

The Poster Problem

Confidential Information for Bob

Participants: Linda – bookkeeper
Bob - mechanic

Summary

Linda is the bookkeeper at Car Magic, an auto repair shop. Linda is one of three office employees who work at the shop. Betty is the secretary and appointment person and Donna is the purchasing agent responsible for ordering all the parts and supplies needed. The shop has 10 mechanics and assistants, all male. Gary, the head mechanic, is the owner. Recently Linda has been complaining about the increase in pornographic photos hanging on the hallway walls. Linda feels they are offensive and insulting. The mechanic responsible for the posters, Bob, enjoys the pictures and thinks they are attractive. They cover the walls in the hallways, which leads to the break room where everyone takes breaks and has lunch. The other day Bob hung one in the break room and Linda went to Gary demanding he make Bob take all the posters down. Gary refused to get involved and suggested Linda and Bob try to reach some kind of agreement. The other office employees are also unhappy about the posters and want them down. They want Linda to be their spokesperson and to negotiate on their behalf. The mechanics like the photos and feel they are a part of the garage environment, a tradition of sorts.

Bob

You have been working here for a year longer than Linda. You are tired of Linda's whining about the posters. What is the big deal anyway? If Linda and the other office workers don't want to look at them, they should look the other way. All garages have these posters. The office workers can't dictate everything. They have a right to put up things they like. The women in the office have put up plants in the windows and got Gary to ban smoking in the break room. Linda and the office girls have taken control of the radio station selection just because the sound system is in their office. You and the other mechanics are sick of listening to the boring soft rock station they like. You want to hear some rock and roll. Maybe you would give in a bit if they would. After all, they wouldn't have jobs if it weren't for the mechanics. The mechanics deserve some respect too. Sometimes it feels like the office workers are trying to take over the world.