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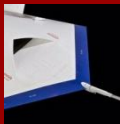
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Guess that Plane!



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Using Head & Heart:

A Chronicle

Two things provide the analysis we need to guide us on our journey through our personal and business lives: our head and our heart. Keri and I work side by side for over 60 hours each week. Our relationship is stronger and closer than it has ever been before. With Valentine's Day this Sunday, sharing experiences related to the heart seemed appropriate.

Looking at the parallels between relationships and decision making skills, I see an important link, compromise. If one listens to their heart all the time, you would give all of yourself away to helping others and leave nothing in reserve. The pressure and the feelings of not doing enough to help other people would be overwhelming. If you listen to your head and analyze by raw facts and numbers, you will not have empathy or compassion and will be left isolated and lonely as your only goal is to benefit yourself.

The secret to the balance of the head and heart is compromise. You have to be willing to listen and embrace both sides. Your head and your heart will both have great arguments, but in the end you have to be willing to let one of the sides come out ahead. The important part is when the compromise has been made and the winning side has been chosen, you fully commit to that decision. The appreciation and respect will grow between the relationship, no matter if it is your head, your heart, or another person. That growth in the relationship will be one of the most powerful tools that you possess.

Keri and I have found our balance, in both life and our decisions. I can't imagine having to do this on my own and not having her to balance me as we continue on our journey. It has taken thousands of hours to develop and hone our ability to compromise between following our head and heart, but the synergy that we have created both personally and professionally is our greatest attribute. We will continue to have struggles, but knowing that we will be able to come to decisions that allow us to sleep at night will continue to make us closer. I look forward to continuing the journey.

Sincerely,

Keri Welhart
President/Owner

Kris Welhart
General Manager/Owner

Keeping Life In Perspective:



The Thomas Jefferson "Head VS. Heart" Love Letter

His face can be found on the front of the U.S. nickel coin...engraved in the side of Mount Rushmore and buried in the pages of American History school books across the country. He was the third president of the United States and the principal author of the Declaration of Independence. He was known during the early 1800's as the "Man of the People" and introduced to us, as young scholars, as Thomas Jefferson. In school, we explored his life because of the powerful role he played in establishing our country's basic fundamentals and ideals. But as with the teachings of all influential government leaders, Jefferson's personal life took the backburner to his role in American government. That is why today, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce you to a side of Thomas Jefferson that most of us were not exposed to as young children. Today's "*keeping life in perspective article*" will focus on a more tender and romantic side of Jefferson, with lessons that can be transferred into our everyday lives.

Believe it or not you (yes, YOU) share something personally in common with one of the most famous historic political figures of all time. How is this possible you ask? Well, Thomas Jefferson encountered similar trials to those that you may have already gone through or may go through in the future. Jefferson's method of thinking, stemming from one of these common trials, can be found in his "*Head vs. Heart*" love letter written to Maria Cosway.

With that said, let's take a short walk down memory lane with a brief glimpse into the love life of Thomas Jefferson.

In 1772, while serving in the Virginia House of Burgesses, Thomas Jefferson took Martha Skelton's hand in marriage. Ten years and six children later, Martha passed away from diabetes. Her death left Jefferson in shambles and sent him into an extended period of isolation from society. In 1785, two short years later, Jefferson picked up his broken heart and moved to Paris to serve as the U.S. Minister to France. During his term in office, Jefferson opened his home to many guests as he was a firm believer in the Virginia reputation for hospitality. This could have also been a means to cure his loneliness. Long story short, one of these guests ended up leading Jefferson to another connection which led him to meet and fall in love with Maria Cosway. It was a fluke that he and Maria crossed paths...and nothing official ever became of their passion for one another because after all, she was married. Despite the fact that this was the case, Jefferson and Cosway spent a great deal of time together. As a result of their connection and time together, Jefferson learned that there could be love after loss. When he realized that he would have to part from her, his head began to argue with his heart...hence the aforementioned famous love letter "*Head vs. Heart*". The ideals found amongst the words written to Maria have underlying morals that can be applied to our everyday lives. The sense of practicality connected to his head and the emotions connected to his heart are undeniable. If you wish to read the love letter in detail, [click here](#). If not, continue reading and I will share with you the lessons I discovered in the love letter.

Lesson 1 ...there is life and love after loss. Jefferson never married after he lost his wife Martha...but he did learn to live and love again. Loss can be found in a variety of forms...the loss of a job, the loss of a pet, the loss of a loved one, the loss of control...the list could go on and on. But the moral is, we were made to endure loss and will ultimately gain strength from our losses. The worst of situations we encounter always have the potential to be more unpleasant than it's predecessor.

Lesson 2 ...we all fall victim to the battle of using the judgment of head versus heart or vice versa. However, the beauty of life is that we have the right to make our decisions based on what we feel is right at the moment. At any given time, we have the ability to change our way of thinking because there is no guarantee connected to either method for which we choose to make our decisions. Meaning, there is no way to know which is right or wrong...but we should trust that our gut, which happens to be the happy medium between our head and heart, will always lead us in the right direction.

Lesson 3 ... at some point in time, we have all struggled with the reasoning found in the depths of our head and the feelings found in the bottom of our hearts. Though it may seem the choice between head and heart will lend itself to future regret, the right

means of making your way will always overpower the wrong or weaker means. Jefferson knew that Maria was married, but he made the conscious decision to spend time with her which opened up his heart and allowed him to grow as a person.

This Valentine's Day, we are asking that you celebrate. Celebrate if you have someone special to share your life with. If you don't have someone special to share it with...celebrate all the things YOU love about YOUR life. Regardless of your situation - married, divorced, widowed, single by choice/not by choice...embrace Valentine's Day. Dedicate this day to connecting with your inner companion and loving yourself for who you are - at this very moment. Appreciate your journey...whether it was your **head**, your **heart**, or a combination of **both** that landed you to where you are today.

If I were to provide you with one takeaway to this article it would be to not take for granted the fact that your **head** and **heart** can both celebrate the simple joys of life. On behalf of Stroco, I would like to lend you a helping hand by getting your "simple joys of life" list started. I'll leave the completion of the list up to you!

List of Simple Joys In Life

1. A smile from a stranger
2. Anonymous organ donors
3. The familiar scents of home
4. Roller Coasters
5. Reaching a milestone
6. Monday Night Football
7. Someone holding the door for you
8. The words "please" and "thank you"
9. Laughing so hard until you start to cry
10. Time spent with people who mean the most to you
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

The FebruaryPlane:

The Boeing X-45A UAV Model

Fun Facts



1. The X-45A is an unmanned combat air vehicle, and operates semi-independently from human operators.
2. The first X-45A was completed in September of 2000.
3. The first X-45A flight occurred in May of 2002.
4. The X-45A is powered by a single Honeywell F124-GA-100 turbofan engine.

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