for the item to be treated (for example fumigation, gamma irradiation)
- store the item at the airport for collection upon departure from Australia
- export the item, or
- have the item destroyed.

DAFF makes every effort to minimise the risk of damage caused as a result of treatment, but does not accept liability for any damage that may occur.

6 Reporting biosecurity risks and breaches
Report suspected breaches of Australian biosecurity, export or food inspection laws to the DAFF Redline 1800 803 006. It is a free telephone service that you can use to confidentially report someone you suspect of breaking Australian laws. You can also write confidentially to DAFF’s Redline, Investigations and Enforcement Program, GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 or send an e-mail to compliance@daff.gov.au. You can also report suspected unwanted pests to 1800 020 504.

Commonwealth of Australia, 2013
Felix the train station cat

1 A railway station cat is doing a fun run to help raise money for a children’s charity. Felix, Huddersfield train station’s cat, started her 5k run on Friday morning although station staff say she has been taking breaks by ‘lying down in the corridor’. The distance Felix covers is being monitored by a satellite tracker in her collar. The furry fun runner has already raised more than £2,500 for charity. More than 75,000 people follow Felix’s adventures on her Facebook page. But it looks like it could be slow going. Felix keeps ‘paws-ing’ for long breaks. Andrew McClements, from TransPennine Express, said: “The challenge has got under way and she’s doing well, but I’d be surprised if she covers 5 kilometres by Christmas.”

2 Plenty of people have been inspired by her ‘tail’ and have got in touch on social media. Felix fan Shirley wrote: “Good luck... I don’t care if you’re not able to manage it, just look at how much you have raised simply by being so ‘pawsome’, that’s a big enough achievement for one fabulous kitty.” Emilie sent well wishes from her and her cat Jack Sparrow in Rio de Janeiro. And Barbara Blackie posted: “Best of luck for your ‘Pawlympic’ challenge Fifi – we’re all rooting for you.”

bbc.co.uk/newsround, 2016
1 The route from Bridgeport to Waterloo looks much different today than it did in the 1830s. “It just touches a lot of people’s hearts to think of all the heartache that went on,” president of the local chapter of Forgiven Riders Bruce Bice said. While the commemorative Trail of Tears Motorcycle ride brings thousands of bikers together, it’s not exactly a cause for celebration. “When you think about the miles they walked, and the people dying along the way, it’s more something to cry about,” Iroquois Indian Gerald Webb said.

2 In 1830 more than 17,000 Indians were removed from the East of the US to Oklahoma. They had to walk along a route that is now called The Trail of Tears. This piece of history still casts a black cloud over a sunny memorial ride that covers some of the same miles. “We must not forget what happened to these people, so the __11__ is important. The United States is built on history and you should never forget your history, be it good or bad,” Webb said. Not everyone has Native American blood flowing through their veins, but it doesn’t mean they don’t share the pain of the past. “For the most part the American people have forgotten and they just don’t care, I think that’s the major problem,” Rider Rob Cooper said. “Because those who don’t honor their history are doomed to repeat it, and this is a dark chapter we never want to repeat.”

whnt.com, 2015
Melanie Perkins was a 19-year-old university student when she started her first company

1 Melanie Perkins, from Perth, Australia, wasn’t even studying graphic design at university but she fell in love with it during a first-year subject in digital media in 2005. She learned quickly, and worked so hard in class assessments, that she was invited to teach graphic design workshops to students in other faculties. The software she was teaching was so complicated Melanie Perkins found most people struggled to pick it up. But instead of getting frustrated, she got a business idea. ‘It was really complex and difficult, and it would take the entire semester to just learn where the buttons were on the software,’ Melanie told Daily Mail Australia. ‘At the same time Facebook was taking off, and it was so easy to use and everyone was on it. And I just had this belief that in the future it wasn’t going to be as complex to do design work.’

2 In 2007, Melanie Perkins came up with the idea to create easy-to-use graphic design software which allows schools and students to make their own yearbooks. She had no business or marketing experience but Melanie says her inexperience gave her confidence that it wouldn’t be too difficult to start a business from scratch. ‘My boyfriend became my co-founder and we started in my mum’s living room,’ she said. ‘Our naivety in some ways helped us… If I knew at the time all the things I didn’t know it would have been intimidating.’

3 They started with a bank loan which they used to advertise online and send sample yearbooks to schools. Their first sale was to a French school in Sydney the following year. ‘When we got our first $100 cheque, it was the most exciting moment ever, knowing people were prepared to pay for what we had built,’ Melanie Perkins said. ‘We never took on any external
financing after that but we kept putting every cent back into the business.’ They sold to 15 schools in their first year, 30 in their second and 80 in their third.

4 One year, Melanie Perkins went to the Innovator of the Year awards in Perth to present her company Fusion Yearbooks. There she had a short but fateful conversation with MaiTai founder and famous San Francisco investor Bill Tai. ‘He was the first investor I’d met who had insights into the whole world of technology and venture capital. He said if I ever came to San Francisco he would meet with me,’ she said. Meanwhile, she had been having ideas about expanding the Fusion model beyond school yearbooks. The following year she travelled to the U.S. to meet with Mr Tai and Google Maps co-founder Lars Rasmussen. She pitched them the idea for her second company Canva, a free online tool that allows people to design everything from web graphics to posters. A two-week trip turned into a three-month trip as Melanie met with as many investors and software engineers as she could.

5 Canva closed its first funding round of $3 million in early 2013, and after more than a year of development launched in August of the same year. By October 30 2014 Canva had reached one million users, and now the company has reached four million users and raised $12.6 million in investment. The company employs 70 people in Sydney and the Philippines, and their jobs come with a range of perks including an in-house chef, and an office bar. ‘We have a masseuse come in now and again and we have yoga. The chef comes in every day and cooks lunch and breakfast. It’s just a fun place – it’s a very casual place people enjoy hanging out in.’

6 Melanie Perkins said other starting entrepreneurs should identify a problem they can solve with a product or service. ‘Find a problem you believe passionately about, something you really want to solve,’ she said. ‘Once you’ve done that just literally get started. You don’t need to know all the things you need to know in advance of starting.’

dailymail.co.uk, 2015
At Martin Middle School in Wake County, North Carolina, an 8th grade math teacher, Bethany Lambeth, has come up with a unique, new idea to solve three problems at once. Her idea decreases fidgeting amongst her students, increases their actual learning performance and improves their overall physical fitness. We all know how important the issue of obesity is in America. She has placed bike pedals under each student’s desk in her classroom. According to news station WRAL, she claims the outcome has been astonishing.

“Before, they were drumming on their desks, they were touching other people. They don’t do that anymore,” Lambeth told WRAL. “The kids are not picking on each other, they do not feel the need to walk around or to go exploring. They are able to get their activity out and get their work done.”

Fortunately for Mrs. Lambeth, a private donation to the school was used to fund the pedals in her classroom. They are made by a company called DeskCycle, and cost about $160 each. NOT CHEAP! However, with students focusing better in class, the investment seems to be worth every penny.

boredteachers.com, 2016
1 A former Crocodylus Park employee has escaped the jaws of a criminal conviction after he kept a saltwater croc as a pet to save it from death. Matthew Danvers, 27, yesterday admitted he had possessed a protected animal without a permit. The Darwin Magistrates Court heard the saltie – about 70cms long – was found at a Berry Springs property in January. Prosecutor Martin Fisher told the court the croc had been tagged “in very poor condition” when Danvers took it three years earlier. The court heard the reptile was found in good condition and had since been relocated to the Territory Wildlife Park. The judge said “so in a sense he sort of thought he was saving it?”, to which the defence lawyer said “yes”. She said Danvers did not benefit financially. She said her client was in his final year of an environmental management degree and wanted a future in the sector.

2 The judge said it was clear Danvers had a “passion for wildlife” but had made an “error of judgment” when he chose to keep the croc without a permit. Danvers did not receive a conviction and was put on a good behaviour bond for six months. Crocodylus Park owner Grahame Webb said although Danvers had good intentions, it was the principle of the matter. “Croc management is only going to work if people follow the rules,” he said. “People get tempted to break them but they risk the whole program by doing so.”

ntnews.com.au, 2015
Was Betty the crow a genius – or a robot?

1 Fourteen years ago, a bird named Betty stunned scientists with her humanlike ability to invent and use tools. Captured from the wild and shown a tiny basket of meat trapped in a plastic tube, the New Caledonian crow bent a straight piece of wire into a hook and retrieved the food. Researchers hailed the observation as evidence that these crows could invent new tools spontaneously – a sign of complex, abstract thought that became regarded as one of the best demonstrations of this ability in an animal other than a human. But a new study casts doubt on at least some of Betty’s supposed intuition.

2 Scientists have long agreed that New Caledonian crows (Corvus moneduloides), which are found only on the South Pacific island of the same name, are accomplished toolmakers. At the time of Betty’s feat, researchers knew that in the wild these crows could shape either stiff or flexible twigs into tools with a tiny, barb-like hook at one end, which they used to lever maggots from rotting logs. They also make rake-like tools from the leaves of the screw pine (Pandanus) tree.

3 Betty appeared to take things to the next level. Not only did she fashion a hook from a material she’d never previously encountered – a behavior not observed in the wild – she seemed to know she needed this specific shape to solve her particular puzzle.

4 To figure out how much of an advance Betty had really made, Christian Rutz, a behavioral ecologist at the University of St. Andrews in the United Kingdom, and colleagues spent 4 years studying 18 wild-caught crows they kept temporarily in aviaries on New Caledonia. Under controlled conditions, the scientists videoed the animals as they made 85 of their twig tools. Most of the crows followed the same method. Using
their beaks, they broke off small branches from a shrub, one end of which they then fashioned into tiny hooks by snipping and biting the joint where the twig had attached to the shrub. And then, unexpectedly, 10 of the birds did one more thing: They bent the shaft of their tool into a curve by sticking it in a hole or trapping it with a foot, while pulling the other end into an arc, the researchers report today in *Royal Society Open Science*.

“It was exactly what Betty had done, and a complete surprise,” says Rutz, who had been a postdoc in the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom lab that studied Betty, although he was not involved in research on the bird. “We now think that they bend their tools to get them ready to use; bending is thus part of their natural repertoire.” A follow-up experiment tested eight crows to see whether they preferred to use a straight or slightly curved tool to search holes for food. All the birds chose the curved tools, and used the arced end as the probe. The scientists are now investigating why the birds prefer this shape.

So what does all of this mean for Betty? Now that scientists know wild crows bend twigs, it may be that Betty didn’t use insight after all, says Corina Logan, a behavioral ecologist at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom who was not involved with the study. (The original study didn’t claim that she did, although others asserted this.) In fact, “she might have been a little robot,” Rutz says, “just following a natural, behavioral routine.” However, there still remains the significant finding that Betty solved a novel problem using an innovative solution with a novel material.

In the end, Betty may be even more like us than scientists originally thought, says Alex Kacelnik, a behavioral ecologist at Oxford and a co-author of the original study. She was simply doing what comes naturally to New Caledonian crows, he says: using her “genetic ability, experience, and creative thinking” to solve a problem. Just as humans do.

*scinemag.org, 2016*
Tommy Thompson
Fugitive treasure hunter who found fabled ‘Ship of Gold’ captured in Florida hotel

1 A fugitive treasure hunter is involved in a legal fight over what has been described as the greatest lost treasure in American history. He has been arrested in Florida after more than two years on the run, authorities said. The US Marshals Service found Tommy Thompson in a hotel in Palm Beach County and arrested him on Tuesday, said Brian Babtist, a senior inspector in the agency’s office in Columbus, Ohio, where a federal civil arrest warrant was issued for him for failing to show up to a key court hearing.

2 Mr Thompson made history in 1988 when he found the sunken SS Central America, also known as the Ship of Gold. In one of the worst shipping disasters in American history, the SS Central America sank in a monster hurricane about 200 miles off the South Carolina coast in September 1857; 425 people drowned and thousands of pounds of California gold were lost, contributing to an economic panic. Mr Thompson and his crew brought up thousands of gold bars and coins from the shipwreck. Much of that was sold to a gold marketing group later in 2000 for about $50 million. The 161 investors who paid Mr Thompson $12.7 million to find the ship never saw returns from the sale. Two of them sued him.

3 The legal battle is ongoing, and those close to Mr Thompson say it was his downfall. Gil Kirk, former director of one of Thompson’s companies, told *The Associated Press* last year that Thompson never cheated anyone. Mr Kirk said proceeds from the sale of the gold all went to legal fees and bank loans. “He was a genius, and they’ve stolen his life,”
Mr Kirk said of those who sued. Mr Thompson went into seclusion in 2006, moving into a mansion called Gracewood in Vero Beach, Florida. Six years later, after the arrest warrant was issued, Thompson vanished. When the property’s caretakers searched it soon afterward, they found prepaid disposable cellphones and bank wraps for $10,000 scattered about, along with a bank statement in the name of Harvey Thompson showing a $1 million balance. Harvey, according to friends, was Mr Thompson’s nickname in college. Also found was a book called “How to Live Your Life Invisible.” One marked page was titled: “Live your life on a cash-only basis.”

Columbus attorney Rick Robol, who at one time defended Mr Thompson’s company, has said there’s no proof Thompson stole anything. He said he’s been concerned about Thompson’s well-being, which is why he called the arrest “the best thing that can happen for everybody.” No criminal charges have been filed against Mr Thompson, but Mr Babtist said the treasure hunter will likely be ordered to be held in custody until he appears before an Ohio judge to give an accounting for the gold’s sale and his actions. “I don’t imagine he will get out on bail because he’s already been a fugitive and knowingly evaded law enforcement,” Mr Babtist said. “I don’t know what kind of means he has as far as money goes, but I’m sure they don’t want to take any chances with him leaving the country or absconding again.”

telegraph.co.uk, 2015
Dartmoor ponies painted reflective blue to cut road accidents

1 DARTMOOR ponies are to be painted blue to stop them being hit by cars. Reflective blue stripes are being painted on the animals to cut the number of accidents. A number of privately-owned ponies on the moor have been painted and reflective beads are to be added at a later stage. The trial is being funded by the Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society (DLPS) and will be expanded if successful. The charity helps ponies, sheep and cattle.

2 It said today over 60 animals have been killed in road accidents on Dartmoor so far this year, adding to the 60 deaths reported last year. __33-1__, many more have sustained injuries on the road and have disappeared onto the moors to die, __33-2__ these may not have been reported. “I would like to stress that the injuries they suffer are horrific,” said Karla McKechnie, livestock protection officer for DLPS. “Until you’ve witnessed a road traffic accident on livestock, you can’t imagine how horrendous it is. I’ve found many ponies and sheep with broken limbs on the road.”

3 The charity was inspired by a project to paint the antlers of deer in Finland. Herders have been spraying their reindeer with reflective paint since early 2014, according to a report by Finnish national broadcaster YLE. The special spray was tested on reindeer fur and antlers to see how it held up in different weather conditions, with the aim being to prevent accidents on the road, particularly in dark conditions. The spray was tested on fur but it was found to be most effective when applied to their antlers because “they are seen from every side”, says Anne Ollila, chairwoman of the Reindeer Herders Association. 4000 reindeer die in traffic accidents every year in Finland and most incidents occur in the dark months of November and December.
4 The DLPS asked a local manufacturer to come up with a similar plan as a long-term solution to “horrific” injuries sustained by the animals at night time. Karla says the only problem is that ponies shed their coats twice a year and they are waiting to see if the paint stays on for “three months or more”. The ponies have had them on for two weeks so far.

*plymouthherald.co.uk, 2015*
Who has time for the Queen?

1 The Queen is looking for someone with time on their hands to care for more than 1000 royal clocks and watches. Her Majesty is seeking a timepiece expert, officially known as a horologist, to keep things ticking at Buckingham Palace and other residences. The post – advertised on the Royal Household website – involves winding clocks every week, repairing them at once if they break and changing them by an hour twice a year.

2 There are 500 clocks at Buckingham Palace, 379 at Windsor Castle and 80 at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, and looking after them is no mean feat. At the end of this month, the Queen’s employees will work around the clock to reset hundreds of clocks across the royal estate. Her Majesty has so many ancient timepieces it will take the horologists two days to reset them when the clocks go back an hour. Robert Ball, the collection’s senior horological conservator therefore said: ‘Clock change weekends are the time for us. The collection contains timepieces with complex mechanisms. Great care has to be taken. Horologists must have a head for heights to be able to work up towers and know how to fix barometers, thermometers and even sundials.’

Applicants should fill out an application form at the Palace website.

mirror.co.uk and thesun.co.uk, 2013
Lucky traveller

1 Beth was due to fly from Rochester, New York to Ronald Reagan International Airport in Washington, D.C., at around 5pm when the flight was cancelled. She said: “When my flight was cancelled about eight hours earlier, a confused agent gave me and half the passengers a seat for a plane at 1am in the morning before another agent realized everyone could go on an earlier flight. They made an announcement on the speaker but I’d already left to go back to my parent’s house nearby to wait for the next few hours. I was never contacted about the flight change.”

2 She didn’t realise she’d be getting the private jet experience until she arrived back at the airport for the 1am flight. There were just three other people on board – two in the cockpit and one member of cabin crew. The crew weren’t too happy about the situation according to Beth: “It seems the airline forced them to take me because of a mistake made by their travel agent. They didn’t seem thrilled about it. Both captains and the flight attendant said they’ve never seen this happen before.”

3 According to Beth the flight attendant still did the safety demonstration, albeit at “double the speed of the sound recording giving instructions,” and did offer refreshments.

independent.co.uk, 2018
600 students expelled for cheating

Authorities in India’s Bihar state have expelled around 600 high school students for cheating in their 10th grade examinations. The pupils used a novel but somewhat dangerous way to get help with their exam papers – their parents scaled the walls of the school building and provided the answers to questions through the windows. Pictures show dozens of parents clinging on to whatever they can on the walls to feed information to their children. Teachers found many cheat sheets inside the classroom. Some had been folded up into paper airplanes and thrown through the window.

Bihar’s education minister P.K. Shahi told reporters that schools faced a difficult job to ensure exams took place under the strictest of conditions. He said: “It’s virtually impossible to conduct fair examinations without the cooperation of parents.” He added that it was not possible to monitor all parents who accompany their children to schools and other test centres. The situation regarding parents helping their children cheat has become so prevalent that police officers are posted at each school. However, an official said, “we can’t use force to drive away the parents”.

dailystar.com.lb, 2015