

Twelve wonderful quotes for rejecting what turned out to be great ideas

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I am very frustrated, and yes, often downright annoyed by the times I see ideas with great potential rejected in so many organisations.

I believe the best ideas most often come from those close to frontline issues and that organisations led by senior management that in effect reject all ideas but their own are losing out on the huge pool of better ways of doing things that are found way down the 'lowerarchy'.

Below is a summary of with hindsight, stupid rejections of ideas and talent.

I offer these in the hope that it gives heart to those with aspirations for organisational effectiveness beyond current practice:

12 rejections of not so crazy ideas

1. "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."
Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943.
2. "There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."
Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977.
3. "This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us."
Western Union internal memo, 1876.
4. "The Americans have need of the telephone, but we do not. We have plenty of messenger boys."
Sir William Preece, chief engineer of the British Post Office, 1876.
5. "While theoretically and technically television may be feasible, commercially and financially it is an impossibility."
Lee DeForest, inventor.
6. "Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?"
H. M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927.
7. "I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper."
Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in "Gone With the Wind."
8. "We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out."
Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.
9. "Radio has no future. Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible. X-rays will prove to be a hoax."
William Thomson, Lord Kelvin, British scientist, 1899.
10. "If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this."
Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives for 3-M "Post-It" Notepads.
11. "Airplanes are interesting toys but of no military value."
Marechal Ferdinand Foch, Professor of Strategy, Ecole Supérieure de Guerre 1911.

12. "Louis Pasteur's theory of germs is ridiculous fiction."
Pierre Pacht, Professor of Physiology at Toulouse, 1872.

Keeping this practical, and in the hope that you will find this of use, here are twelve strong quotes around creativity that may provide the inspiration for persisting with what turns out to be innovative ways of doing things better in the workplace.

12 wise thoughts around creativity

1. "If you have always done it that way, it is probably wrong." *Charles Kettering*
2. "There's no good idea that cannot be improved on." *Michael Eisner*
3. "We don't know a millionth of one percent about anything." *Thomas Edison*
4. "If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail." *Abraham Maslow*
5. "No idea is so outlandish that it should not be considered." *Winston Churchill*
6. "Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." *General George Patton*
7. "The chief enemy of creativity is 'good sense' ". *Pablo Picasso*
8. "Stay away from negative people – they have a problem for every solution" *Source unknown*
9. "Anyone who has not made a mistake has not tried anything new" *Albert Einstein*
10. "Creativity is intelligence having fun" *Albert Einstein*
11. "Everyone is a genius, but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live it's whole life believing that it is stupid" *Albert Einstein*
12. "You can't solve a problem on the same level that it was created. You have to rise above it to the next level." *Albert Einstein*

There is little I can add to strengthen these thoughts.

If organisation development is to be a reality, then I would like to see a far greater welcome given to anyone who has suggestions for improving practice.

Those of us that work to create better functioning organisations need an environment that encourages new and improved processes and procedures.

We want to see senior leaders that know they don't have all the answers, and that genuinely involve those wherever they are by function or seniority that have the best ideas.

Pass these lists around and see what reaction you get – it might be rather informative!