

Art Of Spin

To The Editor:

The obtuse chain of letters by Colton Supervisor hopeful Hawley probably has as many of you reeling as much as it does me. Just know you aren't alone! This train of thought (with seemingly no caboose) by Hank Ford's legacy to Colton in the form of Hawley, Kilroy and MacNamara, is proving to define a new evolutionary step in the art of "spin."

Virtually everything being addressed is being done so in the same insolent manner the town government has become notorious for all the way to Albany. But nothing stands out more than the Richard Owens controversy. This isn't brain surgery, gentle reader, it's one example of outright lies. Richard Owens was elected to the Chair of Colton assessors. This is the top seat, the leader as it were; others are elected to a subordinate assessor status. Richard was fired from the Chair and appointed to the lesser position. MacNamara was then appointed to the Chair and given a hefty pay increase. Owens then resigned from the LOWER position, (who wouldn't after that kind of rotten treatment?) the one he was unfairly and illegally appointed to...not the one to which he was officially elected. This appointed position is the one that the letter of resignation on file refers to which Miss Kilroy would have you examine. Put all the spin on that one you want...it still spells illegal firing from his elected position! The overwhelming will of the people in petitioning the board to reinstate Owens was just plain ignored. A personal observation is that while a proper town lawyer would have seen the illegality of this all, the town's lawyer was (and still is to my knowledge) Hank Ford's personal lawyer. Coincident? The conflict of interests will never end! If this is

an example of how the majority in Colton desire things to continue to be done as pseudo government, then I suppose we deserve Ford running the town by proxy, as Hawley and the cultists of Ford all want things maintained as Hank did them.

The other issue which I seriously wonder about is this: Is there one person alive still so blind as to not see through the lies that are still being circulated about the caterpillar spraying? The issue was never about whether or not to spray, but rather all in timing. It's critical to spray within a given window or the caterpillars will not be killed and tax dollars flushed down the toilet. Mary Rutley fought long and hard to educate the board about this issue and only received outright contempt for her efforts! The board in all their wisdom wanted to spray when it would have done no good, spraying could have been done in mid winter for all they knew about the life cycle of tent caterpillars! Finally it seems someone listened to Mary as this last summer saw a dramatic decrease in the caterpillars. And some who still haven't a clue as to tent caterpillars are taking all the credit for getting the spraying done. Well, here's a side bar to extend a big thank you to Mary Rutley for all the hard work: from the more fair minded people in town. How you remain silent when others are taking credit for all your work is beyond me! We love ya!

It certainly defies logic how Ford's legacy wants to keep wasting tax dollars and treat the average citizen as a joke. I applaud Swafford and his team for their dignity and honor in not stooping to the level of so many of the letters we've recently seen in the paper. A virtue which is a standard I personally aspire to one day possess!

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