

BRAVE NEW WORKSHOP THEATRE

DATE: 01.18.01

SHOW: How to Try in Business Without Really Succeeding

TITLE: "Merger Mania!"

DRAFT: FINAL

PREMISE:

A customer goes into a bank to deposit a check and is subject to an amazing amount of corporate takeovers.

MERGER: n: 1. a statutory combination of two or more corporations by the transfer of the properties to one surviving corporation.

SETTING:

Help desk at Norwest Bank. Cherry wood waiting tables, evergreen and plum carpet.

CHARACTERS:

Teller: eager, competent, and full of energy. Wears headset.

Customer 1: bright, urban professional. Tired after a long day at work.

Customer 2: provides ending.

(Lights up on TELLER with headset on talking to her boss: "Thanks Bill; I'll check out" etc.)

TELLER

Welcome to Norwest! How may I help you?

CUSTOMER 1

Yes, I have some deposits to make and a cash withdrawal.

TELLER

Here you go! Here at Wells Fargo, formerly Norwest, we're happy—

CUSTOMER 1

(holding deposit slip) Wells Fargo? Oh, yeah, right.
(looks around) Wells Fargo. But this is still Norwest, though, right?

TELLER

Yes, Wells Far-Whoops! No . . .Actually, we have just been bought out by People's Bank (*changes sign on desk*)

CUSTOMER 1

P-People's . . .? I'm with Norwest. (*quickly*) Wells Fargo Norwest.

TELLER

Ahhhh . . .A-A-A-And this is your lucky day! (*changes sign again*) We are, once again, Norwest. I mean, Wells Fargo . . .Norwest . . . (*correcting self*) Wells Fargo

CUSTOMER 1

(*staring at Teller uneasily*) Okay. (*looks down*) I'd like to deposit this into my savings . . .

TELLER

(*hiding face*) Welcome to U.S. West! Now Qwest! For what city?

CUSTOMER 1

(*looking around*) What? (*pause*) I mean . . . what?

TELLER

What city? (*pointing adamantly to phone*) Pick up the phone!

CUSTOMER 1

(*into receiver, frightened*) Hello. I'd like to make a deposit.

TELLER

Please hold. Your call is important to us and will be answered in the order that it was received.

(*Customer stares at Teller in silence*)

CUSTOMER 1

(*while waiting on the phone*) Hi.

TELLER

Hi.

(*Pause*)

CUSTOMER 1

Okay, stop that! (*slams phone down*) Just forget it! I'm leaving! If you can't help me I'll find someone who can!

TELLER

Yes! Yes I can! (*Picks up sign on ground*) Welcome to Wells Fargo!

CUSTOMER 1

Yeah, and I'm suppose to believe—

TELLER

(*hysterical*) Shut it! Please! Give me the check! I am Wells Fargo! I am Wells Fargo!

CUSTOMER 1

Okay! I'd like twenty bucks back in cash!

TELLER

(*thrusting check back to Customer and knocking sign off desk*) Sorry! I can't do that!

CUSTOMER 1

Why?!

TELLER

Because I'm a sandwich artist! Welcome to Wells Fargo Subway brought to you by Microsoft!

CUSTOMER 1

(*screaming*) I don't want a sandwich!

TELLER

(*hysterical*) I know! But we have signature sauce!

(*pause as Teller gets another message*)

CUSTOMER 1

Who are you?

TELLER

Thank you for visiting iwhack.com. We provide Internet solutions.

CUSTOMER 1

What does that mean?

TELLER

I have absolutely no idea! (*excitedly*) But our company has

a market capitalization 2.4 billion dollars! (*screams, which causes Customer to scream*) I'm rich!

CUSTOMER 1
Congratulations!

TELLER
Whoa! Ease up! We're bankrupt! We groom pets now!

CUSTOMER 1
(*desperate*) My cousin has a dog!

TELLER
That's nice, but we've just been bought by AOL. You've got mail!

CUSTOMER 1
Really? Can I read it?

TELLER
(*making busy signal sound*) No! We're busy! Try again later!

CUSTOMER 1
Listen—

TELLER
Buenos Dias! Bee-en Ven-ee-dos de Banco Bil Bano Vis Sky Ano!

CUSTOMER 1
Banco! You're a banco?

TELLER
Nein! Welkolmen! Deutsche Telekom!

CUSTOMER 1
Listen! I want Norwest! Not Deutsche-Pets-Fargo-whatever—

TELLER
(*putting sign on desk*) No need! Welcome to American Express!

CUSTOMER 1
Okay, wait a minute! I work for American Express.

TELLER
So you're here to take my shift! Great! (*hands headset to*

Customer)

*(Customer 2 enters. Customer 1 stands there dumbfounded
with headset
in hand.)*

CUSTOMER 1

Welcome to American Express! No-wait-we've just been
bought out by Marshall Fields.

CUSTOMER 2

Hey, I remember when this place used to be a Daytons!

(Blackout or transition.)

Copyright Brave New Workshop, 2001