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Poll: Networking Occurs in Unusual Places

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-- RESTROOM NETWORKING?: Do you ever have the feeling that the great business ritual of networking is slowly creeping into every facet of life? A January poll of 1,000 women suggests that it is.

A party remained the most popular schmoozing venue, cited by 81 percent. That was followed by travel (plane, train or bus) by 53 percent, and the gym, by 41 percent. But some other spots might surprise you.

More than a third, 36 percent, said they have talked business in the ladies room, and more than 10 percent said they had done so while on a date. One woman even did her networking while having surgery.

"When do you get three doctors together?" she quipped.

The poll was conducted by DowntownWomensClub.com, a site run by DWC Services Inc., based in Brookline, Mass.

NEGLECT COSTS: It's easy to label a manager weak or underperforming. Measuring the true cost of the worker's neglect, however, can be nearly impossible.

Now, two industrial engineers from the University of Buffalo think they might have formulated a method to quantify "managerial neglect." Alfred Guiffrida, an adjunct instructor of industrial and systems engineering, and Rakesh Nagi, a professor of industrial and systems engineering, describe the method in the current issue of "The Engineering Economist."

The method determines the value of improvements that could be completed over a set time period, but are not. It factors in the rate by which a process would improve naturally, through repetition.

The cost of managerial neglect is found by calculating the difference between returns from learning by repetition and the cost of not making improvements over time.

In the example of a hypothetical two-stage supply chain _ manufacturer to customer _ the Buffalo engineers showed that managerial neglect over three years would double costs incurred from untimely delivery of goods, inventory holding, production stoppage or other inefficiency.

In theory, Nagi said, a manager's efforts to improve a company's supply chain over 36 months would save 50 percent in costs incurred by inefficiencies in that chain, Nagi said.

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TRAFFIC WAS KILLER: You are so busted. You're an hour late for work, and the hairy traffic/tardy train/recalcitrant child excuse is wearing thin.

What do you do? If you're like about 20 percent of those polled in a recent survey, you lie.

Thirteen percent of workers said they show up late at least once a week and 24 percent copped to doing it at least monthly. One in five said they fabricate excuses for why, according to the survey by CareerBuilder.com, a job search site owned by [Gannett Co.](#), [Tribune Co.](#) and Knight Ridder Inc.

More than a quarter said traffic caused their lateness, and 11 percent admitted that they fell back asleep.

"I ran over a goat," was among the novel reasons bosses said they had heard.

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