



The careerist

News, gear, and get-ahead tips—the cool girl's employee handbook

HR MATTERS

Odd Jobs That Pay Surprisingly Well

- **Pillownaut, \$14,000:** Spend two months on bed rest while NASA scientists monitor the effects of zero gravity on your body.
 - **Expert, \$360/month:** If you know how to devise a living will or fix a stalled carburetor, you can earn cash answering queries on justanswer.com.
 - **Dog Walker, \$10 to \$25 per visit:** Deskbound 9-to-5ers pony up big bucks for a trustworthy soul to walk their dogs.
 - **Head Counter, up to \$25/hour:** The Census Bureau needs temps for this year's count, especially those with a valid driver's license and their own cars.
 - **Landlord, \$100/night:** Live in a major city? List your spare bedroom as a "vacation rental" on Craigslist.
- Rebecca Webber

THE BOTTOM LINE

I Work the Graveyard Shift

An estimated 8 million Americans work through the night, scurrying to the office while the rest of the world settles into bed. Would it work for you? We asked them:



Kelly Bowman, 39,
High Point, NC
Laboratory technician

- **The hours:** "I work from 6:45 p.m. to 6:45 a.m. testing super-absorber polymer, which is the material used to line diapers."
- **Why I took the job:** "I'm nocturnal—been that way since I was little. I really like the lifestyle. Shopping during the day is much easier and faster."
- **The trade-off:** "I've fallen asleep at the wheel very briefly a couple of times while driving home. Luckily,

nothing bad happened. Once I fell asleep on the toilet and almost fell in."

- **How I stay motivated:** "I play my iPod and dance around the lab when no one's looking. When I'm off, I love wearing my Christian Louboutin heels and Badgley Mischka dresses."
- **Secrets of an overnighter:** "Diet Cherry Dr Pepper. I probably go through at least four cans a night."



Kristin Nelson, 27,
Springfield, MO **On-air reporter for KY3 News**

- **The hours:** "I'm up at 3 a.m. and ready to go on camera by 4:30 a.m. I'm done by noon."
- **Why I took the job:** "I get to cover all the breaking news that happens overnight. It's just me out there—it's a lot of responsibility and great exposure."
- **The trade-off:** "It's really tough to maintain a social life. If I wasn't working these hours, I'd meet more guys."
- **How I stay motivated:** "I go shop-

ping, which keeps me in a good mood. I like buying shirts I can wear on-air."

- **Secrets of an overnighter:** "I use Preparation H for my under-eye bags. I read it in a magazine, and it works!"



Dawn Leonard, 39,
Austin, TX **Senior police officer, mounted unit**

- **The hours:** "I patrol Austin's bar district on horseback from 6 p.m. to 4 a.m."
 - **Why I took the job:** "You run into a lot of entertaining people that time of the night—I'm rarely ever bored."
 - **The trade-off:** "I cover events on Halloween and New Year's Eve, which can get out of control and dangerous."
 - **How I stay motivated:** "We're responsible for tending to our horses. I feel like he's my own."
 - **Secrets of an overnighter:** "It's easy to pig out that late at night, so I always pack healthy snacks from home."
- Foram Mehta >>