

**Career Transition
Center**
George P. Shultz
National Foreign Affairs
Training Center
U.S. Department of State

CTC NEWSLETTER

JULY 2007



**HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY!**

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**Vocational
plans:
Sea World**



SMILING THROUGH THE TRANSITIONS

The Annual July Jokes Issue
Featuring jokes and humorous
observations from CTC clients

JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

Are you qualified for one of these jobs?

- Wanted: Hair-cutter. Excellent growth potential.
- Wanted: Man to take care of cow that does not smoke or drink.
- Wanted: Girl wanted to assist magician in cutting-off-head illusion. Blue Cross and salary.
- Wanted: Preparer of food. Must be dependable, like the food business, and be willing to get hands dirty.



JOB APPLICATION BLOOPERS

Previous experience:

- Self-employed -- a fiasco.
- Watered, groomed, and fed the family dog for years.
- Bum. Abandoned belongings and led nomadic life-style.
- Bakery—proactively provided the products with the appropriate fillings, jellies and custards.
- Administrative Assitant. Required high detail orentation and acuracy.

Qualifications, Special Skills, Strengths:

- I've got a Ph.D. in human feelings.
- Highly proficient at vacuuming, dusting and moping.
- Speak English.

- Exposure to German for two years, but many words are inappropriate for business.
- Excellent memory; strong math aptitude; excellent memory; effective management skills; and very good at math.
- Experienced with numerous office machines and can make great lattes.
- Ability to meet deadlines while maintaining composure.
- Impersonal skills.

Education:

- Graduated from predatory school with honors.

Other:

- Joined the Air Force in 1776.

Personal, Marital Status:

- Married 20 years; own a home, along with a friendly mortgage company.
- I'm married with 9 children. I don't require prescription drugs.
- Single. Unmarried. Unengaged. Uninvolved. No Commitments.
- Often.
- Married, eight children. Prefer frequent travel.
- Children: Various

Accomplishments:

- Completed 11 years of high school.
- Successfully played "Chop Sticks" on a toy piano with my big toes.

Objective:

- To have my skills and ethics challenged on a daily basis.
- My primary goal is to be recognized.
- I want a base salary of \$50-\$60,000 dollars, not including bonus. And some decent benefits. Like a retirement plan, health insurance, personal or sick days.

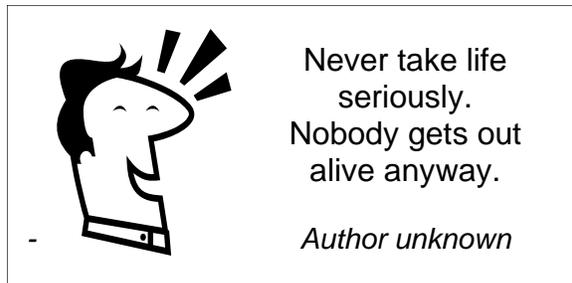
- To obtain a position where I can make a difference, infecting others with my professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication.
- Objection: To utilize my skills in sales.

Reason for leaving last job:

- Pushed aside so the vice president's girlfriend could steal my job.
- The owner gave new meaning to the word paranoia. I prefer to elaborate privately.
- They stopped paying me.
- Maturity leave.
- The company made me a scapegoat, just like my three previous employers.
- They insisted that all employees get to work by 8:45 a.m. every morning. Could not work under those conditions.
- Please don't misconstrue my 14 jobs as job-hopping. I have never quit a job.
- Please explain any breaks in your employment career: 15 minute coffee break while working at a home improvement store.
- Never been fired, although it could happen anytime now.

Interests:

- Donating blood. 14 gallons so far.
- I love to shop in new places.
- Music, dancing computers.
- I like any projects that are fun.



References:

- Leanne Kaye-Deceased Nov. 14, 1997.
- None. I've left a path of destruction behind me.

An applicant was filling out a job application. When he came to the question, "Have you ever been arrested?" He answered, "No." The next question, intended for people who had answered in the affirmative to the last one, was "Why?" The applicant answered it anyway: "Never got caught."

In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird.

Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.



- Author unknown

COVER LETTER BLOOPERS

Opening Gambits:

- If this resume doesn't blow your hat off, then please return it in the enclosed envelope.
- You hold in your hands the resume of a truly outstanding candidate!
- Enclosed is a ruff draft of my resume.
- Please disregard the attached resume -- it is terribly out of date.
- Here are my qualifications for you to overlook.
- You are privileged to receive my resume.
- My fortune cookie said, "Your next interview will result in a job." And I like your company in particular.
- I saw your ad on the information highway, and I came to a screeching halt.
- I am sicking and entry-level position.
- Seek challenges that test my mind and body, since the two are usually inseparable.
- Desire the chance to showcase my delightful personality, intelligence and superior judgment, which are so hard to find these days.
- I am superior to anyone else you could hire.
- I am a man filled with passion and integrity, and I can act on short notice. I'm a class act and do not come cheap.
- I am a quick learner, dependable, and motivated.
- I am relatively intelligent, obedient, and as loyal as a puppy.
- You will always find me to be an extremely trying person.
- I perform my job with effortless efficiency, effectiveness, efficacy, and expertise.
- My experience in horticulture is well-rooted.
- My ruthlessness terrorized the competition and can sometimes offend.
- I am a pit bull when it comes to analysis.
- My intensity and focus are at inordinately high levels, and my ability to complete projects on time is unspeakable.
- It's best for employers that I not work with people.
- You will want me to be Head Honcho in no time.
- I have an excellent track record, although I am not a horse.
- I have become completely paranoid, trusting completely no one and absolutely nothing.



Addressing the Salary Question:

- My compensation should be at least equal to my age.
- I demand a salary commiserate with my extensive experience.
- My compensation package at my last job included a base salary of \$64,500 with excellent benefits including flex-time. I am looking for a position in which I can work a more flexible schedule.
- I intentionally omitted my salary history. I've made money and lost money. I've been rich and I've been poor. I prefer being rich.

Promises, Promises:

- I vow to fulfill the goals of the company as long as I live.
- I will take the chaos of your office and reform it into a semblance of simple disorder.

Relocation Issues:

- I have recently sold my home and I now live in a large RV so I will be able to relocate quickly.

Closing Remarks:

- I'll starve without a job but don't feel you have to give me one.
- Insufficient writing skills, thought processes have slowed down some. If I am not one of the best, I will look for another opportunity.
- Hire me and you won't regret it—I am funny, cute, smart and creative... really.
- Lets meet, so you can ooh and aah over my experience.
- I am extremely loyal to my present firm, so please don't let them know of my immediate availability.
- I am loyal to my employer at all costs... Please feel free to respond to

my resume on my office voice mail.

- Thank you for your consideration. Hope to hear from you shortly!

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Catherine, a RN, was unhappy with her job, so she submitted her resignation. She was sure she'd have no trouble finding a new position, because of the nursing shortage in her area. She e-mailed cover letters to dozens of potential employers and attached her resume to each one. Two weeks later, Catherine was dismayed and bewildered that she had not received even one request for an interview. Finally she received a message from a prospective employer that explained the reason she hadn't heard from anyone else. It read: "Your resume was not attached as stated. I do, however, want to thank you for the vegetable lasagna recipe."

You can say what you want about the South, but you never hear of anyone retiring and moving North!

- Author unknown



RESUME BLOOPERS

- I have lurnt Word Perfect 6.0 computer and spreadsheet programs.
- Received a plague for Salesperson of the Year.
- Wholly responsible for two (2) failed financial institutions.
- Am a perfectionist and rarely if if ever forget details.
- I was working for my mom until she decided to move.

- Failed bar exam with relatively high grades.
- Instrumental in ruining entire operation for a Midwest chain store.
- I worked as a Corporate Lesion.



JOB INTERVIEW BLOOPERS

CareerBuilders.com -- survey of hiring managers (top 10 out of 2,627 responses): "A job candidate..."

- attached a letter from her mother.
- used pale blue paper with teddy bears printed around the border.
- explained a three-month gap in employment by saying that he was getting over the death of his cat.
- specified that his availability to work Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays is limited because the weekends are "drinking time."
- included a picture of herself in a cheerleading uniform.
- drew a picture of a car on the outside of the envelope and said the car would be a gift to the hiring manager.
- listed hobbies that included sitting on a levee at night watching alligators.
- mentioned the fact that her sister had once won a strawberry-eating contest.
- stated that he works well in the nude.
- explained an arrest record by stating, "We stole a pig, but it was a really small pig."

Employer to applicant: "In this job we need someone who is responsible."

Applicant: "I'm the one you want. On my last job, every time anything went wrong, they said I was responsible."

Employer to applicant: "Do you think you can handle a variety of work?"

Applicant: "I ought to be able to. I've had ten different jobs in four months."

A man applied for a job as an industrial spy. Together with several other applicants, he was given a sealed envelope and told to take it to the fourth floor. As soon as the man was alone, he stepped into an empty hallway and opened the envelope. Inside, a message read: "You're our kind of person. Report to the fifth floor Personnel Office."

HR Manager to job candidate: "I see you've had no computer training. Although that qualifies you for upper management, it means you're under-qualified for our entry level positions."

The classified ad said, "Wanted: a very experienced lumberjack". A man answered the ad and was asked to describe his experience. "I've worked at the Sahara Forest." "You mean the Sahara Desert," said the interviewer. The man laughed and answered, "Oh sure, that's what they call it now!"



"People ask me what I'd most appreciate getting for my eighty-seventh birthday. I tell them, a paternity suit."

- George Burns

What Applicants Say & What They Really Mean:

- “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 seek a job that will draw upon my strong communication and organizational skills.” = I talk too much and like to tell other people what to do.
- “I’m extremely adept at all manner of office organization.” = I’ve used Microsoft Office.
- “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 lunchroom.
- “I have a sense of humor.” = I know a lot of corny, old jokes and I tell them badly.
- “I’m willing to relocate.” = As I leave San Quentin, anywhere’s better.
- “I’m extremely professional.” = I carry a DayTimer.
- “My background and skills match your requirements.” = You’re probably looking for someone more experienced.
- “I am adaptable.” = I’ve changed jobs a lot.
- “I am on the go.” = I’m never at my desk.
- “I’m highly motivated to succeed.” = The minute I find a better job, I’m outta there.
- “I have formal training.” = I’m a college dropout.
- “I interact well with co-workers.” = I’ve been accused of sexual harassment.
- “Thank you for your time and consideration.” = Wait! Don’t throw me away!



“As we grow older,
our bodies get
shorter and our
anecdotes longer.”

- Robert Quillen



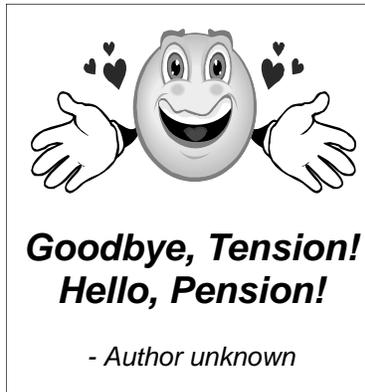
What Employers Say & What They Really Mean:

- “Entry level position” = You’ll be making minimum wage.
- “Entry level position in an up-and-coming company” = You’ll be making minimum wage; we’ll be bankrupt in a year.
- “Profit-sharing plan” = Once it’s shared between the higher-ups, there won’t be a profit.
- “Nationally recognized leader” = Inc. Magazine wrote us up a few years ago, but we haven’t done anything innovative since.
- “Immediate opening” = The person who used to have this job gave notice a month ago. We’re just now running the ad.
- “Competitive environment” = We have a lot of turnover.
- “Flexible hours” = Work 40 hours; get paid for 25.
- “Must have an eye for detail” = We have no quality control.
- “College degree preferred” = Unless you wasted those four years studying something useless like Philosophy, English or Social Work.
- “Apply in person” = If you’re old, fat or ugly you’ll be told the position has been filled.
- “Problem solving skills a must” = You’re walking into a company in perpetual chaos.

Actual Job Interview Excerpts

A survey of top personnel executives of 100 major American corporations asked for stories of unusual behavior by job applicants. The low lights:

- Said he was so well-qualified [that] if he didn't get the job, it would prove that the company's management was incompetent.
- Stretched out on the floor to fill out the job application.
- Chewed bubble gum and constantly blew bubbles.
- Candidate kept giggling through serious interview.
- Asked to see interviewer's resume to see if the personnel executive was qualified to judge the candidate.
- Without saying a word, candidate stood up and walked out during the middle of the interview.
- Man wore jogging suit to interview for position as financial vice president.
- Wouldn't get out of the chair until I would hire him. I had to call the police.
- When I asked him about his hobbies, he stood up and started tap dancing around my office.
- Had a little pinball game and challenged me to play with him.
- Bounced up and down on my carpet and told me I must be highly thought of by the company because I was given such a thick carpet.
- At the end of the interview, while I stood there dumbstruck, went through my purse, took out a brush, brushed his hair, and left.
- Pulled out a Polaroid camera and



snapped a flash picture of me. Said he collected photos of everyone who interviewed him.

- Candidate asked me if I would put on a suit jacket to insure that the offer was formal.
- Said he wasn't interested because the position paid too much.
- While I was on a long-distance phone call, the applicant took out a copy of Penthouse, and looked through the photos only, stopping longest at the centerfold.
- During the interview, an alarm clock went off from the candidate's brief case. He took it out, shut it off, apologized and said he had to leave for another interview.
- A telephone call came in for the job applicant. It was from his wife. His side of the conversation went like this: "Which company? When do I start? What's the salary?" I said, "I assume you're not interested in conducting the interview any further." He promptly responded, "I am as long as you'll pay me more." I didn't hire him, but later found out there was no other job offer. It was a scam to get a higher offer.
- An applicant came in wearing only one shoe. She explained that the other shoe was stolen off her foot in the bus.
- His attaché [case] opened when he picked it up and the contents spilled, revealing ladies undergarments and assorted makeup and perfume.
- He came to the interview with a moped and left it in the reception area. He didn't want it to get stolen, and stated that he would require indoor parking for the moped.

- He took off his right shoe and sock, removed a medicated foot powder and dusted it on the foot and in the shoe. While he was putting back the shoe and sock, he mentioned that he had to use the powder four times a day, and this was the time.
- Candidate said he really didn't want to get a job, but the unemployment office needed proof that he was looking for one.
- He whistled when the interviewer was talking.
- Asked who the lovely babe was, pointing to the picture on my desk. When I said it was my wife, he asked if she was home now and wanted my phone number. I called security.
- She threw-up on my desk, and immediately started asking questions about the job, like nothing had happened.
- Pointing to a black case he carried into my office, he said that if he was not hired, the bomb would go off. Disbelieving, I began to state why he would never be hired and that I was going to call the police. He then reached down to the case, flipped a switch and ran. No one was injured, but I did need to get a new desk.
- Asked if I wanted some cocaine before starting the interview.

"You just have to keep trying to do good work, and hope that it leads to more good work. I want to look back on my career and be proud of the work, and be proud that I tried everything.



Yes, I want to look back and know that I was terrible at a variety of things."

- Jon Stewart

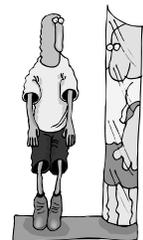
NEGOTIATING

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Person asked a young engineer fresh out of MIT, "What starting salary were you looking for?" The engineer replied, "In the neighborhood of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer said, "Well, what would you say to a package of 5 weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every 2 years -- say, a red Corvette?" The engineer sat up straight and said, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replied, "Well, yeah, but you started it."

A Manager of a retail clothing store is reviewing a potential employee's application and notices that the man has never worked in retail before. He says to the man, "For a man with no experience, you are certainly asking for a high wage." "Well Sir," the applicant replies, "the work is so much harder when you don't know what you're doing!"

"Retirement must be wonderful. I mean, you can suck in your stomach for only so long."

-- Burt Reynolds



NEW JOB

Late for Work...

Tom was in his early 50's, retired and started a second career. However, he

just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day, 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, real sharp, so the Boss was in a quandary about how to deal with it.

Finally, one day he called him into the office for a talk. "Tom, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang-up job, but you're being late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know Boss, and I am working on it."

"Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear. It's odd though, you're coming in late. I know you're retired from the Air Force. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said, "Good morning, General."



"I've been in the twilight of my career longer than most people have had a career. "

-- Martina Navratilova

RETIREMENT

My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned, couldn't concentrate.

Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the ax.

After that I tried to be a tailor, I wasn't suited for it, mainly because it was a so-so job.

Next I tried working in a muffler factory but that was too exhausting.

Then I tried to be a chef, figured it would add a little spice to my life, but I just didn't have the thyme.

I attempted to be a deli worker, but any way I sliced it, I couldn't cut the mustard.

My best job was being a musician, but eventually I found I wasn't noteworthy.

I studied a long time to become a doctor, but I didn't have any patience.

Next was a job in a shoe factory, I tried but I just didn't fit in.

I became a professional fisherman, and discovered that I couldn't live on my net income.

I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, the work was just too draining.

So then I got a job in a workout center, they said I wasn't fit for the job.

After many years of trying to find steady work I finally got a job as a historian, until

I realized there was no future in it.

I could have been a Violinist, but found I'm too high-strung.

A Bowler, but it's not up my alley,

A Magician, but the urge vanished,

A Librarian, but I shelved the idea,
A Plumber, but it was only a pipe-dream
My last job was working at Starbucks, I
had to quit because it was always the
same old grind.

So I retired and I am PERFECT for the
job!!!

STAYING IN SHAPE & IN GOOD HEALTH

Just came across this exercise, suggested for older adults, to build muscle strength in the arms and shoulders. It seems so easy, so I thought I'd pass it on to some of my friends. The article suggested doing it three days a week. Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day, you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato sacks. Then try 50-lb potato sacks and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each of the sacks.

Games for when we are older:

- Sag, you're It.
- Hide and go pee.
- 20 questions shouted into your good ear.
- Kick the bucket

- Red Rover, Red Rover, the nurse says Bend Over.
- Musical recliners.
- Simon says something incoherent.
- Pin the Toupee on the bald guy

"Food, love, career,
and mothers,
the four major guilt
groups."

- Cathy Guisewite



Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement. The FIRST patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week. The SECOND sees his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waits 8 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week and finally has his surgery scheduled for a month from then. Why the different treatment for the two patients? The FIRST is a Golden Retriever. The SECOND is a Senior Citizen.

I recently picked a new primary care doctor. After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I was doing "fairly well" for my age. A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?" He asked, "Do you smoke tobacco, or drink beer or wine?" "Oh no," I replied. "I'm not doing drugs, either!" Then he asked, "Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued ribs?" I said, "No, my former doctor said that all red meat is very unhealthy!" Do

At this point the doctor is close to losing it. "Getting married!! Why would a 118 year-old guy want to get married?" "Who said he wanted to?"

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When I went to lunch today, I noticed an old lady sitting on a park bench sobbing her eyes out. I stopped and asked her what was wrong. She said, "I have a 22-year-old husband at home. He makes love to me every morning and then gets up and makes me pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit and freshly ground coffee." I said, "Well, then why are you crying?" She said, "He makes me homemade soup for lunch and my favorite brownies and then makes love to me for half the afternoon." I said, "Well, why are you crying?" She said, "For dinner he makes me a gourmet meal with wine and my favorite dessert and then makes love to me until 2:00 a.m." I said, "Well, why in the world would you be crying?" She said, "I can't remember where I live."

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A wealthy old lady decides to go on a photo safari in Africa, taking her faithful aged poodle named Cuddles, along for the company. One day the poodle starts chasing butterflies and before long, Cuddles discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch. The old poodle thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep doo-doo now!" Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the leopard is about to leap the old poodle exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard! I wonder if there are any more around here?" Hearing this, the young leopard halts his at-

tack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees. "Whew!" says the leopard, "That was close! That old poodle nearly had me!"

Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. So off he goes, but the old poodle sees him heading after the leopard with great speed, and figures that something must be up. The monkey soon catches up with the leopard, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the leopard. The young leopard is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!" Now, the old poodle sees the leopard coming with the monkey on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?" Instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old poodle says: "Where's that dang monkey? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another leopard!"

Moral of this story...Don't mess with old timers -- age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill! BS and brilliance only come with age and experience!

"I've always thought that a big laugh is a really loud noise from the soul saying, 'Ain't that the truth.'"

- Quincy Jones,
Victory of the Spirit



Scientific research shows that people who have more birthdays live longer.

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Enjoy your birthday - live it up like a teenager. Get a wrinkle pierce.

“The old man laughed loud and joyously, shook up the details of his anatomy from head to foot, and ended by saying such a laugh was money in a man's pocket, because it cut down the doctor's bills like anything.”



- Mark Twain

FINISHING WITH A SONG

At Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP, Julie Andrews performed "My Favorite Things" from the legendary movie "Sound Of Music." Ms. Andrews received a standing ovation from the crowd that lasted over four minutes. Here are the lyrics she used: sing to the tune of "My Favorite Things".....

*Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favorite things.*

*Cadillacs and cataracts and hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
When we remember our favorite things.*

*When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.*

*Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favorite things.*

*Back pains, confused brains, and no fear of sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favorite things.*

*When the joints ache,
When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.*

“If you don't have wrinkles, you haven't laughed enough.”

- Phyllis Diller



EDITOR'S NOTES



Your faithful editor is planning an article on small businesses for the August issue of this newsletter. If you manage a small business and would be willing to answer a few interview questions via e-mail, we

will feature you and your business (with contact details) in the article. So, Small Businessmen and Businesswomen, please contact me as soon as possible at pittsa@state.gov.

If this works out, we can make the Small Business issue an annual event!

ATTENTION, JSP GRADS!

Job Fair

Our next job fair will be held on Tuesday, August 28, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. in the gymnasium of Building D (aka the Field House) at FSI in Arlington, Virginia. Be sure to bring a photo ID — and, if you have one, your Retiree ID. A



few employers will leave early, try to arrive before 3:00 pm.

JSP FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS

All JSP graduates of the August 2007 and previous classes are invited to attend two follow-up meetings in Room E-2118 to discuss progress on the job search, share experiences and advice, and enjoy each other's company. The dates are:

- Tuesday, September 11, 10:00 am
- Tuesday, September 25, 10:00 am



“Salary is no object; I want only enough to keep body and soul apart.”

- *Dorothy Parker*



CTC NEWSLETTER

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Also available on the internet at
<http://www.state.gov/m/fsi/tc/c6958.htm>