

Chicago Tribune

Mac strikes out

David Haugh says Mark McGwire's steroids confession falls short of the mark. CHICAGO SPORTS

LEON ALGEE/AP PHOTO



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Need a job? Get the scoop

Remember when you said you'd do *anything* for a job?

A couple who owned the fastest-growing operation within the Pet Butler poop-scooping empire has called it quits. And the corporate mother ship — which has taken over the cleanup of 100 yards per week in Chicago — is looking for a new owner.

"We would love to find the right person," said Matt "Red" Boswell, who founded Pet Butler in 1998. The company, which later merged with a similar one, has since grown to 126 franchises

nationwide.

The Chicago franchise owners, Boswell said, decided to give up the business for "personal reasons" about four months ago.

Franchisee Kevin Kendall of Indiana bought in three years ago when he saw that he was about to lose his job as an aircraft dispatcher.

"It's a great conversational piece when you're out wearing your 'Got poop?' T-shirt," Kendall said.

"There are people out there who are willing to drop their pride," said Boswell,

who also goes by "chief excrement officer." He said franchises cost about \$60,000.

Clients are mostly dual-income families working long hours and willing to pay \$10-\$15 per week to have someone else patrol their yards. Boswell said franchisees have picked up more than 60 million piles so far using rakes, bags and shovels.

Training is provided at "Poop University" (nicknamed P.U.).

Customers schedule pick-



Matt Boswell, front, who founded Pet Butler in 1998, is looking for help cleaning pet poop from Chicago yards.

ups on "PoopNet," which dates on their mobile phone. maps franchisee's routes and provides real-time up- — Julie Wernau