

First Day on The Job: No Desk, No Computer, No Information

It's the ultimate in uncertainty. What if you land a great new job, show up, and no one notices?

No one has bothered to find you a desk, a computer or offer any instructions.

That is the experience of many new hires. In fact, an Alexa/Olinger Group survey found that one in five new employees had no desk. One in four new hires had no computer. One in three new employees had no email address.

According to the Society for Human Resources Management, some new hires can't even get into the secure workplaces. Nearly 50 percent of new hires never receive any sort of welcome message from their managers.

If you find yourself in that position, here are some tips:

1. Smile, relax, and introduce yourself to a coworker. Ask who you should speak with to find a desk.
2. Find out if there are any staff meetings scheduled and, if not, make your way to HR. There you might at least be able to get the employment guide to browse through.
3. Locate your supervisor, if possible, and volunteer to check with IT on an available computer.
4. Read the company's Website.
5. Pray for lunch.

The Touch of His Father

Buddy Valastro Sr. was folding and stretching dough in the family's Hoboken, N.J. bakery shop.

Watch me, he said to his son. He pulled the dough, worked it thin into the nearly translucent sheet of pastry necessary for the perfect sfogliatelle. Lobster tails, some call them: incredibly light and flaky pastries filled with cream. It was the signature dish at Carlo's Bakery Shop.

Buddy Jr. just hadn't been able to make that pastry. He had mastered the fancy cakes and baked delights at the store, but sfogliatelle mocked him. There was a special magic in being able to stretch the dough thin as parchment, yet not tear it; to pull it out, but not bunch it.

Buddy Sr. had the touch that escaped his son. Maybe it was because Buddy Sr. came from three generations of bakers, all the way back to Italy. And it was certainly because Buddy Sr. spent 30 years making lobster tails. The locally famous shop in New Jersey was opened by Carlo Guastaffero in 1910 and purchased by Buddy Sr. in 1964. He had grand plans, then. Maybe to bake a cake that would grace a wedding magazine. Maybe to expand.

But that night was just about one thing. "Watch me," his father said. "I'm not here to play around. I'm here to show you how to make lobster tails one more time."

So, Buddy Jr. watched his father again and moved his hands in the baker's dance until he, too, pulled out a thin layer of dough. No bunches. No tears. Perfection.

And then Buddy Jr. woke up.

Buddy, who took over the shop at age 17, after his father died of cancer, awoke in excitement and, in life as in his dream, rushed to the bake shop. For the first time, Buddy Jr. pulled out the perfect sfogliatelle pastry. His father's last visit to the bake shop was not merely a dream; It was a gift.

Today, fans of reality television know Buddy Jr. as The Cake Boss. That little shop in Hoboken is now an industry with 18 locations worldwide. The shop's cakes have graced the covers of wedding magazines. And Buddy Jr. is a television star, who still grieves for his dad and is still grateful for the perfect sfogliatelle.



The Dog Who Owned the Mail

He was a likable, stray border terrier who had two hobbies: He liked to travel and he liked mail bags.

It all started in 1888 in Albany, NY, when the dog showed up at a post office and was adopted by the postal workers. They noticed Owney liked to sleep on mail bags and one other thing: Owney was friendly toward postal workers but he was decidedly unfriendly to non-postal workers.

The talent was a useful one as Owney traveled from one post office to another, guarding mail bags in return for food and water. Once, a mail bag fell off a train and Owney stayed with the bag until a worker came back for it.

An 1893 book by Cushing Marshall has this description: "The terrier 'Owney' travels from one end of the country to the other in the postal cars, tagged through, petted, talked to, looked out for, as a brother, almost. But sometimes, no matter what the attention, he suddenly departs for the south, the east, or the west, and is not seen again for months."

Albany postal workers worried when Owney disappeared for months. They had a special collar made with the address of the Albany Post Office, just so he could be identified.

At the various post offices he visited, Owney got a new tag clipped to his collar until finally he jingled loudly with every step.

The circumstances of Owney's death are disputed. But all agree he was put down June 11, 1897.

He is still honored at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, DC, where 397 of his medals and tags are on display.



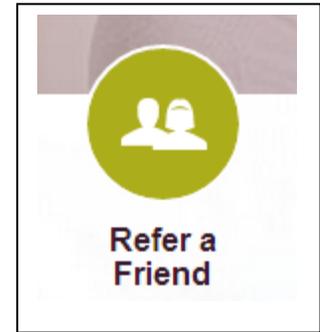
Do You Know...

... Someone that could use our services? Perhaps a colleague, friend, family member, or networking buddy?

... If you would think of 3 or 4 people that could use our services, then don't hesitate to call them and give them our name and phone number. Be sure to have them mention your name when they call so we can send you a Referral Bonus!

... If you know of anyone interested in a full or part time job please have them contact Jessica at extension 224.

Thanks in advance for your help and we look forward to sending cash your way!



Witch Trials Begin

Life wasn't easy in Salem Village, Mass., in 1692. Smallpox had ravaged the village. Native American tribes threatened attacks. A recent British war made commodities scarce. Residents already had plenty to fear when a group of young girls conjured up witches amongst the villagers, according to history.com.

Two girls began having screaming fits and convulsions earlier that year. After a doctor diagnosed bewitchment, other girls began having the same symptoms. And thus began the search for witches which quickly focused on three easy targets: an unpopular resident, a beggar woman, and a slave.

By May 1692, there were trials and on June 2, 1692, the first death sentence was handed out to the unpopular resident.

In all, about 150 men, women and children were accused of witchcraft until the hysteria abated and, by September 1692, public opinion turned against the trials.

Interestingly, a study in 1976 published in Science magazine speculated that the girls might have had convulsions because of a fungus found in cereals. Toxicologists say the fungus can cause delusions, vomiting and muscle spasms.



"Have you ever thought of having yourself digitally restored?"

Failing Until Successful

Most people have heard the story of Thomas Edison and his brilliant invention of the light bulb. According to the tale, Edison went through 1,000 failures before he found a successful prototype. When asked how it felt to fail that many times, Edison replied, "The light bulb was an invention with 1,000 steps."

Success magazine takes a look at this story and how failure is a constant companion to many successful people. The reason that successful people experience many failures, is that the passion inside them drives them to take chances and do things that aren't sure to work. While it might seem noble to operate under the idea that failure is not an option, this attitude could be a critical error.

Failure teaches lessons. Each step a person takes out of his/her comfort zone is a step into uncertainty. There might not be a plan. The person might have to react, think on their feet, and develop the plan as they go.

If they experience failure, that person has learned one way how not to accomplish the goal they set out to reach. In the long run, this knowledge can help provide more direction on the next attempt. As the person fails over and over again, they will often get closer to their goal over time until they finally reach it.

Willingness to embrace failure for its positive benefits is a trait many people are not interested in developing because they are often afraid to show themselves or others that they are capable of failing.

Becoming Fearless. For a person who values success, it is crucial to become fearless in the pursuit of success. Progressive companies like Intuit, General Electric, Corning, and Virgin Atlantic have all maintained that great success depends on great risk. Failure is simply a common by-product of the pursuit of success.

In fact, today's post-recession economy has seen employers actively seeking job candidates that have a track record of great failures as well as great successes. At least they know they will try.

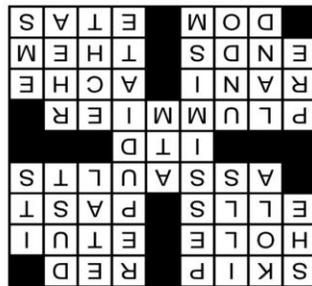
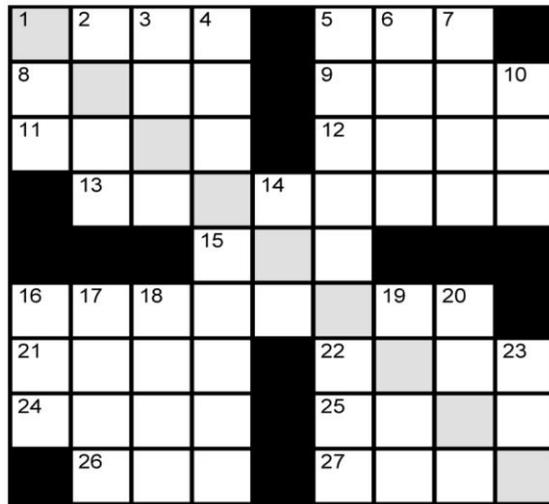
Sun highs and lows

Across

1. Bypass
5. Bloodshot
8. Pocket problem
9. Needle case
11. Building additions
12. Future's opposite
13. Military attacks
15. "___ be an honor"
16. More desirable
21. Hindu princess
22. Be sore
24. Concludes
25. Opponents
26. ___ Perignon
27. Fraternity letters

Down

1. Any boat, affectionately
2. Kind of nut
3. Misfortunes
4. Dark attitude
5. Disavow
6. Abbr. at the end of a list
7. Clean the furniture
10. "___ De-Lovely"
14. 20's dispenser
16. Grand ___, Nova Scotia
17. Touch down
18. Annul
19. Genuine, in Germany
20. Perlman of "Cheers"
23. Dash lengths



The headline is a clue to the answer in the diagonal.

Sit Right There!

Long hours at a computer can be a pain -- in the shoulders, back and wrists.

Health advisors at the Mayo Clinic studied the various ergonomic factors involved in working with a computer.

Chair: It should have adjustable armrests, height, lumbar support and seat depth.

Footrest: If desk or chair adjustments don't allow for keeping feet flat on the floor, use a footrest. A stack of sturdy books can fill the need.

Monitor: Placed at arm's length and directly in front of you. If you wear bifocals put the top of the screen slightly below eye level.

Arm and wrist: When typing or using your mouse, keep your wrists straight and upper arms close to your body.

Desk: Should be high enough so knees and thighs have clearance underneath the desk.

Mouse and keyboard: They should be within easy reach, side by side on the same desk surface. Use a standard size keyboard. If you don't need the keyboard number pad, select a keyboard without it. The saved desk space allows closer placement of the mouse to the actual keyboard area.

When choosing a mouse, fit it into your hand. Roller ball models may be more comfortable and require only movement of the fingers. An optical mouse requires movement of the entire arm.

Trivia Teaser – Pig in a Poke

1. Which nursery rhyme character was a pig thief? a-Little Boy Blue, b-Little Jack Horner, c-Tom, Tom the Piper's Son, d-Georgie Porgie.

2. The Bay of Pigs Invasion was a failed attempt to oust which world leader? a-Mao Tse-tung, b-Pol Pot, c-Mobutu Sese Seko, d-Fidel Castro.

3. If you are eating pig's trotters, which part of the pig are you feasting on? a-Feet, b-Tongue, c-Stomach, d-Head.

4. Ralph, Jack, and Piggy are central characters fighting for survival in which novel? a-"Lucky Jim," b-"Heart of Darkness," c-"Catcher in the Rye," d-"Lord of the Flies."

5. Pig iron is usually quite brittle because it contains a high content of which element? a-Sulphur, b-Lead, c-Carbon, d-Tungsten.

6. Inflatable flying pigs were props seen at live shows by which band? a-The Rolling Stones, b-Pink Floyd, c-Led Zeppelin, d-The Grateful Dead.

7. What was the name of the old pig who called for the meeting of the animals at the beginning of George Orwell's "Animal Farm"? a-Major, b-Boxer, c-Snowball, d-Napoleon.

8. Which role in the Christmas play was given to Pigen in "A Charlie Brown Christmas"? a-Innkeeper, b-Shepherd, c-Angel, d-Joseph.

9. More than half of the pigs in the world are living in what country with an apparently insatiable appetite for pork? a-Spain, b-China, c-Turkey, d-Germany.

10. What was the name of the lovable pig in the children's book "Charlotte's Web"? a-Oliver, b-Fred, c-Wilbur, d-Templeton.

- 1-c, Tom, Tom the Piper's Son
- 2-d, Fidel Castro
- 3-a, Feet
- 4-d, "Lord of the Flies"
- 5-c, Carbon
- 6-b, Pink Floyd
- 7-a, Major
- 8-a, Innkeeper
- 9-b, China
- 10-c, Wilbur

Answers to 'Pig in a Poke'

