

Local news.
Slightly
askew.

page three

Do not exceed
20 gold frames!

USA Today on Sunday published a copy of the Senate Handbook, a compendium of regulations governing the minutiae of Senate doings. Washington Post blog The Fix published 20 of its favorite "insane rules"; here are four.

▶ "Senators are allotted a total of 50 picture frames" every year. This number includes a maximum of 20 gold picture frames.

▶ The amount of blank paper and envelopes given to each senator is based on the population of their state.

▶ The rules explicitly prohibit senators from using appropriated funds for holiday cards.

▶ If you want to sing in Senate spaces, you must obtain a waiver. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

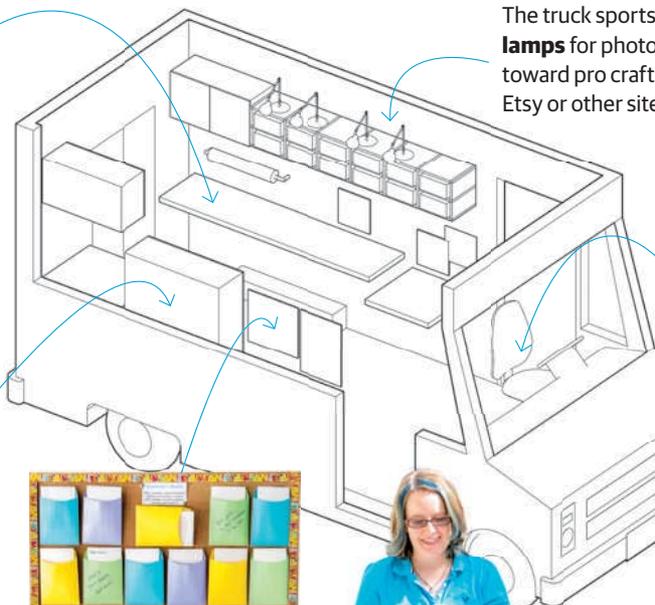
Today's Page 3 was written by Sadie Dingfelder and Holley Simmons.

Driven to create

Beth Hess put her least-intimidating DIY materials — rubber stamps, glue sticks — at the door to Craft Commons (thecraftcommons.com), the truck she began parking around D.C. last month. "A lot of people who walk by pop their heads in," Hess says. "Many of them haven't seen a mobile craft studio before, so I tried to make it inviting." Once onboard the 1988 Chevy van, crafters can use (for a fee) Hess' supplies of fabric, paper and other goodies for projects. "My husband even donated his old comic books to the cause," she says. H.S.

Hess' truck contains **three retractable tables** of varying lengths and heights. The van comfortably holds six crafters standing or four seated.

The **storage unit** is a treasure chest of fabric scraps, patterned duct tape, jewelry-making supplies and books of inspiration for those with crafter's block.



The truck sports **adjustable lamps** for photo shoots, geared toward pro crafters who sell on Etsy or other sites.

Hess stitched together "**granny squares**" she crocheted to cover the driver's seat, below.



A **community board** gives passengers a chance to crowd-source answers to questions like "Where's the best place to get ribbon in bulk?"



PHOTOS BY JASON HORNICK (FOR EXPRESS); ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL CHAPMAN (FOR EXPRESS)

Hess is well-versed in many artsy mediums, including glass-blowing, knitting and **crocheting**. She made us a yarn flower in fewer than 60 seconds.

TECHNOLOGY

Overzealous computer
spams AlertDC subscribers

On Friday evening, the D.C. government sent 46,000 AlertDC subscribers 108 text messages, though how many got through to each user depended on service provider and cellphone model. At fault: a new computer system for the service, which broadcasts traffic, police and emergency alerts. "If you sent out an email, it would also send out as a text automatically," explains AlertDC spokeswoman Nicole Chapple. (It's fixed now.) Sprint user Zach Linsky received all the texts, so he knew, among other things, that a live taping of "Real Time with Bill Maher" was causing road closures. Since he pays for unlimited text messages, the barrage wasn't an issue. "I guess they just really wanted to make sure I didn't get stuck in traffic," he says. S.D.

CYNICAL SUMMARY

3rd

Where Arlington placed on livability.com's Top 100 Best Places to Live list. As always, it's because residents live near Metro, have many dining options and zzzzzzzz ...

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