

## Work Life... They took away my laptop

### *Situation:*

All this cutback stuff that's going on is getting on my nerves. I got an email from our systems manager saying that I had to turn in my laptop computer, which I use maybe two or three times a week from home. Now I have to make do with the desktop in my office. First they move me into a smaller office, and now this!

### *Answer:*

*It's average to get attached to all the good things we have to make our jobs easier and more comfortable.*

*One of the first things you can look at in a more realistic way is that the laptop you had in your possession was yours to use. It didn't "belong" to you. It belongs to your company. They paid for it, so they get to do whatever they want with it.*

*In the world of high-tech gizmos and gadgets, it's common for people to attach their self-importance to having a laptop, a palm pilot, or the latest and greatest whatever. You weren't any more important because you had two computers provided by your company. And so, you're not any less important now that you have one. You have the same skills, the same aptitude, the same job. You are the same person. You are just as valuable. You haven't lost anything, except maybe an artificial feeling of pride.*

*Ask yourself: "What's more important here? My sense of well being, or a laptop that I used at home three times a week?" In other words, would you trade your inner peace for getting that laptop back?*

*Another way to lessen the sting of change is to look at the situation from the CEO's point of view. Take a few minutes and imagine that you own the company, you're responsible for dollars and people's jobs. In times of economic uncertainty, shifting equipment and offices around is a better all-around alternative than shifting people out the door.*

*A big bonus for you is that you don't have to work at home anymore. You can take those hours and spend them doing anything your heart desires.*

