

ONDERMIJNING VAN EEN SCHELPECLUB

Hoewel we veel weten over de manier waarop een schelpenclub (of vereniging?) succesvol kan worden 'gerund', is er in de literatuur vrijwel niets te vinden over de kunst van het ondermijnen ervan. Onderstaand een aantal richtlijnen. (Naar Arthur Weil, Hawaiian shell news June, 1988: 'How to destroy a shellclub').

- Never volunteer. There are people in the club who LIKE to do that sort of thing. Your job is to appreciate - nothing more.
- Never pay dues on time. A full year delay should be your goal. When you do pay your dues, wave the check triumphantly overhead so everyone can see what a good guy you are.
- If you feel you have to run for office, run only for President. The President gets his name on the letterhead.
- Form a clique. Get a few people like yourself together and convince yourselves that anything nasty you say is really for the benefit of the club.
- Wait until everyone is ready to leave, then start a discussion on the dues structure.
- If the club has a 'Members-Only' show, bring your seven cases of 'Oysters I Knew and Ate'. Everyone will love the Polaroid snaps that go with it showing you eating an oyster on the Great Wall of China, and eating an oyster only two tables from Don Ho.
- Bring the baby. If you don't have a baby, then borrow one. Don't feed or change him for 10 hours before the meeting, ask Miss Morganstern, who never had any of her own, to watch him while you go out for a smoke, a coke, and a tidying up. When you hear the baby screaming, don't respond. If you can't get a baby, large dogs will do. Be sure that the dogs tail is just high enough to sweep all those little plastic boxes off the display table.
- Everyone likes the smell of a cigar. You do the members a real service if you sit in the center of the room and share the aroma of your fine cigar.
- Be sure you win club Competitions. One way is to buy a thousand dollar shell and enter it under "Self-collected".
- Tell the members how much better they do things in other places. A few anecdotes about your years with your previous malacological society will make members of your present club respect your expertise.
- Never go anywhere without your beeper. Be sure you get beeped several times during the meeting. It will make you seem important. If you don't have a beeper, set your alarm watch to beep during the program.
- If the meeting is at YOUR house, be sure to serve your famous seaweed cookies and keep the radio or TV on during the meeting.

Tot slot (van de redactie:)

- Bezorg uw verenigingsblad vooral geen kopij. Wordt de drang onweerstaanbaar, dan vooral nét na de uiterste inleverdatum, in uw eigen handschrift, zonder Engelse samenvatting en met sterk afwijkende literatuurreferenties. Alleen zó bent u zeker van naamsbekendheid (bij de redactie).
- Een lege agenda in het Cb staat niet alleen mooi, vergrijzing van uw club is meteen verzekerd. Gun andere clubs hun bijeenkomsten op dezelfde datum.
- Houdt interessante literatuur vooral geheim. Hetzelfde geldt voor vindplaatsen en goedkope manieren om aan schelpen of materiaal te komen. Alles onder het motto: 'wat zeldzaam is moet zeldzaam blijven'.