LET THE LAUGHTER BEGIN

(17 cartoons to improve staff morale and job satisfaction)

By speaker/cartoonist Mike Moore

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USING HUMOUR TO SOLVE PEOPLE PROBLEMS by Mike Moore

People involved in interpersonal conflict in both business and industry are often too close to the problems to be of any great help in solving them. They feel insecure, uncomfortable and threatened when it comes to expressing their feelings and offering possible solutions. "What will the boss think if I rock the boat?" How will I be able to work with these people if I appear to be criticizing them?" "Will they think I'm a trouble maker?" "How can I hurt peoples' feelings?" The predictable answers to these questions will ensure that things will remain the same. Nothing will change. Nobody wants to step outside their comfort zone and disturb the status quo no matter how much the status quo needs to be challenged. So stress continues to increase and morale continues to decline.

I have found cartoon humour to be helpful in solving relational problems in the workplace. They present real conflict situations and place them within a humorous context. By taking a cartoon and using it as the basis for discussion you accomplish a few things: You remove any personal connection between the problem and your personnel. They are discussing a cartoon situation not a situation related to them. The characters are not real and therefore you avoid hurt feelings or damaged egos. Analysing a cartoon results in a more lively discussion than if you were analysing an existing, identified problem. Workers are separated from the problem and therefore are less threatened and more willing to offer suggestions and solutions.

The humour in a cartoon is empathic humour. People laugh with the characters in the cartoon because they empathize with them and their plight. Call it the "been there, had it done to me" syndrome. When I use cartoons in my presentations I always hear people in my audience say, "Isn't that the truth?" When I hear this I know that something has connected with them.

A wise leader will ask questions about the cartoon which will not only address the conflict generally, but will open the possibility of a similar problem existing in their specific workplace. Such as, "Could such a problem ever occur here?" "If it ever did occur here, how would we handle it?"

At some point the direct link between the cartoon and an existing problem will have to be made. Even when this is done the cartoon can still be used as a non-threatening way to discuss the situation without making direct references to people who are causing the dis-ease.

This is a brief excerpt from Mike Moore's manual **Humour in the Workplace.** http://www.motivationalplus.com/store.html

All workplace problems are people problems. Solve people problems and you solve workplace problems. M. Moore

" Why is it when all I need is a good pair of hands they have to come attached to a human being?" Henry Ford

What follows is a collection of cartoons for your enjoyment and your use in staff development. You have permission to use each cartoon providing you leave the contact information in tact.

Let the Laughter Begin...

Subscribe to Mike's free e-course " How to Combat Workplace Dis-ease" Send a blank email to mailto:workplacehumor@sendfree.com

To be informed of a new cartoon appearing on Mike's free weekly, online **Cartoon Feature** send a blank email to mailto:cartoons@sendfree.com

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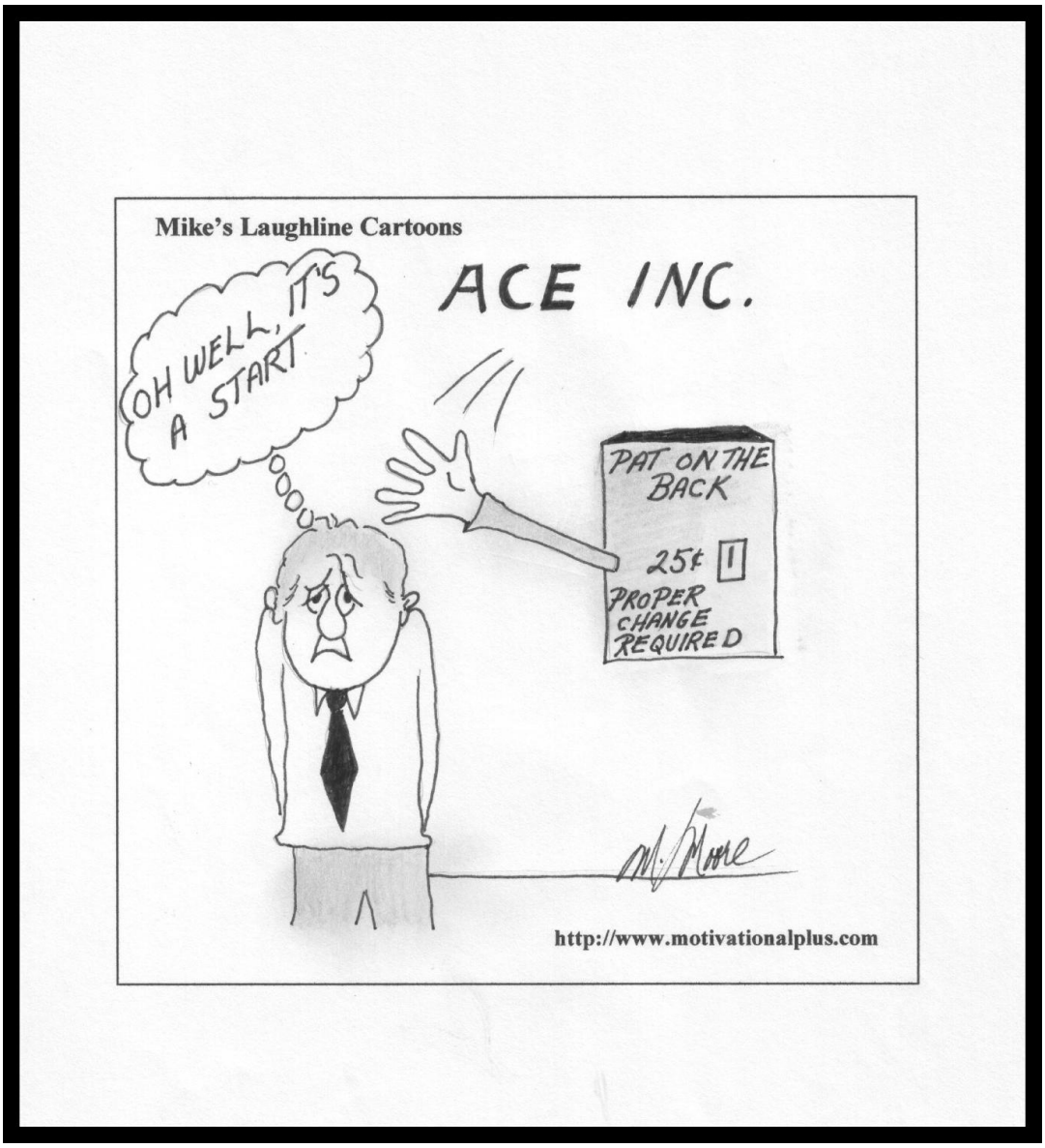

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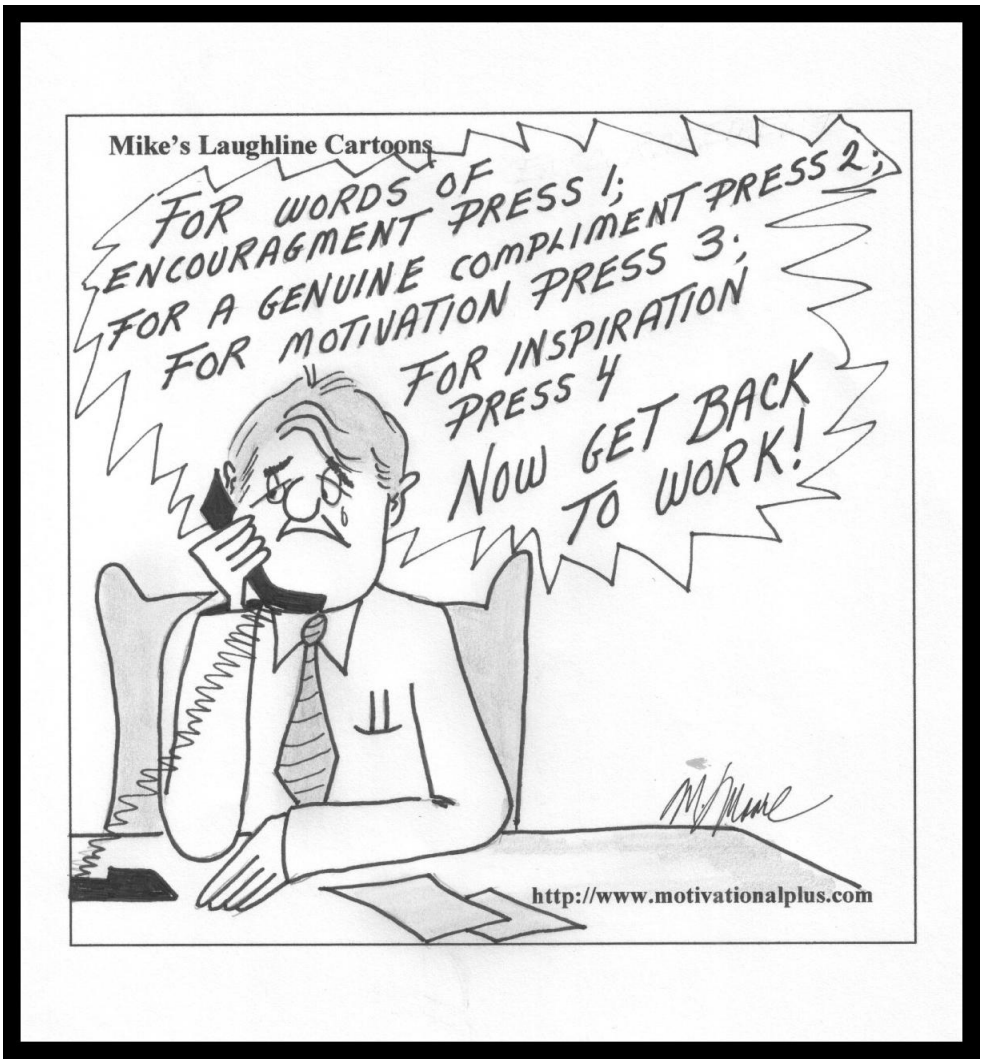

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http://www.motivationalplus.com/lifeline.htm

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Mike Moore's Cartoons
WHEN YOU FEEL OVERWHELMED
YOU ARE!
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Mike Moore's Cartoons

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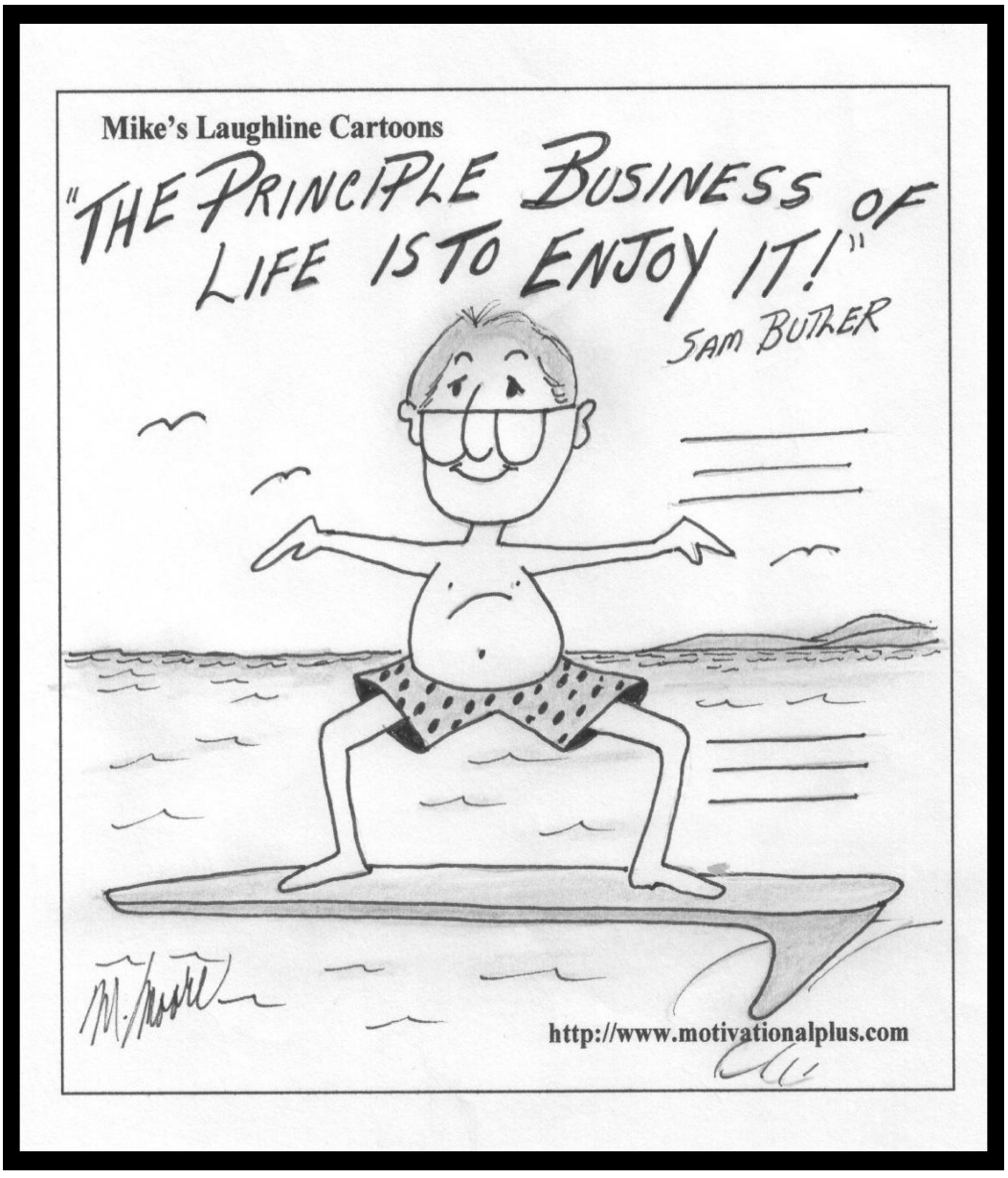
Stress is the number one cause of low morale in the workplace and a toxic supervisor is a major cause of stress.


Mike's Laughline Cartoons
"THE PRINCIPLE BUSINESS OF LIFE IS TO ENJOY IT!"
SAM BUTLER
http://www.motivationalplus.com

Mike Moore's Cartoons

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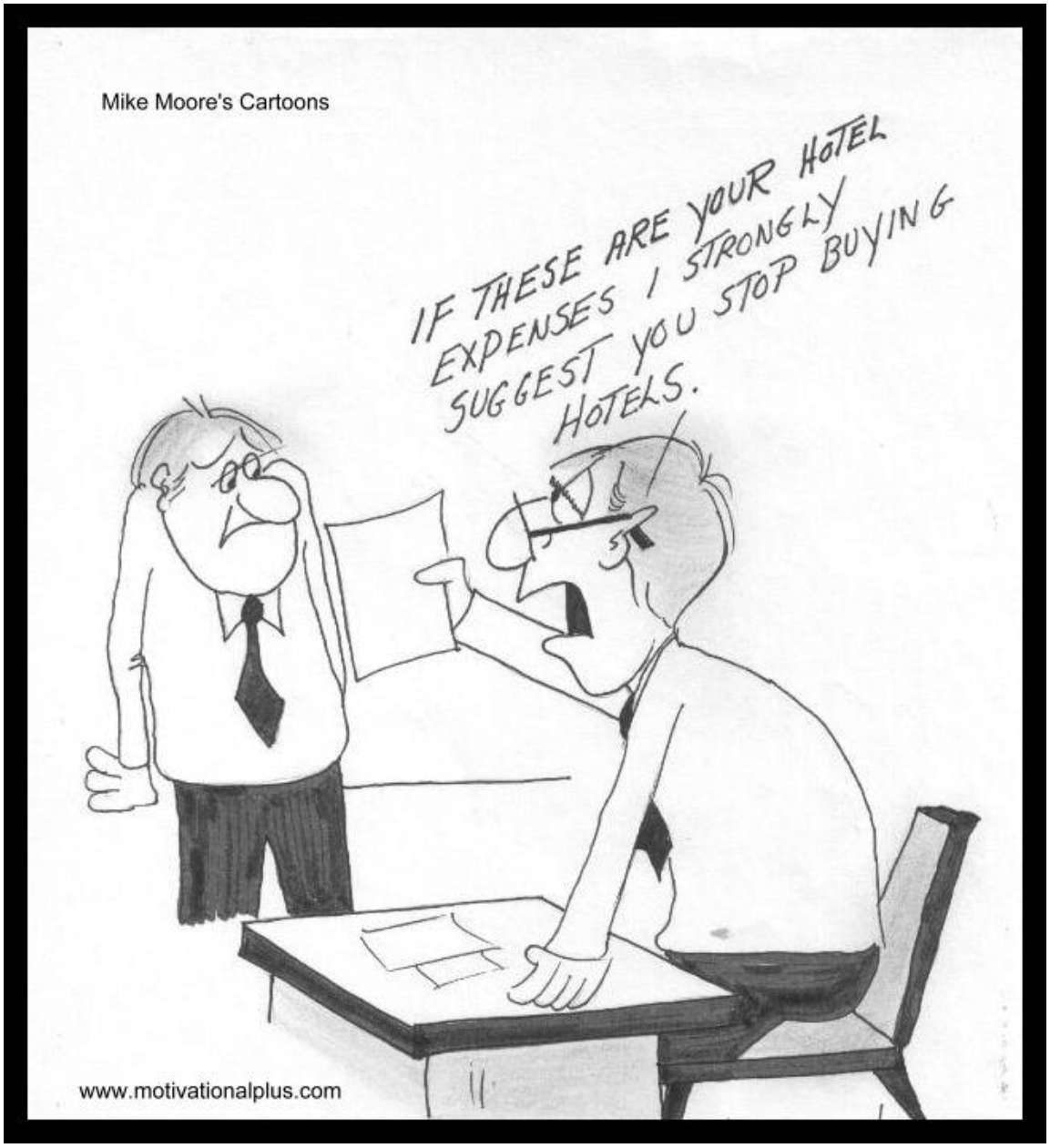
Mike Moore's Cartoons
IF THESE ARE YOUR HOTEL EXPENSES I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU STOP BUYING HOTELS.
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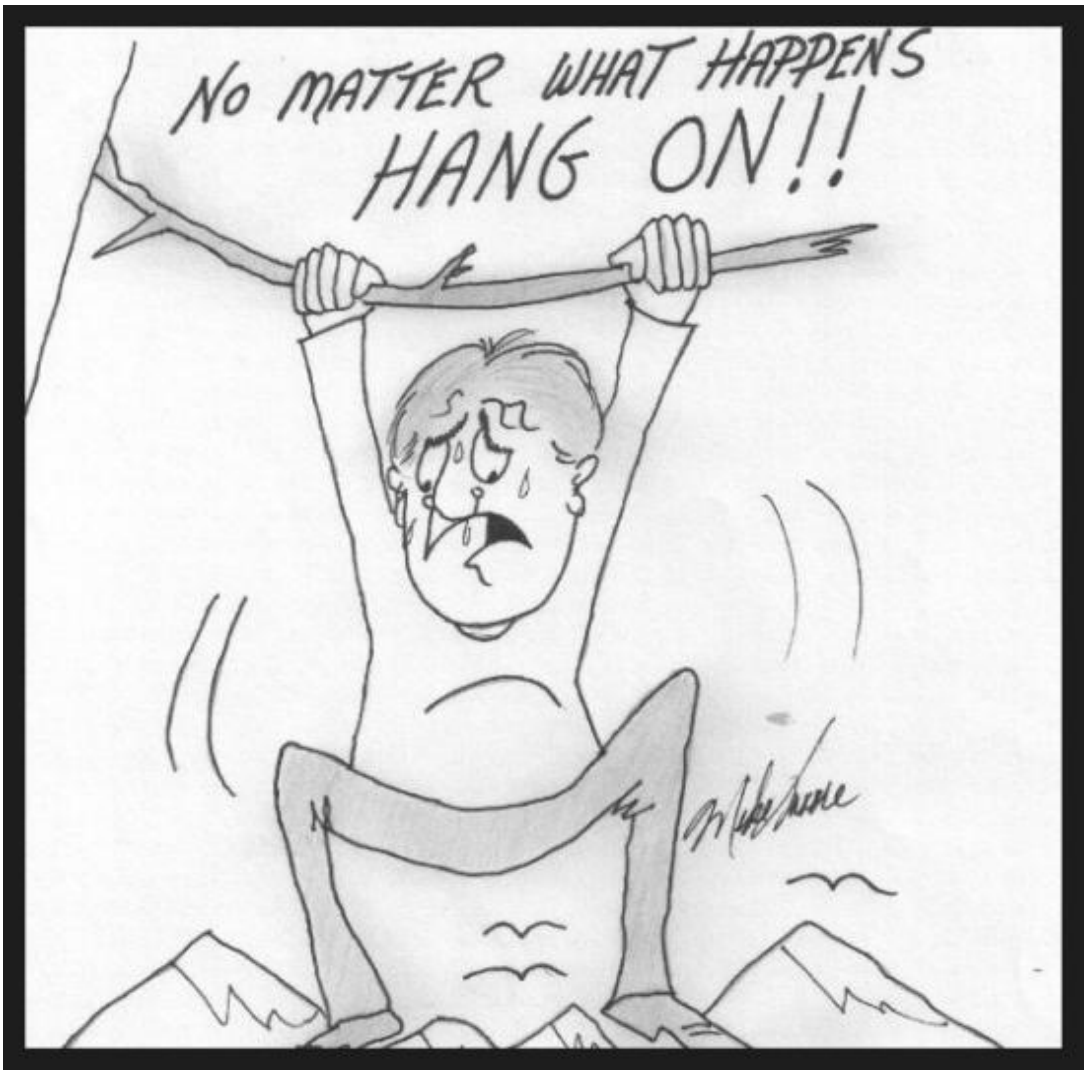
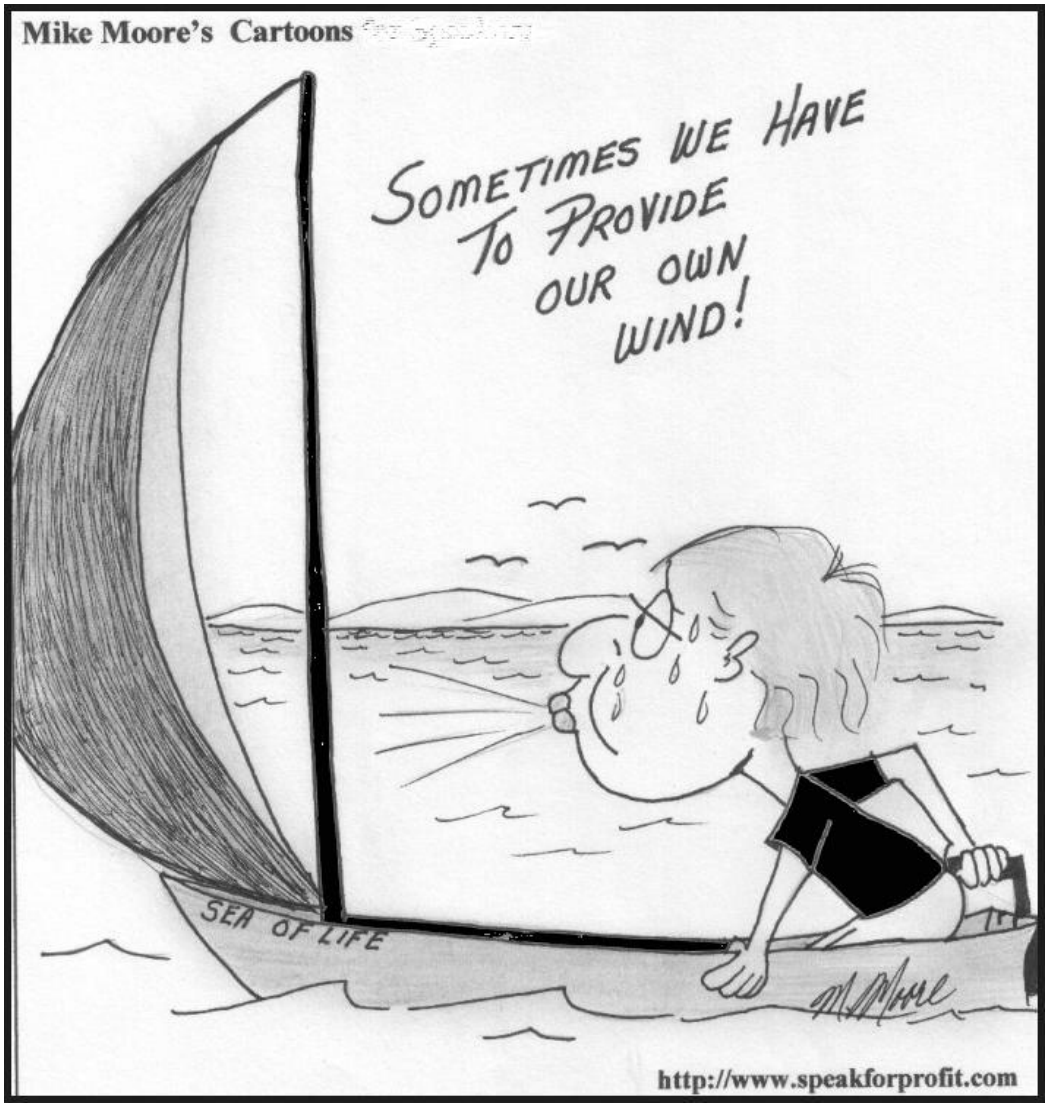

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
HANG ON!!


Mike Moore's Cartoons
SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO PROVIDE OUR OWN WIND!
SEA OF LIFE
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Conclusion

I hope that you enjoyed my cartoons and that you will seriously consider putting more humor and laughter into you workplace. The benefits are so numerous and the cost is minimal. All you have to do is train your staff and leaders in the concepts of Humor Oriented Leadership, and Humor Oriented Relationships and you are on your way.

For a more comprehensive treatment on the subject of humor in the workplace I invite you to take a look at my manual " Humor in the Workplace" available at http://www.motivationalplus.com

Thanks and good luck

Mike Moore

www.motivationalplus.com

Mike Moore is a popular writer/ cartoonist/ motivational speaker whose work has appeared in newspapers and magazines throughout Canada and the United States. He has addressed teachers, nurses, business leaders, government employees and community organizations on a wide variety of topics related to motivation and human potential. All his presentations and seminars include healthy doses of humour, story and music. For more information on Mike's motivational books, tapes, manuals and special reports visit
Http://www.motivationalplus.com/store.html

To have Mike speak to your staff on the principles of workplace humor email
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fax: 519-754-4794 Phone: 519-753-0702

Mike Moore: Improving workplaces one laugh at a time.

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