

Idealists May Threaten Status Quo

By Hap Hansen

Idealists. From time to time one sees them in business meeting situations. Idealists. They are the people who cut across the corporate or community structure and raise the hackles of those who are applying fine sandpaper with the continuing grain of duplicity. Of perceived “teamwork”. The idealist’s sandpaper applied across the grain is labeled as trouble-making. A non-team player. A rogue. A renegade. Not cut out for this sort of work.

Wait a minute. What did that idealist say? I never thought about this problem in that way. Why, I don’t think anybody has ever looked at this problem in that kind of non-community, non-rigid way. That’s nonsense! Or is it? Would that work? Could that work? What would our contemporaries say? Why, we’d have to change or entire community structure. Good heavens! Can we afford to do that? On the other hand, can we afford not to?

What if our residents balked at this simplified, common sense idea? What about the community’s employees? Good grief, they may begin clamoring to institute this radical problem solving idea into our corporate and town policies!

Idealists. Damn then anyway! We don’t have time to rethink this problem in that sort of non-compliance way. Why, we’ve had answers to these kinds of problems for decades. On the other hand, most of these problems have never been fully solved either. They have just lay there and festered. Day after day. Month after month. Year after year.

Shoot! I had an almost identical problem back in 1967. We took care of it then. Didn’t we? Then why did it come back in ’75 and ’89 and again just now? All right. So it wasn’t solved. Well. Ah. Let’s look at this problem from the idealist’s viewpoint. Just this once. But I’m not very comfortable in this position. And don’t let it happen again!

How would that work again? It would? Okay. Let’s do it. But let’s call it a team effort because I don’t want the town board to believe I’m thinking in this way.

Idealists. Every once in a while they cross our paths, cut across the grain, change our world, and then go on, marching in tandem with ideals that few others understand.