EVIDENCE

Exhibit A: The Ever-present Towel.

This photograph was taken from my desk. Chris insists on keeping the office door ½ way open so he is not within view of co-workers walking down the long hallway leading to our office. This also ensures that I can always see the towel from my desk.

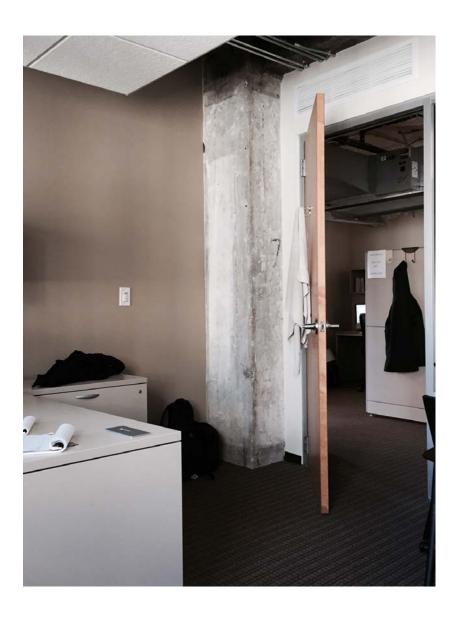
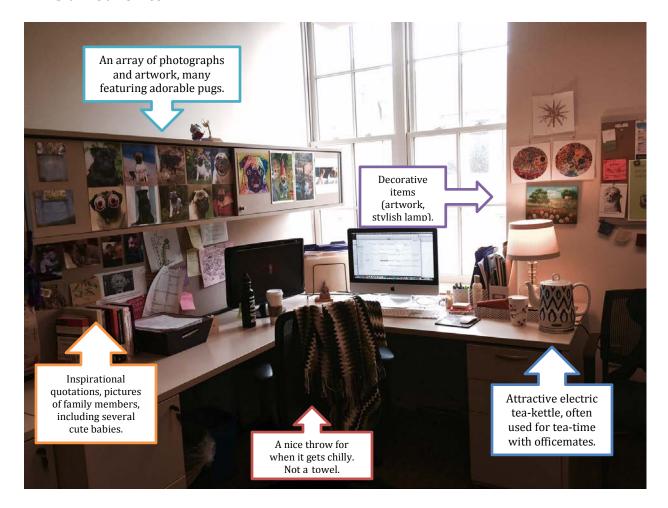


Exhibit B: Our Office



My corner of the office. Evidence that I am someone who enjoys an attractive, comfortable work environment.





Exhibit C: Science



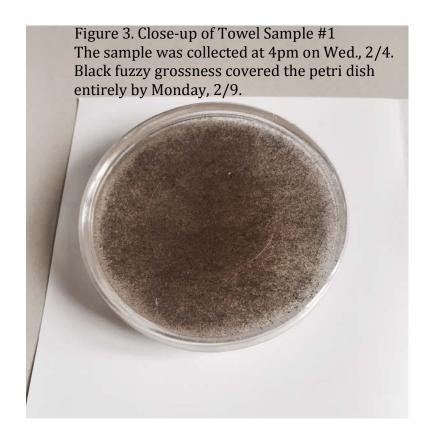
Carefully controlled scientific laboratory in our office. The experiment was conducted utilizing supplies (petri dishes, agar, swabs) from the Magic Schoolbus World of Germs science kit. In order to investigate the grossness of the towel at its various stages of cleanliness and use, three Samples from the towel were collected over the course of one week (one on Wed. 2/4, one on Mon. 2/9, and one on Tues. 2/10) (Figure 1). Samples were also collected from Jessica's coat and from the coat hook on Wed. 2/4 (Figure 2). All photographs below were taken on 2/17/15.

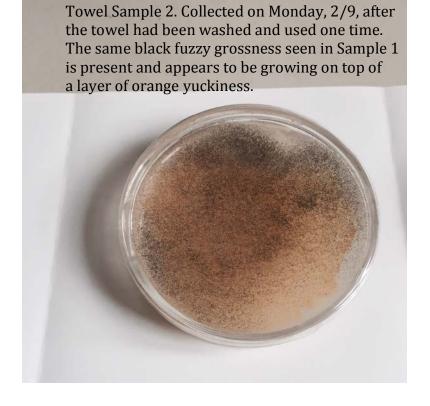
Figure 1. Towel Samples



Figure 2. Samples from Jessica's Coat and the Coat Hook.







Towel Sample 3. Collected on Tuesday, 2/10, after the towel had been used 2 times. A layer of orange yuckiness is again apparent along with the beginnings black fuzzy grossness.



Exhibit D. Co-Worker Testimony

The following testimony was collected from two co-workers who were asked: "What do you think about the towel?"

Coworker 1:

"Seeing the towel hanging in the office was just bizarre. It definitely wasn't something that I expected to find in an office. Finding out it was a dirty towel used after a gym workout definitely gave me the heebee jeebies".

Coworker 2:

"It is completely heinous that the guy stores his gym towel in a shared office. Every time I enter the office, I am grossed out by the salty droplets of sweat contained in his disgusting towel and the other bodily emissions it must hold. It's not cool to openly share these types of things with an innocent office mate, visitors, and passersby!"

Exhibit E: Field Notes

The following field notes were taken between 1/26/15 and 2/13/15 in order to document towel-related activity and discourse within the office.

Monday, 1/26/15 - Chris is not in the office when I arrive. The towel is not on the hook. This is unusual and I am a bit concerned. I text him and find that he has run an errand before work. As the hook is, for once, free - I hang my tasteful trench coat on the hook and start my workday. Chris arrives approximately 15 minutes later. Upon seeing my coat on the hook, he looks at me disapprovingly, moves my coat to a chair, and places his towel on the hook where it remains during work hours through Thursday, 9/29.

Friday, 1/30/15 - Chris is working from home. The towel is not on the hook this morning. It appears that he has taken the towel home for it's weekly wash. I disinfect the hook and (yippee!) hang my coat. Throughout the day, several co-workers note that my coat looks much better on the hook than Chris's towel.

Monday, 2/2/15 - Chris and the towel have returned. The towel is on the hook when I arrive. I inform Chris that this week I plan to take samples from the towel. He tells me that the experiment is ridiculous. He also asks me to wait until next Monday to take samples because "that's when the towel is clean." When I point out that he contends that the towel is always clean, he says "but I just used it," thus admitting that the towel becomes filthy through his use. (I suppose he meant to unethically meddle with the experiment by bringing a clean, unused towel to the office next Monday). In conversation with a colleague, Chris mentions that he always brings in the oldest of his towels because the good towels are for his home. He estimates the age of the office towel to be 7 years.

Wednesday 2/4/15 - Towel Sample 1 collected at 4pm. For comparison, samples also taken from door hook and Jessica's coat.

Friday 2/6/15 - Chris is working from home. The towel is not here either. Nothing visible on Petri dishes yet.

Monday 2/9/15 - Towel Sample 1 is covered in black fuzzy grossness. Small yellow dots on samples for door hook and Jessica's coat. A few of these dots also appear on petri dishes that have not been used, suggesting a possible environmental source, perhaps introduced when agar was added to dishes. Chris says the towel was washed over the weekend and used only once, Monday morning. Towel Sample 2 was collected at 4pm. Coat was dropped off at the dry cleaner on the way home.

Tuesday 2/10/15 - A particularly loquacious colleague engages Chris and I in an extensive discussion of the towel issue and upcoming case. This colleague notes that the hanging of the towel in the office is a clear violation of workplace norms. When Chris defends the towel stating that it is clean, colleague asks whether Chris would give the towel to a guest in his home to use. Chris responds: "Well, I wouldn't tell them it was used." Chris directs me to close our office door only half-way so that he cannot be seen by workmates walking down the long hallway leading up to our office. This also ensures that the towel can be seen from my desk. Towel sample 3 is taken at 4pm.

Wednesday 2/11/15 - The towel remains on the hook. Chris acknowledges the fuzzy black grossness from the sample taken last Wednesday, but contends that the experiment is invalid because "you would find that on anybody's towel." I respond that this is precisely why I keep my towels at home and refrain from hanging dirty laundry on my office door.

Friday 2/13/15 - Chris is working from home today. The hook is free. Once disinfected, I hang my coat and enjoy a towel-free workday.