

WORK Theme CUE: GROWTH
FOR SARA Due 11-1-22

10-16-2022
ULTIMATE GROWTH
by STEVEN L. NEUGENT
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AT NO OTHER TIME IN MY LIFE HAS PERSONAL
GROWTH EFFECTED ME MORE THAN IN THE 1990'S
WHILE I WAS IN COLLEGE TAKING CLASSES WHILE
IN PRISON. I TOOK CLASSES WITH LEE
COLLEGE ON THE ESTELLE UNIT IN THE TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE. I DID
12 YEARS FLAT ON A 30 YEAR AGGRAVATED
SENTENCE FOR BURGLARY OF A HABITATION.

I ALSO BEGAN BODYBUILDING ON THE MACHINES
IN THE GYM. EVENTUALLY I JOINED THE FREE-
WEIGHT TEAM. THE BODYBUILDING GAVE ME
CONFIDENCE AND ENHANCED MY SELF-ESTEEM. I
LEARNED THAT I COULD TRANSFORM MYSELF
INTO A BETTER PERSON. BUT THIS WAS MOSTLY
PHYSICAL. MY MENTAL CAPACITIES WERE
REALLY TRANSFORMED BY MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE.

I GRADUATED SUMA CUM LAUDE ON THE
WYNNE UNIT IN 2000 WITH A GPA OF 3.83.
I HAVE AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN LIBERAL ARTS,

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AND TWO ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCES
DEGREES. MY FATHER AND MY SISTER WERE
THERE TO SEE ME GRADUATE.

LASTING GROWTH HOWEVER, IS SOMETHING
THAT YOU CARRY WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF
YOUR LIFE. AT ONE POINT OF MY COLLEGE
STUDIES I HAD RECEIVED A MAJOR DISCIPLINARY
CASE. I WAS RESTRICTED FROM TAKING ANY
COLLEGE CLASSES FOR A YEAR. NEEDLESS TO SAY
I WAS UPSET ABOUT THIS TURN OF EVENTS. ONE
DAY I SAW MY COLLEGE GEOLOGY INSTRUCTOR
IN THE HALLWAY OF THE ESTELLE UNIT.

HE ASKED ME WHY I WAS NOT TAKING
ANY COLLEGE CLASSES THAT SEMESTER? I RELATED
MY STORY TO HIM, AND I TOLD HIM HOW UPSET
I WAS TO HAVE MY COLLEGE CAREER STALLED.
HE TOLD ME TO USE THIS TIME WISELY. HE TOLD
ME TO GO TO THE UNIT LIBRARY AND PICK A
SUBJECT TO DO RESEARCH ON.

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I TRUELY BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS THE
BEST ADVICE I HAVE EVER BEEN GIVEN.

SINCE THAT DAY I HAVE GLEANED KNOWLEDGE
FROM COUNTLESS SUBJECTS; ASTRONOMY,
HISTORY, POLITICS. JUST TO NAME A FEW.

DR. HARRY HOBE WAS THAT GEOLOGY
TEACHER. HE SET MY MIND FREE.

KNOWLEDGE IS NOT SOMETHING THAT SCHOOLS
HOLD THE KEY TO. I LEARN SOMETHING NEW
EVERYDAY. WE ARE LEARNING CREATURES,
AND LEARNING IS PART OF OUR SURVIVAL
INSTINCTS.

THIS IS GROWTH! THANK YOU DR. HOBE.