Planning

**Plans come to me, but I never decide on my movements until I have let the matter rest without argument. I take it into the silence and lay my plan before Infinite Intelligence. The inner conviction will come. Follow it. Do not argue. Trust. Maintain the quiet, trustful attitude. Eliminate the personal wish. Do not be afraid to follow the inner conviction. There is the guiding voice in every experience. *(Dr. Nona L. Brooks, In the Light of Healing)***

**Hagar: “Experts say you should wake up each morning with a definite plan for the day! Today my plan is to go back to bed.” *(Chris Browne, in Hagar the Horrible comic strip)***

**Announcement in the weekly journal “Planning”: “We are sorry that the Planning Directory has so far not appeared. This is because it is considerably bigger than originally anticipated and is taking longer to print.” *(The Daily Telegraph, London)***

**Plans are worthless, but planning is everything. *(Dwight D. Eisenhower)***

**If you are planning for a year, sow rice. . . .**

**If you are planning for a decade, plant trees. . . .**

**If you are planning for a lifetime, educate a person. . . . *(Chinese proverb)***

**In a recent flyer sent to members of an ISU retirees group, the announcement was made that the next meeting’s featured speaker would talk about pre-planning one’s funeral – “no reservations required.” Members say they found that especially appropriate. *(Bill Flick, 1997)***

**Joseph Baerman Strauss was the man who designed and created this triumph of engineering. The Golden Gate Bridge had taken thirteen years to plan and four years to build. *(Caroline Arnold, in Highlights for Children)***

**Charles Lindbergh understood souvenir hunters. He carefully planned his own death. According to historical footnotes, he decreed: no cremation, no autopsy, no embalming, and on his remains no shoes, no belt buckle, no metal detectable by finders. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men’s blood. *(Daniel Burnham, architect)***

**Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned. *(Peter Marshall)***

**As more and more students seek out the secrets of the perfect pizza, the Neapolitans are planning a “Pizza University,” with intensive on-the-job training at Naple’s historic pizzerias. The classes will cover such topics as the history of pizza, flour mixtures, doughball manipulation and wood-oven technology. “Studying to be a doctor is easy compared with learning how to make pizza,” Ernesto Cacialli boasts with a grin. It takes at least 10 years to become a master pizzaiuolo, he explains, for you must climb up the ladder from dishwasher to dough maker and then oven hand. *(Christopher Matthews, in Reader’s Digest)***

**During the Denver Broncos’ 1996 season, we built more character and strength than even I could bear. In our opening playoff game, following a 13-3 record and what was then the best regular season in franchise history, Jacksonville beat us 30-27 in Denver. It was one of the biggest upsets in NFL playoff history. The Jaguars, an expansion team, were only in their second year of existence. We didn’t take them as seriously as we should have, and we paid dearly for it. Throughout the off-season, I reviewed our preparation the week prior to that Jacksonville game. The way I had addressed the team, the way we had designed our game plan and the manner in which we had implemented it. No matter how many times I broke it down, my realization was the same: I did not prepare the team as well as I should have. We did not approach the game with the sense of urgency you need to win. Period. At the start of the next season’s playoffs, we vented a year’s worth of rage during our opening round 42-17 playoff win over Jacksonville. That began our journey to our first Super Bowl victory. *(Mike Shanahan with Adam Schefter, in Enterpreneur magazine)***

**Start planning before you think you should. *(Martha Stewart)***

**When you ask a person to do a job for you, first be sure you’re clear in your own mind what it is you want. If you’re fuzzy about the main objective, the chances are the other person will be too. Leaders who haven’t thought out what they want are like the man who went to an architect and asked him to design a house. When the architect asked him what kind of house he had in mind, the man didn’t know. Even after the architect had shown him dozens of plans and had questioned him for hours, he was still unable to say what it was he wanted. “Can’t you give me some idea?” pleaded the architect. “Well --” replied the fellow hesitantly, “all I know is I want it to go with an antique doorknob I picked up in Europe last summer, and I haven’t seen anything yet that goes with it.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**In preparation for a town-planning project, a member of a survey team knocked on a door and said to the woman who opened it, “I represent the planning board. . . .” Before the caller could get any further, the housewife interrupted. “That’s wonderful,” she enthused. “What with the population explosion, we certainly need planning. When my husband and I got married, we planned our family – a boy and a girl.” “But I’m not in people planning,” the survey-taker stammered. “I’m in town planning. However, one of my questions is, ‘How many children have you?’ So I’ll put down two. Right?” “Wrong,” said the lady of the house. “Put down seven. That’s the trouble with planning. We’re still waiting for the girl.” *(Charles Pearson, in Albany, N.Y. Knickerbocker News)***

**Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth. *(Mike Tyson)***

**A British woman has spent six months planning her wedding down to the tiniest detail, despite not having found anyone to marry. Rearna Ackord, 22, tells the London Sun that she has already picked out a church for the ceremony, a $1,700 bridal gown, the menu for the reception, and even the music for her walk down the aisle – if she ever finds a groom. “Every girl grows up dreaming of their wedding day,” says Ackord. “I’m just taking it one step further than most and making those dreams a reality.” *(The Week magazine, April 6, 2012)***

**Statisticians report couples married in January, February and March wind up with the highest divorce rates. A matrimonial counselor suggests that’s because winter marriages are least likely to have been planned in advance. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***