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A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Work...

Beware of What You Wear

By Michael A. Crawford, CPA

Be prepared" was one of the first mottos I learned from my Boy Scout days. Recently, I was reminded of the importance of this motto.

This summer, I awoke early one morning to dress and pack for a short working trip to Orlando, Fla. Trying not to wake my spouse, I quietly packed and dressed in the dark and left for the airport. Because it was a typical hot summer day in Oklahoma and Florida, I decided to wear jean shorts and a knit shirt to be as comfortable as possible in the naturally uncomfortable airplane seats.

The first of my two flights was a short one to Houston to catch a connection to Orlando. The small plane required you to board with your head ducked down and walk sideways through the aisle. Being a frequent flyer, I was allowed to board first. I was in a hurry to get to my seat and walked quickly with my carry-on bag over my shoulder. I was rapidly passing a row when I came to an abrupt stop. My right side pant leg had caught on the extended arm of a seat. I had walked so fast that the opposite forces of my moving body and the immobile seat arm caused the arm to rip right through my pants. With the pants stuck on the arm, I tried to move forward, successfully ripping my shorts to the point that the free section dropped to my ankles with the seat arm still extending through the right side pant leg.

The only things I had going for me was that no one else had boarded the plane yet and the only person behind me

was a female flight attendant, who was also the only witness to the whole event. I quickly bent over to pull up my pants, which drew loud, uncontrollable laughter from the young flight attendant. Without looking back, I said, "I know — it's not a pretty sight." However, she said she wasn't laughing at the sight as much as the writing on my underwear.

I quickly asked, "What writing?" I couldn't remember having any boxers with writing on the back. Yet, in big, bold, capital letters, on the backside of my boxers, were the words, "BITE ME."

It turns out my wife had just bought me two new pairs of boxers and put them in my drawer the day before my trip. She said she didn't look at the back of them during the purchase and was as surprised as I was to learn of the interesting message on the back. Of course, she claimed all this with tears of laughter in her eyes.

During the remainder of the flight to Houston, the flight attendant and I had a unique relationship and dialogue. As she came through the aisle to offer beverages to the passengers, when arriving at my seat she politely asked, "Can I get you anything to drink — or wear?"

I could only think of one response, but she had already seen it on the back of my shorts. €

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