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The Big One is Coming

By Cathy Goodwin, Ph.D.

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When I asked my readers, "What's on your mind?" the greatest response came from readers who asked, "How do I leave a job, whether it's my decision or someone else's?"

Gwendolyn Parker, author of *Trespassing*, asked for seven months of severance when she voluntarily left her senior position at American Express. Seven months seems like a vast, open space when you leave the corporate world, especially if you hate your job. Your health plan unfolds into Cobra — expensive but comprehensive — so you figure, "I've got time." You're tired, so you need to relax.

But, as Parker discovered, seven months of salary seems a lot less when you're no longer working full-time.

So what happens when you have six, seven or even twelve months of severance in the bank and you're getting twitchy? Will you ever be back on a payroll? Should you start a business?

Discuss your resources with a qualified financial advisor. Can you stretch your funds beyond six months?

Explore feelings, if need be, with a qualified specialist. You will sabotage your own best efforts if you carry resentment and grief into your next career project.

Resist the temptation to make sudden drastic moves. Sell the house, move to Wyoming and live in a tent? By December, the tent is cold, the housing market has taken another jump and you've gone too far to turn back. Anyway, the bears have confiscated your computer to play hibernation solitaire. "Career winter" indeed.

Explore free or low-cost resources. Check out the Chamber of Commerce, your alumni career center, and the unemployment office. If you have trouble staying focused, paying your own consultant may be a good investment.

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Now let's turn the clock back for a more proactive view. You expect to be fired — or to fire yourself. What can you do?

First and foremost, begin to set up your safety net. See <http://www.movinglady.com/safety.html> . Use the company's resources to build your skills and network. Pay yourself first, in time as well as money. Spend at least two hours a day on the You, Inc. project.

Want time off? Make a plan. Will you take two weeks, two months or two years? Commit to being free. Forget about planning your life purpose or dabbling in business ideas. See <http://www.movinglady.com/imeout.html>.

However, even if you absolutely, positively hate your job, expect to feel a let-down when you begin to face empty days. Get yourself tightly scheduled with temporary jobs, appointments, or classes. Stay off the couch. Don't lose momentum.

If you can't get going, or you keep postponing a meeting with a coach, you may be really, truly stuck. See <http://www.movinglady.com/stuck.html> for some suggestions to dig yourself out.

The journey will probably take longer than you anticipate. You will have some bizarre experiences, especially in the beginning, but they eventually will be replaced by heart-warming encounters with warm, generous people. You will learn to transform wet blankets into comfort quilts. See <http://www.movinglady.com/blankets.html>.

Along the way you will probably stumble on your life purpose, which eluded you while you were reading self-help books on the couch.

Keep a journal faithfully. No one can predict where you will be in a year, but you will be able to look back and realize how far you have come. Drop me a line to share your story.

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The Single Most Important Aspect Of Your Career

By Erik Alburg

Do you want to get a promotion and make a lot more money? Do you want to be recognized for your hard work? Do you want to keep your job and not be downsized? In fact, do you want to know the secret to be Upsized? The most important skill you will ever learn is how to study and understand Office Politics.

Office politics plays a very important role in whether you get a promotion, an award, the job that you

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want, or the compensation that you receive. Virtually every aspect of your professional career is influenced by social politics. The proper understanding of the social "food chain" in your work space is essential for your professional success and financial well-being.

To understand why the organization works and how to use that information to your advantage, you must first understand how the "Big Fish" act and think. Who are the "Big Fish"? They are the decision makers, the people who are up-and-coming in the company and the people who hold ultimate power in the company. These are the CEO's, Presidents, VPs, managers, and supervisors who are what I consider to be "in favor".

When it comes to these "Big Fish" they typically care only about two things. The first is how they can take credit for increasing the effectiveness of the company and the second is who around them can get the results they need to be successful. To summarize, for these people it is all about self-preservation and self-promotion.

Are the "Big Fish" unethical or self-absorbed? No, the successful people just want excellent employees working for them and they expect results. If you were in a dog-sled race would you want a team of Siberian Huskies or Chihuahuas? The answer is obvious; you would want to win the race so you would want the best team available.

Can this information be helpful to you? Let me ask you:

1. Do you think you stand a better chance of getting a promotion working for a "little fish" or a "Big Fish"?
2. Is your chance of getting a good raise better or worse if the VP knows your name and the projects you have worked on?
3. Are you more or less likely to move up in the company if you are working on a "Big Fish's" pet project?

The bottom line is this...If you align yourself with a "Big Fish" you will be considered for more opportunities than you would ever have working for a "little fish". Why? The reason is because people trust people who can get the job done. If the "Big Fish" trusts you then he/she will be comfortable giving you more and more responsibility. And with more responsibility comes promotions and A LOT more money.

Study your office politics and align yourself with a "Big Fish" and will progress your career farther and faster than you ever could have imagined.

Hello, my name is Erik Alburg. Learn how to Increase Your Average Job Salary

with my accelerated career development system. Learn how I went

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from employee to executive by the age 31 using this simple system.



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