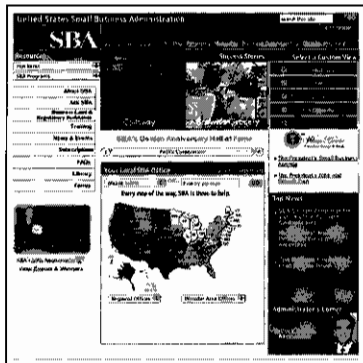


loved above all the modern, high technology devices. The lowly widget (for the edification of the uninitiated Yanks) is a gadget that puts a head on canned beer. It's "the small, plastic device in the bottom of a can which introduces nitrogen into the liquid to create a pint like you get down the pub," reported *The Mirror*. There are more than 100 million made every year. Perhaps one will be coming soon to a beer can near you.

His Moment of Fame

American Society of Inventors board member Thomas Fetterman was featured in November on Tech TV's new show, *Invent This!*, which airs Tuesdays at 9 p.m. Eastern (www.techtv.com/inventthis). Fetterman has sold 70,000 pairs of his patented "Tornado Tips," shock absorbing gel filled tips for crutches.

Small Business is Big News ... in any language



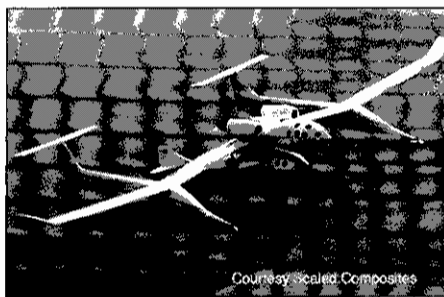
If you're considering establishing a new business, visit the The Small Business Administration's web site at www.sba.gov. "An Introduction to the U.S. Small Business Administration," an informative overview of their basic programs, is available to download in seven lan-

guages and covers such subjects as access to capital, entrepreneurial development, federal procurement and advocacy. In 2003 the SBA approved a record 7,481 loans totaling \$754 million in the New England area alone.

No excuses here

More than 40 percent of adults have had an idea for a new product or innovation, but most never even make it to the drawing board. That was one of the results of a survey conducted by Staples, Inc. Other obstacles to not developing an invention are not having the money to invest (25%), not knowing where to start (23%), lack of time (22%) and

thinking that the product would never make it on to store shelves (16%). Staples conducted the survey during its Invention Quest last fall when it was scouring the country for products that would make work life easier. Thousands of people, all hoping to win the grand prize of \$25,000, submitted their invention ideas. In March the winners will be announced.



Courtesy Scaled Composites

What's Hot?

Every year, *Popular Science* magazine reviews thousands of products in its search for the "Best of

What's New." Among the Grand Award winners for 2003 were "some of the boldest, most mind-blowing innovations we've ever surveyed," said Scott Mowbray, editor in chief of *Popular Science*, "all of which stand to change the way we live, work and play. This year's picks range from a 13-second, low-dose, full-body x-ray machine to a privately funded space plane and a safety system that helps vehicles steer clear of collisions." More information about Best of What's New winners can be found at <http://www.popsci.com/popsci/bown/>

Invention Goes South

The Inventors Society of South Florida is buzzing with activity! They have established a young inventors award, and on January 3, the first award will be made to Andrew Lenoir, a Miami high school student whose patent pending "method for inducing and measuring pupillary response" earned him a best project award at last year's Florida Science and Engineering Fair.

Howard and Paula Silken, authors of the book *I have an Idea for an Invention. What do I do?*, and their daughter, Joann, received the Society's Jay Morton Innovation Award for changing mankind through their inventions. Howard has created products that help prevent injuries to woodworkers.

Member Freddy Lee received his first royalty check for his cervical immobilization collar, and Society President Abby Waters is in negotiations for a second licensing deal with a major manufacturer. Also, it was standing room only when the Society hosted a day with the Ft. Myers (Fla.) Edison Group. The event included a tour of LIGI Tool in Deerfield Beach and a presentation by Charlie Koch on rapid prototyping. Inventors, find a group in your area. See page 40 for a list of groups across the country. There's so much to be gained!

(Continued on next page)

"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up." —Thomas Edison