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## On the Lighter Side

New words for the modern workplace vocabulary

Jan. 01, 2006

*From the January 2006 Tax Season Survival Guide*

**New words for the modern workplace vocabulary:**

**BLAMESTORMING:** Sitting around in a group, discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed, and who was responsible.

**SEAGULL MANAGER:** A manager, who flies in, makes a lot of noise, craps on everything, and then leaves.

**SALMON DAY:** The experience of spending an entire day swimming upstream only to get screwed and die in the end.

**CUBE FARM:** An office filled with cubicles.

**PRAIRIE DOGGING:** When someone yells or drops something loudly in a Cube farm, and people's heads pop up over the walls to see what's going on.

**MOUSE POTATO:** The online, wired generation's answer to the couch potato.

**SITCOMS (Single Income, Two Children, Oppressive Mortgage):** What yuppies turn into when they have children and one of them stops working to stay home with the kids.

**STRESS PUPPY:** A person who seems to thrive on being stressed out and whiny.

**SWIPEOUT:** An ATM or credit card that has been rendered useless because the magnetic strip is worn away from extensive use.

**XEROX SUBSIDY:** Euphemism for swiping free photocopies from one's workplace.

**IRRITAINMENT:** Entertainment and media spectacles that are annoying but you find yourself unable to stop watching them. The J-Lo and Ben wedding (or not) was a prime example.

**PERCUSSIVE MAINTENANCE:** The fine art of whacking the crap out of an electronic device to get it to work again.

**ADMINISPHERE:** The rarefied organizational layers beginning just above the rank and file. Decisions that fall from the adminisphere are often profoundly inappropriate or irrelevant to the problems they were designed to solve.

**404:** Someone who's clueless. From the World Wide Web error message, "404 Not Found," meaning that the requested document could not be located.

**GENERICA:** Features of the American landscape that are exactly the same no matter where one is, such as fast food joints, strip malls and subdivisions.

**OHNOSECOND:** That minuscule fraction of time in which you realize that you've just made a BIG mistake.

**WOOFs:** Well-Off Older Folks.

**CROP DUSTING:** Surreptitiously passing gas while passing through a Cube Farm. □

*Source: Countless pass-along e-mails and websites.*

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