

Weekly Message Weekly Message



Greetings to each of you,

I have to offer my heartfelt thanks to all of the people who have poured out their hearts, prayers and pocket books to help our friends in Louisiana and Mississippi, who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina. It continues to amaze all of us with the incredible devastation to the Gulf Coast area that was affected. The pictures, I am quite sure, do not tell every detail of the story, but the photos have made this natural disaster a real one for all of us. Being a true Texan and offering our hands to our friends, we have been so fortunate to be able to offer help to many of the citizens of Louisiana, our next door neighbors. Last Thursday, CR and our two sons headed for the Astrodome with over 3,000 t-shirts to issue to the people there. It was only a small glimpse into the larger picture of things. If you or your group would like to contribute to help others in the coming months, you can go to

<http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm/bay/content.view/catid/68/cpid/310.htm> and find the many official charities that will support the relief efforts.



On Thursday morning, I sent an e-mail to our American Staff to send school supplies for children entering new schools around Texas and Louisiana. The boxes just keep arriving every day. I sent the e-mail to many business friends and they have responded immediately with both supplies and money to buy more supplies. Many thanks goes to the following companies for their generosity for this project:

- Tote Unlimited** 1,000 backpacks for school supplies
- ATS Tours and Travel** monetary donation for school supplies
- Happy Feet Boots** monetary donation for school supplies
- Champion Tours** monetary donation for school supplies
- Doughmakers** school supplies
- Debbie Nordstrom** monetary donation for school supplies
- Southwest Sportswear** clothing and toiletries
- Many of our friends and neighbors** monetary donations for school supplies
- American Dance/Drill Team Staff** school supplies

We have been on the phone each day since last week organizing school districts around the two state area that are in need of supplies. Again, many thanks for the generosity of so many.

Here are some thoughts for the day:

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“Inspirations never go in for long engagements; they demand immediate marriage to action.”

Brendan Francis (1923-1964) playwright
.....

**“It’s not the difference between people that is the difficulty.
It’s the indifference.”**
author unknown
.....

“Originality is just a pair of fresh eyes.”
Thomas Wentworth Higginson (1823-1911) clergyman and writer
.....

**“It doesn’t matter how new an idea is;
what matters is how new it becomes.”**
Elias Canetti, writer and philosopher
.....

“There is only one journey. Going inside yourself.”
Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926) poet
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It is important that all of us understand what is real in day to day life. Sometimes, we are confused as to the values that each portion of our life holds; what is important and what is not. Below is a passage on *Real Life* that was written by Charles Sykes. It is a lesson in reality for each of us and has some great values for students through adults. Take time to read it through and pass it along to someone else that could use it today.

May God bless all of the victims of Hurricane Katrina and help them find a new life that will lead them in a direction that will give them great hope. Each of you have a good week, value your friends and each day in your life that allows you so many little conveniences, and please, *keep in touch*.

Sincerely,
Joyce E. Pennington, Pres. CEO
American Dance/Drill Team
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800/462-5719



Welcome to Real Life

Charles Sykes is the author of *DUMBING DOWN OUR KIDS*. He volunteered for high school and college graduates a list of things he did not learn in school. In his book, he talks about how the liberal, feel-good, politically correct garbage has created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and set them up for failure in the real world.

Rule 1 -- Life is not fair; get used to it.

Rule 2 -- The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3 -- You will not make 100 thousand dollars a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice president with an expense account until you *earn* both.

Rule 4 -- If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss. He doesn't have tenure.

Rule 5 -- Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger-flipping; they called it opportunity.

Rule 6 -- If you screw up, it's not your parents' fault so don't whine about your mistakes. Learn from them.

Rule 7 -- Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way paying your bills, cleaning your room, and listening to you tell them how idealistic you are. So before you save the rain forest from the blood-sucking parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8 -- Your school may have done away with winners and losers but life has not. In some schools they have abolished failing grades, they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This, of course, bears not the slightest resemblance to anything in real life.

Rule 9 -- Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off, and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10 -- Television is not real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11 -- Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.