

WORKING LIFE

Reality Check

Wake up and
smell the latte.

By Haidee E. Allerton

Star(big)bucks!

Apparently, the coffee chain is aptly named. At the Starbucks I stop into nearly every morning, one of the baristas is conducting an informal poll. I typically—and in all seasons—get an iced decaf venti skim latte (and that's the proper order to say it, which took me weeks to master).

Back to the pollster: He asked how many of those drinks I order a week, and I said five: one every morning Monday through Friday. He then took his clipboard and pencil into the back office.

Another barista explained, "Trent's figuring out how much money our individual customers spend on coffee every year. There's one guy who gets a latte three times a day every day, and Trent figured out that guy spends \$4000 a year here on coffee."

I did some fast math: My iced venti latte at $\$3.40 + \text{tax} \times 5$ (days a week) $\times 49$ weeks (three weeks vacation) = $\$921.20$ per annum. And that doesn't count my usual grande drip on the weekends or the odd coffee frappuccino. I don't think I can go cold turkey,

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but from now on I'll be ordering the tall latte and saving about \$255 a year.

Go Figure

Fired AT&T president John Walter, let go for "lack of intellectual leadership," walked away with a \$26 million severance package.

Bored Members

People who spend their lives in undemanding jobs with little control over their work are 35 times more likely to die earlier than people in challenging jobs with a lot of decision-making responsibilities. So say researchers at the University of Texas School of Public Health. Factors such as age, health, income, race, and gender were controlled in the study.

Ick Part 2

Just last month, we reported findings that the average office desk has more bacteria than the typical toilet seat.

Well, a health magazine says that a household kitchen sink is likely to contain more germs than a toilet seat. So, imagine the bacteria count in your office's kitchen sink. *Bon appetite!*



Real Men Leave

In a study of 26,359 U.S. managers who quit their jobs, 17 percent of men left for family or lifestyle reasons compared to 16.5 percent of women who left for the same reasons.

Real Men (and Women) Ask

When people are considering a job change, who do you think they consult first? A colleague? Their mentors? Nope, it's their spouses. In fact, 42 percent of executives polled by Accountemps said they would ask their spouse or significant other; 28 percent said they'd talk with a mentor.

Real Women Invent

That laser printer in your office? Invented by a woman. So were bulletproof vests, fire escapes, and windshield wipers.

Source/Self