

The Value of Unity

The May 1987 edition of "National Geographic" included a feature about the arctic wolf. Author L. David Mech described how a seven-member pack had targeted several musk-oxen calves who were guarded by 11 adults.

As the wolves approached their quarry, the musk-oxen bunched in an impenetrable semi-circle, their deadly rear hooves facing out, and the calves remained safe during a long standoff with the enemy.

But after awhile, a single ox broke rank, and the herd scattered into nervous little groups. A skirmish ensued, and the adults finally fled in panic, leaving the calves to the mercy of the predators. Not a single calf survived.

The lesson is obvious. Unity is all-important -- for success and survival -- in any organization, whether it be a church, a business, a skilled nursing center, an assisted living facility or an independent living building. Accord and teamwork are imperative in human relations, and absolutely essential in the delivery of service to the customer. When just one individual breaks rank, then the others suffer.

--Beecher Hunter