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## The Good Girls: Sometimes employee's worth not realized until they're gone

Advertisement

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Dear Good Girls: I read your feature "Fired and Burned" and knew immediately I was not alone. Although I am still working with my current employer, we have seen this scene play again and again. As my fellow employees and I look at each other, we ask, "Who will be next?"

Thank you for sharing your insights. I hope that employers are reading this, so they will be more tactful during their next round of cuts.

Dear Reader: Thank you for so vividly describing the mixed feelings of employees who duck the cuts but then get hit with the one-two punch of extra duties and anxiety that typically accompanies being part of a newly downsized work force.

I share your hope that employers will pay more attention to the lasting effects of the downsizing process.

Dear Good Girls: I have enjoyed reading your features. You responded to a retired lady regarding a Web site that produced "stay-at-home jobs." I would appreciate that Web site address.

Dear Reader: Several people wrote asking about the Web site I mentioned in a column about the possibility of becoming a virtual assistant, a job that can be done from home.

Virtual assistants are self-employed entrepre-neurs who provide administrative services for busy professionals, all from their own home office.

Some readers of that column were confused, thinking that the Alliance for Virtual Business's Web site — [www.allianceforvirtualbiz.com](http://www.allianceforvirtualbiz.com) — is a source for stay-at-home jobs. That is incorrect.

The Alliance Web site offers a directory of virtual assistants, an e-zine with useful tips on managing your business, protecting your Web site and other hot topics, and links to other people in the industry.

"We want to help people who want to become legitimate business owners, but we are not a temp agency or an employment agency," says Sharon Williams, chairwoman of the Alliance.

Virtual assistants who want to work for an agency that finds them assignments should contact Team Double-Click ([www.teamdoubleclick.com](http://www.teamdoubleclick.com)).

Team Double-Click matches virtual assistants it has trained with business owners who want virtual support for their small or home-based enterprises.