

Recruiters share job interview horror stories

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Workopolis.com

We’ve all experienced the terror of the job interview. The sweaty palms, the pounding heart, the paralyzing fear. But have you stopped to think about what it’s like from the other side of the desk (or phone, or Skype)? The hiring manager is just as nervous as you are. His or her job often depends on finding the right candidate. These brave men and women have their own set of horror stories to tell about the characters and creatures that occasionally lurch their way into the interview. Beware that you don’t make any of these mistakes.

Hands of hell

“While in the restroom washing my hands I noticed someone walk out of the bathroom stall without washing his hands, ‘Gross,’ I thought. I went back to my office and the receptionist rang to inform me my 1:30 appointment was in the lobby,” Chris Lawson, CEO of Eli Daniel Group said. “Lo and behold my 1:30 was the person from the bathroom. I met the candidate at the front and sure enough he reached out to shake my hand. I told him that I had arthritis, so I was unable to shake his hand.” **Hint:** Ew! Whether or not the hiring manager may be watching, please just wash your hands.

Trash-talking Frankentramp

“I asked why she left her last job and she said, ‘You’re not supposed to say anything negative about



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Sometimes job interviews aren’t just frightening for the interviewee, interviewers have their share of horror stories.

your former employer, and I know that, but, you won’t care. This lady I worked for was crazy,” Lawson said. “She told me that this lady, the owner’s wife, was jealous of her because she wore very skimpy clothes and was flirtatious. She said she liked to wear skimpy clothes and she knew the owner [the boss’s husband] loved it.” **Hint:** Unless you’re applying for a job in a brothel, trumpeting your wanton ways is not going to impress anyone. (Except apparently the owner of the previous company Frankentramp worked for.)

Stench of doom

“A very well-intended lady came in to my office. I noticed almost instantly that her perfume was so incredibly strong that I literally had to cut the interview off after five minutes and politely explain to her that she can’t proceed with almost half a bottle of fragrance on her,” Lawson said. I felt bad for her as she was a nice candidate, but it was so stifling that I had to find some Lysol to spray so that I could continue my work day.” “It was very awkward telling her, but perhaps she ultimately

took my advice on no perfume and found a job,” he added. **Hint:** Go easy on the scent. Or lay off completely. A lot of offices are no scent zones these days.

Nefarious imposter

“A candidate listed a company on his resume where I had previously worked,” said Ian Siegel, CEO of ZipRecruiter. (The interview happened at a former company.) “He never worked there. He was not pre-screened by our HR department, so the discovery of his exaggeration happened while we were face to face during the interview. Neither one of us really knew where to go after that.” **Hint:** This is why we don’t lie. It’s very embarrassing when we get caught.

A dangerous game

“I flew from [New York] to L.A. to interview someone who asked me to stand there and wait in a hotel lobby so that she could finish the game of solitaire she was playing, because it looked like she was going to win,” said Ann Larson, managing partner of The Interview Experience.

Hint: I’ve got nothing to say to this. It’s just ridiculous.

Creepy come on

“I was doing a phone interview and when I asked if the candidate had any questions for me,” Larson said. “She replied, ‘You sound very attractive, I think we may have a connection. Would you please describe what you look like in detail?’ Really?” **Hint:** Don’t hit on the hiring manager. Seriously. Just don’t.

Creature from the dungeon

“I asked a recent college grad what was the last professional book she read, and she replied, 50 Shades of Grey,” Larson said. **Hint:** Her previous professional job apparently had something to do with domination and dungeons. Or so one would assume. Always listen to the question.

Interviewee’s brain eaten by zombies

“When asked why they wanted the position one candidate answered, ‘I don’t know,’” said

Matthew Ferree, lead technical sourcer for Master Accreditation in Recruiting and Sourcing (MARS). “In another instance, when asked if the candidate had any questions they replied ‘What does your company do?’” **Hint:** Wow. That’s just plain stupid. Please – do your research before showing up for a job interview.

Smoke from the pit

“We recently had a guy pull out a cigar during the interview and stand and walk around with it while he was talking,” said Morgan Nichols, managing partner for Torrey & Gray. **Hint:** The job interview was not, in fact, an audition for the role of George Burns. Don’t smoke during an interview, or show up smelling of smoke.

Closet of skeletons

“One applicant handed over a list of three references, but then pointed to the first one and said, ‘But don’t call this guy,’” said Peter Harris, head of editorial at Workopolis. “She paused for a moment and then indicated the second reference and said, ‘You’d better not call this one either.’” **Hint:** This would make anyone wonder. Don’t list references you don’t want interviewers to call.

Clueless creature

“My co-worker finds the interviewee sitting at our kitchen table drinking a beer with other people from our work. She comes upstairs with the beer!” said Tracy, who asked that her company not be disclosed. “She wore leggings to the interview. Post interview, we walk her downstairs, say goodbye and go upstairs for about another hour. We go back downstairs to leave (this is at like 9 p.m.) and she’s still there drinking. She stayed until everyone left!” **Hint:** Don’t get drunk at the job interview, even if it’s a CEO position and everyone else is doing so.

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CLOSING DATE: November 6, 2013 4:30 PM
We thank all applicants in advance for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Huckleberry Mines Ltd. is a Vancouver based mine company which operates a 16,400 TPD open pit copper molybdenum mine located 120 km south of Houston in west central British Columbia.

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P.O. Box 3000
Houston, B.C. V0J 1Z0
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Syncrude production estimates drop

CALGARY (CP) — Canadian Oil Sands Ltd., the largest owner of the Syncrude Canada Ltd. oilsands mine, says it is reducing its 2013 targeted production range to between 97 million and 100 million barrels, down from the 100 million to 104 million range.

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