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The Daily Star

DHAKA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2014

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NEXT STEP

Fictional bosses to aspire to

The greatest fictional characters who also happen to be incredibly adept at being employers

1. HARVEY SPECTER FROM SUITS

He hired a guy with no past experience and a cheat who claims to have a degree from Harvard even though he's never even been on campus. Harvey Specter is the epitome of the cool boss, suave, detached unless needed, and he's the Batman of corporate lawyers. Like someone else on this list, he has that inspirational streak that can affect almost anyone in the corporate world, from learning the correct number of buttons to wear on a suit, to winning negotiations and getting what you want, in any way possible.



2. DR. GREGORY HOUSE FROM HOUSE

Obsessive, intrusive, utterly devoid of any sympathy for the societal norms that regulate the world, House is the kind of boss the world needs, not wants. Imagine a corporate scenario where an employer just wants things done, irrespective of the means and consequences be damned; House would be the greatest boss in the world. His madness is methodical, and you can learn a thing or two about keeping your employees in check while pushing them to go even farther.



3. HANNIBAL SMITH FROM THE A-TEAM

He loves it when things go according to plan. Hannibal Smith knows how to pick a team, compartmentalise work and play to their individual strengths, to the point where every single plan is pulled off seamlessly with pin-point accuracy. While that may be crucial in covert-ops, the practices can be replicated in a work environment if you know how to pull it off.



4. M FROM JAMES BOND

MI5's iron lady is many things, but the way she moves forward with planning and execution leaves no room for errors or the occasional rogue agent. Her grip on her values and tactile sense may have driven agents to the point of plotting world domination just to get back at her, but then what boss is a boss without inciting some pretty deep feelings in her employees? We love M, but honestly, I think many of us are pulled towards the character because of her fantastic portrayal by Dame Judi Dench.



5. TONY STARK/PEPPER POTTS FROM IRON MAN



Stark Industries' main man may keep morale in the company high by putting on an exoskeleton suit and fighting bad guys and aliens, but Tony Stark would be nothing without the cool headed Pepper Potts managing everything while Iron Man does his thing. She's the woman behind the scenes, working tirelessly so that Stark can play with soldering guns and metal alloys in his basement.

6. LESLIE KNOPE FROM PARKS AND RECREATION

Leslie Knope is the heart of Pawnee. Without her, many a playground would be taken over by the bullying bulldozers on the payroll of supermarket chains, and kids would have to give into the soda and chips fuelled greed of Capitalist America. Leslie is funny, incredibly smart, and the one bright point of hope for America. Knope We Can, indeed.



7. JANE FROM IT CROWD



As far as clueless blonde bimbos go, Jane is the best of them all, because she isn't all that clueless, she isn't that blonde, and she definitely isn't a bimbo. Managing a pair of socially awkward IT guys from the basement of a firm run by a misogynistic man-child, she is the all-important bridge between brains and the real world. Some could even say she's the Wheatstone bridge (an electrical circuit used to measure an unknown electrical resistance by balancing two legs of a bridge circuit) of the world, but then she has no clue what it is, and it really doesn't even matter.

8. DON DRAPER FROM MAD MEN

Where to start? Don Draper is the effortlessly cool ad man from Madison Square Garden, the focal point of America's obsession with billboards and Superbowl breaks. He does it all with a glass of the finest whiskey in his hand, and the charisma emanating from him really gets things done.



11. DARTH VADER FROM STAR WARS

Well, he's Vader. What else do you need except the ability to Force choke employees and use Force mind tricks to get them to do stuff? Pure intimidation doesn't get any better than a raspy voice, audible breathing, and a shiny evil helmet.

9. MALORY ARCHER FROM ARCHER

Tasked with keeping her son and top agent in check, Malory Archer taps into her immense vat of energy and patience, the reserves of which run short pretty quickly when faced with the bumbling agents of ISIS (the fictional spy agency, not the terrorising terrorists). The threats would only have an effect when there is sufficient respect for the woman in charge, and usually it does, except for her son, Sterling, who has built up an immunity to her endless rants.



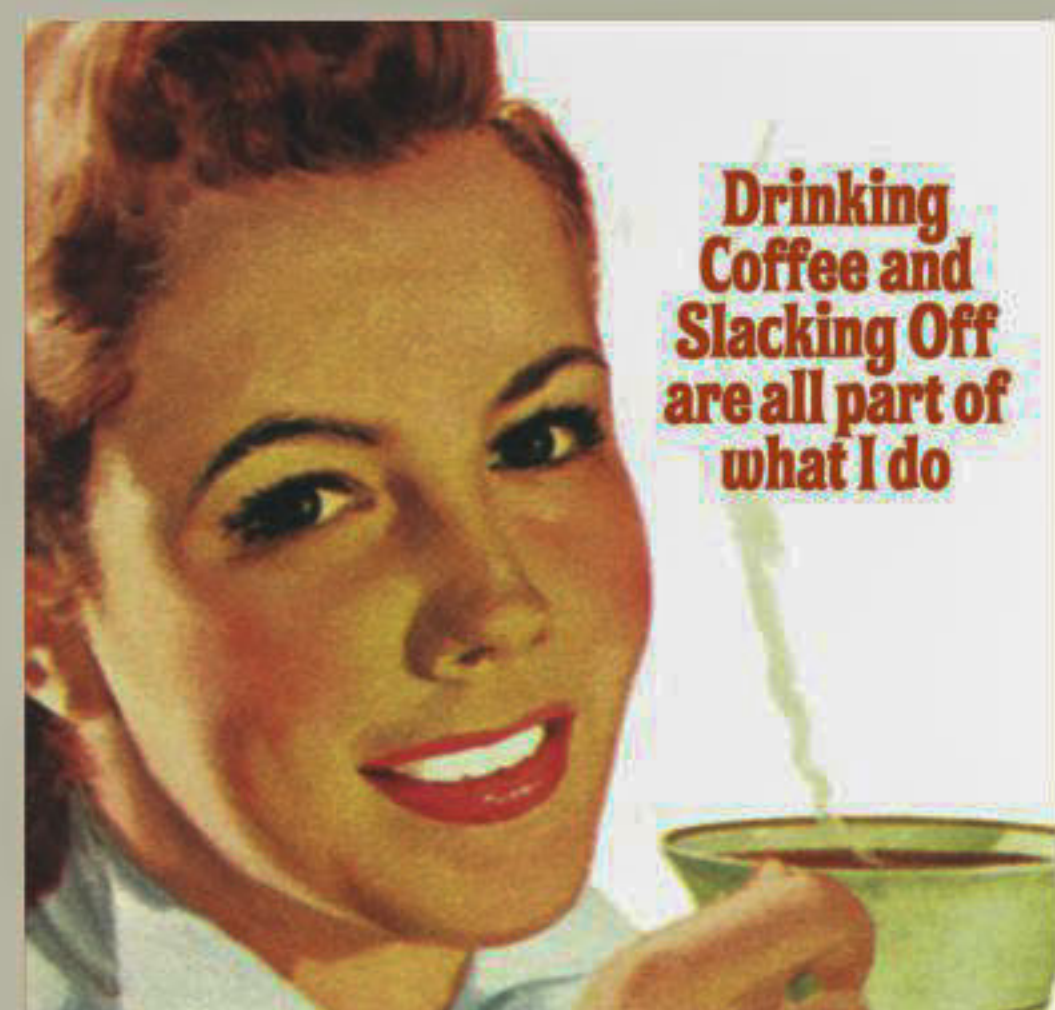
10. LIZ LEMON FROM 30 ROCK

Probably one of the strongest characters on TV, Liz Lemon takes pride in her work and she does it well, despite the idiots surrounding her. She's the perfect boss because she's the filter between what her idiot boss wants and what her idiot employees are willing to do, all the while managing an infantile celebrity and stopping him from ruining his career. Incredible strength and perseverance is a trait we like to see in bosses, and she has it by the boatloads.



WATER COOLER CHRONICLES

Slacking off like a boss



It started off as just another normal day at the office. Hectic. Unproductive. And definitely boring. Not that there wasn't a lot to be done and papers to be signed and articles to be written. And truth be told, hell definitely hath no fury like that of a boss on D-Day. Then in sweeps Mr. Perfect Hair, churns out two 1000 word articles in a matter of an hour, takes care of all the loose ends and he is gone. Not to be seen again for another week.

Regardless of the degree of truth in the story above, we all know that one colleague who is always late for work – if he actually shows up that is. He is the bane of the boss' existence, the bin for every verbal abuse imaginable and

always on the verge of getting fired. But he never does, somehow. Because you see, this slacker knows how to get the work done. While the rest of us are busy showing up on time, browsing Reddit, and then with our attention span already mutilated, sit down to work, this colleague will get to the most important tasks at hand before riding off into the sunset.

Now, most office environments would not really allow one to be this unsung hero. Even in jobs where this flexibility is allowed, there is always a possibility of pushing it too far. But that is not to say there isn't something to learn from him. Enter the highly regarded and esteemed,

pseudo-scientific law of MIT (Most Important Task). In laymen terms, it states if it is important, you should probably close that YouTube tab and get it done first thing. We tend to leave off the most important (and usually the most complex) task till last. So by the time we get to it, we are already drained by the lesser, more simple to-dos and the output is shaky. When we are done with the MIT, there is more space to get to that oh-so-important article about Miley Cyrus that you kept bookmarked.

Another thing that our slacker friend is constantly seen doing is running around. While we, the normal people, keep minute details of to-do lists and

constantly keep expanding, if he has something to do that takes only a minute, he will do it right then. So by the end of the day, he can sneak off from the office with no worries about the growing list of un-finished mental tasks.

Slacking off should not have to be about being bad at your job. As long as you get the work done at a reasonable (open to interpretation?) time, you are free to binge on entire seasons of Jersey Shore for all most bosses care. Being a little smart while planning the day goes a long way towards giving you a chunk of free time to just be.

MOYUKH MAHTAB

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Course overview

The idea that you can influence your boss may seem at odds with a traditional view of the boss-employee relationship. But you know best how you want to be managed to reach your goals, and if you focus on building a partnership with your boss, you will find that you have more influence than you think. In this course, you'll learn how to build influence with your boss by understanding his or her situation and knowing what you can offer that benefits both your boss and you. You'll also find out how to influence your boss to get more responsibility or more direction when you need it.