

# Employment Strikes in Gainesville, Georgia!

**A**s of Monday, 6 July 2003, i am employed fulltime again. This is Good.

The job is with Hertz -- moving cars around.

I am working out of the Perimeter Center Marriott office, which is the primary office on the north side of town.

Mostly i either drive cars up to the Alpharetta office and bring other cars back, or do the same to Norcross.

However, today (7/13/2003), i spent almost the entire day taking cars from the cleaning station to the gas station, filling them up, and washing them.

The cars i did this with today included a lincoln TOWN Car, two of the new bitt-ugly (and horribly cramped) T-Bird convertibles, a Mustang, one Mitsubishi SUV, one Isuzu SUV and a Lincoln Navigator.

The Town Car rides like a living room mounted on springs stolen from a baby buggy. A baby buggy intended for very small babies, at that. It wallows and floats and i'd be afraid to drive it any really long distances.

The T-birds have such a low roofline that i had trouble getting in, trouble driving them and LOTS of trouble getting out -- i had to turn sideways, get both feet out, and then basically chin myself feet-first out of the car.

The Mustang isn't too bad, but whoever designed it must be a frustrated panzer designer -- the already-low roofline comes down at least two inches below its highest point before the windshield starts; if i didn't slouch and/or duck my head, the top half of my field of vision was cut off by the sun visor and the header.

Tauruses are fairly nice.

Friday three of us went down to the main office -- on Springdale Road, near the airport -- to collect three cars -- two Jags and a Town Car. They sent the three newbies -- me and Cosmo (who started last Monday) and another guy who started that day. Cosmo and i let him drive the Town Car; we took the Jags (an S-Type and an X-Type).

That was a fun trip, except for the fact that there was an accident on the Downtown Connector, which prompted me to try to take the Perimeter (I-285), only to find that 285 was even worse -- there was a double-fatal accident and the entire thing was slammed down solid. So i reversed, took the Connector, and got through okay.

Listening to the radio as i drove, i could have sworn i heard the traffic reporter say that it was thought that a train might have been involved in the accident. I was sure that i must have misheard -- how could a train be involved in an accident on an Interstate?

(Reading the Saturday paper, i discovered that, instead of the more-or-less routine fatal crash that i had visualised, the two fatalities were two people who had fallen from a railroad bridge over the highway to the road-way below, one of them also subsequently being hit by a car. Witnesses differed as to what happened just before the falls -- some said it looked as if one was trying to throw the other off, some said it looked as if one was trying to prevent the other from jumping, and, it appears that there's a possibility that they might have been hit by -- you guessed it -- a train.

## Employment Strikes

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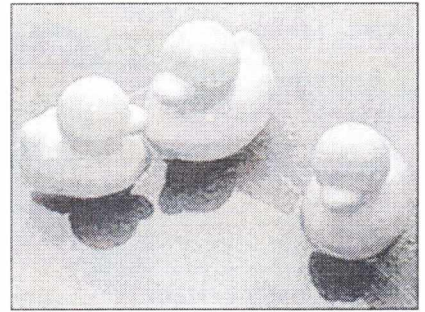
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# Ducks' odyssey nears end



By Jane Standley

BBC correspondent in New York

**A** consignment of thousands of rubber ducks is expected to wash up any day on the coast of New England - after more than a decade at sea.

The ducks - along with other bathtub toys like beavers, turtles and frogs - fell overboard from a container ship en route from China to Seattle during a storm in 1992.

During the ducks' long voyage through three oceans, scientists have tracked their progress - and say it has taught them valuable lessons about surface currents.

The floating ducks are expected to wash up battered and bleached by their journey through the waters of the Arctic, the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

After falling overboard near the 45th parallel 11 years ago, the ducks floated along the Alaskan coast, reaching the Bering Strait in 1995.

It is thought they were trapped by slow moving ice for several years - it took them until 2000 to reach Iceland.

A year later, they were tracked in the area of the north Atlantic where the Titanic sank.

During their voyage, some of the ducks broke away - and headed for Europe - others have surfaced in Hawaii.

The ducks were among 350 containers which rolled off a ship in high seas - environmentalists are now trying to use their amazing journey to highlight the problem of overboard cargo.

As many as 10,000 containers fall off ships every year - causing hazards for shipping and for marine life.