

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE EGOS

And Other Tips for
Corporate Survival

By
Scott
Adams



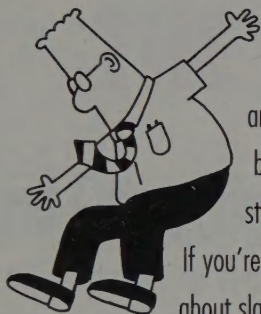
PLEASE DON'T FEED THE **EGOS**

The corporate landscape is treacherous . . . especially if you brave it without

Please Don't Feed the Egos (and Other Tips for Corporate Survival).

Scott Adams' survival guide is the perfect handbook for cubicle dwellers everywhere.





People often ask me, "If you could be any kind of animal, what would you be?" I usually say I'd like to be a huge grizzly bear, so I could kill people who ask stupid questions.

If you're a huge grizzly bear, you don't have to feel guilty about slaying the idiots around you because it's a totally natural thing. But if you're unlucky enough to be among nature's least powerful creatures—"employees"—then you'll need different strategies to survive. I recommend mocking your coworkers behind their backs. It's not as satisfying as killing them with your huge claws, but it takes less energy. And I think that's something we can all appreciate.

There are many other ideas in this book—every one of them at least as good as the advice you got in the introduction. I'm here to help.

S. Adams

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McMeel Publishing, an Andrews McMeel
Universal company, 4520 Main Street, Kansas
City, Missouri, 64111.

ISBN: 0-8362-3224-0

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE EGOS

And Other Tips for Corporate Survival

**A DILBERT™ BOOK
BY
SCOTT ADAMS**

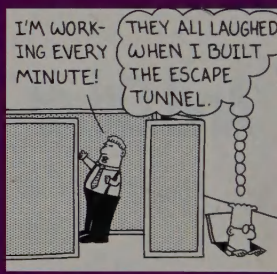
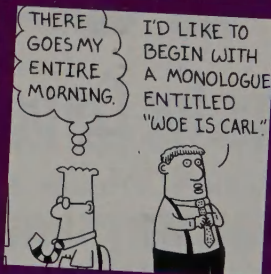


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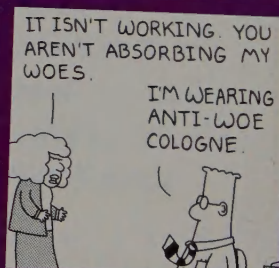
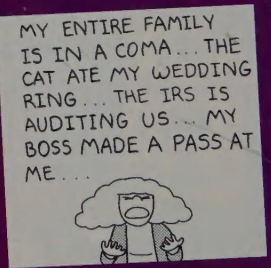
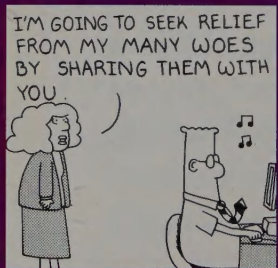
Kansas City

YOU CANNOT LOCK A DOOR THAT YOU DON'T HAVE.

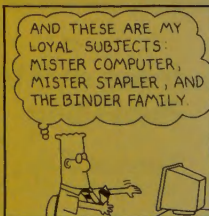
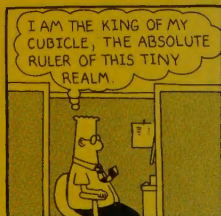
DEVELOP OTHER WAYS TO ESCAPE UNWANTED COWORKERS.



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SABOTAGE THE PLANS OF THE OPENLY AMBITIOUS.

AND TED GETS THIS "SINGULAR ACHIEVEMENT" AWARD FOR CREATING THE "WE ARE TEAMS" CAMPAIGN.

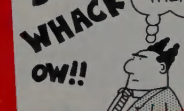


IT'S A CHECK FOR A THOUSAND DOLLARS! LET'S ALL GIVE TED A HAND.



SLAP WHACK OW!!

THESE THINGS NEVER WORK THE WAY YOU WANT THEM TO.



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I'VE ONLY WORKED HERE ONE DAY BUT I THOUGHT OF A GREAT IDEA.



ZIP

SPROCK!



THE FIRST IDEA IS ALWAYS THE TOUGHEST

THE URGE EVENTUALLY GOES AWAY.



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HEY, MATT. HOW'S OUR FAVORITE MANAGEMENT FAST-TRACKER?



GREAT! I'VE GOT TWO MINUTES TO DELIVER MY BIG REPORT TO OUR CEO. CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THE FAX IS?



OOPS, I'M WRONG. THAT'S THE SHREDDER.

HE'LL GO FAR IN THIS COMPANY.

BZZZZP



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TEAMBUILDING EXERCISE

THIS NEXT EXERCISE
WILL CHALLENGE YOUR
ABILITY TO SOLVE
PROBLEMS AS A
TEAM.



BUILD A WORKING
SUNDIAL USING
ONLY A PENCIL
AND A DONUT.



FOUR HOURS LATER...

ONE MORE BITE
ISN'T GOING TO
MAKE ANY
DIFFERENCE.



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TEAMBUILDING EXERCISE

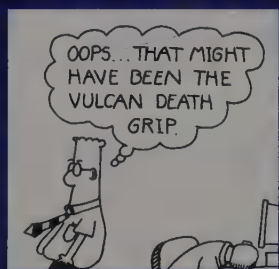
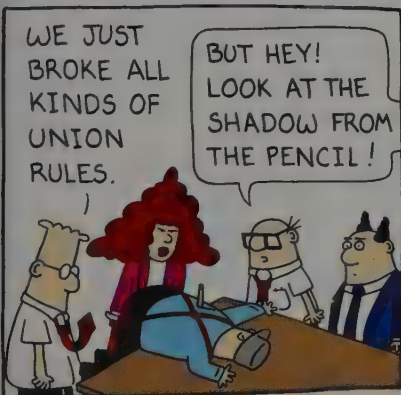
IT'S HOPELESS! YOU'RE
LOSERS! WE'LL NEVER
MAKE A SUNDIAL OUT
OF A PENCIL AND AN
EATEN DONUT!



HEE HEE! ALL YOU HAD
TO DO WAS STICK THE
PENCIL IN THE DONUT.



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HUMILIATING SUPERIORS WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE IS THE ULTIMATE COWORKER BONDING AGENT.

HERE'S YOUR PROBLEM. THE CONNECTION TO THE NETWORK IS BROKEN.



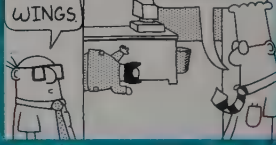
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UH-OH. IT'S A "TOKEN RING" LAN. THAT MEANS THE TOKEN FELL OUT AND IT'S IN THIS ROOM SOMEPLACE.



YOU ARE THE WIND BENEATH MY WINGS.

I'LL WAIT A WEEK THEN TELL HIM THE TOKEN MUST BE IN THE "ETHERNET."



MAYBE WE COULD FORM A VISION STATEMENT OF OUR CONCEPTS FOR REQUIREMENTS.



OR MAYBE WE CAN BOUND OUR STRAW-MAN BY THE MISSION-CRITICAL FUNCTIONS OF OUR QUALITY VECTOR!



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YOU'RE SHAMELESS.

THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN PARTICIPATION AND MOCKERY.



MY LAPTOP COMPUTER IS LOCKED UP. CAN YOU HELP?

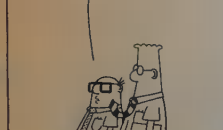


REMEMBER YOU HAVE TO HOLD IT UPSIDE DOWN AND SHAKE IT TO REBOOT.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.



I WONDER IF HE'LL EVER REALIZE WE GAVE HIM AN "ETCH-A-SKETCH."



CASUAL DAY IS NO TIME TO MAKE FASHION STATEMENTS.

WHAT'S THE HAT FOR, WALLY?

IT'S A NEW SAFETY RULE. I THINK IT'S STUPID.



THE E-MAIL FROM HUMAN RESOURCES SAID ALL SHORT EMPLOYEES MUST WEAR THESE TO IMPROVE VISIBILITY WHILE IN THE CUBICLE AISLES.



HR SHOULD CHANGE THEIR PASSWORD ONCE IN A WHILE.

I'LL BET WE CAN MAKE HIM WEAR ALUMINUM FOIL PANTS



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WELL, IT WOULDN'T BE FRIDAY IF I DIDN'T SEE ALICE WEARING HER ONE PAIR OF TAN PANTS



I LOVE THE "BUSINESS CASUAL" LOOK FOR THE WAY IT COMBINES UNATTRACTIVE WITH UNPROFESSIONAL WHILE DIMINISHING NEITHER.



DO YOU THINK THE FASHION OPINION OF A MALE ENGINEER MATTERS TO ME??



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I REALIZE THAT CASUAL DRESS DAY ISN'T EASY FOR YOU ENGINEERS...



BUT YOU'VE EXCEEDED THE BOUNDS OF GOOD TASTE. I'VE GOT TO SEND YOU HOME TO CHANGE.



SHUT UP, WALLY.

I HEARD THEY WERE BACK! I SWEAR!



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BEWARE THE FURY OF UNDERPAID CLERICAL WORKERS.

WHEN DILBERT COMES BY, TELL HIM TO ADD "WALK THE TALK" TO HIS PRESENTATION.



HE WANTS YOU TO USE A "WALKIE-TALKIE" TO DO THE PRESENTATION.



UM... DID HE SAY WHY?



HEY, LOOK AT MY PAYCHECK! I JUST REALIZED I DON'T GET PAID THE BIG BUCKS!



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CAROL, ABOUT THIS FLIGHT TO NEW YORK THAT YOU BOOKED FOR ME...



IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO MAKE ALL THESE STOPOVERS IN THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES THAT ARE EXPERIENCING REBEL INSURRECTIONS?



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YOU'D BETTER WEAR
THE INTERNATIONAL
SYMBOL OF THE "RED
CROSS" ON YOUR
BACK.



WAIT-A-MINUTE...
I'M STARTING TO
REALIZE SOMETHING.



MY JOB TITLE IS SENIOR
ASSOCIATE, YET I SPEND
MY TIME DOING CLERICAL
WORK... AND UNLESS I'M
MISTAKEN, I'M THE
LOWEST PAID EMPLOYEE.



IS THIS
A BAD
TIME?

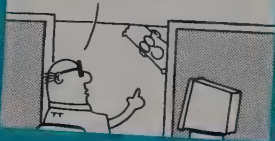
AAAGH!!
I'M A
SECRETARY!



HEY, WALLY, HOW
DID YOU GET A
ROOF FOR YOUR
CUBICLE?



THIS STUFF IS ALL
MODULAR. YOU JUST
TAKE SOME IDIOT'S
WALL AND MAKE IT
YOUR CEILING.



BY ANY CHANCE,
DO YOU KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED
TO MY WALL?

WHAT DID
IT LOOK
LIKE?



WHERE ARE YOU
TAKING ALL OF
THAT OFFICE
EQUIPMENT?

I'M HAVING
A GARAGE
SALE.

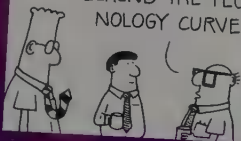


LEAVE YOUR MORALS AT HOME.

I'M SO MAD... I JUST BOUGHT A NEW COMPUTER AND IT'S ALREADY OBSOLETE.



DON'T FEEL BAD. THE OTHER ENGINEERS WON'T LOOK DOWN ON YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE BEHIND THE TECHNOLOGY CURVE.



YEAH, WE WILL.

NOT RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM.



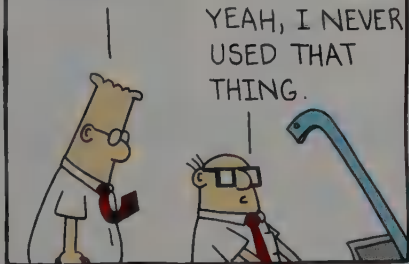
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OUR NEW COMPANY SLOGAN IS "ACT LIKE YOU OWN THE COMPANY." SO I'VE BEEN SELLING THE STUFF THAT I DON'T USE AND KEEPING THE MONEY.



IS THAT MY NEW COLOR MONITOR?

YEAH, I NEVER USED THAT THING.



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DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH A TEMP WORKER.

WE'VE BEEN HAVING A PROBLEM WITH BLACK-OUTS. THE OFFICE LIGHTS ARE CONTROLLED BY MOTION DETECTORS.

I HIRED A TEMP TO WALK AROUND AND FLAP HIS ARMS SO THE LIGHTS WON'T GO OFF.

ANOTHER JOURNALISM MAJOR ENTERS THE WORKFORCE.

IT SEEMS LIKE A WASTE. MAYBE HE COULD FAN US.

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RATBERT THE TEMP WORKER

THIS IS REALLY TESTING MY SENSE OF SELF-WORTH.

I WILL COMPENSATE BY SHOUTING A LIST OF MY TALENTS TO ANYBODY WHO WALKS PAST.

IGNORE HIM. HE'S TRYING TO TRICK US INTO MAKING EYE CONTACT.

I EAT RUBBER!
I CARRY DISEASE!
I ENJOY OPERA!

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DOGBERT, DO YOU KNOW HOW MY LIGHT POINTER PEN COULD HAVE GOTTEN SET TO MAXIMUM POWER?

YOU NEVER SEEM TO GRASP THE HUMOR IN THESE SITUATIONS. IT'S NOT AS IF YOU CAUSED ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE IN THE OFFICE.

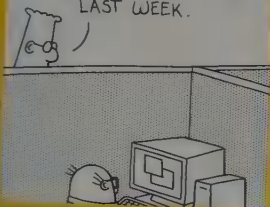
ACTUALLY, I WASTED A TEMP NAMED CARL IN THE NEXT OFFICE.

A TEMP - MY POINT EXACTLY.

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THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN YOUR WORK AND YOUR PAY.

WALLY, YOU JUST SENT ME THE SAME E-MAIL YOU SENT LAST WEEK.



I'M RERUNNING THE "BEST OF WALLY" WHILE I'M ON IN-CUBE SABBATICAL.



HOW LONG IS YOUR SABBATICAL?

SIX MONTHS SO FAR, AND YOU'RE THE FIRST TO NOTICE.



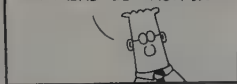
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HERE'S MY TIME SHEET, FILLED OUT IN INCREMENTS OF FIFTEEN MINUTES.



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AS USUAL, I CODED THE USELESS HOURS SPENT IN MEETINGS AS "WORK," WHEREAS THE TIME I SPENT IN THE SHOWER DESIGNING CIRCUITS IN MY MIND IS "NON-WORK."



INTERESTINGLY, EVEN THE TIME I SPEND COMPLAINING ABOUT MY LACK OF PRODUCTIVITY IS CONSIDERED "WORK."



I JUST LOST THE SUBTLE MENTAL CONNECTION BETWEEN MY PERFORMANCE AND MY SALARY.



I GET PAID THE SAME NO MATTER WHAT I DO. I CAN STAND HERE AND FLICK MY FINGERS AND STILL GET PAID.



DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS??!

HEY! YOU'RE GETTING PAID FOR THAT!



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PLEASE DON'T FEED THE EGOS.

I SHOULD QUIT AND
BECOME A CONTRACT
EMPLOYEE. THEN I'D
HAVE MORE INCOME
AND I'D FEEL THE
WIND IN MY
HAIR.



IT'S POSSIBLE YOU'D
HAVE NO INCOME
AT ALL...



AND IF YOU WANT WIND
IN YOUR HAIR YOU'LL
HAVE TO TAKE OFF YOUR
SHIRT AND RUN AROUND
WITH YOUR ARMS UP.



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT.

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ALICE, I'M THINKING
ABOUT QUITTING AND
BECOMING A CONTRACT
EMPLOYEE. DO YOU HAVE
ANY ADVICE?



SLEEP IN DOORWAYS SO
IT DOESN'T RAIN ON YOU.
THE BEST SHOPPING
CARTS ARE AT "LUCKY."
YOU CAN MAKE AN
EXCELLENT SIGN WITH A
BLACK MARKING
PEN AND A
HUNK OF
CARDBOARD.



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I HATE
ALL OF MY
CO-WORKERS.

DESPITE THE
NAME, FOOD
STAMPS ARE
NOT EDIBLE.



HERE'S MY TIME SHEET,
INCLUDING GUESSES FOR
THE NEXT TWO DAYS
SO I CAN MEET YOUR
ARBITRARY CLERICAL
DEADLINE.



IF ANYTHING IMPORTANT
COMES UP, I'LL IGNORE IT
TO PRESERVE THE
INTEGRITY OF THE TIME-
REPORTING SYSTEM.



ARE
YOU
FINISHED
ANNOYING
ME YET?

ACCORDING TO
MY TIME SHEET
I'LL BE HERE
FOR ANOTHER
14 MINUTES.



VENDORS SHOULD ALWAYS BE TREATED WITH DISDAIN.

CORRECT

TORMENTING THE VENDOR

YOU MUST DO OUR
BIDDING, VENDOR.
WE CONTROL YOUR
ECONOMIC FUTURE.



OF COURSE, OUR BUYING
DECISION WILL BE
BASED SOLELY ON
QUANTIFIABLE
PERFORMANCE MEASURE-
MENTS.



YOUR COMPETITOR
COMPLETED THE
"VENDOR CHALLENGE
COURSE" IN 37
SECONDS.

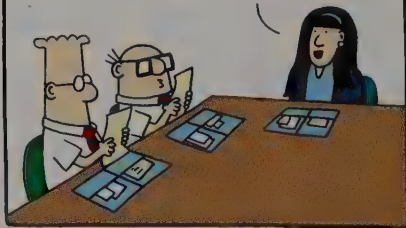
AND HE GAVE US
VERY NICE
T-SHIRTS.



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WRONG!

ON ONE HAND, MY
COMPANY DOES USE
INFERIOR TECHNOLOGY
IN OUR PRODUCTS...



BUT ON THE OTHER
HAND, I'M THE MOST
ATTRACTIVE FEMALE
WHO HAS PAID
ATTENTION TO YOU
THIS YEAR.



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... BUT BY FAR, THIS
COMPUTER IS OUR MOST
USER-FRIENDLY.



WRONG!

WHAT
DOES
IT DO?

WHOA! I'M IN
OVER MY HEAD.
LET ME GIVE
YOU THEIR
TECH SUPPORT
NUMBER.



THE PRE-INSTALLED
SOFTWARE HAS ONLY
ONE BUTTON. AND WE
PRESS IT BEFORE IT
LEAVES THE FACTORY.



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WHAT KIND
OF ENGINEERS
DO YOU THINK
WE ARE??!

DO YOU HAVE
PICTURES OF YOUR
FIELD SUPPORT
PEOPLE?

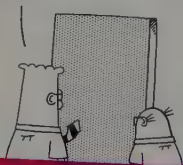


CORRECT

ALTHOUGH WE ARE
NOTHING BUT POND
SCUM IN THIS
COMPANY...



IT'S NICE TO KNOW WE
CAN STILL FIND SOMEONE
OF LOWER STATUS TO
TORMENT.



YOU CALL THESE BROCHURES?
HOW CAN I EVEN CONSIDER
BUYING PRODUCTS FROM
A "VEN-DUH"
SUCH AS
YOU?

TELL ME
IF THIS
HURTS.

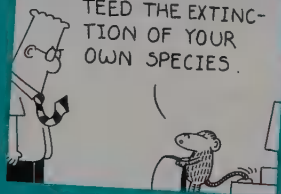


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YOUR BIG MISTAKE,
EVOLUTION-WISE, WAS
INVENTING COMPUTERS
THAT ARE EASIER TO USE
IF YOU HAVE A TAIL.

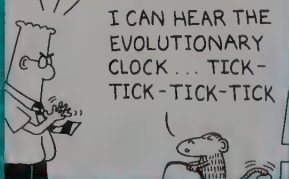


IT'S AN IRONIC TWIST
IN THE DARWINIAN
SAGA. YOU'VE GUARAN-
TEED THE EXTINC-
TION OF YOUR
OWN SPECIES.

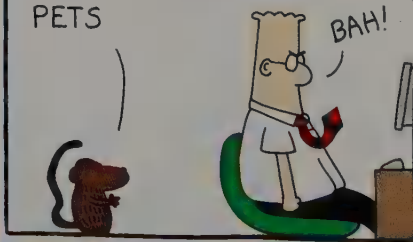


STOP WORKING WHILE
I'M TALKING TO YOU,
ZIMBU!!

I CAN HEAR THE
EVOLUTIONARY
CLOCK... TICK-
TICK-TICK-TICK



EVOLUTION FAVORS
MONKEYS. EVENTUALLY,
HUMANS WILL BE KEPT
IN CAGES AS
PETS



BEWARE

THE COMPETITION OF CREATURES WHO ARE ACCUSTOMED TO CRUEL LAB EXPERIMENTS.

I'VE GOT TO CUT STAFF IN ENGINEERING. I'M TRYING TO DETERMINE WHICH ONE OF YOU IS MORE VALUABLE TO KEEP.



I'VE BEEN HEARING GOOD THINGS ABOUT ZIMBU THE MONKEY. WHICH ONE OF YOU IS ZIMBU THE MONKEY?



THIS IS NOT THE PROUDEST MOMENT OF MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER.



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IMPOSSIBLE! WE HUMANS WILL NEVER ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE TREATED LIKE THAT!



NOW GET OUT OF MY CUBICLE!



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DO NOT USE POOR HYGIENE AS A WEAPON TO WARD OFF COWORKERS.

I WAS SO LATE I HAD TO PUT ON MY MAKEUP IN THE CAR.



YEAH, I HAD TO SHAVE IN THE CAR.



THAT'S NOTHING. I WAS SO LATE THAT I HAD TO GIVE MYSELF A SPONGE BATH IN THE CAR.



AREN'T YOU THE DRIVER FOR YOUR CARPOOL?

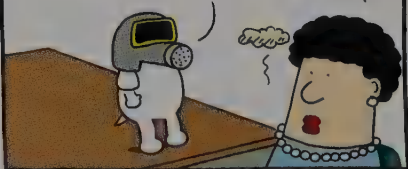


YOU'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH WHINING.



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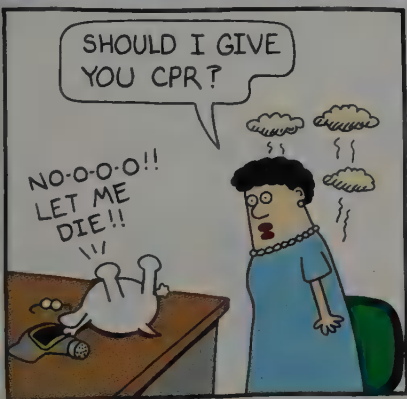
I HAVE FAILED IN MY ATTEMPT TO SUBTLY TELL YOU THAT YOUR PERFUME IS KILLING PEOPLE. I WILL TRY A DIRECT APPROACH.



HEY!! YOU SMELL BAD!!!
B-A-A-A-D!!!



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I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHY SOME PEOPLE
WASH THEIR BATH
TOWELS.

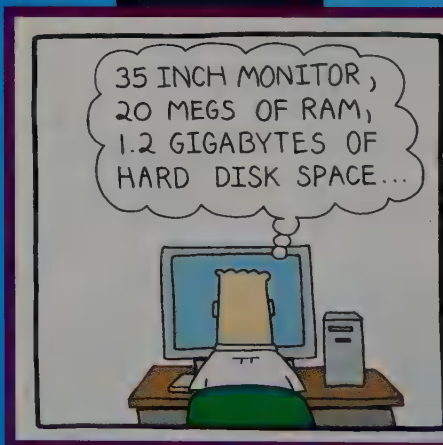
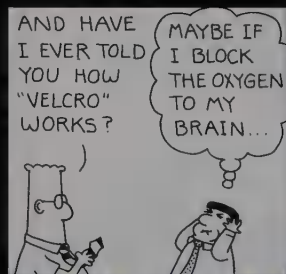


WHEN I GET OUT OF THE
SHOWER I'M THE CLEAN-
EST OBJECT IN MY
HOUSE. IN THEORY,
THOSE TOWELS SHOULD BE
GETTING CLEANER EVERY
TIME THEY TOUCH ME.



MAYBE I COULD HUG
YOU EVERY DAY SO
I DON'T NEED TO
TAKE SHOWERS.

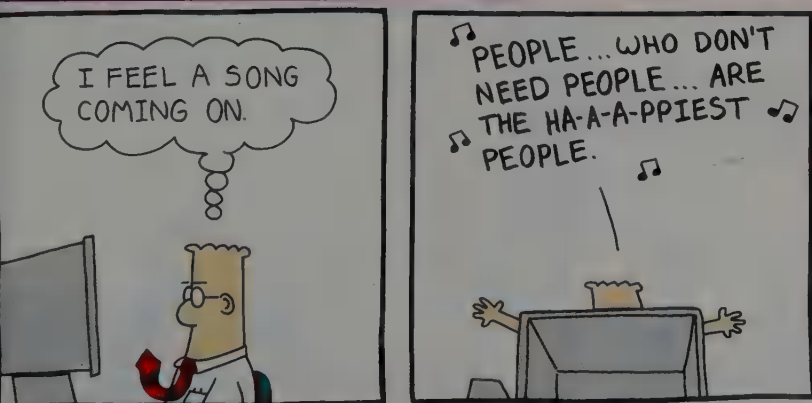




DO NOT ADVERTISE THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE NO LIFE.



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I NEED THIS INFORMATION
TODAY. PLUS A COMPLETE
ANALYSIS OF THE
ALTERNATIVES.

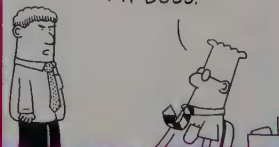


CRINKLE
CRINKLE
STUFF



THAT
WASN'T
NICE.

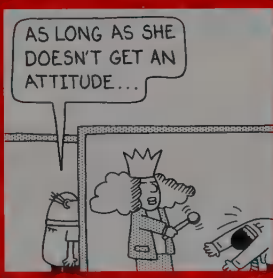
IN TODAY'S
LESSON, YOU LEARN
THAT YOU'RE MY
CO-WORKER, NOT
MY BOSS.



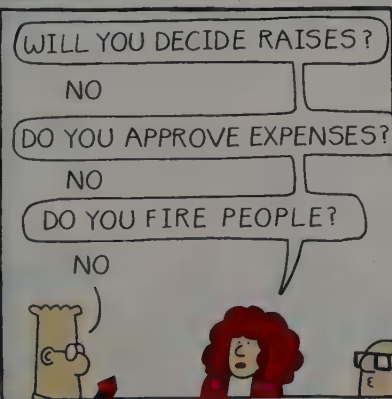
AS YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN
PROMOTED TO TEAM
LEADER.



NEVER CONFUSE RESPONSIBILITY WITH POWER.



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UNLESS YOU ENJOY PHYSICAL PAIN, REFRAIN FROM SAYING ANYTHING THAT MAY BE CONSTRUED AS SEXIST.

I JUST WATCHED THE
MANDATORY VIDEO
ON SEXUAL
HARASSMENT.
IT WORKED!



IN ONLY THIRTY
MINUTES, THAT VIDEO
CORRECTED A BILLION
YEARS OF EVOLUTION.
DO SOMETHING SEXY
AND WATCH ME
IGNORE IT!



I PROBABLY
SHOULDN'T HAVE
FAST-FORWARDED
THROUGH THE
BORING PARTS.



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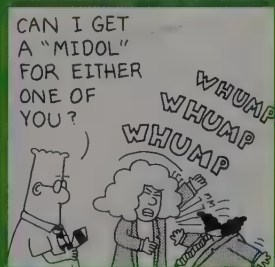
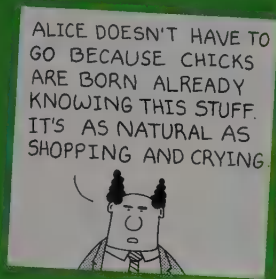
IN A WAY, I'M GLAD
THE ELBONIANS RUN
THIS COMPANY NOW.



AFTER YEARS OF BEING
THE ONLY FEMALE ENGINEER
I'LL ENJOY WATCH-
ING THE ELBONIANS
DISCRIMINATE AGAINST
YOU GUYS.



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DYSFUNCTIONAL TEAM...

I'D LIKE EVERYBODY TO
TURN TO THE RIGHT AND
SAY WHAT YOU ADMIRE
ABOUT THAT PERSON.



I ADMIRE
YOUR
LEATHERY
SKIN,
ALICE

I ADMIRE YOUR
ABILITY TO
FIGURE OUT
WHICH SIDE IS
YOUR RIGHT IN
ONLY TWO
TRIES.



I ADMIRE
YOUR
ABILITY
TO GET
PAID FOR
THIS.

DESPITE THE
FACT YOUR
FACE SCARES
CHILDREN, I
ADMIRE
YOUR CO-
WORKERS.



DYSFUNCTIONAL TEAM...

I'D LIKE EACH OF YOU
TO TELL THE TEAM
WHAT YOU LEARNED
IN MY WORKSHOP.



AVOID INTRA-OFFICE GROUP THERAPY.

IN THIS SENSITIVITY
EXERCISE, CLOSE YOUR
EYES AND IMAGINE
HOW IT FEELS TO BE A
WOMAN.



PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGE
MY EXISTENCE. THEY
SMILE FOR NO REASON
AND HOLD THE
DOOR OPEN.
I'M... I'M
POPULAR.

I CAN'T
FIND MY
KEYS.



I'M NEVER GOING
BACK. I CAN'T.
I WON'T.

MY BLOUSE
FALLS TO
THE FLOOR...

BREAK!
BREAK!



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I LEARNED TO LISTEN
WITH MY HEART. I
GAINED RESPECT FOR
OTHERS. I UNDERSTAND
SANSKRIT. I GOT MY
HAM RADIO LICENSE.
I CAN
DIVIDE
BY
ZERO...



I LOVE
GOING
FIRST.



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IF ALL ELSE FAILS, TELECOMMUTE.

I HAVE AN ETHICAL QUESTION ABOUT TELECOMMUTING, DOGBERT.

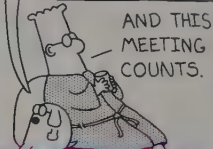


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DO I OWE MY EMPLOYER EIGHT PRODUCTIVE HOURS, OR DO I ONLY NEED TO MATCH THE TWO PRODUCTIVE HOURS I WOULD HAVE IN THE OFFICE?



WELL, WHEN YOU FACTOR IN HOW YOU'RE SAVING THE PLANET BY NOT DRIVING, YOU ONLY OWE ONE HOUR.



DAY TWO OF TELECOMMUTING IS GOING SMOOTHLY. I HAVE ELIMINATED ALL OPTIONAL HABITS OF HYGIENE.



MY CO-WORKERS ARE A FADING MEMORY. I AM LOSING LANGUAGE SKILLS. I TALK TO MY COMPUTER AND EXPECT ANSWERS.



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FOR REASONS THAT ARE UNCLEAR, MY DOG WEARS A GAS MASK AND SHOUTS TARZAN-LIKE PHRASES.



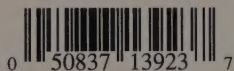
DAY THREE OF TELECOMMUTING: I SPEND THE MORNING THROWING MY PEN IN THE AIR.



THE AFTERNOON IS SPENT IN SILENT APPRECIATION OF HOW MUCH BETTER THIS IS THAN BEING IN THE OFFICE.



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**Andrews McMeel
Publishing**

an Andrews McMeel Universal company

DILBERT © United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Printed in Singapore

\$6.95
\$9.95 Canada



DILBERT™

06-EEN-741



9 780836 232240



ISBN 0-8362-3224