

Sticky savings at local outlet

Inspired by the discovery of yet another money-saving warehouse outlet, I have come up with a winning idea for a new situation comedy.

The story would take place in a successful international company headed by an attractive jet-setting couple. To conduct their business ventures, they would be required to fly to countries they do business with: Japan, Austria, Sweden, France, England, Turkey, Greece, Israel and more.

Their product? Stickers. (You know, bits of paper with adhesive on the back.) "A Sticky Situation" is my working title. Just imagine the marvellous possibilities for plot and character lines!

Right here in Markham, at 340 Alden Road, that company exists in the form of Sandylion Paper Designs. In November '85 a warehouse outlet was

Born To Shop

Deb Bodine Champion



opened to the public and this past week I have been there three times, twice with three kids in tow.

The obvious target market is the teaching profession, many of whom like to use stickers as a form of reward. Sandylion has a good selection of suitable novelty stickers as well as others with words of advice and encouragement.

The people who can benefit most though, are parents. The

outlet offers a huge selection of stickers to please any child, many of which are activity-oriented. "Dress a Rag Doll" sticker comes complete with a wardrobe and related accessories, all re-stickable time and time again. "Design a Farm" comes with a selection of animals and farm characters. The selection is diverse and imaginative, including dinosaurs, pirates, monsters, clowns, teddy bears as well as special occasion sheets for Christmas, Easter, Halloween and Valentines

Day. (What a terrific thing to take along on long car trips to keep the kids occupied.) Each choice costs only \$.25 each or \$10 for 100.

I have a thing about buying birthday cards for children. It is hard to find one for under \$1 these days and the child is usually so anxious to rip into the accompanying gift, that the card is tossed aside unopened. At Sandylion it is possible to purchase a card that offers the child play value.

The activity stickers mentioned previously are mounted on colorful cards, with coordinating envelopes and sold for 50 cents, regularly \$1.75! Not only is the birthday child pleased, but the price is right too. (Now, if only I could cure Mr. C. of opening the gift first.)

Other types of stickers include fuzzies, Mylar (foil), laser magic and window decals, all at considerable savings. Sticker activity books with an array of stickers and pages to put them on cost \$2.25 to manufacture and are being sold at the outlet for only \$1.50. Preserve labels are four for a quarter or \$2.50 for 100.

Sandylion also carries a selection of party goods including cups, napkins, dinner and dessert plates, loot bags and party games at low, low prices.

I know it is hard to believe, but in one visit to Sandylion I spent \$23. (We eat less this week.) I bought three sticker activity books, 12 activity sticker sheets, 11 sticker activity birthday

cards, two greeting cards and party goods for a birthday party of eight. That's what I call a good value. (Mr. C calls it over-spending).

Mr. C doesn't want to see another sticker for a long time, so when you go, say hi for me, and tell them Deb sent you.

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Tips for homeowners

This is one in a series of articles by Robert Hume, President of the Toronto Homebuilders' Association, dealing with housing issues.

Being an informed consumer will pay big dividends when it comes to buying a home, the largest purchase most people will make in their lives.

The following sources of housing and renovation information will help you in your housing homework.

• The Toronto Homebuilders' Association offers a series of eight "insight" brochures helping homeowners know more about buying or renovating a home. To receive a copy, contact the Toronto Homebuilders' Association at 229-HOME.

• The Toronto Home Builders' Association also provides consumer information on its builder members, including the names of a company's principals, the location of a firm's active projects and its registration number with the Ontario New Home Warranty Program.

• "How to Buy a House", published by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, is an excellent starting point to items you should consider when buying a home. For copies, contact the Consumer Information Centre at 963-1111.

• The Royal Bank's "Money Matters" series also publishes a guide called "Buying a Home". Copies are available at most branches.

• Looking for information about what type of protection the Ontario

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io New Home Warranty Plan offers? "What Every New Home Buyer Should Know" is a guideline to what the ONHWP covers. Contact the Ontario New Home Warranty Program at 488-6000.

• The Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has produced a series of booklets and fact sheets on energy conservation and home renovation. Contact the Ministry at 585-6514.

• Do you have questions regarding an energy-saving project you are hoping to tackle around the house? Call the Federal Ministry of Energy Mines and Resources Canada "Heatline" at 1-800-267-9563.

• The Canadian Co-Operative Credit Society also publishes free information on how to cut heating bills. Call 232-1262 to obtain copies of "Reducing Energy Costs", and "Reducing Utility Bills".

• Looking for a basic introduction to the mortgage maze? The Canadian Bankers' Association publishes a brochure called "Mortgage Wise" which is a guide to the steps involved in buying a home. Call the association at 362-6092.

• Purchasing home insurance can be a complicated process. For a helpful booklet, "Home Insurance Explained", call the Insurance Bureau of Canada at 362-2031.

Software link-up

Tandem Computers Canada Ltd. is introducing WORD-LINK, a new group of software products for Tandem NonStop systems that allow document exchange between normally incompatible word processors.

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or OIS workstation user can exchange documents with and edit documents from a person who uses an IBM Displaywriter or an IBM PC.

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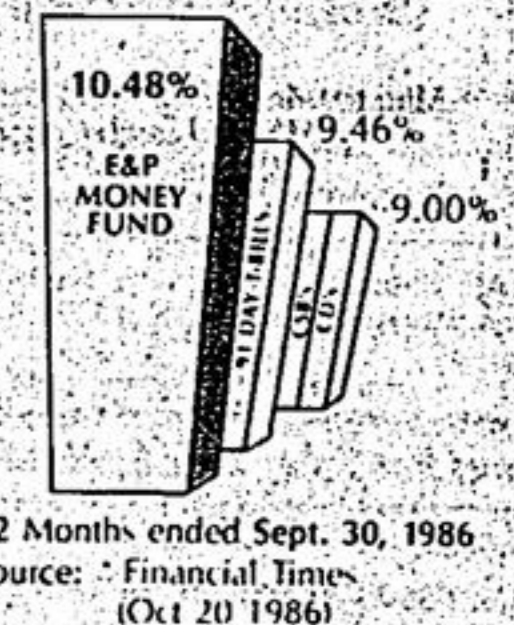
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