

The WORLD'S WACKIEST TIPS:

they may be professionals,
but they sure are **weird**



Mud. Yep, Mud.

LEICESTER, England — Sometimes a winning idea is less of a spark than a splat. So it is in the case of Jonathon Fagan. Fagan is on the dull edge of e-commerce: He peddles various grades and weights of mud on his Web site (pileofmud.com). Aside from the assortment of mud available, he offers T-shirts (some entirely unadorned), mugs, mouse pads, yeast extract, and caber-tossing kits. (Caber tossing is a Scottish sport that has to do with throwing tree trunks.) Or you can visit the site to nominate a mud-slinging celebrity for this month's pile-of-mud tribute, or to read an interview with Agnes the octogenarian mud wrestler, who gives new meaning to *dirty*.

Ma'am? I've Got a Chihuahua on Line One

DAVIS, Calif. — Ever wonder why Rover stares longingly at the departing UPS truck? Or why your goldfish floats in the same place all day? Well, wonder no longer. Call pet psychic Raphaela Pope at (530) 758-6111 and schedule a phone conference between her and your troubled best friend. Pope is a pet mind reader. She charges about \$25 for a 15-minute phone consultation . . . with your pet. If you think your puss, pooch, or parrot needs long-term psychic counseling and you can't afford Pope's rate, sign up for one of her workshops and learn how even the nonpsychic can communicate more effectively with their pets.



The Profit of Punch

TOKYO, Japan — Think your clients are abusive? You don't know what abusive is, punk. Jun Sato knows. Getting beat up is what he does for a living. That's right, Sato is a human punching bag. Professionally. He wanders the streets searching out clients: People pay him \$10 for three minutes of punching. Sato, who wears protective head and stomach gear, says that the fear of bullies that drove him out of high school is long gone. In fact, now he likes being punched. Well, they say you ought to love your work.

The Line King

PRETORIA, South Africa — Bet you've never thought of hiring a toustaner, have you? Bet you've never heard of a toustaner, have you? Can you pronounce the word *toustaner*? Well, if you live in Pretoria, Derick Mentz is the answer to all of your yet-unimagined stands in lines at banks, post offices, theaters, government agencies. If there's a line you don't want to stand in, Mentz is your man. How does he find clients? Mentz says he meets most of them while he's on the job: He simply suggests to the aggravated people around him that next time they don't want to wait in line, they should give him a call at 083 708 3913, or look behind them in the queue — He may be on duty.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY
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