

GIMPLY

WINTER 2008

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF STUMPS "R" US
A WHIMSICAL SUPPORT GROUP OF CHEERFUL CRIPPLES
WHO CAN ANSWER ALMOST **ANY** QUESTION YOU MIGHT HAVE
ABOUT LIFE WITHOUT ONE, TWO, THREE OR FOUR LIMBS.

THE FASTEST MAN ON NO LEGS

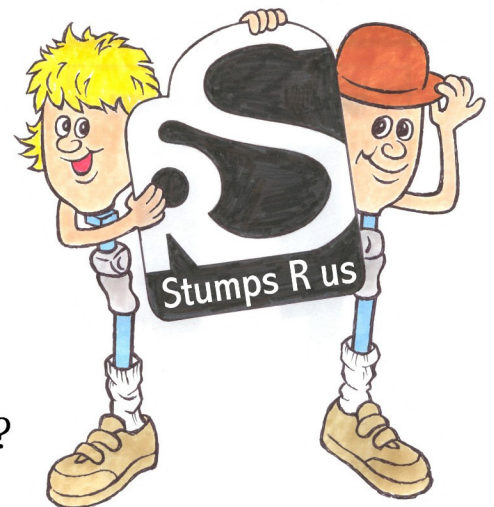
Oscar Pistorius hopes to compete in the Olympics someday. Not the Special Olympics for handicapped athletes, but the regular ole' able bodied Olympics. He is having a tough go of it. He is very fast, even by two-legged standards.

He is so fast, that some people claimed that his prosthetic blade legs gave him an unnatural advantage over able bodied runners. Based on that, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) made a ruling barring him from the Olympics.

That ruling was overturned, however, due to not enough evidence proving the blade legs were an advantage...Oscar was cleared to run in the Olympics, but he did not qualify.

Oscar plans on training hard to qualify for the next Olympics in 2012.

Wishing Oscar luck in achieving his dream. What do you think...should amputees be allowed to compete against able bodied athletes? Or does an engineered prosthetic provide too much of an advantage?



Travel Info for Travelers to the Disneyland Area

If going to the Disneyland Area and you need to rent any mobility devices,
I dealt with a company that gave superb service.

They carry 3 and 4 wheel scooters, wheelchairs, walkers, etc.
I have rented scooters elsewhere around the country and these people
did the best I have had.

O.C. Medical Supply Inc.

755 N.Euclid St. Anaheim, CA 92801

800.593.4942 714.956.4690

Shola is the manager. They claim to have the lowest price in the area
and have scooters that will carry a weight limit of 550lbs.

Also, I am a TRAVEL AGENT and can arrange for any travel needs.
Airfare, cruises, Hawaii and Las Vegas packages, Land tours around the world.

Craig Markinson - Portal World Travel

2609 Ocean Ave. San Francisco, CA 94132

I work from my home office 650.588.3376

You can always leave a message.



***SABER-TOOTH TIGER
GOT YOUR LEG?
NO PROBLEM!
GET A NEW ONE...
MADE TO ORDER!***

***SEE OTTO ROCK....
3rd CAVE FROM THE END
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY
LEGS MADE WHILE YOU WAIT.
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED***

MORE CHEERS FOR ERTL

By Dave Paschold

My path to the experience of receiving an ERTL

Procedure compares very much like others that can be viewed on the ERTL website and yet very different from some.

This "amputation experience" began for me in 1980 when I tangled with a piece of farm equipment and became a Symes amputee (off at the ankle). It took about a year from the accident to the time I was fitted with a with a prosthesis (that one lasted 17 years). The activity level maintained through the years was fairly good. My pain level comparable to my activity level. Both regular and Phantom pain. They said it was healthy to have the pain. It implied my nerves were still healthy and working.

The condition of my stump changed radically in April 2005. The distal end of my stump became much more painful, and a blister formed and layers of skin began peeling off. A deep crack in the skin was uncovered under the outside layers of the pad, and the pain became unbearable.

Upon examination of my stump by my local orthopedic surgeon (Dr.Keith Lawson) and X-rays taken, it was discovered that I had calcium deposits embedded in the soft tissue of my stump pad and the skin was continuing to break down.

I would do almost anything to avoid another surgery. The pain continued to go from bad to worse, and by June 2006, I was avoiding any unnecessary activity.

The Phantom pain was almost to the level of the time of the accident 26 years earlier.

It was about then that I discovered Stumps "R" Us website. Dan Sorkin guided me to the ERTL website. I Emailed Dr. William Ertl on a Sunday evening about 7 pm and he replied that same night at 11 pm!

We set a date to meet in OK city. Dr. Ertl and his staff were compassionate and considerate and we agreed on a date for surgery on the spot.

Thursday, July 20, 2006 was the surgery date.

We were blessed with a very successful surgery even though my stump was very "mature". I was released from the hospital 4 days later. My ride home was much less painful than the ride to

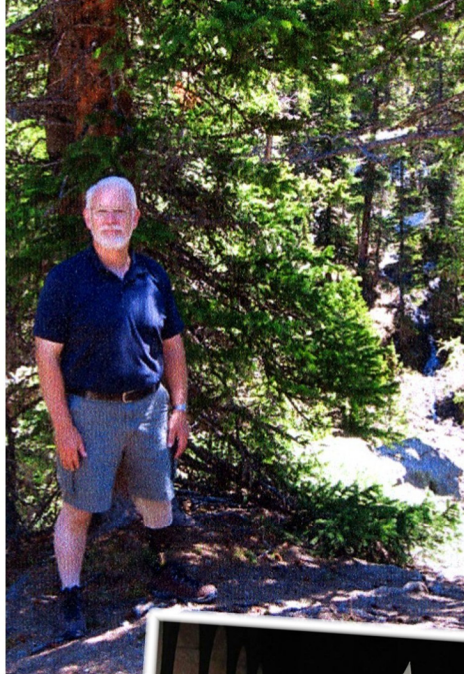
Oklahoma City.

The following weeks and months have not been struggle free or pain free but the level of pain and the difficulty has been far less than anything I could have experienced with a traditional transtibial procedure. Very little Phantom pain. Nine weeks after surgery I was back into a prosthesis walking and exercising at about 60% of the pre-surgery level.

Standing and not moving was still very difficult. Now, at 12 months after surgery, I can exercise and run 1 1/2 to 2 miles with limited consequences. Standing and walking are much more comfortable as the weeks go by. I would have to say that the ERTL reconstruction process has been a very good decision.

I am thankful for for everyone's support and input!

This past summer, my wife and I took a brief vacation in Rocky Mountain State Park.



We spent most of the time hiking. The ERTL procedure has truly proven to be extremely valuable for me!



ONE MORE CHEER FOR ERTL By Julie S. Paschold

My Dad, whose story is on the preceding page, is an amputee and has been for almost 30 years and he had been having trouble with his stump for quite some time.

It made our family consider the blessing of his mobility for the past few decades; the only alternative if a prosthesis didn't work was a wheelchair. Their house wasn't disability friendly. -- The bedrooms, shower and bathtub were all on the second floor and laundry was downstairs. To get in either door, you had to use the stairs.

That's when Mom and Dad bought a house with a better floor plan and Dad went to Oklahoma for major surgery --the ERTL procedure for those of you in the know.

He lost more of his leg, but thankfully gained mobility and is back to being a workaholic (it means he loves his job, right? He loves his grandchildren more!)

Now my kids just accept my Dad's mobility for granted, like I did when I was their age. They like seeing Papa's new foot--this one has toes and a steel rod and everything! I'm proud to have a father that, when times were tougher than we can imagine, he led on with a determination to give his family the security and normalcy we so desired. Thank you, Dad, for everything you have done for us.

ONE FOR THE ROAD

Not many people walk into a bar and walk out with a new leg.

But that's what happened to David Huckvale, 42, who needed a very expensive bionic leg to walk again. The father-of-two popped down to his local pub on the same day surgeon Alistair Gibson, who specializes in fitting the computer-controlled limb, was there for a pint.

When the two happened to meet, Mr. Gibson mentioned he had a spare leg and could fit Mr Huckvale for free. Mr Huckvale had his leg amputated when he was 29 after a benign tumor was removed. Before the chance encounter, he had been limping around on a false leg which didn't fit properly and walked with the help of crutches and sometimes in a wheelchair. Mr Huckvale had read about the bionic leg available in the US and was saving for one, but had only managed to put away a fraction of the required amount.

Mr Gibson said he was pleased to have been able to help.



TRI, TRI AGAIN!

Hi All!

So it's all over. Three and a half months of training all came to a head at Pacific Grove this Saturday.



The alarm went off at 4:30am, after a quick shower to get the blood flowing it was time to meet everyone in the transition area.

8:30am I was diving into the rather chilly waters of Pacific Grove surrounded by 100 plus other nutters in the TNT men's wave. Kerry followed in the first of the TNT women's waves at 8:45am. 42 minutes later I exited the water after swimming 1.5km and went to get my bike for the 40km ride. 1hr 26 min to complete the ride then back to change for the run. The 10km run was the hardest part, but 1hr 3min later I was crossing the finish line waving the Union Jack high in the air! It took 3hrs 23 min to finish, beating my goal of 3hr 30min. Kerry finished in 3hr 55min beating her goal of 4hrs. It was an amazing day and what an incredible sense of achievement! Kerry and I raised over \$11,000 for LLS. To everyone who donated... Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

It was a long 3.5 months of training and it has been so much fun being a part of the East Bay TNT tri team.

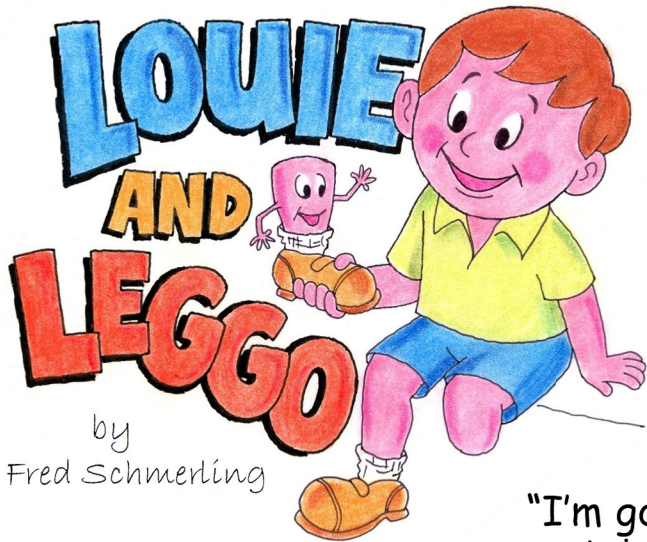
In a strange way, the race itself was actually quite enjoyable...maybe that means I'm now addicted to Triathalons.

Cheers, Keiron

<http://www.onehandedblogger.com>

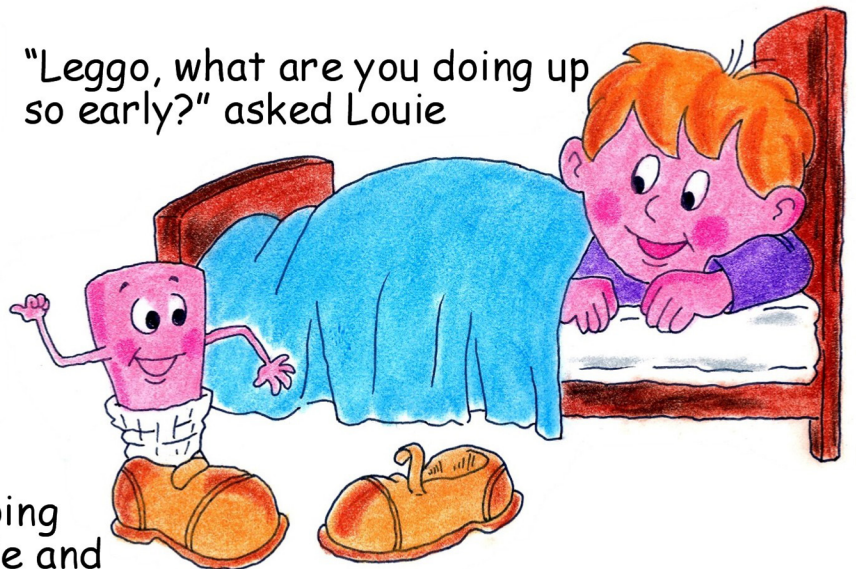
[Ed. note] Keiron McCammon is an upper extremity amputee who lost a hand in an electrocution accident in Honduras 4 years ago.

<http://pages.teamintraining.org/sf/pactri08/keiron>

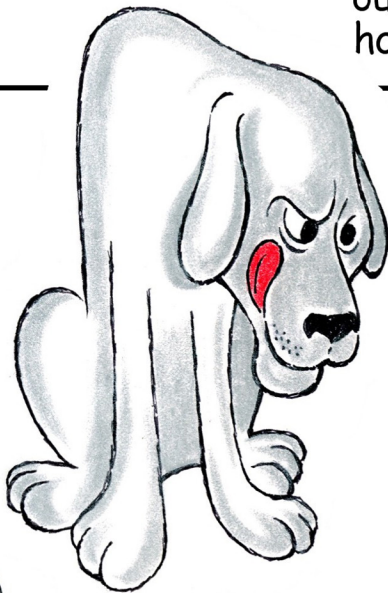


by
Fred Schmerling

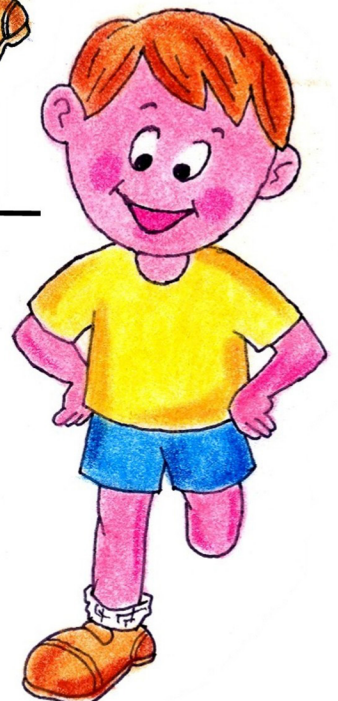
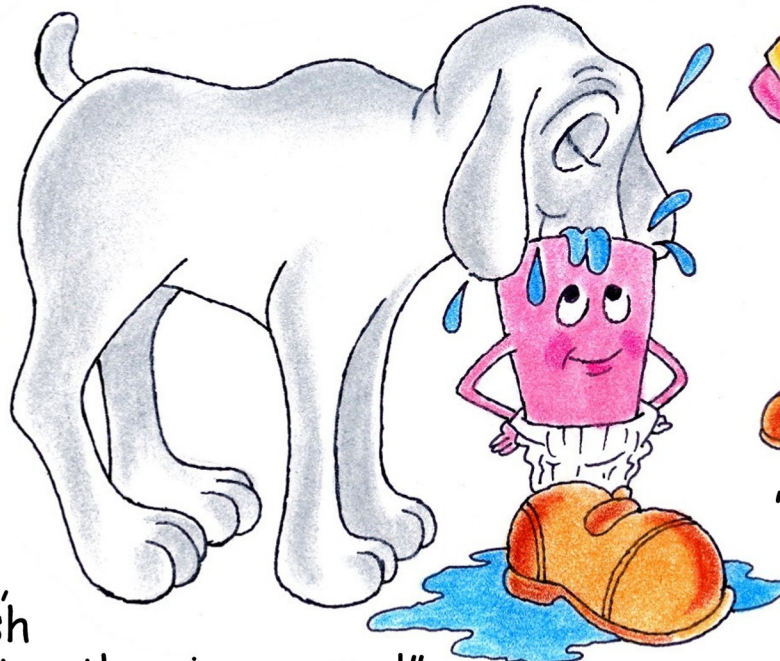
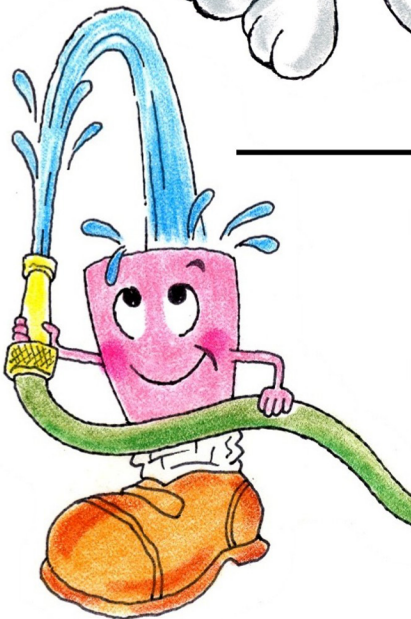
"Leggo, what are you doing up so early?" asked Louie



"I'm going outside and hop around and see what's going on."



"Uh,oh... this doesn't look good."



Leggo found a garden hose. He said, "Okay, Fido, have a drink of fresh cold water. It's better than ice cream!"

"THAT'S MY LEGGO!"



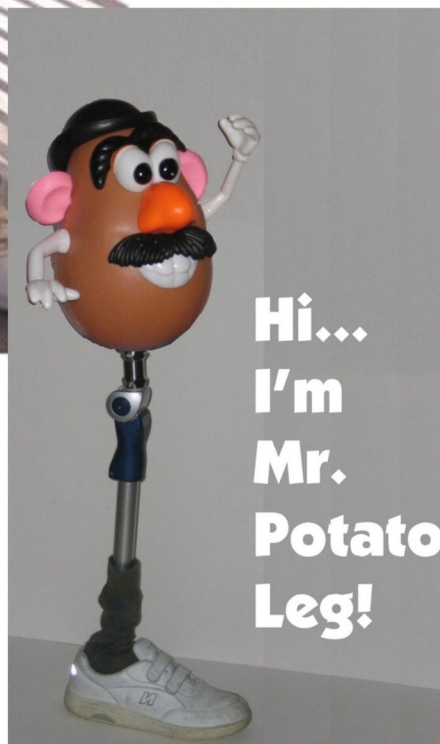
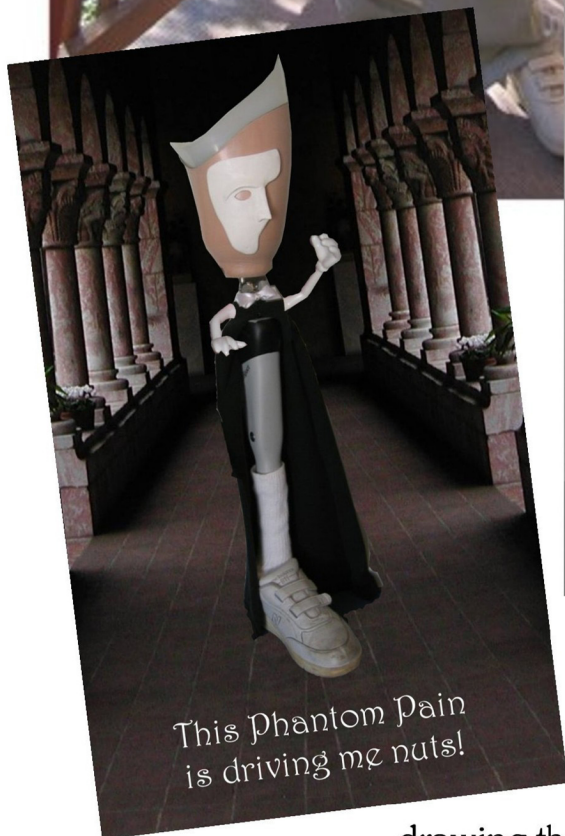
FREDDY'S CARDS

Hi, I'm Fred Schmerling, an 80 year old, Above-the-Knee amputee since 2004.

Before then, I had difficulty walking and finally decided to have a total knee replacement. A piece of cake, they said... I'd be out running or playing tennis in 6 weeks. It didn't happen.

I developed a Staph infection in the hospital which couldn't be cured.

After more than a year of hospital food and over 20 surgical procedures, it ended in amputation.



The idea to make greeting cards using my prosthesis as a comic character, came to me while I was lying awake in bed. I have a lot of fun making the cards and everyone that I know likes them.

Then, one night, I got the idea for Louie & Leggo. I hope children will enjoy the cartoons as much as I enjoy drawing them. From what I know of kids, I think they're much more able to learn to live with the loss of a limb than adults are. They'll adapt and get on with their lives and get to the point where they're as happy as they ever were.

There are 12 one page episodes of Louie & Leggo. Contact Freddy at Uglysoto@aol.com

A LOVELY LETTER...

Hi Head Stump. Thanks for all the neat stump stuff. By now you have my check that makes me a proud member.

My story goes back to the olden days before World War 2 when the only prostheses for hands were hooks.

After an accident landed me in a hospital outside of Detroit, I was immobilized for 8 weeks by my injuries.

A young Dominican priest was boarding at the hospital and studying sculpture under the famous Swedish sculptor, Carl Milles at nearby Cranbrook Art Academy. He became interested in the "sad case of this pretty young girl" and got the idea he could help me.

Over a period of weeks, he sculpted a replica of my right hand, from my left hand hanging over the bed in repose. He then spent the hot summer in Detroit trying to interest a rubber company to take it on as an R&D project.

It was deep depression, 1936, and it was not easy, but the U.S. Rubber Company was experimenting with a new electroplating process and agreed to make the hands in flesh colored rubber.

They turned out exquisitely beautiful.



The cuff and socket, of course, the problem, and the right material to knit the sock. It was all worked out and I wore them with matching gloves for many, many years. I was able to poise my cigarette between my fingers and look very elegant.

Practical, they were not, but for my vanity and ego they were priceless. You can Google my sculptor who became a lifelong friend and famous. Fr. Thomas McGlynn, Sculptor.

His biography tells of his ventures into prosthesis, of which I was the first. I still have two of the lovely hands...don't need anything more. Just friends.

Lots of cheer, Mary Jane, Honorary Den Mother

The Amputee swimmer pictured below actually competed in the 2008

OLYMPICS! For the full story and more pics, go here:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-8/20content_9540599.htm



Happy New Year...

The Drinks
are on Me!

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2109 Skycrest Drive #1
Walnut Creek, Ca 94595-1828

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***PS – Dear readers, if you have a story, photos, or any ideas, comment or suggestions, please email
James.prial@gmail.com***

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