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Rizezine

Volume 1 No. 2

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS!

THOUGH NOTHING CAN BRING BACK THE HOUR OF SPLENDOR IN THE GRASS, OF GLORY IN THE FLOWER... WE WILL GRIEVE NOT, RATHER FIND STRENGTH IN WHAT REMAINS BEHIND.

THE WORDS OF WILLIAM WORDSWORTH CELEBRATED IN THE 1961 MOVIE OF THE SAME TITLE STARRING NATALIE WOOD AND INTRODUCING WARREN BEATTY, RING TRUE TODAY FOR US.

IT'S IS APPROPRIATE TO CELEBRATE A HIGH SCHOOL REUNION BECAUSE 20, 30 OR 40 YEARS IS A LANDMARK. WE HAVE THE FOND MEMORIES OF OUR FAVORITE ATHLETE SETTING A STATE RECORD WHILE WINNING THE HIGH JUMP AT THE STATE TRACK MEET. WE REMEMBER AN EXTREMELY FUNNY SKIT AT THE ALL SCHOOL SHOW.

REMEMBER DRESS-UP GIRL, OH YOU GIRLS KNOW YOU DIDN'T LIKE HER BECAUSE SHE DRESSED SO SHARP, WEARING HIGH HEELS TO SCHOOL. AND THE BOY WITH THAT CANDY APPLE RED CHEVROLET CONVERTIBLE, ALL THE GIRLS WANTED TO RIDE IN THAT CAR WITH HIM...I HATED HIM! NOW THAT I MENTION IT, I REMEMBER OUR BASKETBALL STAR, THAT LEFT-HANDED DUNK IN BASKETBALL THAT PUT HIM ON THE COVER PAGE IN THE SPORTS SECTION OF THE NEWSPAPER. I HATED HIM, TOO! I WONDER IF COACH JOE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT. HE CUT ME FROM THE SOPHOMORE BASKETBALL TEAM, JUST BECAUSE I NEVER SAW A SHOT I DIDN'T LIKE. AND LATER THAT YEAR HE CUT ME FROM THE BASEBALL TEAM. WHO KNOWS, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN A STAR. I WOULD HAVE LEARNED HOW TO HIT A CURVE BALL! I KNOW I HAVE DISAPPOINTED OUR COLLEGE COUNSELOR, HE TOLD ME THAT I WAS QUALIFIED TO BE A FRY COOK OR A PORTER ON A TRAIN. I KNOW HE'S UPSET WITH ME. TO HIM, I GUESS I'M A FAILURE. TOO BAD I NEVER SAW HIM WHEN I WAS SITTING AS A JUDGE IN TRAFFIC COURT.

REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, THE ICE MAN USE TO DRIVE DOWN THE ALLEY DELIVERING ICE FOR THE ICE BOX. YOU REMEMBER! REMEMBER THE VEGETABLE MAN WOULD DRIVE HIS CART SELLING VEGETABLES. YOU REMEMBER! REMEMBER THE COAL TRUCK THAT WOULD DRIVE UP TO DELIVER THE COAL DOWN THE CHUTE TO YOUR BASEMENT FURNACE. YOU REMEMBER! WE DIDN'T THINK THEN THAT WE WOULD HAVE FROZEN VEGETABLES, GAS FURNACES AND ICEMAKERS IN OUR REFRIGERATOR.

WE SAY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS WERE THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

MOST OF WHAT I REMEMBER ENJOYING IN SCHOOL HAPPENED BEFORE SCHOOL, BETWEEN CLASSES, AFTER SCHOOL AND AT NIGHT... ESPECIALLY AT THOSE PARTIES AT NIGHT.

REMEMBER THE COASTERS SINGING “YAKETY YAK” DON’T TALK BACK. WE DANCED TO MAJOR LANCE'S SONG “THE PONY”. THEN IT ALL ENDED WHEN WE GOT MARRIED AND FOUND OUT THAT WE MARRIED OUR SPOUSE’S WHOLE FAMILY. WE MARRIED THE SLURPING UNCLE AND THE SNUFF-DIPPING AUNT. THE NEPHEW WHO CAN’T TIE HIS SHOES AT 17 AND THE BROTHER-IN-LAW WHO IS STILL WORKING ON HIS BACHELOR’S DEGREE AT 36; THEY ARE OUR FAMILY MEMBERS NOW.

WHAT ABOUT OUR DREAMS? HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED OUR DREAMS? ARE YOU THE PERSON YOU WANTED TO BECOME? DID YOU BECOME THAT DENTIST! WHAT WERE YOUR FEARS? HAVE YOU OVERCOME THOSE FEARS NOW? OR DO YOU STILL SLEEP WITH THE LIGHT ON! IT’S NOT TOO LATE! THE LATEST STATISTICS SHOW THE AVERAGE BABY BOOMER WILL LIVE TO BE 78 YEARS OLD. WE HAVE ABOUT THIRTY YEARS TO EITHER REACH OUR DREAMS OR WALLOW IN FEAR. IT’S UP TO US. WE HAVE THE POWER TO ACHIEVE OUR DREAMS!

WE TOOK RISKS, STRETCHED OURSELVES TO THE LIMITS OF ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT. WE WERE SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS. THAT’S THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH OUR CAREERS HAVE BEEN BUILT. WE’RE NOT FINISHED YET. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO SURRENDER BECAUSE IN THE END IT’S ABOUT OUR DREAMS. OUR DREAMS ARE STILL THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE. AS A GRADUATION SPEAKER 40 YEARS AGO, I QUOTED A POEM BY LANGSTON HUGHES, THAT FAMOUS HARLEM RENAISSANCE POET, WHO SAID:

***“HOLD FAST TO DREAMS, FOR WHEN DREAMS DIE, LIFE IS A
BROKEN-WINGED BIRD THAT CANNOT FLY;***

***HOLD FAST TO DREAMS, FOR WHEN DREAMS GO, LIFE IS A
BARREN FIELD FROZEN WITH SNOW.”***

HAVE YOU FULFILLED ALL YOUR DREAMS? IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO REACH FOR THAT STAR THAT ELUDED YOU FOR THESE PAST TWENTY, THIRTY OR FORTY YEARS. WE CAN MAKE CHANGES IN OUR LIFE TODAY THAT WILL CAPTURE THOSE DREAMS WE HAD WHEN WE WERE 18.

WE HAVE LEARNED THE SECRET TO LIFE, KNOWING THAT YOU ARE NOT FINISHED UNTIL YOU’RE THROUGH!

***THOUGH NOTHING CAN BRING BACK THE HOUR OF SPLENDOR IN
THE GRASS, OF GLORY IN THE FLOWER...WE WILL GRIEVE NOT,
RATHER FIND STRENGTH IN WHAT REMAINS BEHIND.***

THE STRENGTH TO FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS!

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■ **Please Rise** ■

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