

From the Founder of the Employee Engagement Network

Assorted  
**Zingers**



poems and cartoons to take a bite out of work

**David Zinger**

Cartoons by John Junson

## Foreword

Rarely do we meet the writer who is as shrewd and astute with his insights as he is poetic and creative in expressing them. Welcome to the world of David Zinger, the person who has put a new face on the world of employee engagement through his popular network. With the publishing of this gem, David now offers us inspiration for deepening our personal engagement at work. As his friend and colleague, I have had the distinct pleasure of being witness to David's unique brand of genius on many occasions. It astounds me how he continuously finds new ways of generously sharing his wisdom and humor, and with this book, his giftedness as a poet.

There is nowhere like the workplace to play out the wide spectrum of our human frailty and foolishness, our wisdom and wise-cracking, our small-mindedness and meaning-making. Like fish unable to recognize water, we often cannot see the full folly of our ways as we become accustomed to and part of the larger culture we work in. Thus the need to stand back, pull focus and gain perspective. If, as G.K. Chesterton asserts, "There is a road from the eye to the heart of things that does not go through the intellect", this small book provides such a path.

Brimming with surprise and revelation, David Zinger and John Junson offer a potpourri of creative, joyful and luminous snapshots into our everyday work life with fresh and, often, breathtaking suggestions of ways in which we might respond.

Through colorful caricatures and the spare lines of poetic conciseness, we are drawn in to ponder what is real and what is ridiculous, what is hilarious and what is holy, what is simply absurd and what should be absurdly simple. Within these pages you will experience a breath of fresh air, ample belly laughs, several wake-up calls, and even a few slaps upside the head. Poetry and humor are reputed as menaces to conformity, and they do not break with tradition here. All in all, they are invitations to shake off our cynicism, to embrace our humanity, and to inspire a bias towards action rather than apathy. For those who care to take the road less traveled in the day to day journey of life at work – you have found a fitting guidebook! Happy Trails!

Denise Bissonnette  
Author, Trainer, Keynote Speaker  
Diversity World  
[www.diversityworld.com](http://www.diversityworld.com)

## **Introduction**

Welcome to Assorted Zingers a book to tweak and alter your thinking about work and the workplace. Each poem or cartoon has a zinger inside the words or images to encourage you to observe work around you and your relationship to work and your co-workers. These are not poems or cartoons to ponder or dissect for hidden meaning or find an iambic pentameter structure. Rather, look at them as small jolts, glimmers of recognition, or even a short diversion from your work.

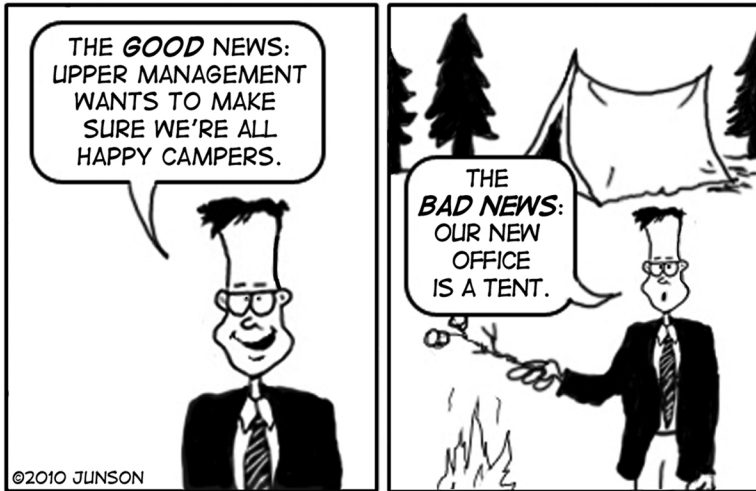
This is also not a book to be read cover to cover rather open the book like you would open a box of chocolates and sample a poem or cartoon. Bite into the cartoon or poem, savor the flavor, and get a small jolt of working nourishment.

We trust you'll enjoy the cartoons and poems, and like any good box of chocolate, feel free to share them or pass them around. You can leave the book on your desk and let someone come by and bite into one of the poems or cartoons.

Remember, these cartoons and poems will melt in your mind not in your hands. They will melt away rigid views of working, stress from an overload of demands, and fixed or inflexible views of working and the workplace.

Go ahead, start reading and take a bite out of work.

## Today At Work...



## Napkin futures

Tabling strategy.

Gel pens drawn  
during fast food lunch  
sparking napkin artistry.

Ink bleeds

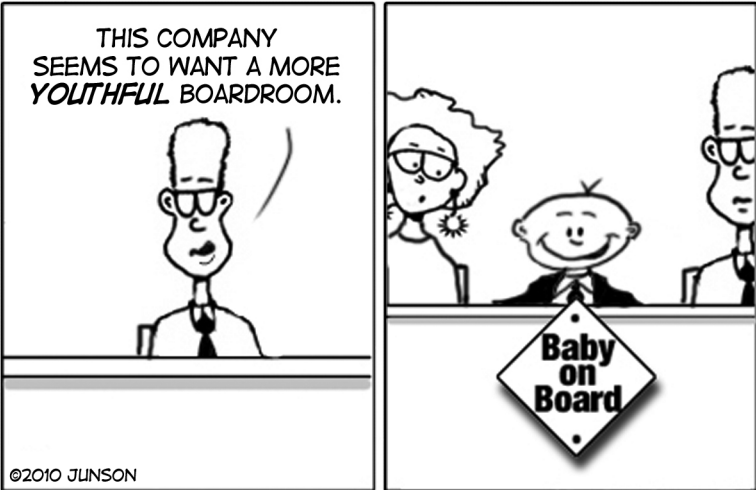
arrows, words, and stick figures  
into thin paper.

Absorbing both  
strategic thinking  
and mustard drips

oozing from the overflowing cheeseburger.

It is going to be a good year.

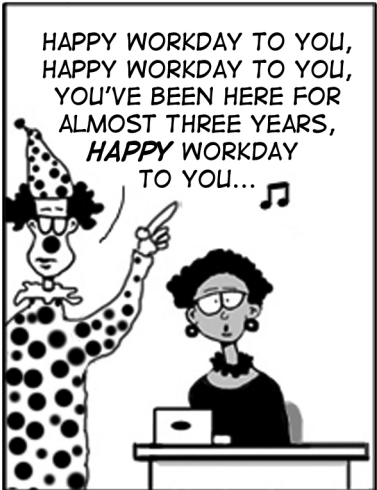
# Today At Work...



## Encountering variance

We respond to variance  
in so many ways  
from ignoring to snapping,  
from bewilderment to befuddlement.  
When we experience variance at work  
let it trigger listening  
let it trigger understanding  
let it trigger learning.  
Our approaches may vary  
yet it is valuable  
to embrace variance  
with full acceptance  
before moving on.

# Today At Work...



## Circling work

I sit  
in a cubicle  
at the bottom  
of the pyramid.  
Distant voices  
cascade down the structure  
cajoling me to  
work harder  
work smarter  
work it out  
keep working.  
I don't long.  
I don't belong.  
I churn out unread reports.  
Pyramids were built  
to house dead people.  
Yet I'm alive.  
I'm here.  
Hear me out.  
Seek me out.  
Let's throw this pyramid a curve  
smoothing sharp edges  
into a circle.  
The circle of connection, healing and work.

# Today At Work...





**David Zinger** is a global employee engagement expert who founded the Employee Engagement Network. David is the author of *Zengage*.

David is a sought after speaker and consultant on engagement who has worked from Winnipeg to Warsaw and Wales. Contact David Zinger at [www.davidzinger.com](http://www.davidzinger.com).



**John Junson** is a web designer, graphic artist, photographer and cartoonist. He is a co-owner of WeatherTec Services, a company that provides weather maps and forecasts for newspapers.

He is the featured resident cartoonist on the Employee Engagement Network. You can see his work at [www.employeeengagement.ning.com](http://www.employeeengagement.ning.com).