

DOONESBURY COPIER
MAGEE/HINES - v1

MR. SELKIRK and MR. DUMONT are standing near a large copy machine in a modern office.

MR. SELKIRK

Yeah, Mr. Dumont, I've checked out the copier inside and out, ran all the tests there's nothing wrong with this machine.

MR. DUMONT

Well, Mr. Selkirk, I don't know what to tell you, it's been making fuzzy copies since you've installed it.

MR. SELKIRK

Well look, I've got three Doonesbury strips right here that I just copied, clean as a whistle. Perfect Black to White, perfect res.

MR. DUMONT

O.K. Well, I guess I'll get to copying these cover sheets.

MR. SELKIRK

Yeah, those might not go through just yet. Give her a something a bit smaller, you know, something like a Doonesbury strip.

MR. DUMONT

Um, OK, like what like these receipts?

MR. SELKIRK

Yeah, those are pretty good. How about something more like, you know, like a Doonesbury strip.

MR. DUMONT

Why, is it still warming up or something?

MR. SELKIRK

(a beat) This machine only copies Doonesbury strips.

MR. DUMONT

What? I need these cover sheets.

MR. SELKIRK

Yeah, I don't know what to tell you, you should go to Kinkos.

MR. DUMONT

You've given me a useless machine.

MR. SELKIRK

Useless? It can copy any Doonesbury strip from any era!

MR. DUMONT

That's useless! I need to copy these fax cover sheets!

MR. SELKIRK

Just put a post-it note on the first page of the fax. Everyone does that now.

MR. DUMONT

Fine! That makes sense! But I have tons of other things, Mr. Selkirk, that I must copy each day! And I've never once had to copy a Doonesbury strip!

MR. SELKIRK

Why not? Not only is Doonesbury hilarious, but it's extremely popular. Tons of people have pinned a Doonesbury strip to their cubicle, or hung one on their fridge at home.

MR. DUMONT

Yeah, that's fine - but that's not what a copier should only do.

MR. SELKIRK

Mr. Dumont, isn't it better to design a machine to do one thing very well than many things poorly?

MR. DUMONT

Good point, but can't I at least photocopy something that's the same the size as a Doonesbury strip?

MR. SELKIRK

Something the same size that's printed on newsprint?

MR. DUMONT

Yes.

MR. SELKIRK

No. Not unless it's Doonesbury. You see, Mr. Dumont, I've calibrated the machine to respond only to Mr. Trudeau's line width and writing style.

MR. DUMONT

Would it work on Garfield?

MR. SELKIRK

Not unless it was a Garfield that was drawn exactly like Doonesbury.

MR. DUMONT

Why did you do this?

MR. SELKIRK

Because of its importance. Did you know that the FBI has a 40-page file on Garry Trudeau? He didn't get that by sitting on his ass. He got that by asking the hard questions, day after day, the type of questions that confront our scandal-ridden society. The type

of questions that many of us would
much rather ignore.

MR. DUMONT

I want a regular copy machine!

MR. SELKIRK

You've got one! A regular
Doonesbury photocopying machine.
Except it doesn't do the Sunday
color ones, and it can't do
anything published before 1983,
because Garry Trudeau had a
lighter writing style then and it
can't read it. Good day, sir.