

Workplace

Subject: Job Hunting

For those of you busy writing resumes, especially those in the building industry, please don't make the same mistakes.

These are taken from real resumes and cover letters and were printed in the July 21, 1997 issue of Fortune Mag.

1. I demand a salary commiserate with my extensive experience.
 2. I have lurnt Word Perfect 6.0 computer and spreadsheet programs.
 3. Received a plague for Salesperson of the Year.
 4. Reason for leaving last job: maturity leave.
 5. Wholly responsible for two (2) failed financial institutions.
 6. Failed bar exam with relatively high grades.
 7. Its best for employers that I not work with people.
 8. Lets meet, so you can ooh and aah over my experience.
 9. You will want me to be Head Honcho in no time.
 10. Am a perfectionist and rarely if if ever forget details.
 11. I was working for my mom until she decided to move.
 12. Marital status: single. Unmarried. Unengaged. Uninvolved. No Commitments.
 13. I have an excellent track record, although I am not a horse.
 14. I am loyal to my employer at all costs. Please feel free to respond to my resume on my office voice mail.
 15. I have become completely paranoid, trusting completely no one and absolutely nothing.
 16. My goal is to be a meteorologist. But since I possess no training in meterology, I suppose I should try stock brokerage.
 17. I procrastinate, especially when the task is unpleasant.
 18. As indicted, I have over five years of analyzing investments.
 19. Personal interests: donating blood. Fourteen gallons so far.
 20. Instrumental in ruining entire operation for a Midwest chain store.
 21. Note: Please don't misconstrue my 14 jobs as job-hopping. I have never quit a job.
 22. Marital status: often. Children: various.
 23. Reason for leaving last job: They insisted that all employees get to work by 8:45 am every morning. Could not work under those conditions.
 24. The company made me a scapegoat, just like my three previous employers.
 25. Finished eighth in my class of ten.
 26. References: None. I've left a path of destruction behind me.
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In a company there are two employees, Jack and Jill. Both have been model employees and have been much valued by the firm. However, due to financial setbacks, the company is forced to let one of them go. But which one?

The boss decides on a plan. He will watch Jack closely for one day, monitoring his performance. The next day, he will similarly scrutinize Jill. Then he will announce which one he is going to keep and which one will have to be fired.

The first day, Jack comes in early. He works hard all morning, not even taking a coffee break. He skips lunch.

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He works hard all afternoon, doesn't spend any time on the phone, and leaves late.

Noticing this, the boss begins to think, "If they're both such diligent workers, the choice is going to be even harder."

The next day, Jill comes in late, complaining of a headache. She takes some aspirin and hangs out at the water fountain talking to her friends. She takes an extra long coffee break. She leaves early for lunch, and comes back late. She's unproductive in the afternoon, spending much of her time calling her friends and telling them how miserable she feels. She takes some more aspirin and leaves early.

The boss takes note of this. His mind is made up.

So the next day, the boss calls Jill into his office. He tells her, "Jill, I am afraid I either have to lay you or Jack off."

And she replies, "Well, you're going to have to jack off because I've got a headache."

These are supposed excerpts from performance appraisals. These are actual lines out of US Army Officer Efficiency Reports (performance appraisal for the Army):

- * Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.
 - * Got into the gene pool while the lifeguard wasn't watching.
 - * A room temperature IQ.
 - * Got a full 6-pack, but lacks the plastic thing to hold it all together.
 - * A gross ignoramus -- 144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus.
 - * A photographic memory but with the lens cover glued on.
 - * A prime candidate for natural deselection.
 - * Bright as Alaska in December.
 - * One-celled organisms out score him in IQ tests.
 - * Donated his body to science before he was done using it.
 - * Fell out of the family tree.
 - * Gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming.
 - * Has two brains; one is lost and the other is out looking for it.
 - * He's so dense, light bends around him.
 - * If brains were taxed, he'd get a rebate.
 - * If he were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week.
 - * If you give him a penny for his thoughts, you'd get change.
 - * If you stand close enough to him, you can hear the ocean.
 - * It's hard to believe that he beat out 1,000,000 other sperm.
 - * One neuron short of a synapse.
 - * Some drink from the fountain of knowledge; he only gargled.
 - * Takes him 1 ½ hours to watch 60 minutes.
 - * Was left on the Tilt-A-Whirl a bit too long as a baby.
 - * Wheel is turning, but the hamster is dead.
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This is an actual job application submitted to a fast-food restaurant.

NAME: Greg B

DESIRED POSITION:

Reclining. Ha ha. 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.

EDUCATION: Yes.

LAST POSITION HELD:

Target for middle-management hostility.

SALARY: Less than I'm worth.

MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT:

My incredible collection of stolen pens and post-it notes.

REASON FOR LEAVING: It was lousy.

HOURS AVAILABLE TO WORK: Any.

PREFERRED HOURS: 1:30-3:30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL SKILLS?:

Yes, but they're better suited to a more intimate environment.

MAY WE CONTACT YOUR CURRENT EMPLOYER?:

If I had one, would I be here?

DO YOU HAVE ANY PHYSICAL CONDITIONS THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM LIFTING UP TO 50 LBS?: Of what?

DO YOU HAVE A CAR?:

I think the more appropriate question here would be "Do you have a car that runs?"

HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY SPECIAL AWARDS OR RECOGNITION?:

I may already be a winner of the Publishers Clearinghouse Sweepstakes.

DO YOU SMOKE?: Only when set on fire.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE DOING IN FIVE YEARS?:

Living in Bimini with a fabulously wealthy supermodel 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?: No, but I dare you to prove otherwise.

SIGN HERE: Scorpio with Libra rising.
