

# The Pile of Stuff Newsletter

It's Free!!! - pass it along!  
we all need a laugh...

<http://pileofstuff.angelfire.com/>

send funny stuff to:  
[ductapeduke@gmail.com](mailto:ductapeduke@gmail.com)

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## Engineering Pick-Up Lines

1. I won't stop bugging you until I get the address of your home page.
  2. You fascinate me more than the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.
  3. Since distance equals velocity times time, let's let velocity and time approach infinity, because I want to go all the way with you.
  4. My love for you is like a concave up function because it is always increasing.
  5. Let's convert our potential energy to kinetic energy.
  6. Wanna come back to my room? ...and see my 166mhz Pentium?
  7. How about you and I go back to my place and form a covalent bond?
  8. You and I would add up better than a Riemann sum.
  9. You're sweeter than glucose.
  10. We're as compatible as two similar Power Macintoshes.
  11. Why don't we measure the coefficient of static friction between you and me?
  12. Wanna see the programs in my HP-48GX?
  13. Your body has the nicest arc length I've ever seen.
  14. Isn't your e-mail address [beautifulgirl@mydreams.com](mailto:beautifulgirl@mydreams.com)
  15. You're hotter than a bunsen burner set to full power!
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**YOU MAY BE AN ENGINEER IF.....**

- \* If you stare at an orange juice container because it says CONCENTRATE
- \* If your wrist watch has more computing power than a 486DX-50
- \* If you can quote scenes from any Monty Python movie
- \* If you can name 6 Star Trek episodes
- \* If your spouse sends you an e-mail instead of calling you to dinner
- \* If your idea of good interpersonal communication means getting the decimal point in the right place
- \* If you look forward to Christmas only to put together the kids'toys
- \* If you use a CAD package to design your son's Pine Wood Derby car
- \* If you have used coat hangers and duct tape for something other than hanging coats and taping ducts
- \* If you window shop at Radio Shack
- \* If your ideal evening consists of fast-forwarding through the latest sci-fi movie looking for technical inaccuracies
- \* If you are convinced you can build a phaser out of your garage door opener and your camera's flash attachment
- \* If you don't even know where the cover to your personal computer is (It's on the floor, next to my desk! SO THERE!)
- \* If you have modified your can-opener to be microprocessor driven
- \* If you know the direction the water swirls when you flush
- \* If you own "Official Star Trek" anything
- \* If you ever burned down the gymnasium with your Science Fair project
- \* If you are currently gathering the components to build your own nuclear reactor
- \* If you own one or more white short-sleeve dress shirts
- \* If you truly believe aliens are living among us
- \* If you have ever saved the power cord from a broken appliance
- \* If you still own a slide rule and you know how to work it
- \* If you rotate your screen savers more frequently than your automobile tires

- \* If you have a functioning home copier machine, but every toaster you own turns bread into charcoal
- \* If you have more toys than your kids
- \* If you have introduced your kids by the wrong name
- \* If you have a habit of destroying things in order to see how they work
- \* If your I.Q. number is bigger than your weight
- \* If the microphone or visual aids at a meeting don't work and you rush up to the front to fix it
- \* If you can remember 7 computer passwords but not your anniversary
- \* If you have memorized the program schedule for the Discovery channel and have seen most of the shows already
- \* If you can type 70 words a minute but can't read your own handwriting
- \* If people groan at the party when you pick out the music
- \* If you can't remember where you parked your car for the 3rd time this week
- \* If you did the sound system for your senior prom
- \* If your checkbook always balances
- \* If your wristwatch has more buttons than a telephone
- \* If you have more friends on the Internet than in real life
- \* If you thought the real heroes of "Apollo 13" were the mission controllers
- \* If you think that when people around you yawn, it's because they didn't get enough sleep
- \* If you spend more on your home computer than your car
- \* If you know what http:// stands for
- \* If you've ever tried to repair a \$5.00 radio
- \* If you have a neatly sorted collection of old bolts and nuts in your garage
- \* If your three year old son asks why the sky is blue and you try to explain atmospheric absorption theory
- \* If your 4 basic food groups are: 1. Caffeine 2. Fat 3. Sugar 4. Chocolate (or Chinese, pizza, beer, salt substrates)

- If the only jokes you receive are through e-mail

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### **Top Ten Things a Consultant Shouldn't Tell a Client**

10. That was my first guess as well, but then I really thought about it.
9. You should see the hotel I'm staying at.
8. Hey, I just realized that I was in junior high when you started working here.
7. I like this office space. I'll have them put me in here when you're gone.
6. My rental car looks nicer than that junker you're driving.
5. Sure it'll work; I learned it in business school.
4. So what do you need me to tell you?
3. Of course it's right; the spreadsheet says so.
2. I could just tell you the answer, but we're committed to a three month project.
1. What are you, stupid?

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### **Top Ten Things You Shouldn't Say at a Consulting Interview**

10. I'm a t-shirt and jeans kind of person.
9. Do you pay overtime?
8. I hate flying.
7. I'm useless without ten hours of sleep a night.
6. There are lies, damn lies, and statistics.
5. Do you cover rental cars for collision?
4. Stanford taught me that working in teams is great for slackers.
3. I think three letter acronyms are for people too stupid to remember whole phrases.
2. Two words: family first.
1. Call it what you want, it still means firing people.

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## Top Ten Ways To Know You're Dating/Married To A Consultant

10. Referred to the first month of your relationship as a "diagnostic period".
9. Talks to the waiter about process flow when dinner arrives late.
8. Takes a half-day at the office because, "Sunday is your day."
7. Congratulates your parents for successful value creation.
6. Tries to call room-service from the bedroom.
5. Ends any argument by saying, "let's talk about this off-line."
4. Celebrates anniversary by conducting a performance review.
3. Can't be trusted with the car-too accustomed to beating up rentals.
2. Valentine's Day card has bullet points.
1. Refers to lovemaking as a "win-win".

## Top Ten Ways to Know You've Got the Consulting Bug

10. Can't stop using words that don't exist.
9. Worried that he who dies with the most frequent-flyer miles wins.
8. Use so much jargon in conversation, friends think you're speaking a foreign language.
7. Constant urge to give advice on subjects you know nothing about.
6. Always-hyphenating-words-that-don't-need-to-be-hyphenated.
5. Keep seeing bullet points everywhere.
4. Can fit the thematic undercurrents of War and Peace into a two-by-two matrix.
3. Tired of having a social life beyond work.
2. A two-page story in Business Week is all it takes to make you an expert.
1. Firmly believe that an objective viewpoint means more than any real work experience.

## Top Ten Things You'll Never Hear from a Consultant

10. You're right; we're billing way too much for this.
9. Bet you I can go a week without saying "synergy" or "value-added".
8. How about paying us based on the success of the project?
7. This whole strategy is based on a Harvard business case I read.
6. Actually, the only difference is that we charge more than they do.
5. I don't know enough to speak intelligently about that.
4. Implementation? I only care about writing long reports.
3. I can't take the credit. It was Ed in your marketing department.
2. The problem is, you have too much work for too few people.
  1. Everything looks okay to me.

## Corporate Zodiac

Astrology tells us about people and their future by their time, date and location of birth. The Chinese Zodiac uses the year of a person's birth. Demographics tell us what others like, dislike, whom they voted for, as well as what they buy and what they watch on television.

The Corporate Zodiac goes a step further: simply by an individual's job title, people can pretty much learn about an employee's hidden personality traits.

### MARKETING:

You are ambitious, yet stupid. You chose a marketing degree to avoid having to study in college, concentrating instead on drinking and socializing - which is pretty much what your job responsibilities are now. Least compatible with Sales.

### SALES:

Laziest of all the Corporate Signs, often referred to as a "marketer without a degree." You are also self-centered and paranoid. Unless someone calls you and begs you to take their money, you like to avoid all contact with customers so you can "concentrate on the big picture." You seek admiration for your golf game, clothes, car and sex appeal throughout your career.

### CUSTOMER SERVICE:

Bright, cheery, positive, you are a fifty-cent cab ride from taking your own life. As a child very few of you asked

your parents for a little cubicle for your room and a headset so you could pretend to play "Customer Service". Continually passed over for promotions, your best bet is to sleep with your manager.

#### TECHNOLOGY:

Unable to control anything in your personal life, you are instead content to completely control everything that happens at your workplace. Typically you went to a trade school because you didn't have time for all that "crap" required in college. Often, even you don't understand what the hell you're saying, but no one else except the engineers knows anyway. It is written that the Geeks shall inherit the Earth, but the Senior Managers keep contesting the will.

#### ENGINEERING:

One of only two signs that actually studied in school, it is said that sixty percent of all the people on the Internet are either engineers, or wish they were one. You can be happy with yourself and the latest technology in your field. Your office is typically full of all the latest gadgets, catalogs and half finished spec sheets.

#### ACCOUNTING:

The only other sign that studied in school, you are mostly immune from office politics. You are the most feared person in the organization; combined with your extreme organizational traits, the majority of your co-workers are convinced that you are completely without feeling or emotion. You are often caught in the restroom, practicing your frown in the mirror.

#### HUMAN RESOURCES:

Ironically, given your access to confidential information, you tend to be the biggest gossip within the organization. Possibly the only other person that does less work than marketing, you are unable to return any calls today because you have to get a haircut, have lunch, and mail a letter! Your favorite expression is: "Now don't say anything, but..."

#### MID-LEVEL MANAGERS/ DEPARTMENT HEADS/ TEAM LEADERS:

Catty, cut-throat, and ambitious, but... you are probably destined to remain at your current job for the rest of your life unless a Senior Manager dies or retires. You tend to measure your worth by the number of meetings you can schedule for yourself and the number of subordinates you can con into sleeping with you. Best suited to date/marry other Middle Managers, as everyone in your social circle must be at least a Middle Manager for appearance's sake.

#### SENIOR MANAGERS:

You enjoy appearing to be the ultimate authority figure but actually, you are completely spineless, and determined to remain at your current job for the rest of your life, unless the head of your organization dies or retires. Unable to make a single decision, you tend to measure your worth by the number of Mid-Level Managers you can harass on any given day and

insure that your office is the largest in the building. Best suited to date/marry other Senior Managers, as everyone in your social circle is a Senior Manager; besides, no one else would have you anyway.

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### EMPLOYER / EMPLOYEE TALK

#### "A ATTITUDE"

Means the place is full of phony smiles, office politics, etc. because you are required to have some sort of pose. Executives probably have hemorrhoids.

#### "A GROWING GROUP OF"

Means they haven't hired sufficient people to handle the current order backlog. Look out!

#### "ABILITY TO INTERFACE WITH OTHERS"

Means that you must be the liaison between two or more groups of people who hate each other and would not like to be together in the same room. Example: vendor versus users.

#### "Be a part of the ongoing"

Means you're going to jump into a project that you didn't help to start. Might mean they're late and need to throw personnel at the problem.

#### "ENERGETIC AND ENTHUSIASTIC"

Willingness to accept exploitation naively.

#### "EXTRA EFFORT"

Lots of unpaid overtime.

#### "FAST-PACED ENVIRONMENT"

Not very relaxed.

#### "FRIENDLY GROUP"

See "the family".

#### "GOOD COMMUNICATION"

Has nothing to do with correct skills grammar, good voice quality, or even empathy. I think it means the boss likes your vibes

#### "GROWTH"

Phrase used by start-up companies Usually means the place is a sweat shop.

#### "KEY PART OF PROJECT"

A way of making you feel important so that you can justify being burned out to yourself.

#### "OUTDATED METHODOLOGIES"

Methods of other companies.

#### "STATE-OF-THE-ART"

What us, the good guys, do.

#### "TEAM ENVIRONMENT"

No privacy and too many meetings.

"THE FAMILY"

You socialize with work cronies or else get ostracized

"A DRUG-FREE WORK ENVIRONMENT:"

We booze it up at company parties.

"A HIGHLY VISIBLE POSITION:"

You'll give boring speeches on your own time.

"ABILITY TO HANDLE A HEAVY WORKLOAD:"

You whine, you're fired.

"AN UP-AND-COMING SOFTWARE COMPANY:"

We want you to get your hopes up, but there's no chance in hell we'll be the next Microsoft.

"ASPIRATIONS FOR GROWTH WITHIN OUR COMPANY:"

We loooooove brown-nosers.

"CASUAL WORK ATMOSPHERE:"

We don't pay enough to expect that you'll dress up; well, a couple of the real daring guys wear earrings.

"COLLEGE DEGREE PREFERRED:"

Unless you wasted those four years studying something useless like philosophy, English or religion.

"COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT:"

We have a lot of turnover.

"COMPETITIVE SALARY:"

We remain competitive by paying less than our competitors.

"DUTIES WILL VARY:"

Anyone in the office can boss you around.

"ENTRY-LEVEL POSITION IN AN UP-AND-COMING COMPANY:"

You'll be making under \$7 an hour; we'll be bankrupt in a year.

"ENTRY-LEVEL POSITION:"

You'll be making under \$7 an hour.

"EXCITING AND PROFESSIONAL WORK ENVIRONMENT:" Guys in gray suits will bore you with tales of squash and their weekends on yachts.

"FLEXIBLE HOURS:"

Work 40 hours; get paid for 25.

"FUN WORK ENVIRONMENT:"

Your coworkers will be insulted if you don't drink with them.

"GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS:"

Management communicates, you listen, figure out what they want and do.

"IMMEDIATE OPENING:"

The person who used to have this job gave notice a month ago. We're just now running the ad.

"JOIN OUR DYNAMIC TEAM:"

We all listen to nutty motivational tapes.

"JOIN OUR FAST-PACED COMPANY:"

We have no time to train you; you'll have to introduce yourself to your coworkers.

"MUST BE DEADLINE ORIENTED:"

You'll be six months behind schedule on your first day.

"MUST HAVE AN EYE FOR DETAIL:"

We have no quality control.

"NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LEADER:"

Inc. Magazine wrote us up a few years ago, but we haven't done anything innovative since.

"NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE:"

We've filled the job; our call for resumes is just a legal formality.

"PENSION/RETIREMENT BENEFITS:"

After 3 years, we'll allow you to fund your own 401(k) and, if you behave, we'll give you a 5 percent matching contribution.

"PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS A MUST:"

You're walking into a company in perpetual chaos.

"PROFIT-SHARING PLAN:"

Once it's shared between the higher-ups, there won't be a profit.

"REQUIRES TEAM LEADERSHIP SKILLS:"

You'll have the responsibilities of a manager, without the pay or respect.

"SALARY RANGE \$24k-\$32k:"

We'll offer you \$22k to start.

"SALES POSITION REQUIRING MOTIVATED SELF-STARTER:" We're not going to supply you with leads; there's no base salary; you'll wait 30 days for your first commission check.

"SEEKING CANDIDATES WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF EXPERIENCE:"

You'll need it to replace three people who just left.

"SEEKING ENTHUSIASTIC, FUN, HARD WORKING, PEOPLE:"

...who still live with their parents and won't mind our internship-level salaries.

"SELF-MOTIVATED:"

Management won't answer questions

"SOME OVERTIME REQUIRED:"

Some time each night and some time each weekend.

"SOME PUBLIC RELATIONS REQUIRED:"

If we're in trouble, you'll go on TV and get us out of it.

"WE OFFER GREAT BENEFITS:"

After 90 days, you can join our HMO, which has a \$500 deductible and a \$25 co-pay.

"WHERE EMPLOYEES FEEL VALUED:"

Those who missed the last round of layoffs, that is. social misfit --- both types that companies love to exploit

**Now that you've sifted through the jungle of job ads, what's next? The first thing to do is put together a resume with a lot of "POWER PHRASES!" To help you in this endeavor, this little list has been compiled to show that you speak the same lingo as potential employers speak.**

"I AM ADAPTABLE:"

I've changed jobs a lot.

"I AM ON THE GO:"

I'm never at my desk.

"I HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR:"

I know a lot of corny, old jokes and I tell them badly.

"I HAVE FORMAL TRAINING:"

I'm a college drop-out.

"I INTERACT WELL WITH CO-WORKERS:"

I've been accused of sexual harassment.

"I KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH STRESSFUL SITUATIONS:"

I'm usually on Prozac. When I'm not, I take lots of cigarette and coffee breaks.

"I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU SOON:"

Like, I'm gonna hold my breath waiting for your stupid form letter thanking me for my interest and wishing me luck in my future career.

"I SEEK A JOB THAT WILL DRAW UPON MY STRONG COMMUNICATION & ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS:"

I talk too much and like to tell other people what to do.

"I TAKE PRIDE IN MY WORK:"

I blame others for my mistakes.

"I'M BALANCED AND CENTERED:"

I'll keep crystals at my desk and do Tai Chi in the lunch room.

"I'M EXTREMELY ADEPT AT ALL MANNER OF OFFICE ORGANIZATION:"

I've used Microsoft Office.

"I'M EXTREMELY PROFESSIONAL:"

I carry a Day-Timer.

"I'M HIGHLY MOTIVATED TO SUCCEED:"

The minute I find a better job. I'm outta there.

"I'M HONEST, HARD-WORKING AND DEPENDABLE:"

I pilfer office supplies.

"I'M PERSONABLE:"

I give lots of unsolicited personal advice to co-workers.

"I'M WILLING TO RELOCATE:"

As I leave San Quentin, anywhere's better.

"MY BACKGROUND AND SKILLS MATCH YOUR REQUIREMENTS:"

You're probably looking for someone more experienced.

"MY PERTINENT WORK EXPERIENCE INCLUDES:"

I hope you don't ask me about all the McJobs I've had.

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION:"

Wait! Don't throw me away!

#### **Dictionary of Evaluation Comments**

Some of you might like to know what the supervisor is really saying in all those glowing employee work performance evaluations he/she keeps cranking out.

AVERAGE:

Not too bright.

EXCEPTIONALLY WELL QUALIFIED:

Has committed no major blunders to date.

ACTIVE SOCIALLY:

Drinks heavily.

ZEALOUS ATTITUDE:

Opinionated.

CHARACTER ABOVE REPROACH:

Still one step ahead of the law.

UNLIMITED POTENTIAL:

Will stick with us until retirement.

QUICK THINKING:

Offers plausible excuses for errors.

TAKES PRIDE IN WORK:

Conceited.

TAKES ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO  
PROGRESS:

Buys drinks for superiors.

INDIFFERENT TO INSTRUCTION:

Knows more than superiors.

STERN DISCIPLINARIAN:

A real jerk.

TACTFUL IN DEALING WITH SUPERIORS:

Knows when to keep mouth shut.

APPROACHES DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WITH LOGIC:

Finds someone else to do the job.

A KEEN ANALYST:

Thoroughly confused.

NOT A DESK PERSON:

Did not go to college.

EXPRESSES SELF WELL:

Can string two sentences together.

SPENDS EXTRA HOURS ON THE JOB:

Miserable home life.

CONSCIENTIOUS AND CAREFUL:

Scared.

METICULOUS IN ATTENTION TO DETAIL:

A nitpicker.

DEMONSTRATES QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP:

Has a loud voice.

JUDGEMENT IS USUALLY SOUND:

Lucky.

MAINTAINS PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE:

A snob.

KEEN SENSE OF HUMOR:

Knows lots of dirty jokes.

STRONG ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES:

Stubborn.

GETS ALONG EXTREMELY WELL WITH SUPERIORS  
AND SUBORDINATES ALIKE:

A coward.

SLIGHTLY BELOW AVERAGE:

Stupid.

OF GREAT VALUE TO THE ORGANIZATION:

Turns in work on time.

IS UNUSUALLY LOYAL:

Wanted by no-one else.

ALERT TO COMPANY DEVELOPMENTS:

An office gossip.

REQUIRES WORK-VALUE ATTITUDINAL  
READJUSTMENT:

Lazy and hard-headed.

HARD WORKER:

Usually does it the hard way.

ENJOYS JOB:

Needs more to do.

HAPPY:

Paid too much.

WELL ORGANIZED:

Does too much busywork.

COMPETENT:

Is still able to get work done if supervisor helps.

CONSULTS WITH SUPERVISOR OFTEN:

Pain in the ass.

WILL GO FAR:

Relative of management.

SHOULD GO FAR:

Please.

USES TIME EFFECTIVELY:

Clock watcher.

VERY CREATIVE:

Finds 22 reasons to do anything except original work.

USES RESOURCES WELL:

Delegates everything.

DESERVES PROMOTION:

Create new title to make h/h feel appreciated.

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TH' END!