

TAXI TALK

Bosses are up to their tricks again

I have been working at a company for four years as a sales clerk. At the end of my fourth year, the company employed a white man, even though there was no work for him. One morning, the manager called me to the office. When I went to see him, he seemed a little angry and didn't even offer me a seat.

"I'd like you to teach Mr McKay (the new white man) your job for a week," the manager said to me. "After that, I want you to let him do your work for a month," he continued.

I felt this was unfair but I was too scared to say anything. The manager does not like it when anyone questions him. He is the type of person that makes

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workers feel like nothing. When I raised problems with him before, he tried to get me fired. Luckily, he did not succeed. I did not want to have an argument with him again. So I agreed to teach Mr McKay. He was, of course, not co-operative at all. As a sales clerk, he had to order goods, receive, despatch and give technical information to the customers. He did none of this.

I was later asked to step down from my job for a month so that this white man could get to know my job better. I did not realise that he was to become my supervisor. I had to do whatever this man wanted me to do for fear of losing my job.

A month passed and I did not get my job back. I'm too scared to ask for my job back because there's been a lot of talk of retrenching people in our company. Work has become a living hell for me. I know they're trying to get me to leave, but I won't. I believe it is very unfair of companies to exploit workers, knowing their chances of getting another job are slim because of the state of the economy. ★