**Second Chances**

**If I had to live my life again, I'd make the same mistakes, only sooner. *(Tallulah Bankhead, actress)***

**In a recent survey of nearly 1,000 CEO candidates, researchers found that 45 percent had made at least one mistake in their career that either ended in them losing their job or was extremely costly to their business. However, more than 78 percent of those people ended up getting the top job. They also found that educational pedigree in no way correlated with performance. *(Harvard Business Review, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 28, 2017)***

**When CEO sequels disappoint: Returning CEOs often have the aura of corporate saviors, said James Surowiecki. Think Steve Jobs' legendary return to Apple or, to a lesser extent, Howard Schultz's second tour at Starbucks. But take a closer look at the track record of "boomerang CEOs," and you'll see that even the best executives typically "end up being just OK" the second time around. A 2014 study found that profits at companies run by returning CEOs usually fall slightly; another found no difference in long-term performance between firms that reappointed a past CEO and those that hired someone new. When a struggling Proctor & Gamble hired former CEO A.G. Lafley out of retirement in 2013, the market cheered the return of a "strategic visionary and an innovation guru." But when Lafley steps down this fall for the second time, he'll leave P&G in much the same condition. This doesn't mean he was "mediocre all along." But it does highlight the role of luck in "what we call greatness." Perhaps the smartest thing acclaimed executives can do when asked to return to their old jobs is to take a cue from show business: "Always leave them wanting more." *(The Week magazine, September 25, 2015)***

**If ever there was a failure designed to kill a career, Sergio Zyman's was it. In 1984, Coca-Cola gave him responsibility for reversing Coke's decline versus Pepsi. Zyman's strategy was to replace Coke's formula, label it "New Coke" and blare the news. His error, which some attribute to ego, was failing to keep old Coke on the market. New Coke was the most disastrous new product launch since the Edsel. Within 79 days, old formula Coke was back on the supermarket shelves, as Classic Coke. A year later, wounded, Zyman left Coca-Cola. Failure. Personal, humiliating, image-wrecking failure. But it's not as bad as you think. Just seven years later, Zyman bounced back to Coca-Cola, his ego intact and his job expanded. *(Patricia Sellers, in Reader's Digest)***

**On January 26, 1905, a 3,106-carat (1.37-pound) diamond was discovered in a South African mine. Christened the "Cullinan," it was the largest diamond ever found and was later cut into several polished gems by Joseph Asscher. It is said that he nearly shattered the diamond on his initial attempt but satisfactorily divided it with his second blow -- and then promptly fainted. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**It is never too late to be what you might have been. *(George Eliot)***

**Female ex-cons are getting a second chance to build a life for themselves at a North Carolina restaurant that hires them as cooks, servers, and managers. "Second Helping" opened this week in Charlotte with seven former prisoners dishing out shrimp and grits, braised pork, and fried chicken to customers. The restaurant is the brainchild of Melissa Mummert, who also runs a nonprofit organization that offers support to women released from jail. "Employers just weren't hiring people with criminal records," she said. "So we decided we'll just create a business and create the jobs ourselves." *(The Week magazine, September 6, 2013)***

**A grandmother is a mother who has a second chance. *(To Grandma & Grandpa, edited by Richard and Helen Exley)***

**Steve Harvey: Entertainer who announced the wrong Miss Universe winner in 2015 will host again in 2017. *(AARP: The Magazine / Real Possibilities)***

**I'd Pick More Daisies: Of course, you can't unfry an egg, but there's no law against thinking about it.**

**If I had my life to live over, I would try to make more mistakes. I would relax. I would be sillier than I have been this trip. I would be less hygienic. I would go more places. I would climb more mountains and swim more rivers. I would eat more ice cream and less spinach. I would have more actual troubles and fewer imaginary troubles.**

**You see, I have been one of those fellows who live prudently, hour after hour, day after day. Oh, I have had my moments. But if I had it to do over again, I would have more of them -- a lot more. I never go anywhere without a thermometer, a map, a raincoat and a parachute. If I had it to do over, I would travel lighter.**

**If I had my life to live over, I would start going barefoot a little earlier in the spring and stay that way a little later in the fall. I would have more dogs. I would keep later hours. I would have more sweethearts. I would fish more. I would ride more merry-go-rounds. I would go to more circuses.**

**In a world in which practically everybody else seems to be consecrated to the gravity of the situation, I would rise to glorify the levity of the situation. For I agree with Will Durant, who said, "Gaiety is wiser than wisdom."**

**If I had my life to live over, I'd pick more daisies. *(Don Herold, in the March, 1977, issue of Reader's Digest, on page 210)***

**If I had a child to raise over again, I'd finger-paint more, and point the finger less. I'd do less correcting and more connecting. I'd take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes. I would care to know less and know to care more. I'd take more hikes and fly more kites. I'd stop playing serious and seriously play. I'd run through the fields and gaze at more stars. I'd do more hugging and less tugging. I would be firm but affirm much more. I'd build self-esteem first and the house later. I'd teach less about the love of power and more about the power of love. *(Diane Loomans)***

**Interviews with the elderly and the terminally ill do not report that people have regret for the things they have done but rather people talk about the things they regret not having done: I’d dare to make more mistakes next time. I’d relax. I would limber up. I would be sillier than I have been this trip.  I would take fewer things seriously. I would take more chances. I would take more trips. I would climb more mountains and swim more rivers. I would eat more ice cream and less beans. I would perhaps have more actual troubles but I’d have fewer imaginary ones. You see, I’m one of those people who live sensibly and sanely hour after hour, day after day.  Oh, I’ve had my moments and if I had it to do over again, I’d have more of them.  In fact, I’d try to have nothing else. Just moments. One after another, instead of living so many years ahead of each day. I’ve been one of those people who never go anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, a raincoat and a parachute. If I had it to do again. I would travel lighter next time. If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would go to more dances. I would ride more merry-go-rounds. I would pick more daisies. *(Nadine Stair - age 85, in Chicken Soup for the Soul)***

**Robert Jackson was a staff photographer for the Dallas Times Herald in 1963 who happened to be changing film at the tragic moment when President Kennedy’s motorcade passed him on November 22. Two days later, he was covering the assassination story and positioned himself at Dallas police headquarters where Lee Harvey Oswald was being transferred to the county jail. As Jackson raised his camera, Jack Ruby stepped in front of him, took two steps, and fired a gun at the same moment that Jackson hit his shutter release. *(Tidbits of Denver)***

**It's never too late to have a happy childhood. *(Tom Robbins, novelist)***

**Bernard Shaw played the "What If" game shortly before he died. "Mr. Shaw," asked a reporter, "if you could live your live over and be anybody you've known, or any person from history, who would you be?" "I would choose," replied Shaw, "to be the man George Bernard Shaw could have been, but never was." *(Nido R. Qubein)***

**It’s never too late for a happy childhood. *(Gloria Steinem, in Revolution From Within)***

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