

Skills For The Exceptional, circa 2006

By Kim Dannies

Today is the 25th anniversary of the death of John Lennon. An exceptional artist and influential activist, Lennon's irreverence and genius still inspires today. During his final interview Lennon said "I still believe in love, peace. I still believe in positive thinking... I consider that my work won't be finished until I'm dead and buried and I hope that's a long, long time." He died hours later.

Life does not wait until we are ready or until we catch our breath. Winners in the year 2006 will thrive on chaos and action. They will see and seize opportunities and love the wild ride. Winners recognize risks and relish drama while executing from a place of inner calm that is anchored by a clear value system and focused goals. In a world swirling with change and chaos, they invest in themselves and in their talents to create something exceptional.

1. Exceptional boundaries.

Winners know how to say no. They know how to close their doors and ignore disruptions. They know where they are going and they tolerate few distractions.

2. Exceptional vision.

Winners know their priorities and their desired outcomes. They know what they want and they can see, taste, smell and almost touch their results in advance.

3. Exceptional self-direction.

Winners are in charge of their lives and chaos around them is just that - other people's chaos swirling while they maintain focus and an inner calm. They are not lost or confused about their priorities or their direction.

4. Exceptional optimism.

Winners see chaos as opportunity. Chaos "stirs the pot" and opens doors. Challenges are not annoying or frustrating for them, winners love it!

5. Exceptional reserves.

Winners take care of themselves. They eat well, rest often, save and invest wisely, and when opportunity knocks, they are waiting to answer the door. They operate from strength and stability.

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6. Exceptional response-ability.

Rather than reacting from anger or anxiety, winners see an ever-changing world and they thoughtfully respond to opportunities that present themselves. They use their imagination. Desperate people react; winners respond.

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