

WORKING LIFE

Can We Just Say, Ick?

Eyyyyyyyyyyyyyy.

By Haidee E. Allerton

The average office desk has 4000 times the number of bacteria as the average toilet seat, according to researchers at the University of Arizona.

It Ain't Over Till It's Over

A 91-year-old woman, Grace Claiborne Johnson, just received her master's degree in history from Virginia Commonwealth University. The former teacher wanted the degree to enhance her second career as an author. Her poems and novels have been published by a company she started with her son. [Source/the Washington Post](#)

Coffee Break at Your Desk

TurboGum, a new gum on the market in Germany, contains coffee and guarana, an energizing herb. World-wide distribution is imminent.

Dippy Fitness Tip

I take a walk nearly every day about noon down to the river and back to the office—4500 steps on my trusty pedometer. Whenever I pass a building that has steps or even a little stoop, I run up and back down and then continue my walk. Whatever.

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True Tales From the Workplace

After burglarizing a Starbucks café, the two perpetrators locked employees in a closet and stayed for nearly 30 minutes posing as baristas to serve almost 20 customers and then took that money too. They forced a third employee to help them at the drive-up window.

Source/Wired News

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 *T+D*, 1640 King Street, Box 1443, Alexandria, VA 22313-2043. Fame can be yours!—or a place in the Working Life witness protection program.

Reality Check

0 the number of countries in the world where women receive equal pay for equal work

Source/Marie Claire

8 percent higher income of U.S. women rated "above average looking"

Source/the Washington Post

42 percent of age 40 American women working for major corporations who are childless

Source/Creating Life by Silvia Ann Hewlett

\$30,471

median income of U.S. females age 35 to 44

Source/Health