

Richard Gee

From: - The Maverick Spirit - [thespirit@spiritmailer.com]
Sent: Monday, 23 June 2008 12:01 a.m.
To: Richard
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**"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it
If you can dream it, you can become it." WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD**

Leadership secrets from foreign penguins... Spiritmail June 23rd, 2008

There's a brand new fitness program at the **San Francisco Zoo** – a program that sort of just took off on its own without any goals or leadership from the zookeeper. This fitness program is for the birds, but it carries a **leadership lesson for all of us.**

The birds are **penguins**. Penguins are supposed to swim. In fact, 46 penguins at the San Francisco zoo have been taking regular dips in the pool to cool off and keep their feathers sleek. Ah, ain't life grand. *Lie around, eat, swim, rest, eat, swim, relax, eat, swim.*

Until six **"bodybuilder" penguins** moved in from the Ohio Zoo. The newcomers jumped into the pool and swam. And swam. In fact, those six penguins kept swimming laps all day long. Day after day.

The newcomers would start early in the morning and keep swimming in circles until they would "stagger" out of the pool at dusk. What is most amazing, though, is that the six penguins have convinced the other 46 to join them. Hitherto "society" penguins are now swimming the whole day through like commoners.

What is the secret to the Ohio penguins' success ? If we could listen in perhaps we would have overheard the following conversation:

"C'mon, what are you, a penguin or a rock?"

"Why, I'm a penguin, of course."

"You don't look like a penguin. All you do is sit around like a rock."

"That's not true. I swim ... sometimes."

"Ha! A true penguin swims all day long. Pepperoni!" SPLASH!!

"Hey. I'm a real penguin, too."

"Who you shouting at, Percy?"

"That swimmer with too much adrenaline in his feathers. He says I'm not a real penguin



because I don't swim enough."

"Oh, yeah? We'll show him, won't we, Percy?"

"You bet! Uh, how?"

"By out-swimming the show off penguins." SPLASH!!"

"Oh, oh. I guess I better get swimming right creamy teacups." SPLASH!!

Foreign penguins show their leadership and their penguinhood

OK, maybe the translation is a bit far fetched, but somehow those six penguins changed the entire lifestyle habits of the other 46. The zookeeper is reported by the wire service to have said, "We've completely lost control."

The wire story quotes an aquatic biologist as saying she would be more surprised if the six had taught the other 46 how to jump through hoops – something few penguins do in the wild with any success.

The point is not that the 46 penguins have learned to swim, which they had always been doing as a leisurely pastime, but that they are now in full aquatic stampede mode ... and that they were convinced by the other six to change their entire lifestyle. How did the six penguins do it?

So these foreign penguins have come in and motivated the local penguins to live up to their full ... ah ... *penguinhood*. What an accomplishment! What success! And what great leadership lessons we can learn from this.

Lesson number one: don't be afraid to try new things and accept outside influences.

Lesson number two: be a penguin not a rock (unless, of course, you are a rock).

And lesson number three: don't give up. If six penguins can whip 46 homebodies into shape, imagine how you could kick-start your own fitness program (or any other goal you set your mind to.)

But don't count on learning success from penguins.

Enjoy this issue of **The Maverick Spirit...** That's it for today, until next time, continue to enjoy being a free spirit in a complicated world...

Wayne Mansfield

P.S. Did you know that the Emperor penguins (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) are the largest penguin species. They stand about 115 cm tall and can live to more than 40 years. Depending on the stage of their breeding cycle they weigh from 23 to 40 kilograms. Their closest relatives are King penguins.

Emperor penguins breed in colonies scattered around the Antarctic continent. Colonies range in size from a few hundred to over 20,000 pairs.

Emperor penguins are the **only animals** that breed during the Antarctic winter. All but two colonies are situated on the fast-ice (frozen sea) that is locked between islands or grounded icebergs.

P.P.S. I bet you didn't know that in Antarctica during winter there are no nesting materials which means that emperor penguins incubate their single egg on their feet. In relation to the body size of the female the egg is rather small; it weighs only about 450 grams.

Only the males incubate the egg while the females return to sea for the roughly 65 days it takes for the egg to hatch. While incubating the males cannot go and feed themselves. By the time the chicks hatch the males have fasted for about 4 months - two months during courtship and two months during incubation.

Gee am I glad I am not an emperor penguin!

And for something really different:

Visit my daily thoughts and views at [Confessions of a Boy from Margaret River](#) where you can leave comments and ideas on stuff that doesn't make it to [The Maverick Spirit](#)



Simple Secrets of Successful People - Use Your Own Self-Interest

Researchers find that perceived self-interest, the rewards one believes are at stake, **is the most significant factor** in predicting dedication and satisfaction toward work.

It accounts for **75% of personal motivation towards accomplishment.**

Source: David Niven, Ph.D. [100 Simple Secrets of Successful People](#)

MAVERICK QUOTE OF THE DAY

Memphis: You bet you will. The word triumph starts with "try" and ends with...?



Young Mumble: umph?

Memphis: That's right, a great big UMPH!

Samuel Maverick (1803-70) Texan rancher who, when branding of stock was introduced chose "**Not to Brand.**" Every unbranded horse or cow he then claimed as a **Maverick!**

From the Movie: Happy Feet

Feedback: My great friend Phil Evans republished "is your goal obscured by the fog" in his newsletter [PeopleMail](#) and we got great feedback. Thanks Phil. Here are a couple of the thoughts we received:

Wayne

Thanks mate - great story - and in my view - very timely for so many people
Wayne !!!! Including me

thanks again for doing what you do - and for the relentless courage that you show in doing it !!!

Phil Evans

Guys:

Analogies like this are great story tellers thanks Phil and Wayne!

Heidi Alexandra Pollard BACS Grad Dip Com MA Prof Com

www.leadingvalue.net <http://theprofessionalcommunicatorscoach.blogspot.com>

Hi Phil,

Thank you again for the very inspirational story from your mate Wayne, also your words of wisdom. I really take them to heart.

I lived in Los Angeles, in 1952 and remember Florence swimming, my daughter Debra was born July 1952. My family went to see her swim, I don't remember much of it, I was to excited with my new daughter.

I have had to fight through the fog many times. I believe my journey has made me stronger and more dedicated to reach my goals.

So I live in the NOW and it WORKS. I will always think of it as only fog from now on. I am tougher then fog!!!!

Love Peace and Magic to you my friend

BJ

and on a lighter note I got this email yesterday:

Hi Wayne

Re: Subscriber No. 4838

Sorry to bother you but I must have unsubscribed to one of your emails by accident... I'd hate to miss out on [The Maverick Spirit](#)... I love your stories and life's inspirations!

Thanks heaps Enjoy the beautiful Perth weather this weekend.

Michele



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Until next time then... enjoy being a free spirit in a complicated world.

Wayne Mansfield Editor

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