

"THE DAILY SHOW"



TRANSCRIPT OF SEGMENT

AIR DATE: MARCH 30, 2004  
TITLE: "EMAIL TROUBLE"  
REPORTER: ROB CORDREY

RC VOICEOVER [1]: The economy has yet to rebound and no new jobs are being created but Coloradan Scott Richter has managed to find work in one of the only growth industries.

SR [2]: I'm a high volume email deployer.

RC [3]: High volume email deployer?

SR: What we do is not spamming. It's high deployment email sending. We send out several hundred emails a day.

RC VOICEOVER: It's a public service Richter and other high-volume emailers provide to customers who depend on receiving emails to learn about valuable products like "viagkra" and information about grandma's penchant for youngsters.

SR: People look forward to receiving mail. They call us, email us, "We didn't get our offer today. What did we miss?" Calm down, it's coming. People enjoy getting emails on our Viagel. People enjoy getting email about our Energizer.

RC: What is Viagel?

SR: It's a ... ahh ... female clitorious [sic] stimulation cream.

RC: Oh. And do you put this right on the clitorious [sic]?

SR: Ah ... I haven't actually used it.

RC VOICEOVER: But the government is trying to prevent millions of clitoriouses [sic] local here from being stimulated. Colorado State Senator Joan Fitzgerald is trying to pass legislation that would make sending this leading email illegal.

JF [4]: This is about consumer protections and privacy protections. Spam is intrusive ....

RC: Ah-ah-ah, high volume email.

JF: Well, it's a good euphemism. It's a great spin. They're still ... spammers.

RC: This is pork-barrel politics at its worst.

JF: How so?

RC: It's ... so so.

JF: You have no idea what pork-barrel politics are, do you?

RC: Do you?

JF: Pork-barrel politics usually puts money into the system ....

RC: Oh, is that what they taught you in lady senator school?

RC VOICEOVER: Just because the message may crash your computer and can be used to steal personal information, that's no reason for the government to kill the messenger.

RC: Why do you think the government doesn't want you to making \$20,000 a day?

SR: Short laugh from S.R.] That's s-s-simple. That's the easiest question there is. Because the U.S. Postal Service is saying "Hey, we need help. ... We're getting killed here. This guy can send email. He's not wiping out the rain forest. What are we going to do with these little white trucks? We gotta get this guy

to either pay thirty-seven cents and buy some stamps or we're done."

RC: So that's what it's about. Uncle Sam wants a taste of the female arousal cream game.

SR: Yes, people want the email. That's what people understand.

RC: You're providing a service, like a ... like a garbage man ... except ... in reverse.

RC VOICEOVER: But the Post Office's insistence on protecting its little white trucks and destroying the rain forest isn't the only thing Richter needs to worry about.

SR: There's a few out there, anti-spammers who ... yeah ... they don't want it.

RC: Anti-...high-volume ... email ... deployers

SR: "Anti-high"? ... that doesn't make any sense. We're email deployers. They, they're not email deployers.

RC: No, They are anti-high-volume email deployers.

SR: Yeah, these anti-, anti- high email volume deployers, ah, anti-spammers ....

RC VOICEOVER: They actually attack Richter by flooding his computer servers with email.

SR: They use deceptive practices, invade my privacy, they, they make up lies, they, they say whatever they want to.

RC: So they're able to hide anonymously on the Internet and bombard you with emails you never asked for ... and disrupt your business?

SR: They operate like terrorist groups. They're, they're hidden. They, they, you know, don't identify who they are. They, they, you know, like I said, they attack you when nobody's looking.

RC: Why are you hiding in the shadows attacking them?

JF: Oh, I am not hiding in the shadows at all.

RC: What do you mean?

JF: Bringing a bill forward publicly, it gets testimony in committee. Scott Richter's invited to testify as are all citizens of the State.

RC: You are a wild cat! ... I like that. Rawwwrrrr!

RC VOICEOVER: Scott Richter remains confident the government will not be able to shut down his business which leaves just one final question.

RC: What's your personal email address?

SR: It's scottrichter422@yahoo.com.

RC: "Scottrichter422@yahoo.com"? Do you mind if we put that up on the screen?

SR: Well, I'd prefer it if you don't.

RC: Okay, ... we won't.

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Footnotes:

- [1] Reporter Rob Cordrey - voiceover
- [2] Scott Richter
- [3] Reporter Rob Cordrey
- [4] Colorado State Senator Joan Fitzgerald