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## **VOICE MAIL COULD ELIMINATE YOUR CANDIDACY**

By Laurie Mitchell, Certified Personnel Consultant

I'll never understand why seemingly qualified candidates leave inappropriate and unprofessional greetings on their voice mail. Don't they know that one day an HR Manager or Recruiter might call and get their outgoing message?

This caller treats voice mail like a sneak preview of a candidate. Is there good energy and good cheer in your greeting? Do you sound depressed and bored? Or worse yet, are you subjecting me to some god-awful, profane loud music or is your dog barking or even your three year old lisping something unintelligible? One time, I heard a Mae West invitation "to com'mon up to my place". OMG, do you or do you NOT want to be considered for the position I'm retained to fill?

Along the same lines, how about the voice mail you leave for me when I'm not in the office? Do you crisply leave your name and number with a short, very to-the-point message? Or do you provide an oral recitation of your life and career including your opinions on all the jerks who fired you?

Searching for a new position is tough enough. So don't handicap yourself with the simple things. Think through **all** your first impressions.

PS: If you're job hunting, never let your teenager pick up the phone. Every parent knows that they don't deliver messages.