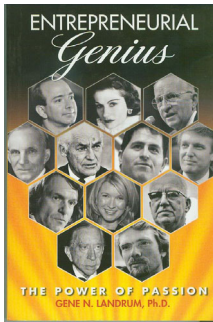
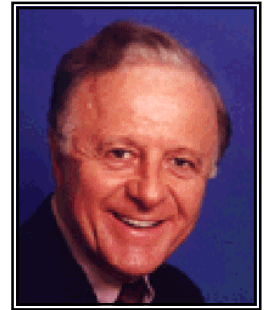


Happy People Never Retire

And They Never Chase the Almighty Buck



Dr. Gene N. Landrum is a high-tech start-up specialist who created the Chuck E. Cheese family entertainment concept. He has authored nine books the latest – *Entrepreneurial Genius – The Power of Passion*. Website: genelandrum.com



Psychiatrist John Diamond found that 90 percent of people “hate their work.” Why? Because they tend to take jobs for the wrong reasons or because they are what the family deems right. They have been programmed to follow rules, punch the proverbial time clock and do what is right. Right for whom? Those who preach order for order's sake! Where nothing changes, and mediocrity reigns supreme. When I opened the first prototype of Chuck E. Cheese in California I brought my tradition-bound Midwest mother to visit the store. After a glass of wine, my well-meaning mother, turned to me and said, “Honey, when are you going to get a real job?” It would not have worked for me to tell her I was trying to change the world of family entertainment or that I am a right-brained driven innovator type who hates traditional venues.

Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw offered insight into the world outside that conformity box where nothing is exciting or alters the world. A driven workaholic, Shaw worked until his late 90's and wrote these profound words:

“The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man”

Shaw's prescient insight was about venturing outside that surety zone called the box to find success. Chasing tradition or other people's ideas about what is right for you is just wrong, even if it happens to be your well-meaning teachers or parents. When we turn eight what we didn't have the guts to do will be far more a problem than those things we did try and didn't work. Chasing security, or someone else's dreams, is not only insidious; it is guaranteed to lead to a schizophrenic existence.

A recent study revealed that the #1 wish of most working people was to retire. I thought it would be something like becoming rich and famous or dating Britney Spears or Tom Cruise. But it was to just quit doing what they had dedicated their life to doing for a living. What? Were they drunk or on drugs? No! They were merely revealing the underlying seething hate for showing up and working for some stupid bureaucratically driven environment where the manta is “don't rock the boat.” They had taken the job for the money or to placate their parents or some other inner need to feel safe or secure. That is a sad commentary.

Do you think Leonardo de Vinci, Picasso, Thomas Edison or Dr. Seuss ever considered retirement? No chance! Why? Because theirs was a labor of love, not hate. Did they work hard every day? Yea! In fact, they often worked 24/7. Edison kept a daily log of his work in the lab and at 65, when he could have been on the beach, he averaged 120 hours per week in his lab for the whole year. Did he think of it as work? Of course not! For him it was fun and why he led such a rewarding and fulfilling life.

Passion is the paycheck for those chasing inner dreams and one of the payoffs is living a long life. Plato opened up The Academy in Athens when he was forty at a time when the life expectancy was 36. He ran this first university, training such stalwarts as Aristotle, until he was eighty. Pursuing positive dreams arms one with high energy and leads to a long fulfilling life. Do such people end up with money? Absolutely! We keep score in capitalism with money and for those who execute positive dreams money will be delivered in trucks.

The whole concept of retirement does not fit the lexicon of those who chase their dreams and do what they love. Creative and powerful wunderkinds all admit they would work without pay. The bottom line of such living is that we keep score with money in capitalism, so if you chase ideas the money comes. If you chase money ideas are lost on the highway of lost causes.

Three Types of People in the World

Three types of people amble down life's highways. They are **Proactives**, **Reactives** and **Inactives**. Proactive are those intrepid warriors chasing new ideas. No matter their age they can be found looking forward to the vast vista of opportunities in this web world of change. They chase impossible dreams and are rewarded in kind. No way would they be found working at a job they can't stand. They make things happen by chasing possibilities not sureties. In contrast, Reactives have a propensity to watch things happen. They will stay in a job they hate for the money and security. They allow events to dictate their life and unfortunately their mental state of being suffers the consequences of living life to another's tune. The saddest individuals of all in this scenario are the Inactives. They are the ones that show up in life with little interest other than living out their existence on this planet. As I say in my new book *Entrepreneurial Genius*, "Keep doing what you're doing, and you'll just keep on getting what you are getting.. If that is good keep it up. If not so good you had better change."

Time is limited as is the available energy for any of us. Wasting time on losers or negatives merely programs us for problems. Squandering energy is the same as squandering time. Both are only available in limited amounts and whatever we choose to fill up our emotional gas tanks with is what we will find as fuel. Filling the inner tank with negatives leaves little room in that tank for positives. Studies have found that the vast majority of people allow negatives to dictate their life. One psychiatrist on human potential found that over 85 percent live life with thoughts of evil, hate, anger and that is what they get back. **Reactives** get caught up in things like terrorism, war, recessions and the world's problems. It is okay to think about them but while thinking try to find a positive spin on how to fix them.

Proactives are in the vast minority on this earth. They are wrapped in chasing opportunities and life's possibilities. But there aren't too many of these types who refuse to waste any energy on the inane problems beyond their control or purview. They prefer to chase possibilities and consequently their life is positive. For every ounce of energy the **Inactives** and **Reactives** take up in your life you are wasting time with the Proactives. Life is way too short to allow losers to dictate your lifestyle or to rob you of a chance for positive outcomes.

Proactives - Ideally Suited to Deal with Change & Chaos

Proactives tend to be those people who see the possibilities for change. They envision the essence of things what educators call seeing the forest instead of getting lost in the trees. They are willing to refute what is to see what might be. These intrepid change artists like Leonardo see the need for change, have the positive self-esteem to chase it and the guts to go out and see if they can make it happen.

Such visionaries are the catalysts for enlightenment. They are empowered from within and tap into their **will to power** to use a Nietzschean expression. Others have labeled it **vital energy** or a **vital force**. Whatever, it is that inner sense of knowing that only comes from the need to be more than mediocre. These types tend to anticipate change, have the confidence to deal effectively with what they see, and have the temerity to deal with it whatever the consequences. Proactives are vigilante Prometheans on a trek to find nirvana wherever they find it. Do they pay a dear price? Yea! Just like Prometheus they will be torn asunder by the establishment who fear all change and growth as it upsets their sense of security and assurance. Socrates was poisoned for teaching adolescents to think and would write, "The poet has no invention in him until he has been inspired and is out of his senses."

Galileo was imprisoned and Edison was called a charlatan. Most innovative thinkers pay dearly for the daring. But the price is seldom more than the win for altering paradigms.

In the words of Nietzsche in his autobiographical work *Thus Spake Zarathustra*:

“Whoever wants to be the creator of good and evil must first be an annihilator and break values. Thus, the greatest evil belongs to the greatest goodness; but that is being creative”

Another validation of breakdown leading to breakthrough emerged out of a Nobel Prize for Biology for Russian defector Ilya Prigogine. This scientist was concerned over the nihilism permeating science based on the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics that says all things end in heat death. He wrote, “Life emerges out of entropy (chaotic change), not despite it.” A plethora of examples from life’s superstars validate this aphorism. In his 20’s Walt Disney was devastated when a nefarious distributor stole his first great cartoon character Oswald the Rabbit. Near breakdown and bankruptcy, Walt boarded a train back to California from New York. On that train Walt drew Mickey Mouse. In the words of Lynn Grabhorn:

“Every time we think of anything, we’re flowing positive or negative energy. The litany never changes; as we think, we feel; as we feel, we vibrate; as we vibrate, we attract. Then we get to live the results.”

Proactives like Walt Disney are overachieving **Risk-Takers** who refuse to allow life’s traumas to defeat them. Anxiety is just one more hurdle on their trek to the top. These types learn from the mistakes of others and their own. In contrast, **Reactives** seldom learn from the failures of others but do often learn from their own. They tend to be life’s **Care-Takers** who only take calculated risk. Okay, I’ll check with my accountant or lawyer, a statement never heard from the **Proactives**. Until they can remove fear from their lexicon and see the world as a forest (the essence) they are destined to remain mired in the trees. Those at the bottom of this hierarchy are the **Inactives**. These types watch and wait for the success train to come and save them. It is a long wait. Introspect and learning are not their forte and they are highly risk averse. My advice to Inactives is to walk into the bathroom and stare intently into that mirror and say, “There lies the savior.” Until a person can do that it is virtually impossible to grow or change. The savior lies within and once accepted the victim syndrome is whisked away through personal positive energy flows.