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14 SWINGING STEEL DOORS

that read, "MAILROOM." They burst open as Norville, who wears a mail clerk's leather apron, imprinted: HUDSUCKER MAILROOM/The Future is Now. The hellish mailroom is criss-crossed by pipes that emit HISSING jets of STEAM.

As he wheels a piled-high mail cart down the aisle, Norville is accompanied by an orientation AGENT who bellows at him over the clamor and roar of many men laboring in the bowels of a great corporation.

AGENT

You punch in at 8:30 every morning except you punch in at 7:30 following a business holiday unless it's a Monday and then you punch in at eight o'clock! You punch in at 7:45 whenever we work extended day and you punch out at the regular time unless you've worked through lunch!

NORVILLE

What's exte--

AGENT Punch in late and they dock ya!

People on either side bellow at Norville and stuff envelopes and packages under his elbows, into his pockets, under his chin, between his clenched teeth, etc.

FIRST SCREAMER

This goes to seven! Mr. Mutuszak! Urgent!

AGENT

Incoming articles, get a voucher! Outgoing articles, provide a voucher! Move any article without a voucher and they dock ya!

SECOND SCREAMER Take this up to the secretarial pool on three! Right away! Don't break it!

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(CONTINUED)

AGENT

Letter size a green voucher! Folder size a yellow voucher! Parcel size a maroon voucher!

THIRD SCREAMER

This one's for Morgatross! Chop chop!

AGENT

Wrong color voucher and they dock ya! Six-seven-eight-seven-zerofour-niner-alpha-slash-six! That is your employee number! It will not be repeated! Without your employee number you cannot cash your paycheck!

FOURTH SCREAMER This goes up to twenty-seven! If there's no one there bring it down to eighteen! Have 'em sign the waiver! DON'T COME BACK DOWN HERE WITHOUT A SIGNED WAIVER!!

AGENT

Inter-office mail is code 37! INTRA-office mail is 37-dash-3! Outside mail is 3-dash 37! Code it wrong and they dock ya!

FIFTH SCREAMER I was supposed to have this on twenty-eight ten minutes ago! Cover for me!

AGENT

This has been your orientation! Is there anything you do not understand? Is there anything you understand only partially? If you have not been fullyoriented -- if there is something you do not understand in all of its particulars you must file a complaint with personnel! File a faulty complaint... and they dock ya! 14