

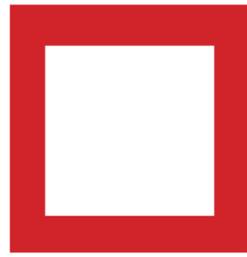
TRU Life

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STRATEGIC SUMMER SURVIVAL GUIDE



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During summer 2012, I became convinced the zombie apocalypse was right around the corner. The revelation wasn't as surprising as one would think. At the time, everyone already was convinced the world was going to end anyway. Why not world destruction by zombies?

It made sense. It was evident from the remote location of the office I worked at that summer, the agonizingly slow scanner I used to scan engineering reports dating as far back as 1963, the plain white walls that surrounded my desk space and the lingering smell of concrete in everything from the chairs to the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches I packed for lunch. It was evident in the way I sat at my desk watching the slow scanner, counting each paper that made its journey through the machine.

Reports that reached 100 plus pages in length, and I counted them all.

The break room had a water cooler. When I was thirsty, I would grab one of those small dixie cups, fill it with water and drink the water while standing there, just to complete the cliché.

The only interesting aspect about the office were the two life-sized cardboard cut-outs residing in the break room. One was of Dolly Parton, the other Princess Leia. While certainly eccentric enough for me to question where they had come from, eventually they became another background detail of the day-to-day life of an office employee.

Around report number 27 — day six on the job — I finally decided the zombie apocalypse already was here and I unknowingly had been drafted to the side of the undead.

It was a depressing epiphany, but one that couldn't have come any sooner. I might have been an office drone, but I wasn't about to let the drone life control me.

I learned many ways to combat the mundane while at a job, a skill that carried over to when I wasn't working. Writing was completed, shows were watched, plans were made. My multi-tasking ability shot through the roof.

The trick is to embrace the mundane. A lot of life is filled with it. The way I see it, summer wrongly is viewed as constantly being filled with excitement. It's not. It's probably filled with zombies. That's okay. You're just going to have to work around them. If you can do that, you successfully have learned how to make the most out of the boring parts of life.

If you find yourself on the verge of a zombie apocalypse this summer — also known as stuck-in-a-cubicle — refer to the flow chart we have provided you. We may not lead you down the perfect path, but we definitely will lead you to a more entertaining one.

