Ostracism at Work

Being voted off the island? Don’t ignore it

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The Way We Are

Alphonse Donohue looked uneasily over his shoulder. He was seated in a smartly appointed lunchroom, which was filled with students wearing sport shirts and jeans. After a rainy day of classes, the students were milling about, animatedly conversing and laughing. Donohue, on the other hand, was numbly replaying the scene that had just unfolded in front of him.

Donohue’s professor had just informed the class that they would be voting on who would remain in the class. The professor went on to explain that everyone could vote for anyone in the class, but that the students would not be allowed to participate. The professor then asked the students to vote, and Donohue watched as his name was called last.

Donohue was devastated. He had been looking forward to the class, and had been actively participating in the discussions. He had never been voted off the island before, and he didn’t know what to do.

“Don’t worry, Donohue,” one of his classmates called out to him. “You’ll be fine. You’ll be fine.”

Donohue looked up, and saw his classmates looking at him sympathetically. He realized that they were trying to comfort him.

“I know it’s tough,” his classmate continued. “But you’re not alone. We’re all here for you.”

The professor returned to the front of the room, and announced that the votes had been tabulated. The students would remain in the class, and they would continue with the course.

Donohue nodded, feeling relieved.

He was grateful for his classmates’ support, and knew that he would be fine. He also knew that he would never forget the experience, and would always be mindful of the importance of community and support in his work.

Donohue’s professor then went on to explain that the students had been voted on based on their contributions to the class. Donohue realized that he had not been as active as he had hoped, and vowed to be more engaged in the future.

As the professor continued, Donohue’s thoughts returned to the votes being tabulated. He realized that he had never truly understood the power of community, and vowed to be more aware of the importance of supporting each other in the future.

The professor then announced that the class would continue with the course, and Donohue felt relieved.

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