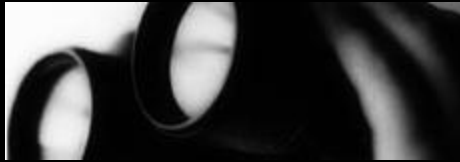




MIGNOLET  
BUSINESS RESEARCH CONSULTANTS, INC.



**Investigative Insights...**

**From**

**Jean**



### In This Issue

[Old Wives and Their Tales](#)  
[Dead Teacher Pension Fraud](#)  
[War Zones are Scam Zones](#)  
[Big Brains on FaceBook?](#)  
[Exploding Cybercrime Stats](#)  
[iPhone Voice of Attack?](#)



For more than three decades Jean

Mignolet has served in law enforcement and private investigation, managing all aspects of general investigative business.

She specializes in in-depth background investigations, and has been the top choice for attorneys, corporations, small business owners and individuals requiring all types of investigative services. For more information, visit

[www.Mignolet.com](http://www.Mignolet.com) or contact us at [investigators@Mignolet.com](mailto:investigators@Mignolet.com) or 954-

Dear ,

Google is one of the great resources on the Internet. But don't be fooled: **Google is not a private investigator.**

There are many people who believe that they can find out anything by performing a Google search. And while it certainly can direct you to information, Google can't help you with handling the volume of data, interpreting the results, or accessing information that is shielded from public-level searches.

Here's an example: You're interested in finding an old girlfriend who was your flame when you lived in a different city 15 years ago. Google can't confidently tell you her last known address, if her name changed, or where she is living now. Google does not filter results that are really advertising that is asking you to pay a fee to access better information in your search. And Google can't always distinguish your target from other people who have the same name.

A private investigator has these capabilities. And more. They save you time, they improve the accuracy of information, and can fill in the "blanks" of a person's past life. They take away the guessing game of whether you are getting the real story. And they can do this whether you are searching for missing persons, missing assets, or missing information.

As always, thank you for your ongoing feedback. Please feel free to submit questions, comments and ideas for future issues.

Best Regards,

523-8737

## Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Services](#)

Join Our Mailing List!



## Old Wives Believing Old Wives' Tales

One in five British women believe that the debilitating "man-flu" disease which temporarily leaves sufferers prostrate on the sofa watching televised sports is real, according to a new study.

The survey, which questioned 2,000 British adults about health and well-being, showed that misconceptions and old wives' tales, including the myth that eating carrots improves night vision, prevail among the population when it comes to beliefs about common illnesses.

"Unbelievably, there are still a lot of misconceptions around how minor illnesses and conditions are caused or prevented," study leader Mike Smith, said in a statement.

The top 10 health myths ranged from the theory that eating carrots will aid night vision to the belief that too much stress will turn your hair grey, both subscribed to by one in 10 of the population.

More than a third of people said that sugar makes children hyper, and 37 percent said they believed we lose

## Jean Mignolet

**ALERT\*\*If you received an e-mail from my email address regarding jewelry or weight loss, please understand that it did not originate from me. My computer expert, Peter Jarvic said that my computers had NOT been violated and therefore the hacker had gotten my e-mail address from someone else's address book. Keep checking your computers for viruses.**

## Mensa Recruiters Alert!?! Facebook

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

## Builds Better Brains

Reuters reports that scientists have found a direct link between the number of "friends" a person has on Facebook and the size of certain brain regions, raising the possibility that using online social networks might change our brains.

The four brain areas involved are known to play a role in memory, emotional responses and social interactions.

So far, however, it is not possible to say whether having more Facebook connections makes particular parts of the brain larger or whether some people are simply predisposed, or "hard-wired," to have more friends.

"The exciting question now is whether these structures change over time -- this will help us answer the question of whether the Internet is changing our brains," said Ryota Kanai of University College London (UCL), one of the researchers involved in the study.

Kanai and colleagues used magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to study the brains of 125 university students, all of them active users of social media site Facebook, and cross-checked their findings in a further group of 40 students.

They discovered a strong connection between the number of Facebook friends and the amount of "grey matter" in the amygdala, the right superior temporal sulcus, the left middle temporal gyrus and the right entorhinal cortex. Grey matter is the layer of brain tissue where mental processing occurs.

most of our body heat through our heads -- the most popular misconception of the survey.

"The Contagion study suggests that a large majority of the population are still under the illusion that they can, for example, get square eyes from watching too much television, or get better night vision from eating more carrots," Smith said.

"These are just not true, but do go to show that no matter how many millions are spent on health and education, some medical myths still prevail," he said.

"Old wives' tales are just that -- tales that should not be listened to or abided by. If the public are in any real doubt as to how to treat a condition, they should always refer to their family doctor or professional medical adviser," Smith said.

The study was specially commissioned to mark the release of Hollywood thriller "Contagion" starring Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow and Jude Law.



### **Pastor Cashes Dead Teacher's Pension Checks for a Decade**

A New York pastor was recently arrested for fraudulently cashing pension checks worth nearly a quarter-million dollars sent to a school teacher who died more than a decade ago.

The clergyman deceived New York City's Teacher Retirement System into thinking that the teacher was still alive and had her checks sent to a building he owns.

According to a Reuters report the pastor would cash the checks, often at a local bank. Investigators said

The thickness of grey matter in the amygdala was also linked to the number of real-world friends people had, but the size of the other three regions appeared to be correlated only to online connections.

The students, on average, had around 300 Facebook friends, with the most connected having up to 1,000. With more than 800 million active users worldwide, Facebook has become a major component of social interaction, especially among the young.

"Online social networks are massively influential, yet we understand very little about the impact they have on our brains. This has led to a lot of unsupported speculation the Internet is somehow bad for us," said Geraint Rees of UCL.

"This shows we can use some of the powerful tools in modern neuroscience to address important questions -- namely, what are the effects of social networks, and online social networks in particular, on my brain."

The study results were published Wednesday in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B. Heidi Johansen-Berg of the University of Oxford, who was not involved in the research, said the findings were intriguing but did not mean Facebook was a short cut to making people brainier.

"If you got yourself 100 new Facebook friends today then your brain would not be bigger tomorrow," she said. "The study cannot tell us whether using the Internet is good or bad for our brains."



### **Cybercrime Exploding Most Have Been Hit, Few Take Action**

A recent report by Norton, owned by Symantec, reveals that cybercrime nets **\$338 Billion dollars per year. This is \$50 billion more than marijuana, heroin and**

they interviewed bank staff, who recalled he often preached about God to other customers while waiting in line.

The teacher died in April 2000 at age 75.

A report by the New York City's Department of Investigation said in the years after her death, someone sent fraudulently notarized documents to the Teacher Retirement System, purportedly signed by the teacher, affirming that she was still alive.

Investigators said they caught Rosa cashing the checks at a bank in the city's Bronx borough on security camera footage.

He was arrested in Orlando, where he now lives, and is slated to face prosecution by the office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

### **cocaine combined.**

Here are some key stats:

- 431 million per year are victimized by online crime. This is more than 1 million people per day.
- 41 percent of us do not have adequate up-to-date virus or malware protection on our personal computers.
- 60% of us have been victims of a virus.
- 10% of us have already experienced malware on our mobile device.
- 73% of Americans have been the victim of a cybercrime.
- 85% of Chinese computer users have been victims.

The keys to our defense are well known. Keep all software up-to-date, especially security systems. Carefully guard passwords and then change them several times each year. And, finally, be realistic: the problem is not going away any time soon.



### **Military Families Targeted by Scammers**

Families of military members serving overseas are being targeted by criminals.

Linda Tramel says a man claiming to be an attorney at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico called her home and told her that her grandson, who is serving overseas, was arrested in Mexico.

He urged Tramel to wire \$2,600 to make the charges go away.

According to television station KENS, authorities say it was all a scam. Tramel's grandson was never in Mexico.

The Secret Service is blaming social media sites for putting military service-members' families at risk. "If a large deployment occurs and it makes the news, then obviously



### **iPhone 4S Voice Command May Be The Voice of Attack**

Siri, the voice-activated personal assistant on the new iPhone 4S, can look up restaurant menus for you, calculate the number of inches in a half mile, tell you the population of New Jersey, even let you know if it will rain this weekend in any city in the world. Unfortunately, Siri's courtesy is not limited to her owner, and the convenience she provides actually leaves new iPhones open to attack.

According to Security News Daily, Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for the security firm Sophos, found that a person can speak a command into an iPhone 4S, even one that is locked and protected with a passcode, and Siri will provide an answer. Not only that, but, as Cluley demonstrated on a friend's iPhone, he was able to write an email and send a text message, all from the locked iPhone.

"If I had wanted to I could have meddled with his calendar

criminals may realize that there's people that are gone that may be easier targets to target the family. They use the social media sites to communicate back and forth when they are overseas. And those are going to be the target sites where they'll harvest the information," said Jeffrey Shaffer of the U.S. Secret Service.

The investigation into this case has proven to be challenging. Because the calls originated from outside the U.S., victims have to rely on authorities in other countries to go after those responsible.

appointments, too," Cluley wrote on a Sophos blog.

The security foul-up stems from the way the iPhone 4S configures its passcode settings. The iPhone 4S provides users with the option to passcode-protect phones; Siri, however, is a separate entity, and by default, users are able to access it even when their phones are locked.

Cluley expressed his disappointment in Apple for making Siri accessible on locked phones by default. "They [Apple] could have chosen to implement Siri securely, but instead they decided to default to a mode which is more about impressing your buddies than securing your calendar and email system," Cluley said.

Companies choosing default settings that compromise users' security is of particular importance lately; Amazon has received criticism, and questions from Congress, over news that Silk, the Web browser in its soon-to-be-released Kindle Fire tablet, will collect customers' browsing histories.

To prevent someone from accessing Siri and taking advantage of what you thought was your own private, personal assistant, go to the Passcode Lock screen and disable access to Siri on locked phones.