

straighten up & fly right

/3/ the upshot

Having accomplished only a few tasks Wednesday and Thursday, Olson knew he **would have to** "really **bear down**" Friday. "I **actually would've gotten** a lot of stuff **done** Friday if the whole universe **hadn't been** against me," Olson said. "I took my car in to **get** my tires rotated, but the guy said he couldn't **get to it until** the following Tuesday, so I **was like**, 'Screw that.' I also went to **pick up** the computer desk I **was having fixed**, but I forgot to bring my **receipt**. They **wouldn't** give the stupid thing to me, **even after** I spent almost an hour **arguing** with the guy. The whole day was a colossal **waste**. **Except** I got a new belt I needed for work."

After **devoting** Friday night to **drinking** to **unwind** from the computer-desk **episode**, a **once again** hung-over Olson spent most of Saturday re-alphabetizing his CDs, a task he did not plan to **take on** during his week **off** but **needed to be done**. Sunday **was spent fretting over** the wasted week and **telling himself off for not going** to San Diego—a trip he'd **strongly considered taking** before **committing to staying** home and **getting his life in order**. "Next year, I'm **definitely** going to San Diego," Olson said. "**Not only did I miss** this great opportunity to go but I **made no use of** the time I got **by not going** there."

According to corporate consultant and motivational speaker Jeffrey Hatcher, trying to **catch up on** years of **neglected** goals **in** one week is not a good strategy. "**You have to** make a **conscious effort** every day," Hatcher said. "You can't spend years **letting things fall apart** and then fix it all in seven days. **That's not how** these things **work**. Perhaps if Derek **had had** two weeks off, he **might have been able to catch up on** a **sizable** portion of his tasks, but he **won't be getting** two weeks of vacation **at** his job **for at least another** three years, **before which time** he'll **most certainly** be fired **for being** so **disorganized**. So **there's no real point in talking** about it."