

# 16 People Who Tried and Tried Again

Great ideas can be messy. Just consider the early failures of these (eventual) industry-changing champs.



## 1 Col. Sanders

His famous chicken recipe was rejected 1,009 times.

## 2 Douglas MacArthur

was denied admission to West Point twice.



3

ir James  
yson

vent through  
126 failed  
vacuum pro-  
before



4

**Bill Gates's**

first business,  
Traf-o-data, a  
microprocessor  
that read traffic  
data failed.



5

**Rudyard  
Kipling**

was once rejected  
by a newspaper  
editor who told  
him, "You just  
don't know how  
to use the English  
language."

6

**Jerry  
Seinfeld**

was booed off  
stage the first  
time he per-  
formed.

7

**Oprah  
Winfrey**

was fired from  
her job as a news  
co-anchor at  
22 because her  
boss believed  
she wasn't made  
for TV.

## Fred Astaire

First screen test notes: "Can't act. Can't sing. Slightly bald. Can dance a little."

## Billy Joel

spent six months playing at an L.A. piano bar under the pseudonym "Bill Martin" after releasing his ill-received debut solo album. It inspired him to write "Piano Man."



## Jack London

was rejected almost 600 times before he sold his first story.

## Tom Landry's

first season as Dallas Cowboys head coach? Zero wins.



12

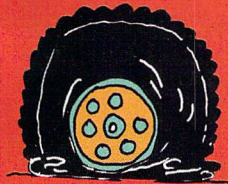
**Steven Spielberg**

was denied admission to film school three times.

13

**Soichiro Honda**

didn't get an engineering job at Toyota. Started making motorcycles. Founded Honda.



14

**Winston Churchill**

failed sixth grade.

15

**Lucille Ball**

spent so many years making B-list movies, she was called the "Queen of the Bs."

16

**Dr. Seuss**

had his first book rejected by 27 different publishers.

