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PILCHAK COHEN & TICE, P.C.
THE EMPLOYERS LAWYERS

WORKPLACE CHRONICLE

DeMotivational Posters

Actually, we like the pretty pictures and have actually been inspired by some of the messages in the motivational posters we have seen in some offices. You know, messages like: *There's no "I" in TEAM*. Or, showing a picture of the Grand Canyon carved by the Colorado River, with the word *Perseverance* appearing below.

However, while those posters work really well for a work place filled by people climbing to the top of the food chain, different posters are needed for those on final warning notice or just staying ahead of their latest performance improvement plan. Fortunately, posters for the other side of the bell-shaped curve have been developed by the folks at *Despair.com*. We have selected our favorites here, but feel free to review the others at: <http://www.despair.com/> We're pretty sure that we will purchase the french fries poster, below, for our kitchen in the office. We have an empty wall in the conference room too, but we figure that these posters might depress plaintiffs in our office for deposition.



Not everyone gets to be an astronaut when they grow up.

Cont. on Page 2

Workplace Chronicle Presents The April Fools Funny Pages

Welcome to our inaugural and hopefully annual April Fools edition of the Workplace Chronicle, collecting and reviewing what's humorous in the office and at work. God knows, in these times, if we don't laugh about our workplace situation, we may cry. Hopefully, you will shed tears of laughter at some of the items we have collected. ❖

Abbot & Costello: "Union Loafers"

Most everybody knows Abbott & Costello's priceless "*Who's on First?*" routine. However, *Whose on First?* was only one of a series involving witty (or possibly witless) banter. Incidentally capturing the historical perspective that union members didn't do much (or any) work back in the 1940's either, their *Union Loafer* routine shouldn't be missed for its cogent points that "you gotta join the union to loaf," and "I'm in the union. They pay me to loaf."

For our younger readers who may not know Abbott and Costello, take a moment to click (or copy into your browser) the link below and learn about an entertainment concept that has disappeared from our culture: the comedy team. In case the link below does not work, just Google: Abbott, Costello and Union Loafers and watch the fun.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FY1xaoJPdek> ❖

Farcus

by David Waisglass
Gordon Coulthart



HTTP://JOKES-GLOWPORT.COM/
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Must Have Outgoing Personality

Q: How do you know if an engineer is an extrovert?

A: He stares at *your* shoes when he's talking to you, instead of his own.



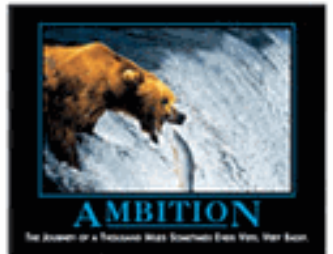
"That's the third smoker we've lost this week."



Sometimes the best solution to morale problems is just to fire all of the unhappy people.



It's only a virtue if you're not a screw-up.



The journey of a thousand miles sometimes ends very, very badly



You can do anything you set your mind to when you have vision, determination, and an endless supply of expendable labor.



Avoiding Application Fraud at all Costs

This is reportedly an actual job application a 17 year old young man submitted at a well-known fast food restaurant chain... and they hired him because he was so funny!

NAME: _____

SEX: Not yet. Still waiting for the right person.

DESIRED POSITION: Company's President or Vice President. But seriously, whatever's available. If I was in a position to be picky, I wouldn't be applying here in the first place.

DESIRED SALARY: \$185,000 a year plus stock options and a Michael Ovitz style severance package. If that's not possible, make an offer and we can haggle.

LAST POSITION HELD: Target for middle management hostility.

MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT: My incredible collection of stolen pens and post-it notes.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL SKILLS?: Yes, but they're better suited to a more intimate environment.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY SPECIAL AWARDS OR RECOGNITION?: I may already be a winner of the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE DOING IN FIVE YEARS?: Living in the Bahamas with a fabulously wealthy, sexy blonde super model who thinks I'm the greatest thing since sliced bread. Actually, I'd like to be doing that now.

DO YOU CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE?: Yes. Absolutely!

SIGN HERE: Aries. ❖

Management Potential

Herkimer is working in the produce department of the grocery store, stacking peppers when an odd little fellow comes up to him with a head of lettuce and asks to buy half. "You only want half a head of lettuce?" he asked the customer. "Yup," came the answer.

"Just a second," Herk said, as he walked into the back room with the lettuce and approached the produce manager. "Hey boss" he said. "Some idiot out there wants a half a head of lettuce," he said, just as he noticed that the little guy had followed him and was standing at his elbow. Rebounding nicely, he said "and this fine gentleman here will take the other half."

As the customer left with a half head of lettuce, the produce manager took Herkimer

aside. "You're pretty fast on your feet," he said. I like the way you handled that situation. The Company has an opening for a produce manager, and I'm thinking of recommending you for the job."

"That's great!" Herk exclaimed. What store has the opening?

"The Green Bay store," said the manager.

"Green Bay?!" Herk exclaimed. "Who would want to work there? All they have in Green Bay are prostitutes and football players!"

"Hey!" The manager said, nearly shouting. "My wife's from Green Bay!"

"Really?" said Herk. "What position did she play?"



You Only Get One Chance To Make A Bad Impression

The following quotes were taken from real resumes and cover letters:

1. "Note: Please don't misconstrue my 14 jobs as 'job-hopping'. I have never quit a job."
2. "I demand a salary commiserate with my extensive experience."
3. "I have lurnt Word Perfect 6.0 computer and spreadsheet programs."
4. "Received a plague for Salesperson of the Year."
5. "Wholly responsible for two (2) failed financial institutions."
6. "Reason for leaving last job: maturity leave."
7. "It's best for employers that I not work with people."
8. "Am a perfectionist and rarely if ever forget details."
9. "I was working for my mom until she decided to move."
10. "I have an excellent track record, although I am not a horse."
11. "I procrastinate, especially when the task is unpleasant."
12. "As indicted, I have over five years of analyzing investments."
13. "Instrumental in ruining entire operation for a Midwest chain store."
14. "Reason for leaving last job: They insisted that all employees get to work by 8:45 am every morning. I couldn't work under those conditions."
15. "The company made me a scapegoat, just like my three previous employers." ❖

Best Excuses For Missing Work

I won't be coming in to work today. The voices told me to clean all the guns today.

Constipation has made me a walking time bomb.

My Stigmata is acting up

Yes it seems that I have contracted adult attention deficit disorder and, hey how about those 'Skins, huh? So, I won't be able to, yes, could I help you? No, no I don't want to switch my long distance to MCI. Who is calling please?

I got my fingers stuck together with Krazy Glue.

My hair aches.

I'm having a tax audit.

I'm just not coming in. I'm calling in that favor you promised me at the Christmas Party.



Messages From The Manager

1. As of tomorrow, employees will only be able to access the building using individual security cards. Pictures will be taken next Wednesday and employees will receive their cards in two weeks.
2. What I need is a list of specific unknown problems we will encounter.
3. How long is this Beta guy going to keep testing our stuff?
4. E-mail is not to be used to pass on information or data. It should be used only for company business.
5. This project is so important, we can't let things that are more important interfere with it.
6. Doing it right is no excuse for not meeting the schedule.
7. Teamwork is a lot of people doing what I say.
8. We know that communication is a problem, but the company is not going to discuss it with the employees.
9. "If I wanted it tomorrow, I would have waited until tomorrow to ask for it!"
10. This is the closing paragraph of a nationally-circulated memo from a large communications company: "_____ Technologies is determined to promote constant attention on current procedures of transacting business focusing emphasis on innovative ways to better, if not supercede, the expectations of quality!"
11. No one will believe you solved this problem in one day! We've been working on it for months. Now, go act busy for a few weeks and I'll let you know when it's time to tell them.



Downloaded from LaughingLynx.com

Feel free to send us your workplace humor
items for next years April Fools edition

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You can find back issues of the *Workplace Chronicle* on the Web at "www.mi-worklaw.com"

It's Tough Giving An Honest Evaluation

The Personnel Department had asked Freda to start documenting performance problems with a member of her team, Bob Smith. Accordingly, they were surprised when the following e-mail arrived:

"Bob Smith, my assistant programmer, can always be found hard at work in his cubicle. Bob works independently, without wasting company time talking to colleagues. Bob never thinks twice about assisting fellow employees, and he always finishes given assignments on time. Often, Bob takes extended measures to complete his work, sometimes skipping coffee breaks. Bob is an individual who has absolutely no vanity in spite of his high accomplishments and profound knowledge in his field. I firmly believe that Bob can be classified as a high-caliber employee, the type that cannot be dispensed with. Consequently, I duly recommend that Bob be promoted to executive management, and a proposal will be executed as soon as possible.

Regards,
Freda"

The Personnel Department was mystified, until a few minutes later, a second e-mail arrived, stating:
"Sorry, but that idiot was reading over my shoulder while I wrote the message sent earlier today. Kindly read only every other line, starting with the first, for my actual assessment.

Regards,
Freda" ❖

Calling in Really Sick

A guy starts a new job on Thursday and Friday. On Monday he calls in and says, "I can't come in today. I'm sick." The HR manager takes note of that, but lets it go.

The guy works the rest of the week, but the following Monday he calls in and says, "I can't come in today. I'm sick." The HR Manager asks the foreman, "what's going on with the new guy," and the foreman says, "He's great. Do whatever you have to do to keep him. He does the work of two men."

So the HR manager calls the guy into his office Tuesday morning, and says, "You seem to have a problem getting to work on Mondays. You're a good worker and I'd hate to fire you. What's the problem? Anything we can help you with? Drugs? Alcohol?"

The guy says, "No, I don't drink or do drugs. But my brother-in-law drinks every weekend, and then beats my sister. So every Monday morning, I go over to make sure she's all right. She puts her head on my shoulder and cries, one thing leads to another, and the next thing you know, we're getting passionate."

Horrified, the HR manager asks, "You fool around with your sister?"

The new guy says, somewhat indignantly, "Hey, I *told* you I was sick." ❖