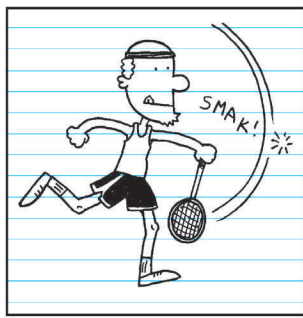


bit 9

by Lincoln Peirce



MR. STAPLES? I COULDN'T DO MY HOMEWORK BECAUSE OF A FAMILY SITUATION.

MY GRANDFATHER'S BEEN REALLY SICK, AND—

YOUR GRANDFATHER?

NATE, I KNOW YOUR GRANDFATHER! I MET HIM LAST APRIL AT THE SPRING OPEN HOUSE!

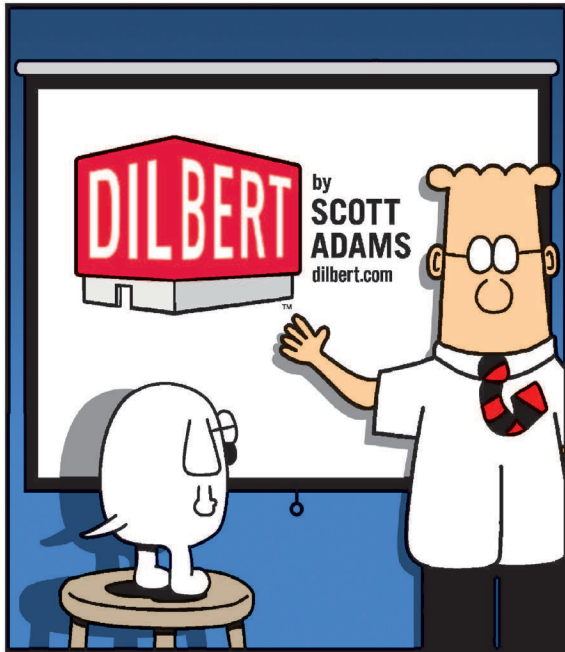
HE AND I GOT TO TALKING, AND REALIZED THAT WE BELONG TO THE SAME HEALTH CLUB!

IN FACT, I SAW HIM THERE YESTERDAY! HE WAS PLAYING SQUASH!

HE LOOKED REMARKABLY HEALTHY.

BZZZZ!

Time to join a new health club.



NEGOTIATE WITH YOUR VENDOR AND GET THE PRICE DOWN.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO NEGOTIATE. I'M AN ENGINEER.

IT'S SIMPLE. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS MAKE AN AGGRESSIVE FIRST DEMAND AND SETTLE FOR LESS.

HOW AGGRESSIVE ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE?

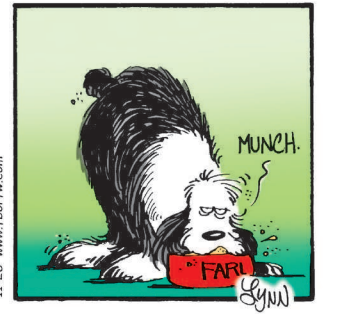
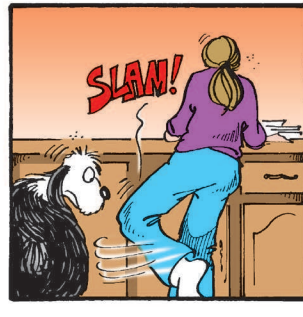
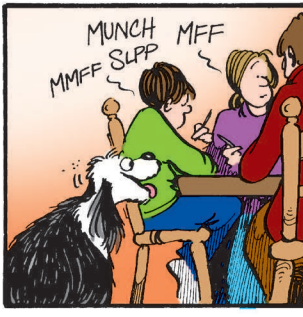
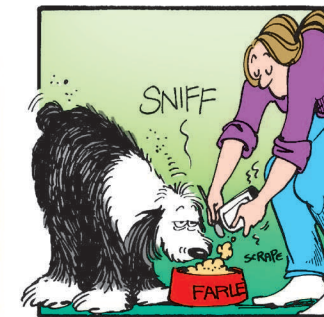
THE MORE AGGRESSIVE THE BETTER.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT. TRUST ME, MORE IS BETTER.

MY OPENING DEMAND IS THAT YOU NAME ME AS BENEFICIARY ON YOUR LIFE INSURANCE POLICY, MOW MY LAWN, AND DIE IN TRAFFIC ON THE WAY HOME.

YOU GOT THE PRICE DOWN BY 35%.

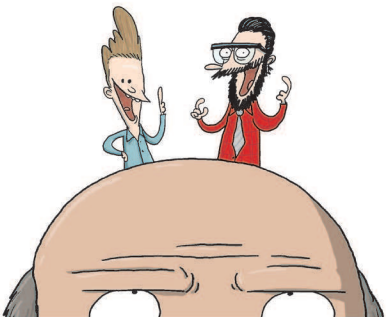
I REALLY HOPED IT WOULDN'T WORK.



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WUMMO

by Wulf & Morgenthaler



Could we stop squawking for like 5 minutes!? I've got the worst headache ever!



HI, LADIES! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

SHANNON WANTED TO SEE WHAT WE FIREFIGHTERS DO ALL DAY. I TOLD HER THERE'S LOTS OF CLEANING, MAINTENANCE, COOKING AND MEETINGS.

HI, BWAD!

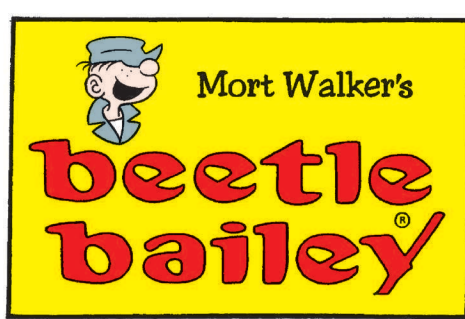
THAT'S TRUE, WE—

WHOA! YOU HAVE A KITCHEN AND HUGE CHAIRS AND A GIANT TV! I BET YOU EAT ICE CREAM AND WATCH "SPONGEBOB!"

I'M GONNA BE A FIREFIGHTER!

AND SHE HAS A TOTALLY WRONG IMPRESSION

I'LL FIX IT, SHANNON, WE DON'T WATCH "SPONGEBOB." WE WATCH ESPN



YAWN!

YAWN

I THINK THAT I HEARD AN ECHO WHEN I YAWNED

LET'S SEE... HEY!

HEY!

YOU'RE AN IDIOT!

...AN IDIOT!

SARGE IS A BIG JERK!

...BIG JERK!

SARGE SOUNDS LIKE A COW!

MOO!

...MOO

I WONDER HOW FAR MY VOICE CARRIES?

TOO FAR FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!