

[Print this article](#) | [Go back](#)

Monday, June 18, 2007

On the job

'Summer fever' strikes many American workers

It's funny how the office ranks start to thin just as the summer kicks off, with reports of stomach viruses rising coincidentally with the number of bright, sunny days.

Nearly 40 percent of full-time workers admit to calling in sick to **enjoy a summer day off**, according to a recently released online survey. Here's a shocker: The most popular days to play hooky were Friday and Monday.

"It really leads to a bit of a productivity and morale problem if it's left unchecked," said Jim Kizielewicz of workplace management firm Kronos, which sponsored the survey, conducted in mid-April among 2,021 adults.

Workers are turning the concept of sick time on its head, calling in sick when they're not and showing up to work when they are. In a related Kronos study, 98 percent of full-time employees reported going to work while ill.

The trend should prompt employers to manage time off more proactively, with alternatives like allowing telecommuting or half days off on summer Fridays, Kizielewicz said.

Power dads free up some time for kids

You might think bigshot CEOs have little time to spend with their kids, but many of them are **making an effort** worth more than the goofy tie they probably received yesterday for Father's Day.

According to a new survey of chief executive officers at Fortune 1000 companies, 80 percent of CEO dads said they spend as much or more time with their kids than their father spent with them.

Nearly 70 percent said they would leave a late meeting to see their child in an event like a play or piano recital, and 59 percent knew the names of their kids' three best friends.

The survey revealed some room for improvement, however. Nearly three-quarters of CEO dads admitted to missing an important milestone in their child's life and 62 percent regretted it. Less than half knew their kid's bedtime.

While nine out of 10 CEOs said they wanted to spend more time with their kids, just under half said they were doing what was best for their children's future.

The nonscientific survey, conducted by Ericho Communications, was sent to the Fortune 1000 CEOs; 11 percent were returned by CEOs identified as parents. Another 39 percent of the responses came from follow-up phone calls.

Mom, better get that grad's room ready

If you're struggling to find that dream job a few years after graduation, **try moving back in** with your mother.

Returning to the land of milk and cookies can eventually lead to great career success, according to Penelope Trunk, author of "Brazen Careerist: The New Rules for Success."

If your parents live in a city where you can find a good job, moving home and saving some cash can set you up for stability and fulfillment, Trunk said.

"If you can stomach it, you should try it," she said.

Another tip: Don't be too honest on your resume and try to be nice instead of competent.

When looking for work, leave unflattering information -- like a project you bombed at your last job -- off your resume. Don't flat-out lie, but hiring managers expect some self-preservation from applicants, Trunk said.

"Sanity is going into an interview and telling a story that makes you look good," she said.

Another unconventional rule: It's more important to be likable than competent. A friendly, helpful employee will always get ahead over the crabby genius, Trunk said.

Whisper sweet nothings... to your computer?

This from Entrepreneur, citing work done by Kelton Research: Some 65 percent of Americans spend **more time with their home computers** than they do with their spouse or significant other.

-- *Compiled from C-J*

staff and wire reports

[Print this article](#) | [Go back](#)