

SECTION III: THE LITTLE PROFESSOR

WHO'S ZOO ON ELECTION DAY?

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On election day it helps to know where man ends and beast begins. Who will head the pack in this rat race? Will the new top dog be lion-hearted, well-bred, and wearing kid gloves, or become the goat who's the butt of jokes in a tale too grizzly to bear? Should you vote for charm and go ape for a cagey swinger? That's monkeying around! It doesn't pay in this race to horse around on election day, at least not furlong.

Who will be your new supervisor? An eager beaver who leaves you dog-tired? A snake in the grass who is always fishing around for fowl play? An egotist who's proud as a peacock but ducks responsibility and causes a flap? Or a real crab who makes you clam up and feel like a jellyfish by always carping, even when you're doing a whale of a job?

Where does the answer lie? Will the wise old owl turn into a quack, or a dumb cluck, or an ostrich? Or maybe into an old buzzard who, prey tell, will make you feel like a worm for working at a snail's pace? Then do you slug him, eat crow, become a chicken, or act sheepish?

Transactional analysis may have the answer. You want the person to do Adult work. Figure 1 illustrates two Parent ego states and two Child ego states to be wary of when selecting the leader of the pack. Instead of Adultheadedness, you could wind up with pigheadedness, bullheadedness, weaselheadedness, or slotheadedness.

Pigheadedness interferes with Adult execution of work through persistent

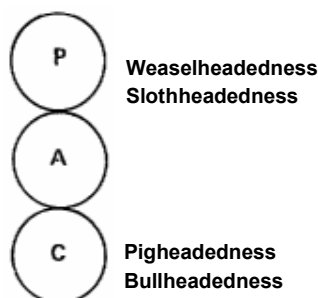


Figure 1.

Parental prejudice and hatred. Blacklisting of unfavored factions, people, and ideas blinds the person to Adult concepts of equality and fairness.

Bullheadedness frustrates fellow workers who consistently offer new Adult ideas that are not heard. Put the status quo on the one-track mind, rally around the flag and don't rock the boat. Better be thick than quick.

Weaselheadedness features the Child thrilled with power and possibilities, working behind the scenes favoring one's friends and pushing self interests. Then a committee finds out. Then Pop becomes the weasel.

Slothheadedness finds the Child taking on more effort than bargained for and looking for ways out. Cover it over with Parent verbosity, very impressive poise, and rebuke the questions. There are lots of ways of dogging it. How can you count up an absence of creative ideas?

The reader is offered the possibility of doing a Zoögram, a modified egogram, on the potential leader of the pack. Do one on

your parents and boss. Figure 2 illustrates a Zoögram on a national political figure who resigned from office.

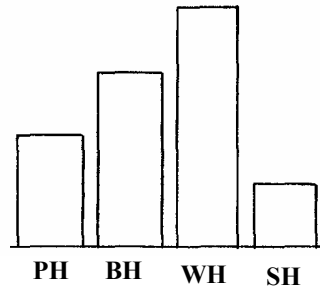


Figure 2. Zoögram

But the zoo story is not over. A reader replies "Don't pigeon-hole the cat who hogs the show" — our animal nature is only human. Don't get buffaloed into badgering a good skate who is more a beast of burden than an ass. But can one be quiet as a mouse when they are mad as a hornet at a sly old fox who's stubborn as a mule and strong as an ox?

Perhaps it is the animal nature of carnivorous critics that bears watching. They ferret out problems in the larval stage and ram them home. They are the wolf at the door hounding the politicians who play

possum. Not taking a bum steer, they buck the system of silence without being cowed. They hang on like barnacles because they are personally bugged and ticked off. They aren't just yakking and parroting back familiar slogans. But some can be a real skunk and dig into private lives which isn't cricket, as in the case of the man who came stag to a party, quickly became a bird-dog, then a wolf over a doe-eyed, raven-haired social butterfly acting kittenish to get puppy-love out of fawning men, which was her pet project (her mother was a shrew and her father a shrimp).

This paper could gopher broke and snipe at the animal nature of doves and hawks, but that would be a mammoth job. The porpoise of the paper is to pony up information and put the bee in the readers ear about the animal nature of politics and power.

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