Midnight Papers | ISSUE 002

DOING OUR BEST IN A PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED DISASTER

THE DEPARTMENT OF BARELY FUNCTIONING



DEPARTMENT MEMO

ALL SYSTEMS TECHNICALLY OPERATIONAL

PROGRESS: 0%

THE SACRED THREEPEAT

One update. Three leaders. Zero new information.

THE EMERGENCY STAPLER INQUIRY

Actual work postponed until the office supplies are safe.

THE COMPLAINT-ONLY PROGRAM

Maximum complaining. Minimum improvement.

TWO NEW HIRES

One is losing it. The other has never found it.

URGENT TASKING:

FIND THE FUCKING STAPLER.

Actual work pending clarification.

OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT MOTTO

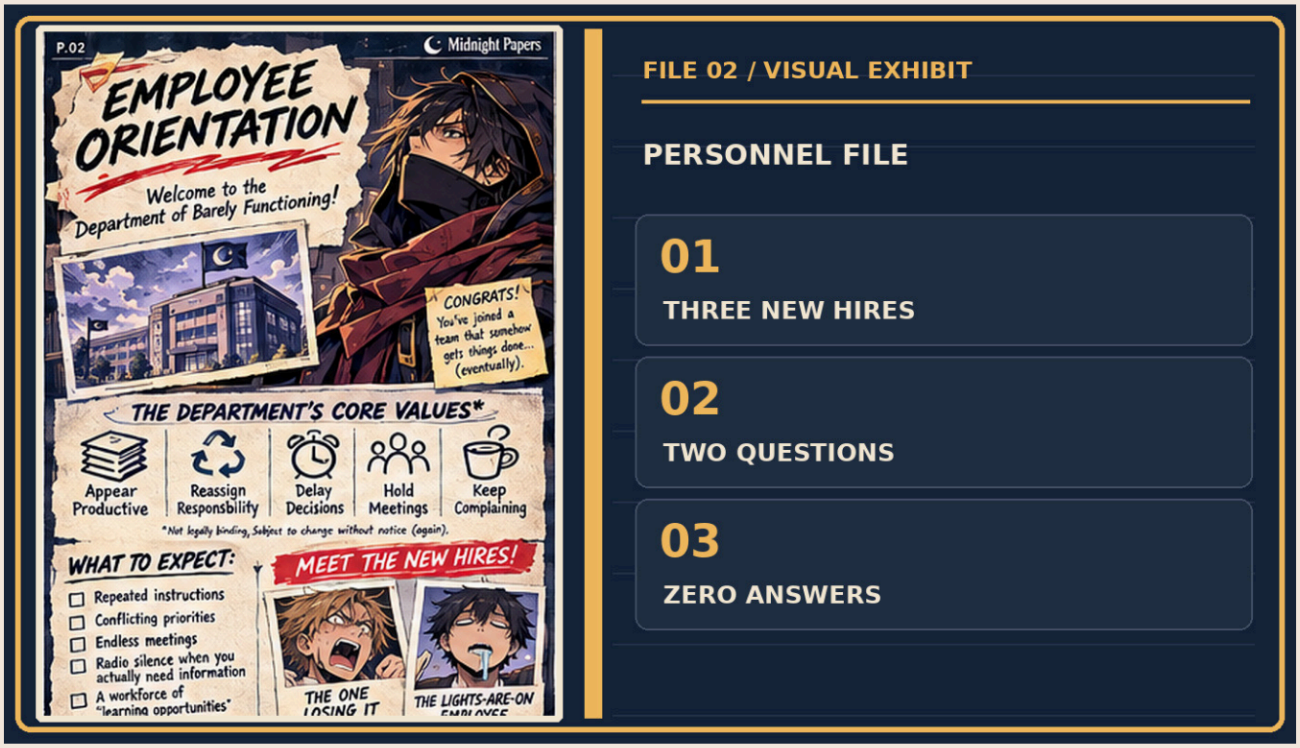
MAXIMUM EFFORT. MINIMAL PROGRESS.

See you tomorrow. Unfortunately.

EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION / MANDATORY FUN

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT.

Orientation motto: MAXIMUM EFFORT. MINIMAL PROGRESS.



TREVOR 'THE MELTDOWN' KANE: New hire, week one, and already demanding to know what the fuck is going on. Somehow, the only person asking sensible questions.

DYLAN 'LOADING SCREEN' PRICE: Nods enthusiastically at absolutely everything. Has been holding an unplugged mouse for eleven minutes. His first question was, 'Is this the printer?'

THE WANDERER: Our exhausted unofficial guide. Came here to do actual work; currently waiting for somebody to explain what it is.

WELCOME ABOARD. We're glad you're here. On paper.

OFFICIAL BRIEFING / NEW INFORMATION SOLD OUT

THE SACRED THREEPEAT

One announcement. Three bosses. Forty minutes. This could've been a message.



MANAGER ONE: 'Quick update, everyone.' Says the thing.

MANAGER TWO: 'Just to piggyback off that...' Says the same fucking thing with different hand gestures.

MANAGER THREE: 'And to reiterate...' Says it again, louder, as though volume creates clarity.

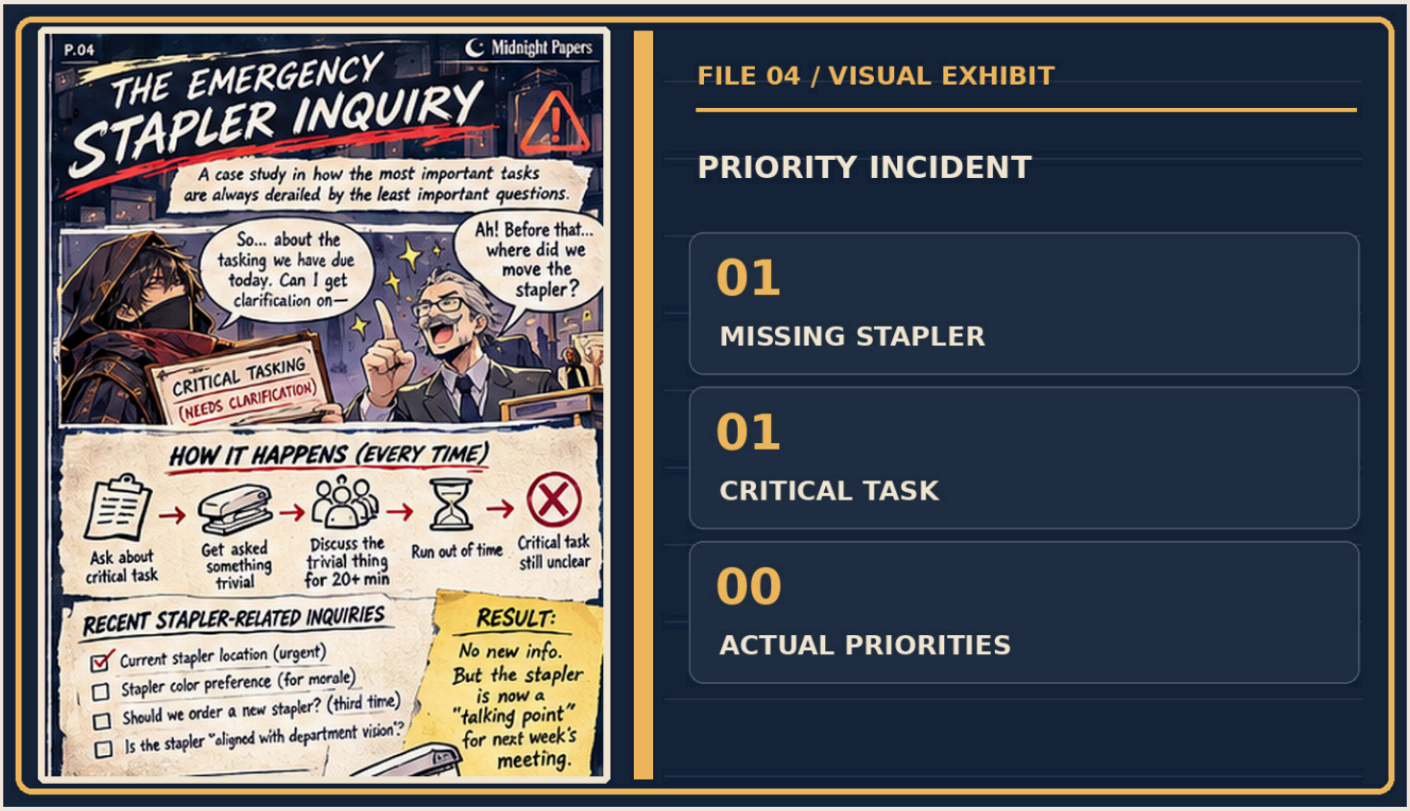
TREVOR ages six months. DYLAN applauds because he thinks the meeting ended. It did not.

ACTION ITEMS: None. NEW INFORMATION: Zero. NEXT MEETING: Somehow already scheduled.

PRIORITY ZERO / IMPORTANT WORK NOT INCLUDED

THE EMERGENCY STAPLER INQUIRY

A real question enters the room. A stapler leaves as the top priority.



WANDERER: 'Before I begin the critical task, can I confirm the scope, deadline, and who's approving it?'

MANAGER: 'Absolutely. But first, where's the fucking stapler?'

Twenty minutes later, four adults debate the proper direction of staples. TREVOR is losing his goddamn mind. DYLAN is proudly holding a tape dispenser.

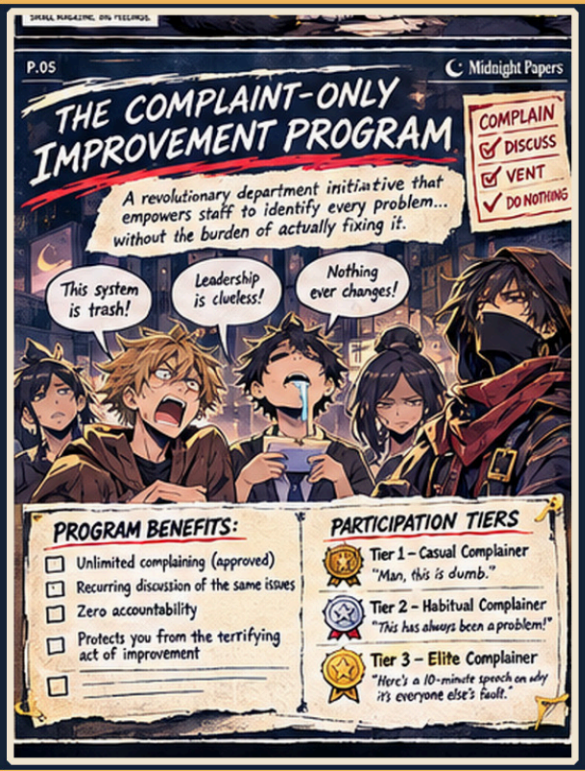
WANDERER: 'Per my last email, I still need the actual task details.'

TASK: Still unclear. STAPLER: Possible sighting. PRIORITIES: Completely fucked.

INNOVATION / ZERO CHANGES IMPLEMENTED

THE COMPLAINT-ONLY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A department-wide initiative to identify problems without fixing shit.



FILE 05 / VISUAL EXHIBIT

PROGRAM REPORT

47
COMPLAINTS

00
FIXES

∞
FOLLOW-UPS

STEP 1: Complain that the process is broken.
STEP 2: Refuse to learn how the process works.
STEP 3: Reject a simple fix because 'we've always done it this way.'
STEP 4: Repeat until promoted to senior advisor.

TREVOR offers a fix. Leadership calls him negative. The team complains he is 'doing too much.' DYLAN has been nodding at a printer for ten minutes.

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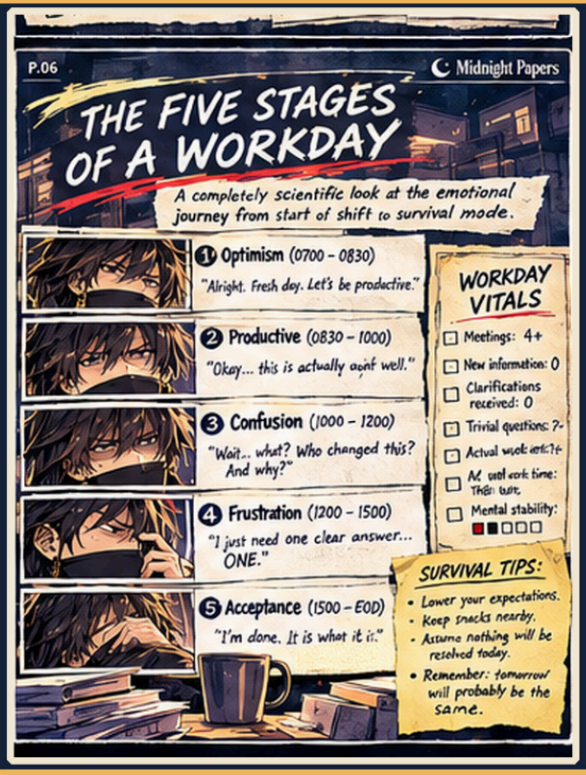
MOTIVATION™ — SOLD SEPARATELY

Confidence not included in your compensation package.

A SCIENTIFICALLY QUESTIONABLE COMIC

THE FIVE STAGES OF A WORKDAY

From hopeful new hire to emotionally laminated office furniture.



FILE 06 / VISUAL EXHIBIT

SHIFT CHRONICLE

08:00
OPTIMISM

11:00
REGRET

17:00
ALLEGED FREEDOM

08:00 — OPTIMISM: 'Today might actually be productive.'
09:30 — CONFUSION: 'Didn't we just cover this?'
11:00 — FRUSTRATION: 'Can someone answer my ONE fucking question?'
14:00 — ACCEPTANCE: The stapler is a strategic objective.
17:00 — SPIRITUAL DEPARTURE: Body present. Brain clocked out.

BONUS STAGE: Monday's recap of Friday's recap. No skip button.

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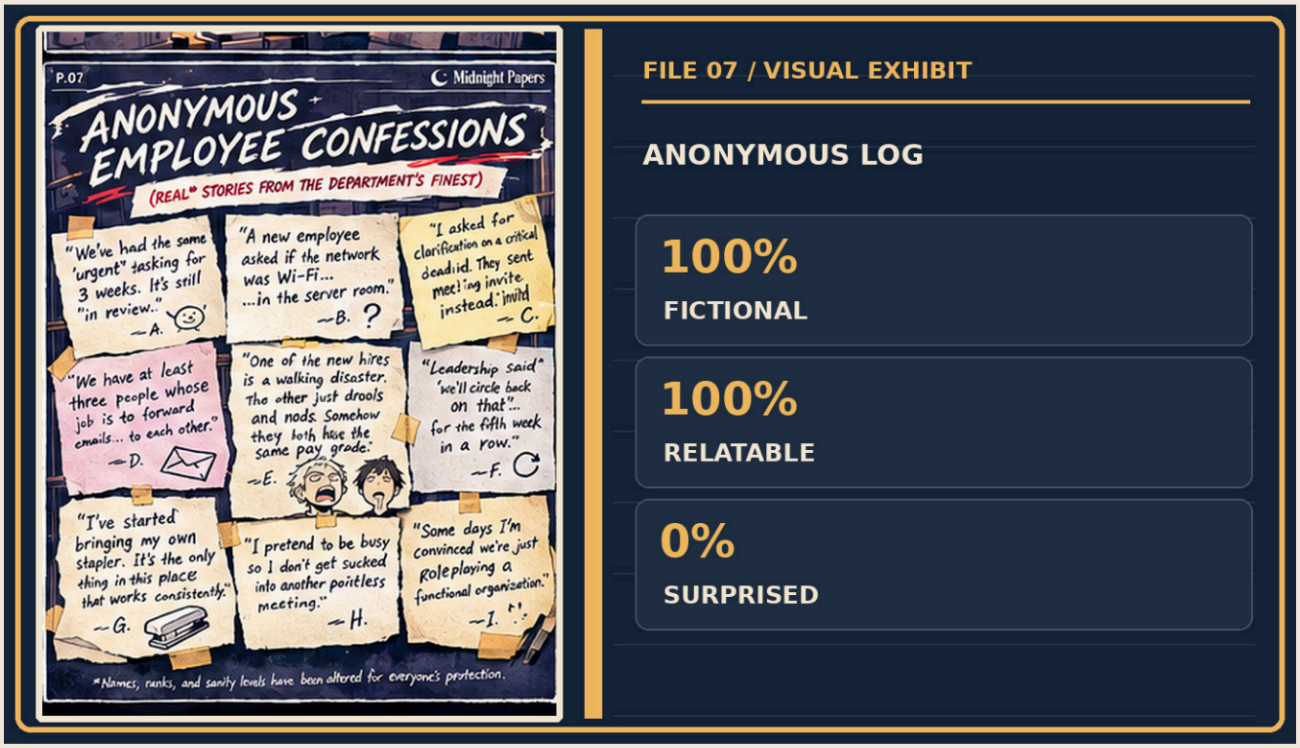
ATTENDANCE+ — 3% MORE PRETENDING

Clock in. Look busy. Achievement unlocked: Absolutely Nothing.

THE CONFESSIONAL / ALL NAMES MADE UP

ANONYMOUS CONFESSIONS

Statements recovered from the Department of Barely Functioning.



'I asked for the deadline. They asked about paper clips. I still don't know the deadline.' — Employee A

'Trevor yelled WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON. Dylan clapped. Apparently, this counts as onboarding.' — Employee B

'Per my last email: I did fix the issue. Please stop assigning me the next five.' — Employee C

'This could've been a message. Instead, we're scheduling a meeting about why the meeting ran long.' — Employee D

All confessions are fictional. The headache is spiritually accurate.

END OF SHIFT / AN UNREQUESTED EVALUATION

THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW NOBODY ASKED FOR

Employee: The Wanderer. Rating: Somehow still here.



COMMUNICATION: One announcement, three managers, zero additional facts.
PRIORITIES: Stapler secured. Critical task still awaiting clarification.
INITIATIVE: Wanderer tried fixing a problem. Everyone objected differently.
TEAMWORK: Trevor is still asking questions. Dylan received Employee of the Month for attendance.

It's easy to laugh at the disaster. Harder to ignore the people quietly keeping this circus running. To everyone who still gives a shit, learns, and tries: you're the reason anything gets done.

MAXIMUM EFFORT. MINIMAL PROGRESS. SEE YOU TOMORROW. UNFORTUNATELY.
— THE WANDERER