

Working Life

“WORKING LIFE” AGENDA

For some reason, we're into stats, facts, figures, and lists this month. But we promise: No hidden agenda. See for yourself.

McFacts and Figures

Fast food.... For four long years, McDonald's has been suing two unemployed Britons for distributing pamphlets calling its food “unhealthy.”

Is that for here or to go? When a man tried to rob a Midwest McDonald's, an employee threw a hamburger at him as the robber tried to flee.

From First Draft.

Kiss and Thrive

Men who hug and kiss their wives every morning before leaving for work live an average of five years longer, have fewer car accidents, and earn up to 30 percent more money than nonsmothers, according to *Self* magazine.

Top Ten

Here are the top 10 anagrams for “information superhighway,” from the Internet:

- ▶ 10. Enormous, hairy pig with fan.
- ▶ 9. Hey, ignoramus. Win profit? Ha!
- ▶ 8. Oh, oh. Wiring snafu, empty air.
- ▶ 7. When forming, utopia's hairy.
- ▶ 6. A rough whimper of insanity.
- ▶ 5. Oh, wormy infuriating phase.
- ▶ 4. Inspire humanity who go far.
- ▶ 3. Waiting for any promise, huh?
- ▶ 2. Hi, ho! Yow! I'm surfing Arpanet!
- ▶ And number 1. New utopia? Horrifying sham.

Contributed by T&D Managing Editor Catherine Petrini, as discovered on the Internet.

Bottom Ten

According to business writer Margaret Spillane, using these words at work will make you sound like a wimp:



▶ Fascinating. Sounds like “ooh” and “aah.” Instead, say “compelling” or “riveting.”

▶ Hobbies. Use “interests.”

▶ Admire. Too fawning.

▶ Thrilled. Too “Miss America.” You want to sound in control, not overexcited.

▶ Hope. Say “plan.” You're the decision maker, not fate.

▶ Love. Too gushy. Don't say, “I'd love to....” Say, “If I ran the main office, I'd....”

▶ Dream. Use “goal.”

▶ Wish. Instead, say “intend.”

▶ Delightful. Use a statement that makes more of an assessment.

▶ Appreciate. Sounds as if you're not sure you deserved the opportunity. Instead, offer an evaluation: “I think this was a good meeting.”

Hold the pickle and duck!

Dressing for Compliance

Dress codes still abound in the workplace. And speaking of “bound,” here are some items on the dress code for The Lure, a leather bar located in Manhattan.

Working Life

- ▶ no suits, ties, sports coats, tuxes, knickers, loud-colored clothing, or shorts
- ▶ no white sneakers, brightly colored footwear, or sandals of any kind
- ▶ no Lacoste-style shirts
- ▶ leather, rubberwear—basic or fantasy—and fire or rain gear are acceptable.

From New York.

New Job-Title Award Goes to...

Senior piercer Paul King, at the Gauntlet, a body-piercing salon in New York.

The "Uh, Duh" Department

Here are some excerpts from actual job applications, sent by Liz Waring, training assistant for the Apex chain of department stores in Pawtucket, Rhode Island:

Q: *Have you ever been discharged from any company for a violation of company policy?*

A: "I stole money from a grocery store, food from a restaurant, and products from a dime store." (Well, at least the applicant was honest.)

Q: *Would you consider a position in another store?*

A: "Yes, Jordan Marsh." (a competitor)

Q: *Why do you feel qualified for this position?*

A: "Not sure."

True Tales From the Workplace

Hijacking is still the career choice of some people. But in some areas of the world, this crime doesn't pay.

Two hijackers aboard an airliner headed for Moscow threatened to blow up the plane if they didn't receive 1.5 million rubles—about \$330 dollars.

They got their money and then asked for more. When they left the plane to collect it, security forces arrested them.

From Penny Morvant, OMRI, via the Internet.

A Matter of Semantics

When a machine scans text, it sometimes misreads terms and modifies them. Specifically, one scanner interpreted "managers" as "malingers."

LEATHER, RUBBER,
AND FIRE
OR RAIN
GEAR ARE
ACCEPTABLE

Wanted: Cyberdetective

According to *P.O.V.*, here are the best and worst jobs of the next century. Remember, that's only five years away.

Best

- ▶ 1. Multimedia software designer. The job rate has grown 40 percent in the last 10 years.
- ▶ 2. Management consultant. The job rate has increased 35 percent in the last 10 years.
- ▶ 3. Interactive advertising executive. The job rate has grown 400 percent in the last 10 years, with yearly salaries up to \$250,000.
- ▶ 4. Industrial environmentalist.
- ▶ 5. Nurse practitioner.
- ▶ 6. Internet surfer (person who navigates the Internet, packages information, and sells it to subscribers).
- ▶ 7. Funeral director. Deaths will reach 2.4 million in 2005; 3.1 million in 2025.
- ▶ 8. Emerging markets trader.
- ▶ 9. Physical therapist.
- ▶ 10. Cyberdetective. A person who locates pedophiles and other criminals who find their victims through electronic networks.

Worst

- ▶ 1. Bank teller (too many ATMs).
- ▶ 2. Telephone operator. In 1984, 44,000 AT&T operators handled 37.5 million calls. In 1994, 15,000 operators handled 160 million calls.
- ▶ 3. Factory worker. Since 1980, 3 million manufacturing jobs have been eliminated.
- ▶ 4. Newspaper reporter.
- ▶ 5. Corporate middle manager.
- ▶ 6. Government bureaucrat.
- ▶ 7. Specialist physician.
- ▶ 8. Farmer.
- ▶ 9. Wall Street lawyer.
- ▶ 10. Mathematician.

Is This Fair?

According to the United States Bureau of Statistics, for every unemployed American, there is another who holds two jobs.

One-third of American adults have saved nothing at all for their retirements, according to a *Public Agenda* report.

Supermodel Cindy Crawford made \$6.5 million in 1994.

From Speedbumps.

Left, Right; Right, Left

Here are several cues to tell whether a job applicant is lying, from Lousignon & Associates in Las Vegas, Nevada.

When a right-handed person looks up and to the right, he or she is trying to construct a plausible story.

When someone takes a deep breath after answering a question, he or she is exhibiting the fight-or-flight syndrome.

And when someone answers a question with a question, he or she is stalling. The same holds true for coughing, clearing the throat, and saying "um" or "er."

Applicants are probably telling the truth when they shuffle their feet or twist their hair; that's just nervousness. And when a right-handed person looks up and to the left, he or she is just trying to recall information. The left side of the brain is where data is stored.

When a left-handed person looks up and to the left, it's anyone's guess. At least, we think that's right.

"Working Life" is compiled and written by Haidee Allerton. Send items of interest to "Working Life," Training & Development, 1640 King Street, Box 1443, Alexandria, VA 22313-2043.