

WORKING LIFE

P e t P e e v e

Don't touch
that plate.

By Haidee E. Allerton

Illustration by John Ueland

Pet Peeve of the Month

When waitpersons lean over your plate and ask, "Are you through, or are you still workin' on that?"

Do they perhaps mean my "trying to relax and enjoy my dining" experience? Yes, still working on it.

Send your pet peeves to worklife@astd.org, and you might read them here. At least you'll get to vent.

True Tales From the Workplace

Remember when your Working Life editor had to take a taxi to the ER

and the darn cabbie made a stop to pick up another passenger (November, 2001)?

Well, recently a man collapsed with a heart attack on an Amtrak train and while a woman conductor performed CPR on him, the train made two of its regular stops to discharge passengers. The man died by the time paramedics arrived on board. The woman conductor who came to the man's rescue was suspended and then later reinstated and called a hero.

We do not have to make up stuff.

Reality Check

When you slap co-workers with fines for not doing their share of work or sponging other people's work, the miscreants start cooperating. When there's no punishment, cooperation goes bye-bye, say researchers at Switzerland's University of Zurich.

Source/Self

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.

CEO: Certainly Extravagantly Overpaid

- Lucent stock dropped 68 percent in CEO Rich McGinn's last year; he collected US\$11.3 million and an \$870,000 pension when he left.
- Nortel's stock fell 90 percent, and 30,000 employees lost their jobs; CEO John Roth departed with a \$3.3 million bonus and \$585,000 in pension.
- Xerox stock lost 89 percent of its value, and 5200 jobs were cut; CEO Rick Thoman got a severance package worth \$4.8 million, plus \$800,000 annual retirement pay.

However, when Yahoo!'s stock lost 94 percent of its value, CEO Tim Koogle left with \$0. Aw.

Source/Parade