

## Focus on Fun

### Accountants & Humor A Sociological Fable

1. Let's say you were a vice president of a large retail electronics chain in charge of purchasing, and you'd fallen victim to temptation and accepted large kickbacks from vendors to buy their merchandise. Isn't that the sort of thing you'd want to keep secret? Well, then you're not Ausaf Umar Siddiqui. He left spreadsheets on top of his desk detailing that he'd accepted a staggering \$65.6 million in bribes, which were deposited into bank accounts he controlled. Another executive saw the spreadsheets and turned them over to the authorities. A subsequent investigation showed that most of the ill-gotten loot had been squandered in Las Vegas.
2. The taxing authorities typically have lots of information on you – full name, date of birth, Social Security number. In the hands of New York State Tax Department employee Walter Healy, that wasn't a good thing. Police discovered in Healy's home more than 2,000 Post-It® notes, 1,000 Social Security cards, and 700 tax forms that he had used to set up 60 phony credit card accounts, defrauding taxpayers of more than \$200,000. He also opened phony credit card accounts in the name of a 4-year-old boy, Healy's sister, and Healy's deceased mother.
3. An unidentified man wanted some cell phones. The problem was he didn't have the money or a bank account. So, he prepared a phony "cahier's" check that he didn't bother to run through spell check. Nevertheless, his "cahier's" (his misspelling) check was accepted by the phone company, which mailed the merchandise to the address on the sales receipt – the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. When the man showed up to accept delivery of his package in front of the FBI building, federal agents were waiting for him.