

Letter from the Editor, August 2011

By Tim Young

“Working, building, never stopping, never sleeping.
Working, making, some for selling, some for keeping.”
- Lyrics from the song “Stool Boom”, from Christopher
Guest’s Waiting for Guffman.

If you haven’t seen Guest’s 1996 film about a
community theatre getting a taste of the big time, I highly
recommend it. In the musical number quoted above,
the ensemble cast sings about their small town’s storied
stool factory, and how it chugged through its heyday with
constant expansion and production to meet seemingly
limitless demand.

The current communications space is not unlike that
stool factory. The network has unprecedented demands
on it, and providers are scrambling to maintain a reliable
network in the face of tremendous strain. However,
where the stool company’s earnings were presumed
directly proportional to its sales, the communications
space is tasked with bearing a great deal of traffic it
didn’t create and from which it doesn’t directly profit.

The extent of the impact that various tech trends is
having on the physical network is at the heart of this
issue of Pipeline. Herein, we examine the impact of the



growing M2M boom, as well as the state of the global
network. We take a look at the death and rebirth of IMS,
and speak to a service provider determined to shake
up the US wireless market. We explore billing on the
box and the challenges of LTE. We hear from Nakina
Systems on the importance of network integrity. We
explore the possibilities of microwave backhaul and we
take an early look at the upcoming Broadband World
Forum event. Enjoy, and keep working and building.

Best,

Tim Young, Editor-in-Chief

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