

How to Succeed in Business

By Cierra McDonald

Only the secretary is permitted to organize a party. He keeps the balloons, streamers, and confetti locked up like Fort Knox. Try to bring your own party favors and you will feel his wrath.

Working with others in an office atmosphere has been known to drive many employees into fits of sanity and rage. As a preventive measure, you should keep alcohol and a bottle of lithium pills on hand in case of emergency.

If a coworker complains about you over e-mail, it is considered polite to carbon-copy the rest of us for maximum entertainment.

Don't work too hard. There are no gold stars in business.

Middle managers have large yet delicate egos. Do not upstage them. When it comes to style, think "Nice Enough," like Yves Saint Laurent, Brooks Brothers, Drive a Mercury, not a Cadillac. Eat a burger, not a lobster.

Just because it is senior management's job to lead, don't expect them to know where they're going.

Buy some Gladware. Don't ruin the microwave for the rest of us. (Little known fact: Abby's sandals are indeed wrapped in aluminum foil. Take it out!)

You don't have to work in Silicon Valley to work on great technology. You do, however, need to work somewhere other than JoTech.

Learn to sleep with your eyes open. Trust me - if you had a nickel for every boring meeting you will have to attend, you would not need this job.

If you are working productively on your project more than one hour, immediately stop what you are doing, go into the kitchenette, and strike up a banal conversation. Efficiency is like kryptonite in the business world - no good.

It is inappropriate to have strobe lights or neon beer signs in your cubicle; however, flashing pins are acceptable provided that they are worn in a discreet manner on your shirt or blouse and in an area that is below the neck and above the ribcage.

Don't drink from the water fountain. One day it tastes like rotten eggs and the next day it tastes like chlorine. They are trying to poison us!

Some managers rule with an iron fist, others believe in a more laissez-faire approach. Try to work for the latter.

Make use of your sick days. Management is as heartless as the Tin Man when it comes to taking personal days otherwise.

At the JoTech company, a group of disgruntled office employees exhibit their frustration with the corporate world by writing their words of wisdom down on a sticky note and tacking it to the board, which they call "How to Succeed in Business." On the surface, the advice is certainly interesting though bitter; however, after closer examination, there seems to be a certain pattern among them. Even beyond that pattern, it seems that they are all connected somehow...