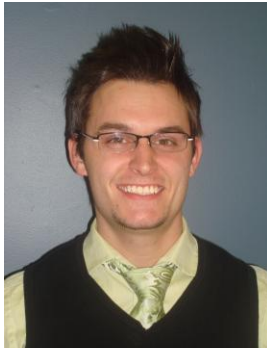


Mark Bouquet



Mark Bouquet Jr.

"We promise that you'll love your new floors, or we'll replace them FREE! Call today for a complimentary Design Audit@!" (708) 479-8600

CREATIVE CARPET, INC.

Home Advisor™

Reliable news for healthy living, saving money, and having fun! Dec 2009

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! Another busy holiday season is upon us. I don't know about you, but I can't wait for some down time with my family. It has been a tough year for many families out there, and I pray that this newsletter reaches you all and is a source of encouragement. I hope you all are safe, happy, healthy, and secure.

This past October, Creative Carpet had its best month in our 20 year history. I have to thank all of you for that and for once again putting your trust in us. Thank you for all the new clients that we received as a result of your referrals! We strive to give our clients top notch service, and we pride ourselves in our ability to resolve any unforeseen hurdles that may arise. Preserving our reputation is very important to me.

Thank you to all who donated to our food drive last month. It was a huge success and many families were blessed by your generosity. Make sure you check out this month's insert, because as we are blessed by your business, we would like to bless you back. Thank you again and God's blessings to all!

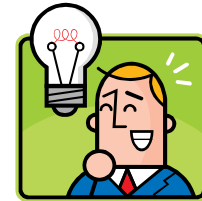
Sincerely,

Mark Bouquet

Inside this Issue...

- Are you this month's Mystery Winner?
- Top 10 Thinking Traps
- About Staying Well-The Sunshine Vitamin
- Technology and You
- Moneywise – Digging Out of the Credit Hole
- Work Tips
- Welcome to our new and returning clients!
- Safety Tips – Holiday Hazards
- Trivia Contest
- New and Returning Clients

TOP 10 THINKING TRAPS EXPOSED – HOW TO FOOLPROOF YOUR MIND



Our minds set up many traps for us. Unless we're aware of them, these traps can seriously hinder our ability to think rationally, leading us to bad reasoning and making stupid decisions. Features of our minds that are meant to help us may, eventually, get us into trouble. Here is Part Six of the most harmful of these traps and how to avoid each one of them. Check upcoming newsletters for more . . .

The Conformity Trap: Everybody Else Is Doing It

[In a series of experiments](#), researchers asked students in a classroom a series of very simple questions and, sure enough, most of them got the answers right. In another group, they asked the same questions but this time there were actors posing as students, purposefully pushing wrong answers. This time around, many more students provided wrong answers based on the leads from the researchers'

Attention Linda Subler!

You are this month's Mystery Winner! We have a \$10.00 gift certificate to Starbucks reserved just for you! Come by our store to claim your prize!
Creative Carpet, Inc.
19420 S. LaGrange Road
Mokena, IL 60448
NOTE: Must be picked up by December 31, 2009

Did You Know...

You'll Love Your New Floors, Or I'll Replace Them **FREE!**

It's called my Zero-Regrets Guarantee! And it works like this...

If you don't like your new floors for ANY reason, I'll replace them free in the first 30 days! (With an outrageously good guarantee like this, I can't cover the cost of installation, so you'll have to do that.) If you walked into any other floor dealer and asked them for a Zero Regrets guarantee, they would probably laugh and say, "No Way."

Why do I offer such an amazing guarantee? Because I want you to be head-over-heels thrilled with your new floors! You WILL be thrilled...I guarantee it!

-Mark Bouquet

TRIVIA CONTEST

WHO ELSE WANTS...

to Win Dinner for 2 at TGI Fridays or Olive Garden? Take our Trivia Challenge and you could win too!

Every person who e-mails in the correct answer by the 15th of the month will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 gift certificate to TGI Fridays or Olive Garden!

This month's *MegaTrivia* question....

Which Great Lake is entirely within the US borders? A) Lake Michigan, B) Lake Huron, C) Lake Erie, D) Lake Superior.

Take your best guess, then e-mail your answer to MarkJr@CreativeCarpetInc.com. Or call Mark Jr. at (708) 479-8600. Remember, your chances of winning are better than you think!

Answer to last months quiz: Kentucky
Congratulations to last month's winner:

John Parnello

assistants.

This "herd instinct" exists — to different degrees — in all of us. Even if we hate to admit it, **other people's actions do heavily influence ours.** We fear looking dumb: failing along with many people is frequently not considered a big deal, but when we fail alone we must *take all the heat ourselves*. There's always peer pressure to adopt the behaviors of the groups we're in.

This tendency to conform is notoriously exploited in advertising. Businesses often sell us products not based on their features, but by showing *how popular* they are: since others are buying it in droves, why would we not join them? Conformity is also one of the main reasons why once a book makes into a well-known best-sellers list, it tends to "lock in" and continue there for a long time. People like to consume what "everybody else" is consuming.

What can you do about it?

- **Discount the influence of others.** When analyzing information, shield yourself from others' opinions — at least at first. This is the best way to decide without being subconsciously swayed by popular opinions.
- **Beware "social proof".** Always raise a flag when someone tries to convince you arguing primarily on the popularity of a choice, instead of on its merit.
- **Be courageous.** Be willing to overcome obstacles and defend your viewpoints, despite their unpopularity. Don't be afraid to point out that the Emperor wears no clothes.

About Staying Well: The Sunshine Vitamin

New research into the preventive benefits of vitamin D has raised hopes that the

- sunshine vitamin, which is produced naturally in the body through exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays, could extend and improve people's lives.
- During the spring and summer, that can be accomplished through normal daily exposure to the sun. In the fall and winter months, a vitamin D supplement may be necessary.
- Humans make 90 percent of our vitamin D naturally from sunlight exposure to our skin
- Few foods naturally contain or are fortified with supplemental vitamin D. For example, an 8-ounce glass of whole milk is fortified with 100 IU (international units) of vitamin D — just 10 percent of what we need daily. In contrast, sun exposure to the skin makes thousands of units of vitamin D naturally in a relatively short period of time.



Technology & You: Windows 7

As Microsoft launches Windows 7, the latest version of its operating system, will its success or failure determine the future of the world's biggest software company? The launch is key for Microsoft given the dismal consumer reaction to Windows Vista, the last version of Windows, almost universally panned as sub-par.

Welcome back to our returning clients...

NANCY BAYLESS
GRETCHEN GROEN
PATRICK AND SALLY HENNESSEY
DEBBIE JARIGESE
MIKE MINYARD
TONY AND SHANNON PALUMBO
CHARLES SANEC
HOWARD AND EDNA RYNBERK
DEBRA GRZESKOWIAK
JEFF AND LINDA MOLSEN
WARREN AND JANICE KEUCH
CHARLENE MEYERS

Thanks to those who referred us this month

BROOK AND RYAN JOHNSON
GEORGE AND MARY KRAUS
JULIE WIGBOLDY
NANCY BAYLESS
NORM JACOBSEN
BOB AND DOLORES ANDREWS
ED AND ALICE PODOBNIK
RICH RUBIN
DEBRA GRZESKOWIAK

New Friends And Clients! Meet our new clients...

WALTER AND JEN BARTUSIEWICZ
LORI DALY
WADE KING
DARLA SANTORO
CAROLE MATHIS
LEEANN LEHMANN
STEVE FRENCH
AMY HAINZINGER
SUE CHAVARIA
MIKE WALDRIDGE
JOE AND EDNA BALOGH
RENEE BERNARD
CRAIG AND JOSETTE CLARK
DAVE DILLING
JANICE MICHALEC
JOYCE MILLER
JIM AND MARY LYNN TOPEL
VIJAY VARADARAJAN
ANN ZICKUS
KEN AND ROBBIE RYPEL
BILL AND JOAN FALKENTHAL
PETE AMBROSINO
JEAN GROMNICKI
JENNIFER SCHURY
TONY AND LINDA MORENO
STEVE AND TINA KORONKOWSKI

Many users stuck – or even switched back – to the now almost ancient Windows XP system. Vista, of course, was sexy: it looked great and allowed PC users to feel almost as hip as their Mac-using rivals. But Vista was also slow, bombarded you with security warnings, and was frequently incompatible with software and hardware, leaving users scanning the Internet for new drivers.

According to most reviews of the Windows 7 beta version, it appears the bad taste left over from Vista is a thing of the past. There's finally a reason for PC-using consumers to rejoice. Windows 7 is different, of course. It's faster. It nags you less. It's more intuitive.

"In fact, what Microsoft seems to be going for in Windows 7 is 'Vista, fixed'," wrote tech writer David Pogue in *The New York Times*. "Bottom line: Windows 7 is a very good, versatile operating system that should help Microsoft bury the memory of Vista and make PC users happy," writes *The Wall Street Journal's* personal technology writer Walter Mossberg.

That alone will not banish the fundamental threats to Microsoft's business model, though. Over the next few years there will be a big shift to web-based and operating system neutral applications, which may spell the end of operating system dominance. Should Microsoft rest on its Windows 7 laurels, it might end up being its most, but also its last, successful operating system.

Moneywise!

Digging out of the Credit Hole



Getting out of credit-card debt can be a lot easier than it seems -- if you're able to use discipline. First, you need to resolve to curb your credit-card spending. Commit to only using your credit cards to buy things you absolutely need, and that you'll be able to pay off, in full, at the end of the month. If you're unable to do this, either because you need more than your current income and expenses allow or because you simply lack the will power, then you will not be successful in getting out of credit-card debt on your own -- you'll need a little help. But if you are able to curb your credit-card spending, the next step is to ensure you can pay at least your monthly minimums on each of your credit cards, each month.

If you're able to curb your spending and pay at least your minimums, the next step is to save a little extra cash each month and apply it toward your debts. Even if it's only \$20 a month, it will go a long way when allocated in the most effective manner possible. But most people can find a way to sock away an extra \$5 every workday, which works out to more than \$100 a month.

But what do you do with the extra \$100? Simply apply it to the credit card with the highest interest rate and you'll see that balance drop like a stone! When you only pay the minimums, the bulk of your payments are going towards interest, which is why your balances never seem to go down -- paying an extra \$100 takes a flat \$100 extra off your balance each month!

It's important to note here that you must keep paying the same payment on each of your cards, each month. As your minimum payments chip away at your balances, the minimum payment required will drop, but this is a trap -- don't fall for it! Keep on paying the payment you've gotten used to and more of your payment will go towards paying down the balance.

When you finally get your first credit card paid off, take the total monthly payment and apply it to the card with the next highest interest rate. Repeat this process and in little time, you'll be credit-card debt free.

Of course, this plan can't work for everyone. Many people are so deeply in debt that they can't even pay the minimum payments on their cards, let alone save up an extra \$100 each month. For these folks, services such as credit counseling, debt management, and debt settlement should be looked into.

Work Tips:

If you are an avid computer user, as many people are nowadays, you will probably spend a fair amount of time sitting at your computer desk, so it is important to make sure it is comfortable for you. The desk should be high enough so that your body isn't in any kind of strain or uncomfortable position when you use it. If the desk is too high, it would make looking at the monitor and using the keyboard uncomfortable for long periods of time, same thing if it was too low. You may also want to consider a desk with a built-in keyboard drawer, especially helpful if you intend to do a lot of typing. Your comfort should definitely be a high priority.



Safety Tips: Holiday Hazards

No matter what December holiday you're observing, don't lose sight of household safety. Trees, ornaments, candles and festive lights are the source of much joy, but can lead to heartache if you don't pay attention to their rules. Here's a quick checklist to keep all your loved ones safe:

- Select a fresh tree, make a cut in the bottom and keep it well watered
- Place the tree is at least 3 feet from any heat source, near an electrical outlet
- If you pick an artificial tree, get one that's tested and labeled as fire resistant
- Use indoor lights indoors, outdoor lights outdoors
- Replace all damaged strings of lights or wiring
- Do not overload cords or circuits
- Do not run extension cords under rugs or where someone could trip on them
- Never use electric lights on a metal tree
- Ornaments are hazardous to small children & pets, place out of reach
- Never place lighted candles on a tree or near any flammable materials or decorations
- Extinguish lights and candles if you're not in the room
- Dispose of your tree when it starts dropping needles – it can go up like a torch when dry!
- Check your smoke alarms, replace batteries as needed, and know what your fire escape plan is

WARNING!

Don't visit any flooring dealer until you call us for a FREE Consumer Awareness Guide!

You will learn...

- 4 predatory sales tactics
- 7 costly misconceptions about flooring
- 5 questions to ask a dealer before buying

Call Today – (708) 479-8600



This & That...

Some real cities you may want to visit especially during the holiday season. They seem to be in the holiday spirit . . .

Christmas FL, and MI
Santa Claus, AZ, GA, IN
Gift, TN
Bells, TN
Cookietown, OK
Milk Springs, AL
Pie Town, NM
Hot Coffee, MS
Sugarland, TX
Tea. MO or Tea, SD
Frost, WV

And of course AFTER the holidays
some of us may need to visit
Girdler, KY

Get A Night Out At The Movies For 2 With My Referral Rewards Program

As you probably know, advertising is very expensive. Instead of paying the newspaper or other place to advertise, I'd rather reward you. So I've assembled my **Referral Rewards Program**. Every time you refer someone who becomes a client, I will send you a gift certificate for two passes to the Marcus Theater. And Hey! What's a movie without popcorn? The gift certificate will also cover a big box of hot, buttered popcorn and sodas!

Creative Carpet, Inc.
19420 S. LaGrange Road
Mokena, IL 60448
Phone: (708) 479-8600
www.CreativeCarpetInc.com

HOURS:
Mon Tue Wed 10:00 – 6:00
Tue Thur 10:00 – 8:00
Sad 10:00 – 4:00
Sun Closed

Our Christmas Gift To You . . .



Wow! Can you believe Christmas is already here? We want to end the year with a great big THANK YOU to all of our clients who choose to make a purchase by the end of the year. Everyone is busy during the holidays and we know that many of you are either entertaining or traveling to visit friends and family during the holidays. And of course, we all have gifts to buy. So you choose . . .

Gas * **G**roceries * **G**ifts

We want to give you gift certificates to either Speedway Gas Station, Jewel, or Kohl's. You decide. Receive FREE gift certificates as follows:

Purchase
25 -50 yards of Carpet
51-75 yards of Carpet
76-100 yards of Carpet
101-125 yards of Carpet
126-150 yards of Carpet
151 and up

**And get FREE
Gift Cards worth**
\$100 Gift Card
\$150 Gift Card
\$200 Gift Card
\$250 Gift Card
\$300 Gift Card
\$350 Gift Card