

First United Methodist Church of Gulfport, Mississippi

First United Methodist Church in downtown Gulfport is the only church building south of the railroad tracks

that survived Hurricane Katrina. Downtown Gulfport's Episcopal, Presbyterian and Baptist churches were all severely damaged. Many are planning their rebuilding efforts, while others are planning to relocate further inland.

FUMC began as a Sunday School class meeting in an empty

railroad boxcar and was established in 1896 with five charter members. Their historical church building was constructed in 1912 at the corner of 24th Avenue and 15th Street with a magnificent stained glass dome and 93 stained glass windows. A massive renovation was completed in 1988.

HGM is proud to have been selected by FUMC to complete necessary renovations and accessibility improvements, including a building addition with an elevator. Design for the project is being provided by Foxhollow Goodson Group, PLLC, from Knoxville, Tennessee. Construction started in January and is scheduled to be completed this fall 2007. To GOD be the glory...



Jobs In Progress Update

Competition Sports

Competition Sports opened its new doors in March. Superintendent Ken Cooper and his dedicated crew deserve a pat on the back. The new building (pictured), located on Courthouse Road in Gulfport, Miss., provides Gina and Gilles Nadeau much needed space for their growing business. Competition Sports is the Mississippi Gulf Coast distributor for Bombardier recreational products, consisting of Sea-Doo Watercraft, Sea-Doo Sport Boats and Can-Am ATVs. They also represent Specialized Bicycles, Electra Bicycles and Whizzer Motorbikes, with Vespa and Piaggio scooters soon to come.

Soprema Manufacturing Facility

Difficult site conditions are nothing new to HGM superintendent Ray Pell. Ray fought the wettest season the Gulf Coast has experienced in several years, yet managed to establish the concrete foundation so that construction could move forward. Since the weather let up, construction has progressed rapidly. This project is scheduled for completion this fall.

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How To Tell Your Boss “No”

Your boss just asked you to do something, and because you wanted to make her happy, you said yes, but now that you’re back at your desk, you’re steaming because you really don’t have time to do what is already expected of you, let alone take on an additional responsibility. So what do you do?

According to Bonnie Lowe in a piece titled, “When And How To Say I Just Can’t Do It!” on the Income-Flex website, it’s normal to want to say yes to our superiors when we really need to say no. Try to think of your boss’s perspective—she’s probably crazy busy herself and not keeping track of everything you are doing. And when you told her you could do the project, she probably didn’t give it a second thought.

This is all likely to weigh heavily on the relationship you and your boss have, according to Lowe. You might start stressing and hurrying, making mistakes and missing your deadlines.

So the bottom line is, you’re going to have to tell your boss that as much as you’d like to help her out on this one, you just can’t right now. Lowe says a good strategy is to ask your boss to help you prioritize what you have to do. That will give the two of you a chance to sit down and look at the reality of your schedule. It’s likely your boss will acknowledge that reality when faced with the facts you provide, and you won’t find yourself having to make excuses about your work further down the line.



Want More Respect?

If you want those who work for you to respect you more, try this simple tactic—ask their opinions, and really listen to what they have to say. It’s a sad fact that many managers don’t do this. But the reality is that when done well this is a powerful workplace practice that reaps almost unbelievably positive outcomes.

Think of it this way: You and your workers are operating as a collective intelligence. You are the one responsible for pushing the IQ of your group as high as possible. Then take action from what you learn. This will likely be a validating experience for your employees—and you will become someone who employees will flock to.

Think For Yourself

Whether you’re starting a new job or a position in a new department, career counselor Zsafia McMullin says it’s smart not to pay too much attention to what your new co-workers have to say about each other. “When you don’t know a situation or people and you don’t know what people’s motivations are, you can get yourself in trouble and be associated with the wrong issues or people,” she says. For example, a colleague may warn you to stay away from a certain manager because he is difficult to work with, but the truth may be that the two had a falling out over a personal issue. Give yourself time to form your own impressions.

The High Cost Of Being Late

According to the calculations of Harold Taylor, a time management consultant, the average cost of a minute to an American employee (making \$50,000 a year) is about 50 cents. That means if you keep 10 people waiting 10 minutes for a meeting, the cost is \$50.

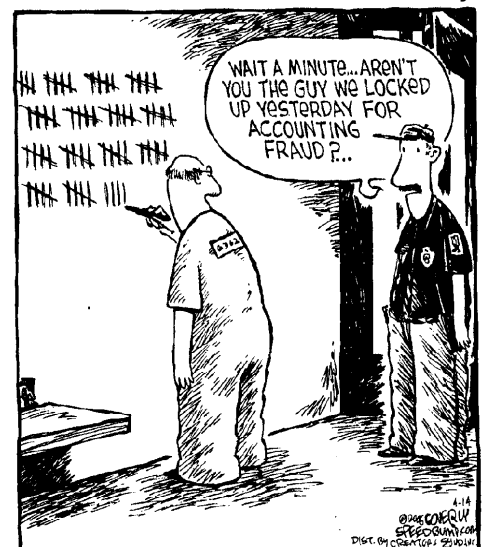
The Best Excuses When Caught Sleeping At Your Desk

- They told me at the blood bank this might happen.
- This is just a 15-minute power nap like they raved about in the last time-management course you sent me to.
- Whew! Guess I left the top off the liquid paper.
- I wasn’t sleeping! I was meditating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm!
- This is one of the seven habits of highly effective people.
- I was testing the keyboard for drool resistance.
- Actually, I’m doing a “Stress Level Elimination Exercise Plan” (SLEEP) I learned at the last mandatory seminar you made me attend.
- Darn! Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured out a solution to our biggest problem.
- The coffee machine is broken...
- Someone must’ve put decaf in the wrong pot.
- Boy, that cold medicine I took last night just won’t wear off.
- Ah, the unique and unpredictable circadian rhythms of the workaholic.
- Wasn’t sleeping. Was trying to pick up contact lens without hands.

—from *JeffJustice.com*

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



How Well Do You Know Your Interstates?

- 1) True or false: The interstate system requires that one mile in every five be straight. These straight sections could be used as airstrips in times of war or other emergency.
 - 2) Which state has the most interstate mileage? California, Texas or New York?
 - 3) Which state has the most interstate routes? California, Florida or New York?
 - 4) Which interstate route passes through the most states? I-40 or I-95?
 - 5) Which five state capitals are the only ones not directly served by the interstate system?
 - 6) Which of these states—Kansas, Missouri, New York or Pennsylvania—has *not* claimed to have the first section of the interstate highway system?
 - 7) What's the difference between odd- and even-numbered interstates?
 - 8) Where is the highest elevation on an interstate road?
 - 9) Where is the lowest elevation?
 - 10) Who said the interstate system "makes it possible to go from coast to coast without seeing anything or meeting anybody"?
- from *USA Today*

ANSWERS: 1) False. According to the Federal Highway Administration, the so-called requirement is nothing more than an urban (or rural) myth. 2) Texas, with 17 routes totaling 3,233.45 miles. 3) New York, with 29 routes totaling 1,674.73 miles. 4) I-95, which traverses 15 states and the District of Columbia (Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine). 5) Juneau, Alaska; Dover, Del.; Jefferson City, Mo.; Carson City, Nev.; Pierre, S.D. 6) New York. 7) North-south routes are assigned odd numbers, while east-west routes are given even numbers. And lowest-numbered north-south routes begin in the west; lowest-numbered east-west routes are in the south. 8) Eisenhower Memorial Tunnel on I-70, Clear Creek/Summit counties, Colo. It's 11,012 feet (on the east side) and 11,158 (west side). 9) El Centro, Calif.; 52 feet below sea level. 10) Late TV journalist Charles Kuralt.

The Future Of The Cube

Combining advanced materials, technology and sociological research, look for your cube to shrink in size but be more hip in the future. According to a *Time* magazine story "Redrawing the Cube," by Lisa Takeuchi Cullen, cubes are here to stay, but they will be transforming in possibly intriguing ways in the near future. Here are some cube facts and possibilities:

- 70% of office workers sit in cubes.
- In the 1970s, a typical workstation was 12 feet by 12 feet.
- In 1995, a typical workstation was 10 feet by 10 feet.
- Today's workstations average 6 feet by 8 feet, and cube planners say they can reduce the space by 21% without reducing productivity.



- 45% of workers say they do their best work in their own personal space.
 - The top complaint when it comes to privacy? Overheard conversation, with particular ire being aimed at loud cell phone talkers.
- Features to look forward to:*
- Desks that have adjustable heights.
 - Colored overhead lighting panels. Green means you're available to talk. Red means you're too busy to be bothered.
 - Semi-enclosed areas for cell

phone use—the areas will enhance signals with boosters and reduce the level of noise in the local cube farm.

- Translucent cubes that allow for a view, but also include doors to increase sound privacy.
- Enclosed seating areas, where people can get together for chats without disturbing their neighbors.
- Get ready for yurts—shell-like enclosures that muffle noise and provide some privacy for small groups.
- Individual desktop temperature controls.

Listen Up

In conversations, do you ever find yourself thinking of what to say while the other person is still talking? According to Connie Dieken, president of onPoint Communication, a business communication consulting firm, this is the major reason why most people are poor listeners. "We're so busy mentally planning a rebuttal that we miss the other person's true message," she says. "Commit to staying in the moment as others speak. This will prevent racing ahead and other mental tasks."

Are You Holding A Grudge?

Have you had a negative interaction at work with someone and now you're holding a grudge? If so, you should probably work through it. Why? Because devoting so much time to negative energy is probably not going to pan out for you in the end.

Don't get caught obsessing on what has happened in the past. You can think about it, acknowledge it and even remember it so that you are not vulnerable, but to focus your energies on your grudge will probably only hurt you in the workplace.

If you catch yourself going over and over the offending scenario in your head, take a walk or immerse yourself in some activity that will clear your mind. And remember what Buddy Hackett said: "Don't carry a grudge. While you're carrying the grudge, the other guy's out dancing."

Getting It Right Both Times

A building is actually constructed twice. Before a shovelful of earth is ever moved, the owner and design-build team must discuss and define the structure. A budget is then established, the general ideas are reduced to construction plans and specifications, and finally, physical construction begins.

Assembling and working with the right team of professionals will ensure that the construction of a building flows smoothly and is completed to the owner's exact requirements...both times.

Complete package

Working with the right design-build firm takes the guesswork out of assembling the construction team. One company will provide the entire package of leadership, direction and execution

expertise throughout each creative phase. This one firm will provide turnkey service, from guidance at the time the building is but a figment of someone's imagination, through coordination of design and construction, and beyond.

Built-in value

Because of the coordination of professional services, the use of time and money is optimized. Budgets are also established early in the project. Once basic requirements are defined, long lead time materials can be ordered early, also resulting in faster occupancy. In a similar fashion, value engineering provides the foundation for reducing costs without sacrificing quality. Value engineering is a systematic process that provides the lowest life cycle

costs for the intended use of a facility.

Getting it right

The very nature of design-build enhances accuracy. First, the design professionals work closely with the construction professionals throughout the entire project. The builder's field knowledge can be applied to the design to offer practical, money-saving solutions. Working closely together also allows for efficiently resolving any questions or problems that may arise.

And for the building owner, it's just plain easier to work with one company instead of several. Communication and decision-making are automatically streamlined. Single-source responsibility also means sole accountability. One firm oversees every phase, so this one company assumes total responsibility for all results.

Great expectations

By choosing to follow such a building program, you assure yourself a variety of positive results: professional guidance to help define a structure that meets your goals, design and construction services that take full advantage of scheduling and value engineering efficiencies, faster-than-average completion schedule, improved accuracy, easier communication and total accountability.

The design-build construction process is the best way to ensure your greatest expectations are accomplished—every time.



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