

**Resume 54, Where Are You?**  
**By Randy Howard**

It's Sunday afternoon. Having surfed the greater part of your afternoon away on the Internet, you have identified a position for which your skills and qualifications are closely matched. With nary a moment's hesitation, you set out to apply for the job. Your resume is peppered with high impact adjectives. The dates confirmed, the margins set, the spelling and punctuation copasetic. You spend 30 minutes customizing a cover letter and review both documents one last time.

You copy and paste the cover letter into the body of your outgoing e-mail and add the resume as an attachment. "They have to love me," you think, punching the letters on your keyboard. "Everybody loves me!" You feel your confidence giving way to doubt. Your doubt concedes to horror. You've heard scores of graphic tales about where all unwanted resumes go. With the best-laid plans you click "send." You hope against hope that your resume doesn't end up...

1. Simply scanned for the e-mail address and destroyed. Company was only interested in adding you to its database titled "Future Spam Recipients."
2. Re-routed to another company seeking an experienced dishwasher.
3. As Friday's topic of conversation in the weekly "Ferret Out the Fiction" contest held in that quirky human resource manager's office.
4. Slobbered on and devoured by hiring manager's dog.
5. Posted on a billboard which reads "A Digital Portfolio Can Help Everybody... Except This Guy."
6. Nominated for a dubious award by the Associated Press citing the most egregious use of the adjective "kick-ass."
7. Featured on ET that your resume is responsible for the cancellation of ABC's hit television show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."
8. Returned in an envelope marked "Return to Sender." Funny thing is you faxed it.
9. Returned with an accompanying letter stating your resume is in no way a reflection of the beliefs, values or opinions of the resume paper company.
10. Returned in the mail with the interstitial spaces in the following letters blacked out: a, b, d, e, g, o, p, q.
11. Placed under U-V light by FCC censors who have discovered the message "Paul is dead" encrypted cleverly within the text.
12. Used as scrap paper for a sexually explicit note marked "Exhibit A" in a harassment suit where you will be the first witness called to the stand.
13. Folded in half repeatedly until it's thick enough to steady the wobbly table in the lunchroom.
14. Ground into pulp and used as a "natural" cancer-causing agent in a new brand of cigarettes.
15. Used by the small children of the hiring manager to play Tic-Tac-Toe and Hang Man.

16. Shaped into a paper airplane and summarily launched out a 25th story window.
17. Hung in the United States Post Office next to the fugitive mug shots.
18. Nailed to the door of the Wittenburg Church, thereby constituting the 96th Thesis attacking papal abuse and the sale of indulgences by church officials.
19. Listed in the Guinness Book of World's Records under "Highest Salary Ever Awarded By an IT Resume." Sadly, your name and address have been replaced.
20. Lost in Cyberspace only to reach its ultimate destination in 2005, years after all your cutting-edge skills of today are rendered obsolete.

<http://www.employmax.com/jobseeker/index.cfm?FuseAction=April00>

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