

Notes on an Imagined Plaque

Roman Mars

Radiotopia

99 Percent Invisible

1 January 2017

Outline

Thesis:

I. Make a Claim...

A. Support It...

1. Explain It...

B. Support It...

1. Explain It...

II.

A.

1.

B.

1.

C.

1.

III.

A.

1.

B.

1.

C.

Roman Mars

99 Percent Invisible

Radiotopia

1 January 2017

Notes on an Imagined Plaque

This is random text for the sake of example. Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy presents a useful and highly amusing case study of organizational behavior issues. It is wildly satirical with humor that applies as much to organizational issues as it does to the political and social send-ups that are more obvious. In particular three characters are the focus of the issues under discussion here. The first of these is the somewhat hapless hero, Arthur Dent, an ordinary, somewhat ineffectual Englishman whose house is about to be torn down to make way for a highway bypass. The second character is Zaphd Beeblebrox, President of the Galaxy. A third character is Slartibartfast, a Magrathian, who is a member of a race which constructs luxury planets for the super-rich in the galaxy, one of which was Earth. All characters in the movie are presented in contrast to Arthur Dent's very unheroic figure.

Several organizational behavior issues are exemplified by these characters in this movie, but the two that this paper focuses on are first, work values, attitudes and moods, and second, perception and attribution. In consideration of the issue of work values, attitudes and moods, Zaphod Beeblebrox and Slartibartfast provide opposing exemplars. In consideration of the issues of perception and attribution, Arthur Dent and Zaphod Beeblebrox again provide opposing exemplars. Finally, looking at the combination of these three characters, and in particular how

Zaphod Beeblebrox interacts with the other two, provides an interesting interaction among these two main organizational issues.

Zaphod Beeblebrox is President of the Galaxy and therefore sets the tone of the organizational structure of the Galaxy. He sets the work values, attitudes and moods for the entire governmental organization. Unfortunately, his example is poor at best. He either does not know or does not care about considering the facets of job satisfaction for anyone except himself. In considering theories of motivation, Maslow's five-level hierarchy of needs (i.e., physiological, security, social, ego, and self-actualization), Herzberg's two-facets theory (motivator and hygiene), and McClelland's trichotomy of needs (i.e., power, affiliation, and achievement) are all violated in various ways by Zaphod (George & Jones, 2004; Fisher, 2009).

Considering the Maslow theory of hierarchies, for example, Zaphod willingly violates the basic level of physiological needs of his subjects by casually signing (in the belief he was merely giving a fan an autograph) the order to destroy the Earth to make way for a hyperspace bypass. He violates the security needs of the Galaxy by kidnapping himself and stealing the Galaxy's only probability-drive spaceship. He violates the social needs of his subjects by isolating Trillian (Trisha McMillan) from the only other surviving Earthman, Arthur Dent—he doesn't want Trillian to discover that he approved of Earth's destruction. He violates the ego needs of virtually everyone around him with his constant demands to be the center of attention. He violates the self-actualization needs of Arthur (not to mention a host of other needs) by willingly handing Arthur over to the transdimensional beings who contracted for the Earth as the supreme ultimate computer (these are of course the white mice); the mice planned to take Arthur's brain in which is imprinted the ultimate answer to the question of life, the universe, and everything.

Works Cited

Adams, Douglas. "Chapters 14, 15-18." "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." 3 Part Series, 2nd Edition, Pan Macmillan, 2009.

Mars, Roman, and Avery Trufelman. "Notes on an Imagined Plaque." *99 Percent Invisible*, <http://99percentinvisible.org/episode/notes-imagined-plaque/>, August 28th 2017.

Rios, Orlando. *The Podcast Book 2017*. 2016.

Duckett, Jon. *JavaScript and JQuery*. John Wiley & Sons, 2014.