

## LVE INDS

### LEARNING NEW SKILLS TO SURVIVE

Clifford Anderson is out of a job. Is the 38-year-old electrical engineer broken by this turn of fate ? Not at all. His former employer, Zycad Corp., laid him off simply because the company had to cut staff in his department. Anderson sees the unexpected twist in his career as an opportunity to learn new skills before new technology eliminates the need for the expertise he now has. So he's returned to Santa Clara University, where he is earning a second degree in computer engineering. When he leaves school, he hopes, there will be no shortage of companies eager to hire him as a consultant.

For a man of Anderson's father's generation, being asked to leave a company would have been a devastating humiliation, no matter what the reasons. But fewer and fewer of today's workers expect to spend their working lives in the same field, let alone the same company. Our fathers lived their lives on the assumption that you finished school, went into full-time work and lived and worked in the same sector of society until you retired. That idea is practically dead. As far as our children are concerned, it is dead. Students are well aware that career paths are no longer as clearly defined as they once were. Workers who are going to survive in the future are those who are aware of the rate of change and open to learning new skills.

Many of the conditions that made the one-life, one-career approach possible are disappearing. Technology evolves so fast that the shelf life of work skills now rarely exceeds 10 years. Automation and job dislocation have pushed away from Western labour markets entire categories of manufacturing occupations. Many corporate giants are no longer able to offer lifelong security. Some are failing altogether. Others are replacing full-time employees with part-time and temporary staff at all levels. The result is the same in any case: tens of thousands of workers are forced to think up new ways of earning a living.

Source : Newsweek, \_\_\_\_\_ (adapted)

### LEXIQUE

a **turn of fate** = un changement de sort

a **former boxer** = un ancien boxeur

**to lay off** = licencier

a **twist** = un tournant

**to be eager to do something** = être désireux de faire quelque chose

**no matter...** = peu importe....

**let alone...** = sans parler de...

**an assumption** = une supposition, une hypothèse

**career paths** = des itinéraires professionnels

**the shelf life** = la durée de validité

**corporate giants** = de très grandes entreprises

**to fail** = faire faillite