

'E-mail Facts of Life' hits most common e-mail hoaxes

If you've been on the Internet for any length of time, you have surely found your e-mail box jammed with all sorts of unwanted and inaccurate messages, passed along by well-meaning but glib folk who thought you ought to know about some purported virus or technology threat.

That's why I'm passing along a piece of e-mail I received this week from a webmaster friend, Adam Miller, about this very issue.

Save this. Print it out. Forward this message, instead of the next warning about some bogus Internet scare.

I don't know who originally authored this. My friend found it in an Internet newsgroup. But it's right on. It hits all of the most common e-mail hoaxes I've seen.

It's called "The E-mail Facts Of Life".

1. Big companies don't do business via chain letter. Bill Gates

PC TALK



MIKE WENDLAND

is not giving you \$1000, and Disney is not giving you a free vacation. There is no baby food company issuing class-action checks. You can relax; there is no need to pass it on "just in case it's true". Furthermore, just because someone said in the message, four generations back, that "we checked it out and it's legit", does not actually make it true.

2. There is no kidney theft ring in New Orleans. No one is waking up in a bathtub full of ice, even if a friend of a friend swears it happened to their cousin. If you are hellbent on believing the kidney-theft ring stories, please see: <http://urbanlegends.tqn.com/library/weekly/la>

3. Neiman Marcus doesn't really sell a \$200 cookie recipe. And even if they do, we all have it. And even if you don't, you can get a copy at: <http://www.bl.net/forward/cookie.html>. Then, if you make the recipe, decide the cookies are that awesome, feel free to pass the recipe on.

4. We all know all 500 ways to drive your roommates crazy, irritate co-workers, gross out bathroom stall neighbors and creep out people on an elevator. We also know exactly how many engineers, college students, Usenet posters and people from each and every world sincerely it takes to change a light bulb. So

don't tell us an e-mail. 5. Even if the latest NASA rocket disaster(s) DID contain plutonium that went to participate over the eastern seaboard, do you REALLY think this information would reach the public via an AOL chain-letter?

6. There is no "Good Times" virus. In fact, you should never, ever, ever forward any e-mail containing any virus warning unless you first confirm it as an actual site of an actual company that actually deals with viruses. Try: <http://www.norton.com> <http://www.norton.com/>

And even then, don't forward it.

7. If your CC: list is regularly longer than the actual content of your message, you're probably going to Hell.

8. If you're using Outlook, IE, or Netscape to write e-mail, turn off the "HTML encoding." Those of us on Unix shells can't read it, and don't care enough to save

the attachment and then view it with a web browser, since you're probably forwarding us a copy of the Neiman Marcus Cookie Recipe anyway.

9. If you still absolutely MUST forward that 10th-generation message from a friend, at least have the decency to trim the eight miles of headers showing everyone else who's received it over the last 6 months.

It sure wouldn't hurt to get rid of all the ">" that begin each line. Besides, if it has gone around that many times - we've probably already seen it.

10. Craig Shergold in England is not dying of cancer or anything else at this time and would like everyone to stop sending him their business cards. He apparently is also no longer a "little boy" either.

Those ten points just about cover them all.

Live broadcast today: Join me at the Inca Computer Builders

store on Michigan Avenue, between Southfield and Telegraph, from 4-6 p.m. today for a Live! broadcast of my PC Talk radio show on WXYT, TalkRadio1270.

PC MIKE SEMINAR: Space is filling up fast for the next in my PC Mike Computer Internet seminars. The next one is set for October 31, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Computer Learning Center in Madison Heights. You need to call (248) 423-2721 to reserve a space.

Mike Wendland covers the Internet for NBC-TV NewsChannel stations across the country. His "PC Talk" radio show airs Saturday and Sunday afternoons on Detroit's WXYT-Radio AM1270. He is the author of a series of Internet books. You can reach him through his Web site at <http://www.pcmike.com>

Man dies in crash

A Farmington Hills man died in a one-car accident on a freeway ramp on Livonia's west side late last month.

Ljubomir Gavriloski, 22, was heading west on I-96 early on Sept. 27, when he tried to go north on I-275 and lost control of the car he was driving, police said.

The 1995 Honda slid sideways into a ditch and turned over, and Gavriloski was ejected, said Sgt. Wes McKee, supervisor of the Livonia Police Department's traffic bureau. Gavriloski was taken to St. Mary Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

It appears Gavriloski tried to turn onto the northbound I-275 ramp too late to keep control of the car, McKee said. Police suspect Gavriloski had been drinking, but are awaiting the results of toxicology tests.

A 17-year-old passenger, also of Farmington Hills, suffered minor injuries. No other vehicles were involved in the 4:34 a.m. accident.

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AGENDA

Farmington Hills City Council, city hall, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 12

■ Presentation on Clean Michigan Initiative and consideration of resolution of support;

■ Presentation by Red Cross representative regarding the Melissa Garr blood drive;

■ Presentation on 1998 Corruption Ball by chairwoman Joanne Smith;

■ Report on Heritage Home Tour by Steve Olson;

■ Consider enacting ordinance relating to commercial vehicles permitted to be parked as an accessory use in one family residential districts;

■ Consider enacting ordinance relating to location of nursery schools;

■ Set Nov. 6 date for study session meeting with planning commission;

■ Consider appointments to boards and commissions;

■ Consider approval of final plat for Walnut Hills subdivision.

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