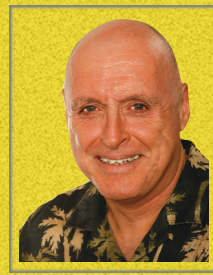


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



55 Are There Lunch Thieves in Guam?

Today, one of the absolutely most critical questions ever asked about the workplace. Have you ever had your lunch stolen out of the company refrigerator? I'm Jerry Roberts and that's right now, on The Extra Point.

Recently, Los Angeles-based comedian Zak Toscani took to Twitter to lay out the sordid details of the investigation into an alleged office lunch theft at the video production company where he works in Los Angeles.

A coworker put his shrimp fried rice takeout into the fridge and went back to get it 30 minutes later. It was gone. Who dunnit?

Well, Twitter went crazy and the post went viral. As of this writing it's had 180,000 retweets and close to 600,000 likes, with Toscani giving updates and workers sharing their own stories. Even some celebrities, whom you'd have to believe haven't had any lunch theft issues, weighed in on the unfolding drama.

As it turned out, the lunchroom was part of the video surveillance system and the criminal was identified. Horrors, it was the girl who worked three feet away from Zak.

The victim didn't want her to lose her job so he dropped the matter. The company's HR department sent an email to all workers, telling people to respect others and not steal food from the refrigerator. All eyes in the department were on her as the girl opened the email.

"Whoa. Someone stole a lunch? Who would do something like that?" she said. If she'd only known that everybody already knew it was her.

According to a 2017 survey from American Express, nearly 1 in 5 workers — 18 percent to be exact — admits to having eaten someone else's lunch out of the office fridge.

Personally, I've had a few things taken out of the company lunchroom. A sandwich once, snacks a couple of other times. Because I didn't label the bags with my name I felt it was sort of my fault. Maybe somebody swiped my food or maybe somebody just cleaned out the refrigerator. I've seen some pretty weird stuff in those things and wouldn't blame them.

When thefts have occurred repeatedly, some workers have resorted to labeling their bags with "lab specimens" or "breast milk."

We can joke about this but if you've ever had your food ripped off in this fashion, you'll remember exactly how you felt. Now, if the perpetrator was discovered, it's quite likely that you found it difficult to trust that person again.

Let's be honest, that's a natural reaction. This person, once identified to all, is now going to have a hard time fitting in with the office culture.

So, have you lost your lunch in this way? Do you have a victim's tale to tell? Call Ray Gibson right now and unload your burden.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. Just leave my lunch alone. For 93.3, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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