

Business Casual Gets Serious

No ties allowed at work, anywhere, on South Padre Island, Texas, known as a spring break spot for college kids.

No fooling; it's the law. The mayor confesses it's for "promotional reasons to emphasize the island's relaxed ambience," but the chief of police is authorized to carry scissors and cut off the ties of offenders. So far, no one has been prosecuted.

The Michael Milken Fellowship

M.B.A. students at the University of Maryland get an unusual lesson: They go on a field trip to a nearby federal correctional institution to meet inmates serving time for white-collar crime.

Source *People*

True Tales From the Workplace

Minor league wrestling.... At a recent professional wrestling match, one team was called TQM (total quality management if you've been living on a planet with no training). TQM was the evil team, and they were dressed in slacks and turtlenecks.

We just report; we don't explain.

"I just ordered fish and chips from Takeout Taxi. The order taker asked me if I would like fries with that."

Contributed by Eva Kaplan-Leiserson and Jennifer J. Salopek

Reality Checks

- Percentage of Americans who brush their teeth at work **14**
- Percentage of U.S. employers who allow workers to nap on the job **16**

- Number of Americans who would nap at work if allowed **one-third**
- Number of employees accused of theft each year **1 in 33**
- When a wife works more than 40 hours a week outside of the home, her husband's chances of being in excellent or good health after three years drops by 25 percent. But a woman's health doesn't suffer when her spouse clocks in overtime.

Researchers at the University of Chicago concluded that men tend to ignore their well-being while women urge regular checkups and plan social outings, which can reduce stress. Overworked women simply don't have time to take care of all that.

Sources *Health, Allure, CNN*

Multitasking Mania

Pedal 'n Play is a slot machine. No, it's a stationary bicycle. No, it's both! The Tropicana in Atlantic City just introduced the devices recently. You place bets on the slot machine by touching buttons on the bike's handlebars.

Source the *Washington Post*

Nearly 50 percent of American women confess to using the bathroom while talking on their cell phones.

Source *Self*

Multitask This

- Get up from your desk! www.bustamove.com features animated figures that teach you how to do such dances as the salsa, swing, foxtrot, and waltz. After the first step, you have to pay \$2 per move.
- Business travelers to Omni Hotels can request free in-room exercise kits that include a set of dumbbells, stretch cords, and a floor mat.

Do You Have a True Tale From the Workplace?

Tell us actual stories that happen at your work, and we'll mention you as a contributor to Working Life (or grant you anonymity, if you prefer).

Just email Haidee Allerton at worklife@astd.org or write to me at *Training & Development*, 1640 King Street, Box 1443, Alexandria, VA 22313-2043.

Fame can be yours!—or a place in the Working Life witness protection program.