



“You know what, D.F.? Things are just so crazy for people right now, what with graduations going on.”

All right, just hold on a second. Graduations? Now granted, I have only one kid – strapping, eight-year-old T.F. Krause. So I’ll only have to deal with a graduation one time in my life. But let’s assume the average person has two or three kids. Let’s also assume that this person’s professional life will extend roughly from the ages of 22 through 65. This means that the average person will have to deal with a graduation maybe three years out of a 43-year career. And every single freaking one of them is dealing with one this year?

Now we move on to summer.

“Where the hell is everyone?”

“Well, D.F., things are pretty crazy for people in the summer, what with vacations and soccer and everything.”

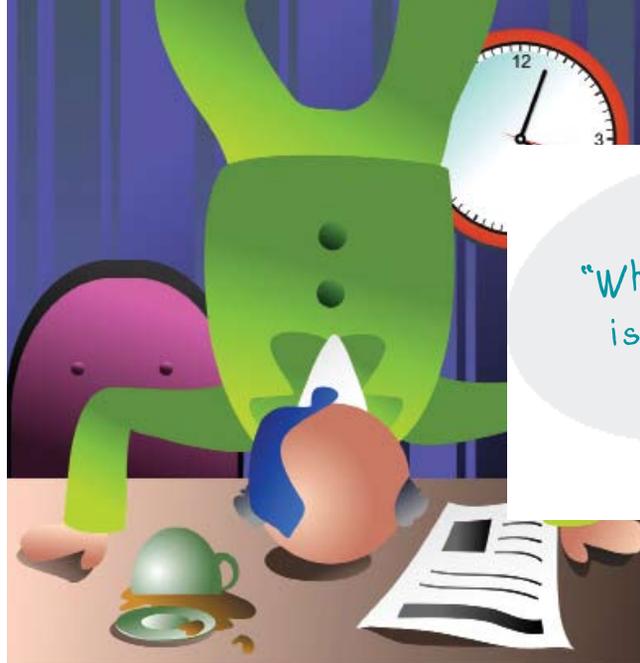
Vacations? Let’s say everyone on Earth gets two weeks of vacation, and let’s say they all take them in the summer. You’re still only gone one-sixth of the summer. This means that if I’m calling you on any given day, I have a five-out-of-six chance at getting you when you’re not on vacation.

And soccer? That’s keeping people from working?

Well, at least it’ll all be over in September. Right?

“You see, D.F., things are really crazy for people, with school starting.”

School starting? That’s when



you’ve got free day care! How is that making you unreachable?

But by late September, even my trend-following friend doesn’t use that excuse anymore, so once again, I can get work done. (I notice that she doesn’t seem to think baseball play-offs will be a problem. They might be for me, were it not for the fact that my phone and laptop go with me everywhere, and why don’t yours?)

But by late October, things are “so crazy for people again” with the onset of “the holidays,” and at this point I have no hope of reaching anyone for any reason until late January.

We often make fun of the French – at least I do – for thinking 30 hours constitutes a work week. But apparently we only work a full week in theory. We may be on a 40-hour

schedule, but because “things are so crazy” for us, we never get a damn thing done.

Anyway, I can’t concentrate right now, what with soccer and everything. Am I involved with soccer? No way. That’s for Euroweenies. But I need an excuse, just like the rest of you do. **N**

*D. F. Krause, a former business journalist, has owned his own small business for more than eight years, handling clients in a wide variety of industries – including banking, real estate, logistics, manufacturing, among numerous others. Lacking patience for much of the jargon used in the business community, D. F. established the “Phrases That Must Be Destroyed” list in his last newsroom, with “Synergistic Alignment” ranking as the all-time most objectionable phrase. D. F. loves capitalism but thinks capitalists have a tendency to act weird.*