

WORKING LIFE

The Real, Real World

The real scary world.

If you had to describe your office environment as a type of television show, which would it be? Here's how people responded to that question in *USA Today*:

	Percentage
Real-life survivors.....	38
Soap opera.....	27
Emergency room.....	18
Courtroom drama.....	10
Science fiction.....	7

By Haidee E. Allerton

« Sources/Nierenberg Group, NYU Management Institute

Illustration by Riccardo Stampatori

True Tales From the Workplace

An HR manager interviewing applicants devised a test that asked one question: "How much is two and two?"

The first applicant answered, "Twenty-two."

The next pulled out a calculator and said the answer was between 3.999 and 4.001. And so on.

The last applicant had a background as an accountant.

The HR manager asked her question, "How much is two and two?" The candidate thought for a moment and then leaned across the desk and said, "How much do you want it to be?"

He got the job.

Source/HR Zone

People are driven psychologically to reveal more on email, says *I.T.* reporting on a study by the British Psychological Society. In fact, the findings indicate that people make four times as many personal disclosures when communicating via the Internet as when talking face-to-face.

That can be dangerous. Just consider the case of the guy who bragged on email to his friends about his girlfriend's (apostrophe correct) lovemaking skill. He described it in such a way, apparently, that recipients were inspired to forward the message, which got forwarded by those recipients, and so on until thousands had read it.

In the BPS experiment when a Web cam was added to the subjects' (apostrophe correct) computers, the level of self-disclosure soared. The researchers theorize that email makes people focus on themselves and that when they become "self-focused," they reveal more and have less concern about the impact of what they're saying.

"To some extent," says one researcher, "you have to make up for the lack of body language."

Source/www.it.fairfax.com

MeMail



John Richards just couldn't take it anymore. Everywhere he looked, there were misplaced apostrophes defiling business signs in his hometown of Boston, England. So, Richards, a retired newspaper copy-editor and reporter, founded the Apostrophe Protection Society.

incorrect use or placement of apostrophes (no apostrophe). The letter politely points to the offense and states the rule of correct usage. So far, the only establishment to take remedial action has been the local library, which amended "CD's" to "CDs."

Since the *Telegraph*

member carries around sticky pieces of tape with apostrophes on them and places them where needed—a practice Richards considers extreme.

Next, Richards plans to attack the common confusion of *fewer* and *less*.

Source/the New York Times

Tsk, Tsk!

APS's (apostrophe correct) two founding members, Richards and his son, send form letters to errant business owners alerting them to their

ran a story about APS, Richards has received about 450 letters from people cheering him on, cash donations, and 275 new members. One new