

In the Hot Seat

THE D-TEAM

MEANWHILE, IN JO JO ZEKE'S FORMER OFFICE...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, MA'AM. CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC? EXACTLY WHAT DIDN'T YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?

Hard & Enterprises®
~~Jo Jo Zeke~~
Acting Manager

IT'S CRAP, MR. SKIPOWSKY.. CLEAR ENOUGH FOR YOU? THAT'S WHAT I DIDN'T LIKE ABOUT IT.

THIS ISN'T WHAT I ASKED FOR. -- WHERE ARE ALL THE CORRECTIONS I GAVE YOU ON THE LAST MARK-UP?

NONE OF THE CHANGES I MANDATED ARE IN HERE. IT'S LIKE I'VE BEEN TALKING TO A WALL.

GEEZ IS SHE MAD, DOWN, CUJO...

YOU IMBECILES ARE SERIOUSLY STARTING TO TRY MY PATIENCE -- AND IT'S GOING TO STOP.

OOOOH.... SO THOSE "SUGGESTIONS" YOU MADE -- THEY WERE "MANDATED"?

I, UM -- I TOTALLY MISSED THAT LITTLE DETAIL, MA'AM. -- MY BAD.

YA KNOW WE'VE BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS WITH OUR FAX -- I'M NOT SURE WE EVEN GOT THOSE MARK UPS.

DON'T PLAY ME AS A FOOL, SKIPOWSKY -- I PROMISE YOU -- YOU'LL REGRET IT.

OH BUT MA'AM. NOBODY HERE IS PLAYING YOU FOR A FOOL. WHY WE HAVE NOTHING BUT THE UTMOST RES...

ZIP IT, SKIPOWSKY.

YOU LIKE PLAYING GAMES SO MUCH.

WELL THEN -- YOU SHOULD APPRECIATE THIS.

YOU'RE GOING TO SHUT THAT EXCUSE-MILL OF A PIE HOLE YOU CALL A MOUTH AND ROLE-PLAY THE PART OF "LISTENER."

AND ME...? I'M GOING TO PLAY THE PART OF THE BOSS -- WHO HAPPENS TO BE REALLY PISSED OFF AT THE MOMENT.

-GULP-

YOU MIGHT WANT TO KEEP SCORE. LOOK -- I HAPPEN TO KNOW YOU'VE BEEN STONEWALLING ME ON THESE CHANGES.

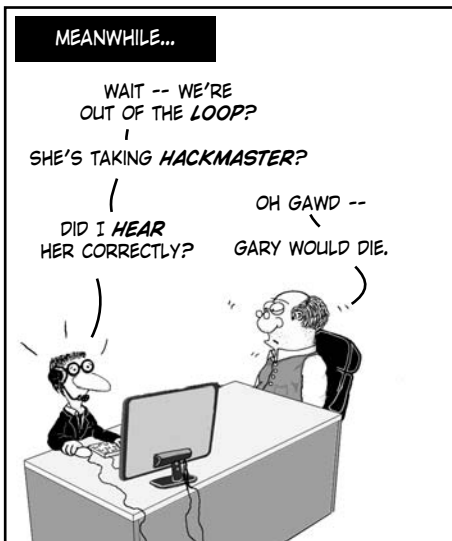
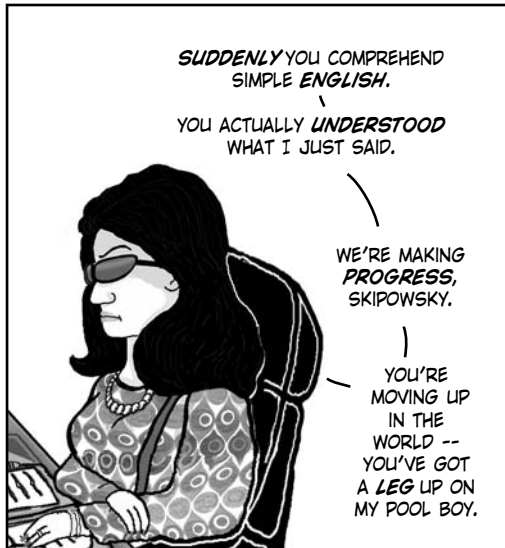
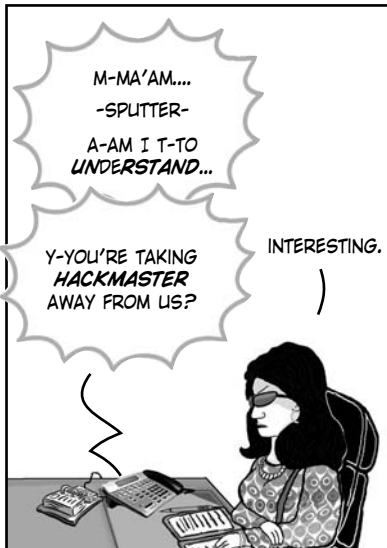
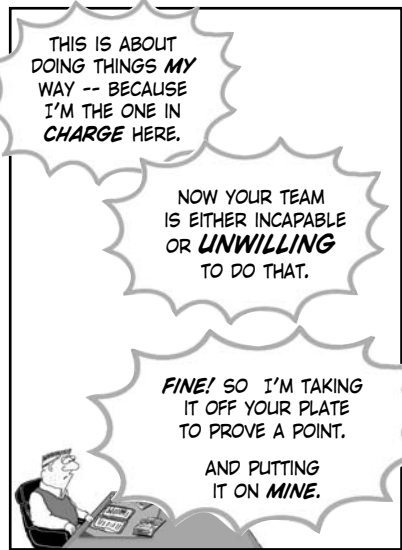
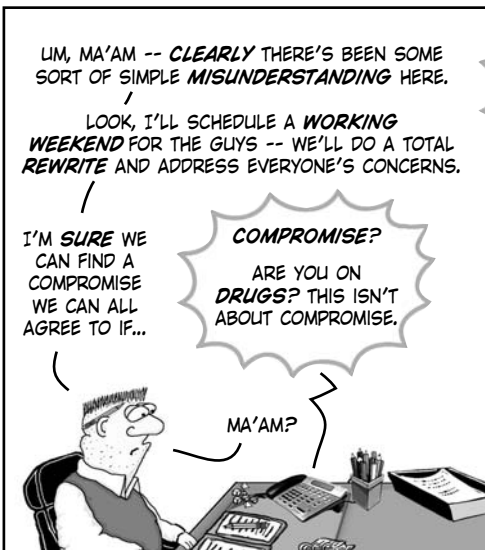
I MAY BE TWO HUNDRED MILES AWAY...

BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T HAVE EYES AND EARS THERE. SO CUT THE CRAP!!

HUH...? WHAT THE HELL IS SHE SAYING?

"WHEN A GM LOSES FACE IN THE EYES OF HIS PLAYERS HE ONLY HAS TWO OPTIONS. 1. ADMIT DEFEAT AND CONGRATULATE THE PLAYER ON HIS CUNNING AND EXCELLENT BATTLE-OF-WITS. OR, 2. ROLL MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF DICE FOR NO APPARENT REASON AND PRETEND TO BE CAREFULLY RECORDING THE RESULTS. AND AS GARY JACKSON POINTS OUT IN HIS BOOK, 'NO SELF-RESPECTING GM WOULD PICK THE FIRST OPTION!'"

—B.A. Felton *Tales from the Vault #1*, p. 33

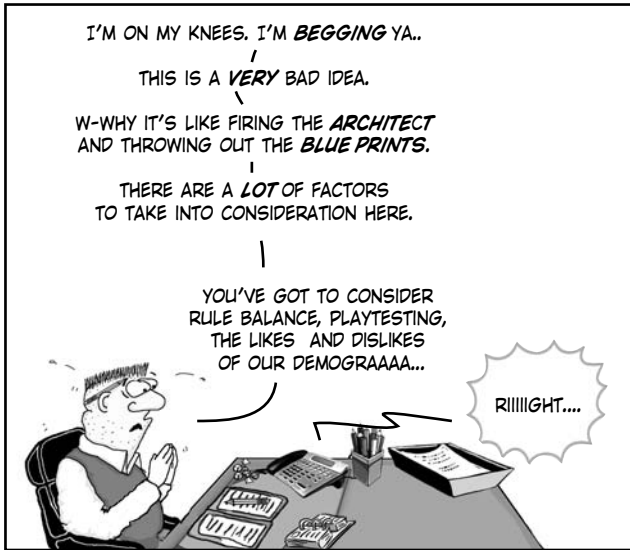


"C'MON PETE. ALL I DID WAS POINT OUT THE DEW POINT INDEX ON YER WEATHER CHECK WAS WHACKED FOR A DESERT LAND HEX."

—Gordo Sheckberry *Black Hands Issue #2, editorial filler*

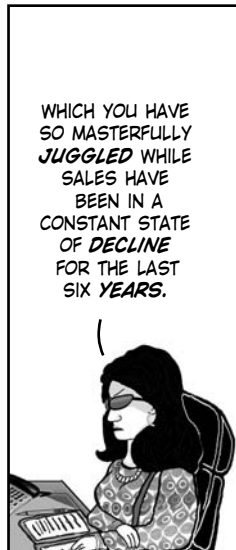


H-HEIDI...
I M-MEAN
MISS JACKSON.
PALEEZE...
DON'T DO THIS.

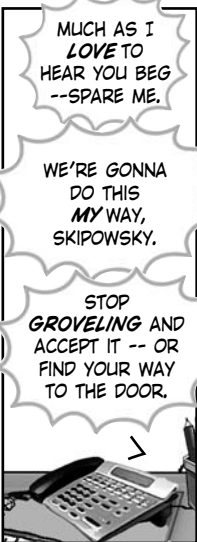


I'M ON MY KNEES. I'M *BEGGING* YA..
THIS IS A *VERY* BAD IDEA.
W-WHY IT'S LIKE FIRING THE *ARCHITECT*
AND THROWING OUT THE *BLUE PRINTS*.
THERE ARE A *LOT* OF FACTORS
TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION HERE.
YOU'VE GOT TO CONSIDER
RULE BALANCE, PLAYTESTING,
THE LIKES AND DISLIKES
OF OUR DEMOGRAAAA...

RIIIIGHT...



WHICH YOU HAVE
SO MASTERFULLY
JUGGLED WHILE
SALES HAVE
BEEN IN A
CONSTANT STATE
OF *DECLINE*
FOR THE LAST
SIX YEARS.



MUCH AS I
LOVE TO
HEAR YOU BEG
--SPARE ME.

WE'RE GONNA
DO THIS
MY WAY,
SKIPOWSKY.

STOP
GROVELING AND
ACCEPT IT -- OR
FIND YOUR WAY
TO THE DOOR.



ARE WE *CLEAR*...?

MA'AM --
IF I MAY
-- ALL I'M
SAYING IS...

SKIPOWSKY --
ARE WE *CLEAR*?

THE *NEXT*
WORD OUT OF
YOUR MOUTH
BETTER
BE, "YES."



ER... Y-YES,
MA'AM.

-GULP-
W-WE'RE
CLEAR.

VERY
GOOOOD,
SKIP.



YOU'RE STARTING
TO GET THE *HANG*
OF THIS -- I
DIDN'T HAVE TO
REPEAT MYSELF.



OKAY, SO UNTIL I GIVE YOU FURTHER
MARCHING ORDERS, YOU AND YOUR
STAFF CAN *BUSY* YOURSELVES WITH
THE NEW *HEROES OF HACKLEAGUE*
MATERIAL YOU HAVE SLATED...

UM...
YES MA'AM.

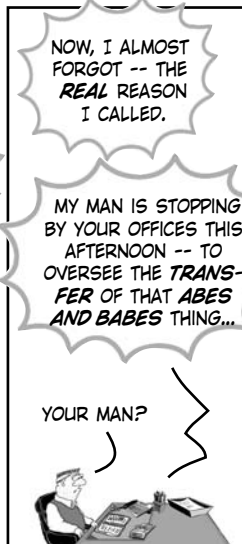
BUT *NOTHING*
GOES TO PRESS
UNTIL I HAVE A CHANCE
TO LOOK AT IT
AND *SIGN OFF*.
WE *CLEAR*?



YES, MA'AM.

FOR GAWD'S
SAKE -- *SPEAK*
UP LIKE YOU
HAVE A PAIR.

Y-YES, MA'AM.



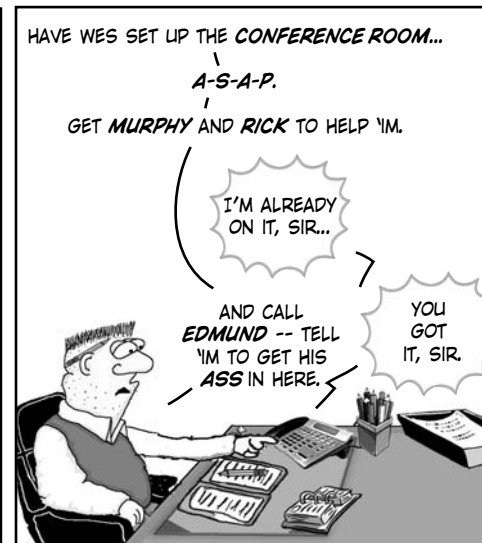
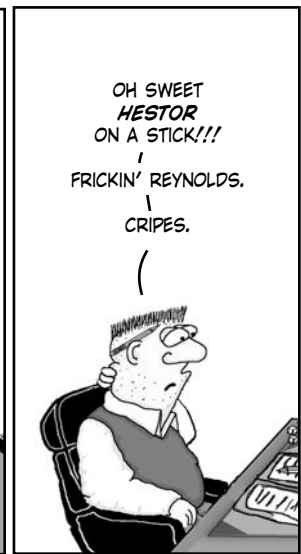
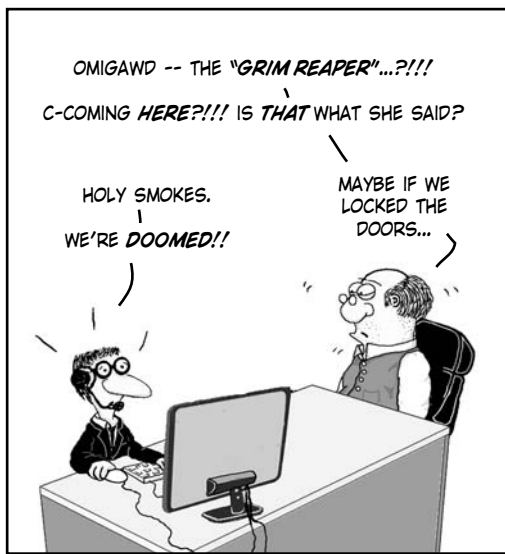
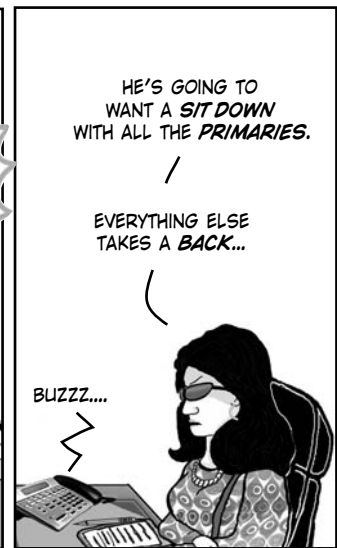
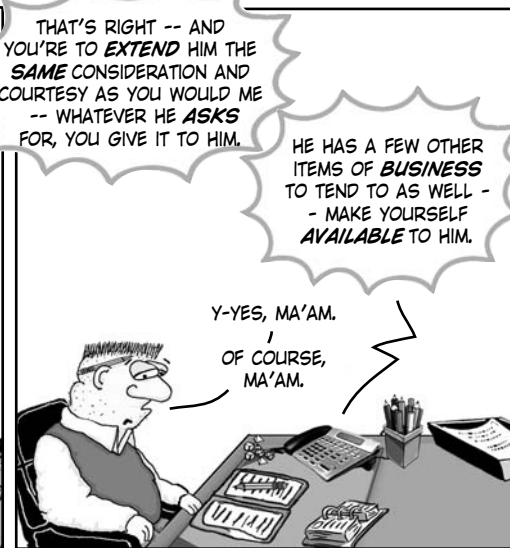
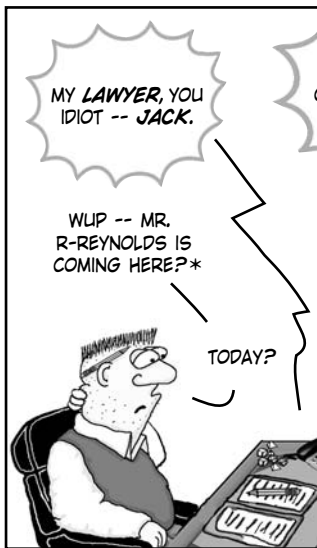
NOW, I ALMOST
FORGOT -- THE
REAL REASON
I CALLED.

MY MAN IS STOPPING
BY YOUR OFFICES THIS
AFTERNOON -- TO
OVERSEE THE *TRANS-
FER* OF THAT *ABES*
AND *BABES* THING...

YOUR MAN?

"I DON'T UNDERSTAND -- WHY WOULD YOU *BRAKE* FOR A *SQUIRREL*? THEY'RE JUST *ROAD KILL* WAITIN' TO *HAPPEN* ANYWAY. NOT LIKE THEY'RE AN *ENDANGERED ANIMAL* OR ANYTHING."

—Dave Bozwell, *Bundle of Trouble #23, You Say it's your Birthday*



* See KODT# 58: **Bleeding Profusely**— Jack Reynolds, Heidi Jackson's lawyer and personal confidant. aka the Grim Reaper, Hatchet Jack.