

(Not) Hot in Cleveland



I dunno...maybe it's a Florida thing?

Owing to our Mom's death from colorectal cancer (seven years ago next week), my sister and I get bumped up the schedule for colonoscopy screenings. We get the displeasure of going every three years.

So, last week, there I was in the waiting room of Cleveland Clinic trying to read on my Kindle while waiting the three hours or so it would take for my sister's procedure and recovery. Unlike me, she doesn't have her procedure close by, so it was illogical to go back home and return.

I was temporarily aided in my wait by virtue of a (Florida) cold morning. At 6 am, it actually was warmer in the lobby than outside.

In an hour or so, though, the normal too-cold environment of all hospitals began creeping up on me. Fortunately, my clothes for the morning cold anticipated the hours I would be staying in the hospital climate.

The book I was reading was not riveting and eventually my mind began to wander. Not unexpectedly, it drifted to the concept of cold environments and I began to wonder if my experiences were simply due to living in a tropical location.

I'll assume that every hospital, all across the globe, has a sub-polar thermostat. What about restaurants? This puzzles me tremendously. I can't begin to count the times I've had my

food cool so rapidly as to be unable to finish the meal while hot. What's up with that?

Or office buildings. When I was working, I had many coworkers who wore sweaters or stealthily brought in space heaters because the buildings were so cold. Amid all that complaining about cost-cutting they could have simply raised the thermostat a few degrees and saved tens of thousands of dollars!

While I recognize my personal sensitivity to cold is far greater than most people, when I see evidence of normal people being adversely affected, I know it's not just me.

Does this sort of thing happen everywhere or is it just in South Florida?