**Rejection Is Protection**

**John’s father wanted him to be a sailor; John just wanted to watch birds build nests, feed their young, or perch on a limb to sing. He spent hours roaming the countryside and filled the rooms of his house with drawings of Phoebes, Peewits, Orioles, and Cardinals. But when he met Lucy his father said, “You’ve got to get into business. You can’t support a wife by drawing pictures of birds.” So John started merchandising in Kentucky. It was winter when he arrived and only a few birds were around, so John stuck to the business, made some money, and married Lucy. But when spring came, he’d leave the store, sometimes for days, wading through marshes, swimming the river, roaming wherever birdcalls could be heard. In short order the business failed and John was jailed. Finally his creditors settled the debts by taking everything John had, except his bird pictures which they considered worthless. Lucy encouraged him to keep drawing, and in 1837 his pictures titled Birds of America were published. Some people call him a scientist because his pictures are so exact; and because he depicted so many species, he’s called an ornithologist. But most of all he’s remembered, because the people who watch birds today call their society by his name, John James Audubon. (Derric Johnson, in The Wonder of America, p. 92)**

**Daniel Boone eagerly volunteered to serve with the U.S. forces in the War of 1812, but was turned down. He was 78. (L. M. Boyd)**

**New Yorkers should be glad they “lost” the 2012 Summer Olympics to London, said Michael Ozanian in Forbes.com. Questions of pride and vanity notwithstanding, history suggests that the financial burden of hosting the Olympics often trumps any glory or short-term surge in tourism. “A look at other publicly financed Olympics shows what a debacle they usually are for taxpayers.” Greece spent $14 billion on its 2004 Summer Games; now it’s struggling with huge budget deficits and a lot of unused facilities. In Barcelona, which hosted the 1992 Summer Games, studies indicate that paying off the debt used to finance the Games has pushed up inflation and hurt the poor and middle class. Taxpayers in Montreal are still paying for the gaping budget deficit that is the legacy of its 1976 Games. When the Olympics comes to town, in fact, the only winners are the businesses that profit during the Games, along with the politicians who “curry favor” from them. “New York politicians squandered a whole lot of time and effort campaigning for the Games. Now, thankfully, they won’t be able to waste anything more.” *(The Week magazine, July 22, 2005)***

**In World War II, the army classified thirty-three-year-old Joe Rosenthal as 4-F because he had one-twentieth normal vision, but he followed the fighting anyway as a war photographer. When the U. S. invaded the island of Iwo Jima under heavy Japanese fire, Rosenthal was there wearing his thick glasses and carrying two spare pairs. At the top of Mount Suribachi he caught the greatest picture of the war -- five marines and a navy corpsman raising the Stars and Stripes.  Rosenthal became an immediate celebrity and his picture won the Pulitzer Prize. The flag-raising appeared on a three-cent stamp and broke all records for first-day-issue sales. On November 19, 1954, a seventy-five-feet-high sculpture of the raising was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery.
*(John & Claire Whitcomb, in Oh Say Can You See, p. 101)***

**Before the Civil War, Robert E. Lee served as superintendent of West Point, where he dismissed a young cadet who had no future in the army – but who did become one of America’s greatest artists – James McNeill Whistler. *(Bob Fenster, in They Did What!?, p. 124)***

**If Thomas Jefferson had had his way, the White House would be called the Red House today. Jefferson wanted it built with red bricks. The irony is that if Jefferson’s plan had prevailed, twentieth century Presidents would have been issuing anti-Communist, anti-red statements from the Red House. Jefferson’s idea of a red brick home for U.S. Presidents was overridden by Irish-born architect James Hoban. Hoban used the home of Ireland’s Duke of Leinster as the basis for the design of the White House – without red bricks. (Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 59)**

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