

"The accounting disclosures finance professionals can't be without"\*

# AccountiLeaks!

Issue 2 - Summer 2011

We keep ledgers open

\*allegedly



## FD CALLS CURTAINS ON COUNTERS' CUPPAS

### Tea Lady Terminated Following FP&A Review

An A-Leaks exclusive by Mandy Ledgers

A FINANCE DIRECTOR has been defending a controversial decision to outsource a much-loved service overseas.

AS of August 1, legendary tea lady at Liverpool-based accountants Ledger Lovers, Vera 'Hit the Spot' Kettle, will be made redundant and the tea trolley service she has nurtured for nearly 90 years will be mothballed and replaced by a Helpdesk based in Bangalore.

#### Hot

The move, described by some as 'trolley-ist' and by others as a blatant breach of the Hot Beverages (Trolleys and Operatives) Act 1896, follows closely on the heels of other controversial initiatives including the transfer of the stationery cupboard to Mumbai in 2010.

In a statement, Ledger Lover Finance Director Peter Drastic said: 'It's not an easy decision but the figures speak for themselves. We've had the top FP&A guys swarming over the sums for 6 months and the 'cost per cuppa' stats are startling.

#### Allegations

'Furthermore,' he added, 'for some time there have been allegations of extra-cuppas



**TROUBLE BREWING...** Ledger Lover FD Drastic enjoying a UK-sourced cuppa before the scandal broke.

being poured which the new service will prevent.'

So how will it work? The statement continues.

'Staff now have a choice. They can either phone the Hot Beverages Helpdesk (HBH) direct or fill in an on-line Hot Beverages Requisitioning Form (HBRF) via the company intranet.

'Orders will be taken by the newly recruited 50- strong Hot Beverages Team.

#### Boiling

'Authentic sounds of kettles boiling, finest English chinaware chinking and idle office banter will be played in the background.

'Simultaneously, the HB team will e-mail a UK-based Hot Beverage Delivery Consultant (UKHBDC) who will then put the kettle on. Once ready, an e-mail will be routed back to the thirsty customer for pick up at an office of their choice.

'Simple. What's more the new approach is fully aligned with our brand values - choice, personal and hand-crafted service and a commitment to all that is British', the statement concluded.

And what does Vera think of the changes?

#### Hen

'I was initially saddened. I've got to know all the accounting staff and they've come to think of me as a mother hen figure', said the old girl.



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'Mind you it has become quite a chore. When I started back in the 1920s the office was a lot smaller and on one floor. Now there are 500 people on 10 floors. I'm at it all day', the old sage muttered.

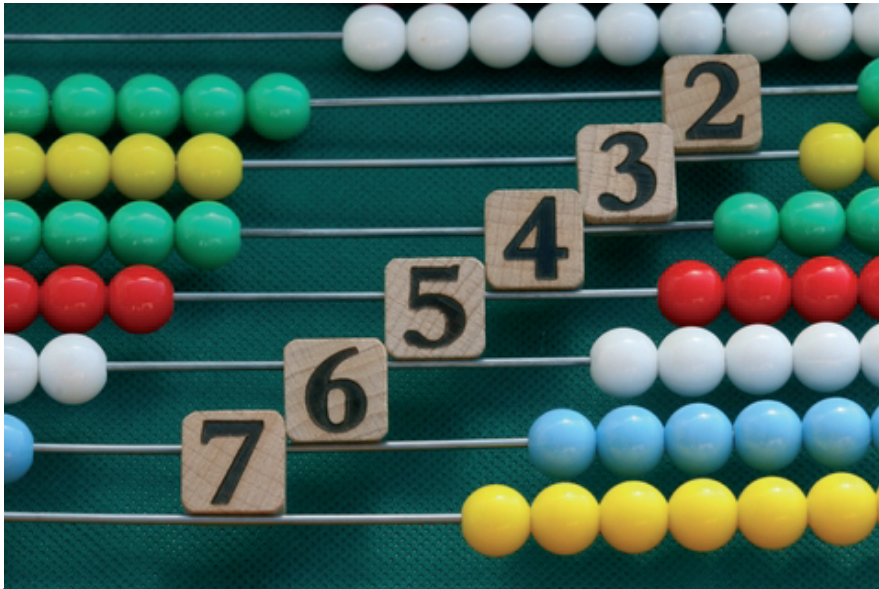
#### Wedged

'But if it means better alignment with brand values then so be it', the great-grandmother added shrewdly, wedged behind an overlaid trolley in the service lift.

A pilot service will commence in July.

**DISCOVER THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT**

Where All The Mess Is Sorted Out

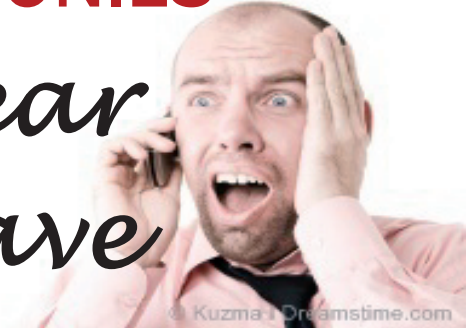


**“Hot 'n Steamy”**

...And who wouldn't be after peeping at this?! Thanks to Malcolm X, a Group Financial Controller from Washington, for causing a commotion with our calculators with this awfully explicit and uncensored scene.

## YOUR SECRET ACCOUNTING AGONIES

Dear Dave



He dresses up as a French maid

## CLASSIFIEDS

### IN MEMORIAM

**Kathy R - Senior Consultant on Finance Project Phoenix III: a New Dawn.**  
We told you it wouldn't work. It didn't.

### FOR SALE

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**YEAR END FINANCIALS PACK**  
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**Creative Dross**  
**HAND-KNITTED** effigies of the auditors. All your favourites. 10p each. Buyer collects. No trade. No timewasters. Call Irene in Accounts Payable - Ad line 335

## Month End Humiliation Anguish

Dear Dave,

**A senior accounting colleague wants me to dominate him when we do month end but I'm not comfortable with it.**

I'm 28 and he's 44 and we started working together only a few months ago.

Things seemed to be going okay until last month which is also our year end.

Out of the blue he tottered out of his office dressed as a French maid, insisted on being called Veronique and asked to be ordered to do menial accounting tasks such as bank reconciliations, filing invoices and signing cheques.

That in itself wasn't a problem as we had a bit of a backlog to catch up on.

But now he's asked if I can physically and psychologically abuse him suggesting I accuse him of not being fully qualified; leave uncleared items in his Suspense Account and pitilessly flog and

spank him with the Month End Reconciliations File.

I don't think I can do it. I'm just too busy.

What should I do? It's as if he just wants to feel small, worthless and humiliated.

Please help!

**Rich T, Management Accountant**

**Dave says:**

**And so he should! What a nutter.**

*For many accountants the pressures of relentless deadlines and years of working in the back office can lead to episodes of increasingly deviant behaviour.*

*But that's no excuse. So go on, pencil some time in your diary and really let him have it!*

*If his antics still continue I suggest he tries my advice sheet - "**Feeling Small, Worthless and Humiliated? - It's What You Deserve.**"*

**ACCOUNTANT NICKNAMES**

**ACCOUNTAHOLIC**  
PROVISIONS PEDDLAR  
DOUBLE ENTRY DEVIANT  
RESERVED RECONCILER  
DEALER IN DEBITS AND CREDITS  
BEAN COUNTER  
**LEDGER LOVER**  
BEANKEEPER  
COUNTING CONSULTANT  
NUMBER CRUNCHER  
PENNY PROCESSOR

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# ZODAN

## The Mysterious Accounting One

(aka Nigel in Management Accounts)



# SPEAKS

from the back office....

### Aries Mar 21- Apr 20

**ZODAN says:** It CANNOT be! The auditing one from the dark side is here. STAY AT YOUR DESK. LOOK BUSY. DO NOT VENTURE NEAR THE COPIER. **Zodan is not here.**

### Cancer Jun 23 - Jul 22

**ZODAN says:** Venus is upping the ante with cliché planet Earth. Get your ducks in a row as you move forward - but be careful: you are between a rock and a hard place. Don't look at me, I'm just the messenger. **Zodan is having a heads-up.**

### Libra Sep 23 - Oct 23

**ZODAN says:** The Sacred Pool is clear. The Strange Mists have stopped swirling. The voices have called in sick. There are no lights. Nothing. Not a sausage. Zilch. Nout. Zero. Sorry about this.

**Zodan is bored.**

### Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 20

**ZODAN says:** Reception planet Mars has appeared in your chart. There is a message. You've left your lights on. **Zodan is feeling neighbourly.**

### Taurus Apr 21- May 21

**ZODAN says:** Reconciliation planet Neptune is crossing your quadrant. I hear voices and laughter discussing purchase orders of long ago. Quick! Go now to the Purchasing Department and ask for Martin. **Zodan has cleared an item.**

### Leo July 23 - Aug 23

**ZODAN says:** Beware! Mystical comet Sarbox is passing through your constellation. There are messages written in the heavens. **You are not compliant!** Revisit Qs 13, 27 and 143 of your Internal Controls Questionnaire. Do it now. The auditors are here! **Zodan is being helpful.**

### Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 22

**ZODAN says:** Someone who knows you is trying to get a message through. The letters C F O have significance. The voice is getting louder and more insistent. Please turn off your voicemail and pick up the phone. I've told you about this before. Thank you.

**Zodan has spoken...again.**

### Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 18

**ZODAN says:** What is THAT ?????!! AAAGHH UUGGH...

**Zodan has been abducted.**

### Gemini May 22 - Jun 22

**ZODAN says:** The wise one they call 'She of the Budgets' is trying to communicate from the other side. There is foreboding in her voice. Your 3% inflation assumption for 2011 is too optimistic. Try 3.5. Thank you. **Zodan has spoken.**

### Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 22

**ZODAN says:** The mists are swirling with ominous power! There is danger. Remember that paper you submitted supporting a major investment for which The Voices gave their input? THUNDER AND LIGHTNING. They were wrong! **Zodan is being sick.**

### Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21

**ZODAN says:** Lady Luck is with you as she passes snacking planet Mercury. Rejoice! The snack vending machine has been restocked with all your favourites. **But make haste!** Cathy from Credit Control is on her way with a full purse and empty bucket. You must leave now. **Zodan is peckish.**

### Pisces Feb 19 - Mar 20

**ZODAN says:** The alignment of Jupiter with Mercury will cause disturbances at month end. The crystals show a candle burning well into the night. Quick! Cancel that weekend Theatre booking. There is still time for a full refund. **Zodan is being helpful.**



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### Your Mysterious Messages

**Simone (FP&A)** - I went to the Marketing Department to discuss a large adverse budget variance with the Head of Department. When we compared figures she had a completely different budget to me and a favourable variance. Spooky!

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