

- Concentration on a narrow program sector or 'one shot' major event. This may be due to the dominant personality of a chairman who favors a certain type of activity or exchange to the exclusion of all others. This kind of attitude kills enthusiasm, engenders an attitude of: 'it's his show, let him run it', and antagonizes fellow committee members as well as the community leaders whose support is essential to the program.

A sin in the opposite direction could be summarized as 'biting off more than you can chew.' This might involve having several Sister Cities with none of them active, or organizing a charter flight and then cancelling out after hospitality arrangements have been made by your friends abroad. Very occasionally affiliation is piled on affiliation to provide for tax-exempt trips with red carpet treatment abroad but no serious intention to engage in the nitty gritty details of continuing exchanges on the return home.

- Exclusiveness as occasionally encountered when the committee is made up of the town's social set and run accordingly. Membership by the 'man on the street', by non-professionals and members of minority groups is not encouraged.
- The one-shot approach that leaves everyone exhausted. Available energies and resources are drained off by a lavish single project of limited appeal, such as an expensive statue, or by a sumptuous reception given to representatives of the Sister City on their first visit. Sometimes committees and communities get absorbed in one-upmanship in escalating the size and value of municipal presentations such as monuments, buildings, bell towers, etc.
- A breakdown in communications resulting from inadequate contacts in the Sister City. If program activities depend on just one or two correspondents in each city, any delay or unanswered letter can cause a major problem. Remember that committees need multiple contacts at all levels in the Sister City.
- Misguided people, such as a well-meaning volunteer starting a project on his own without discussion and concurrence by the committee. This can lead to crossed wires and embarrassment all around when the foreign committee for instance queries about two conflicting invitations. Unfortunately in some cases, the role of goodwill ambassadors has occasionally been turned to personal advantage.