

Avoiding the Pink Slip

You only have to visit your nearest shopping mall to know that the economic situation is **precarious**. **Sales abound** ... 30% off! 40% off! 70% off! Will we ever get used to paying normal retail prices ever again?

Forgive me for jumping **on my soapbox**, but if you're worried that your job **is on the chopping block**, then it's time to take action. There may be means at your disposal to help avoid getting canned.

Do what you can to make yourself more valuable than the average co-worker. If it's your job to work the cash register in the front of the store, learn how to take customers' money and sell the products. **Showing initiative** sends the signal that you can take on new responsibilities if the situation presents itself.

If there are voluntary working groups at your company, join them. Better still, become the committee chairperson.

When the boss needs someone to step up, offer to help. Making yourself known to top management lets you **stand out from the rank and file**.

If co-workers eat lunch in a big group, join in. Attend after-work social events (but remember if there's alcohol involved, take it easy). Being known on a personal level increases your likeability.

O.K., but this is not high school, you say. Performance and **seniority** matter most in the workplace. True, but when co-workers like you, they will **pull for you** when times get tough.

Now is a good time to remember the subtle role that **interpersonal skills** play in avoiding a layoff.

Glossary

getting canned	få sparken
interpersonal skills	social kompetens
be on the chopping block	vara i fara
on (one's) soapbox	tala fritt (från hjärtat); skjuta från höfterna
pink slip	varsel; uppsägning (talspråk)
precarious abound	osäker finnas i överflöd; här: rea i var och varannan butik
pull for you seniority	stå på din sida tjänsteår; ålder
show initiative	visa framfötterna
stand out from the rank and file	skilja sig från mängden