**第三届全国青年创新翻译大赛**

**C组——英译中【原文】**

Sometimes simmering workplace feuds can bubble along under the surface. You know they are there, because of a sense of unspoken tension between two or more people who work together. But often such low-level tensions are ignored in the interest of keeping the peace. In some cases, such feuds start off being one sided, when one person is offended by or simply doesn’t like another employee and shows this in subtle ways. Some common methods include quiet put-downs; indirect insults; or passive-aggressive tactics, such as agreeing to take on certain responsibilities for a joint assignment and not doing them properly or at all, so the disliked person ends up looking bad. As such guerrilla hostilities continue, the victim is likely to strike back, perhaps by some undercover action, too. An unspoken feud can easily escalate and heat up, creating a truly steamy brew that can explode and spread to others.

That’s what happened to Betty, an office manager who handled program planning at a health service. She wasn’t sure exactly how the problem started, but she noticed that the administrative assistant, Allison, who was supposed to help coordinate her meetings and training, seemed to have some kind of gripe against her. Betty felt this way because of how Allison reacted on numerous occasions. Allison repeatedly sounded annoyed when Betty asked her to provide the material she needed for a presentation. Allison made several easily avoidable mistakes in getting requested equipment. At meetings, Allison offered subtle put-downs, suggesting Betty wasn’t competent, with remarks such as: “Didn’t you hear me when I told you three times?”

At first, Betty attributed Allison’s actions to her simply having a bad day. But as the actions added up, Betty saw a pattern, as if she were the target of an office sniper. For instance, once Betty needed a laptop computer and projector for a PowerPoint presentation. When Betty made her request, Allison sounded hesitant, at which point Betty offered to go directly to the equipment department. Allison quickly responded defensively, “No, don’t do it. I’ll take care of it,” as if Betty was threatening to usurp her authority in taking care of getting the equipment herself. Then at the meeting, though Allison brought the equipment, she hadn’t learned how to set it up, and when Betty offered to try to do so, Allison refused to let her try if she hadn’t done this before. “I'm responsible for the equipment,” she said. The result was that Betty couldn’t use the equipment for her training program. Another time, Betty didn’t hear what Allison said at a meeting, and when Betty asked Allison to repeat it, Allison jumped on her, accusing her of being rude for not listening.

The culminating incident came a few weeks later, at the end of a meeting. Betty was uncertain about what another employee’s responsibilities were after the woman resigned from a position, and a new person agreed to take over some of her responsibilities. But it wasn’t clear to Betty who was doing what now, and when she asked for clarification, Allison snapped at her, “Oh, weren’t you at that meeting?” Though Betty let the remark pass without an immediate response, she was clearly hurt, and as she added up the dozens of remarks and actions by Allison over the last two months, she felt something was clearly wrong. But she wasn’t sure what the problem was and wasn’t sure what to do. Continue to ignore such behavior and hope for the best? Confront Allison privately to bring her motivation out in the open? Raise the problem for discussion at a meeting where she might gain support? Fight back covertly to put Allison on notice that she wasn't going to take her rude insults and actions anymore? Or what?