



American Weekly Inspiration

Thoughts for today and every day:

“We can’t rely on anyone but ourselves to define our existence, to shape the image of ourselves.”

Spike Lee, filmmaker

“Creativity can be described as letting go of certainties.”

Gail Sheehy, journalist and author

“Being a team member is vital; develop compassion and wisdom when dealing with others.”

Edward E. Crutchfield, business executive

“Making the most of other people’s strengths and the least of their weaknesses, is a surefire formula for a successful leader.” author unknown

American Update:

The Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade™ is just a few weeks away and we will, once again, be in New York City with the Mike Miller Dance Team featured in the parade. Their costumes will be bright colors with a latin style flair and the group will be featured on NBC, so make sure to check your local listings. This year will honor the memory of Mike Miller, who passed away in 2007, shortly after Thanksgiving weekend. He was an icon in our industry and will be remembered fondly for his generosity and contributions to the dance/drill team world.

We are excited to be partnering again with the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes for their Christmas Spectacular tour that will bring them to Houston and Austin this year with an

arena style venue that will truly be 'spectacular!' If you are interested in getting a 10% discount on the performances in Texas, visit their web site at <http://www.radiocitychristmas.com/nationaltour.html> Scroll down the page to the Texas venue and click on the city in which you would like to attend. Click "Individual Tickets" and use the code word KICKS when purchasing the tickets at a discount. It will be a great opportunity for your dance team or family to attend over the Christmas holidays.

Make sure to visit our web site and view photos from past American National/International Championships by linking from the Contest Season page. See photos of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, Dallas Mavericks Dancers, as well as teams from Australia, Japan and South Africa. www.DanceADTS.com/contests/contestpics.htm

For those of you that have considered competing at our Galveston Island Festival, you will be happy to know that Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center are back up and running after Hurricane Ike. Both Moody Gardens and the city of Galveston are most excited about our event in that we will all be helping to support the return of business to the island. To see more about Moody Gardens, visit www.moodygardens.com.

Inspiration of the Week:

ACHIEVING YOUR DREAMS by Jim Rohn

While most people spend most of their lives struggling to earn a living, a much smaller number seem to have everything going their way. Instead of just earning a living, the smaller group is busily working at building and enjoying a fortune. Everything just seems to work out for them. And here sits the much larger group, wondering how life can be so unfair, so complicated and unjust. What's the major difference between the little group with so much and the larger group with so little?

Despite all of the factors that affect our lives - like the kind of parents we have, the schools we attended, the part of the country we grew up in - none has as much potential power for affecting our futures as our ability to dream. Dreams are a projection of the kind of life you want to lead. Dreams can drive you. Dreams can make you skip over obstacles. When you allow your dreams to pull you, they unleash a creative force that can

overpower any obstacle in your path.

To unleash this power, though, your dreams must be well defined. A fuzzy future has little pulling power. Well-defined dreams are not fuzzy. Wishes are fuzzy. To really achieve your dreams, to really have your future plans pull you forward, your dreams must be vivid.

If you've ever hiked a fourteen thousand-foot peak in the Rocky Mountains, one thought has surely come to mind "How did the settlers of this country do it?" How did they get from the East Coast to the West Coast? Carrying one day's supply of food and water is hard enough. Can you imagine hauling all of your worldly goods with you . . . mile after mile, day after day, month after month? These people had big dreams.

They had ambition. They didn't focus on the hardship of getting up the mountain. In their minds, they were already on the other side - their bodies just hadn't gotten them there yet! Despite all of their pains and struggles, all of the births and deaths along the way, those who made it to the other side had a single vision: to reach the land of continuous sunshine and extraordinary wealth. To start over where anything and everything was possible. Their dreams were stronger than the obstacles in their way.

You've got to be a dreamer. You've got to envision the future. You've got to see California while you're climbing fourteen thousand-foot peaks. You've got to see the finish line while you're running the race. You've got to hear the cheers when you're in the middle of a monster project. And you've got to be willing to put yourself through the paces of doing the uncomfortable until it becomes comfortable. Because that's how you realize your dreams.

To Your Success,
Jim Rohn

This weekly message is generated from:
Joyce Pennington, Pres. CEO
American Dance/Drill Team®
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