

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

MAY 2006

How To Be Perfect: Just Be Yourself

Journalist and novelist Anna Quindlen says when she was younger and in college, she tried to be perfect in every possible way — every single day. She diligently studied for every class, promptly turned in each of her assignments and cheerfully smiled at everyone she passed in the dorm halls.

In a 1999 commencement address Anna delivered at her alma mater, Barnard college, she said that being perfect was hard work, and that the rules had changed. What constituted perfect in 1970 when she started college (sweaters and pleated skirts) had morphed into her new version (khakis and turtlenecks) as she found herself striving to be the ideal intellectual. But eventually, the burden of trying to always be perfect became too heavy for Anna to bear.

She spoke the following words to the graduating class: “Trying to be perfect may be inevitable for people who are smart, ambitious, and interested in the world and in its good opinion. But at one level it’s too hard, and at another, it’s too cheap and easy. It really requires you to read the Zeitgeist of wherever and whenever you happen to be, and assume the masks necessary to be the best of whatever the Zeitgeist requires. Those details are ever-changing, but if you’re clever, you can read them and do the imitation necessary. Nothing important, meaningful, beautiful, interesting, or great ever came out of imitations. The thing that’s really hard, and amazing at the same time, is giving up on being perfect and beginning the work of becoming yourself.”



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Delight in the fact that nobody is perfect — and realize that is what makes you unique.

Tara and April

A wise woman who was traveling in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveler who was hungry, and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveler saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him; she did so without hesitation. The traveler left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime. But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the wise woman. “I’ve been thinking,” he said. “I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone.”

Author Unknown

Be Careful With Bee Stings

Bee stings are a painful annoyance for most of us, but are extremely dangerous if you're allergic. So if you are allergic and you get stung, go to a hospital immediately. If you don't have an allergy, then you can treat most bee stings yourself.



Remember: If you're stung you should scrape the stinger out. You can do this using a credit card, the side of a knife blade or the edge of a long fingernail. Never try to pull the stinger straight out because it may just lodge in deeper.

You can neutralize some of the swelling that occurs (because of inflammatory agents in the venom) by rubbing a wet aspirin directly on the sting. However, if you can't take aspirin normally, you shouldn't use it for bee stings either.

Taking an antihistamine can ease pain and swelling for adults. For children, cough syrups that contain antihistamines work better.

—Adapted from *Tyco Wellness*

One Way To Handle Difficult People

During the last days of the old Stapleton Airport in Denver, Colorado, one of the airlines cancelled a particular flight. The airline had only one agent to re-book a long line of inconvenienced travelers.

Suddenly, an unhappy traveler pushed his way to the head of the line. He slapped his ticket down and angrily said, "I have to be on this next flight and it has to be first class!"

The ticket agent politely told the man, "I'm sorry sir. I'll be happy to help you, but I've got to help these folks first. I'm sure we'll be able to work something out."

This failed to satisfy the customer and he said even louder, "Do you have any idea who I am?"

The agent just smiled, picked up her public address microphone and announced: "May I have your attention, please. We have a passenger who does not know who he is. If anyone can help him find his identity, please come to the front gate."

The angry man retreated and the crowd applauded.



Fun With Phobias

What's a phobia? According to dictionary.com, a phobia is a persistent, abnormal, and irrational fear of a specific thing or situation that compels one to avoid it, despite the awareness and reassurance that it's not dangerous. Some of the more common phobias include arachnophobia (fear of spiders) and claustrophobia (fear of confined spaces), but there are some unique phobias out there. Using the lists below, can you match the phobia with its corresponding fear? The answers are on page 5.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Abluthophobia | A. Fear of sleep |
| 2. Aibohphobia | B. Fear of string |
| 3. Arachibutyrophobia | C. Fear of insanity |
| 4. Bibliophobia | D. Fear of school |
| 5. Deipnophobia | E. Fear of the Pope |
| 6. Gallophobia | F. Fear of baldness |
| 7. Hemaphobia | G. Fear of dining and dinner conversation |
| 8. Hypnophobia | H. Fear of phobias |
| 9. Linonophobia | I. Fear of bathing |
| 10. Maniaphobia | J. Fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth |
| 11. Papaphobia | K. Fear of palindromes |
| 12. Peladophobia | L. Fear of blood |
| 13. Phobophobia | M. Fear of France |
| 14. Scholionophobia | N. Fear of books |

Don't Put Off Home Repairs

Homeowners know all too well that maintaining their abodes can be costly. But putting off a repair until later can result in more expensive fixes. Here are a few problems that homeowners can nip in the bud.

Any water leak evidenced by a stained ceiling, a rocky toilet, or musty smell can cause severe damage such as dry rot, mold, or an infestation of termites. You should fix it immediately. For instance, replacing your roof may cost a lot, but it's much cheaper than replacing the underlying roof structure if you simply ignore the problem.

If your lights dim when you open the refrigerator or use the microwave, it could be due to bad wiring or an overload of appliances on one circuit. Try to distribute your appliances more evenly across circuits or not run more than one heavy duty appliance at a time. Your best bet is to have an electrician update your wiring.

To combat a smoky chimney, have the chimney swept annually (about \$10). Burn small, hot fires instead of big, smoky ones. Never burn trash, cardboard or gift wrap in the fireplace.

Make sure your air conditioning filters are clean and in good repair. Dirty or missing filters can lead to a fire or an air conditioner breakdown. With a mere \$2 filter, you can preserve a \$6,000 air conditioning system.



—Adapted by *MSN Money*

Welcome New Clients!

Here are some past clients, and new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" recently. We'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

Sandy Harris (past and treasured client)

Rod and Carla Short

Lou and Barbara Costello

George Mundy and Suzanne Patton (past and treasured clients)

Aaron and Heidi Blackwelder (past and treasured clients)

Sharon Patterson (past and treasured client)

Derek and Shannon Paulo

Tim and Stephanie Ryan

We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to us.

May Quiz Question

It's a little-known fact that June 18 is National Picnic Day, a day observed by picnic-basket-loving cartoon character Yogi Bear. At what *fictional* park does Yogi celebrate this occasion?

Everyone responding by calling or e-mailing us with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for:

A \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

Drawing to be held on 06/01/06



Jan/Feb Quiz Answer

Question: What is the largest living thing on Earth?

Answer: The Great Barrier Reef

Turn to page 5 for detailed article.

Congratulations to Barbie Gleeson

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

See An Interesting Home?

No need to wonder about the price. No need to call a high-pressure sales agent who will just make you feel obligated. Our computers can send you the information quickly and easily, for any house, listed or sold, anywhere.

Just ask "The Sister Team"!

**It's all part of our
Free, No-obligation
Home Finder Service.**

Call Tara or April any time:
(951) 205-4428 or (951) 205-4429

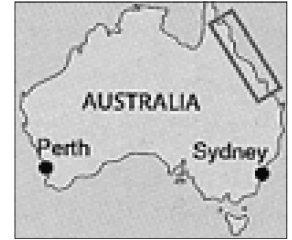
We'll fax, mail or e-mail you the information on that listing within 24 hours.

The Largest Living Thing on Earth

The Great Barrier Reef, which is a coral reef, is the largest structure in the world to have been built by living creatures.

It is also called the largest “living thing” in the world, and was easily placed on the World Heritage list. It is not just the largest mass of living organisms on earth but also the most incredibly complex and diverse ecosystem known to man.

The Great Barrier Reef stretches for more than 2900 km (1430 miles) along the east coast of Australia. It actually consists of more than 2,500 separate, interconnected reefs comprising layer upon layer of polyps — tiny, rapidly reproducing marine invertebrates which secrete limestone. Large colonies of polyps are connected horizontally; a thin film forms over their hard protective skeletons, binding them together and eventually, after hundreds of years, they become coral.



Hardly another ecosystem on earth can surpass the reef for sheer beauty or variety. With wildly differing shapes recalling tress, plates, fungi and even brains, the still living polyps paint the underwater scene with vivid color, to which is added a kaleidoscope of other living creatures. These include not only tropical fish of brilliant hue and intriguing personality, but also sponges, starfish, crabs, sharks, turtles, giant clams and the occasional dugong, a large harmless creature also known as the sea-cow.

Another creature that is drawn to this water paradise in large numbers is the Homo Sapiens, tourist variety. This medium-sized, sometimes amphibious mammal can be observed gazing at the wonders of the reef from aircraft, wave runners, and vessels of all kinds, including flat-bottomed boats and semi-submersibles, or socializing with its other inhabitants while snorkeling or playing with tropical fishes.

Answer Key for Phobia List on Page 3

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | — | I |
| 2 | — | K |
| 3 | — | J |
| 4 | — | N |
| 5 | — | G |
| 6 | — | M |
| 7 | — | L |
| 8 | — | A |
| 9 | — | B |
| 10 | — | C |
| 11 | — | E |
| 12 | — | F |
| 13 | — | H |
| 14 | — | D |

IMPORTANT NOTICE

“The Sister Team” is willing to donate money to help those who would like to adopt a needy (and doomed) pet from any animal shelter!

And **remember**....spaying and neutering is the most important thing we can do to help dogs and cats!

We are willing and able to *confidentially* help those who are unable or unwilling to spay or neuter their companion (or stray) animals.

Please contact us and we will donate our time and money to this most-important cause!

Together, forever and always for the animals!

--Tara and April

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY REPORT

Listed and Sold by "The Sister Team"

SOLD (January thru April 2006)

3469	Bandini	\$405,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1300 sq ft	2-car garage
3975	Beechwood	\$439,400	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1640 sq ft	2-car gar & pool
4193	Beechwood	\$457,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1728 sq ft	2-car garage
3920	Elmwood Court	\$342,000	2 bed, 1 bath	1530 sq ft	2-car garage
3933	Elmwood Court	\$341,000	2 bed, 1 bath	1145 sq ft	1-car garage
4326	Elmwood Court	\$394,900	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1328 sq ft	2-car garage
3494	Elmwood Drive	\$385,000	2 bed, 1 bath	1074 sq ft	1-car garage
4040	Garden Home	\$405,900	3 bed, 1.5 bath	1738 sq ft	2-car garage
5330	Greenbrier	\$399,900	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1300 sq ft	2-car garage
3992	Larchwood	\$364,900	2 bed, 1 bath	1050 sq ft	1-car garage
5157	Magnolia	\$445,000	3 bed, 2 bath	1560 sq ft	2-car garage
4569	Merrill	\$405,800	3 bed, 1.5 bath	1544 sq ft	2-car garage
3249	Ronald	\$349,900	3 bed, 1 bath	1032 sq ft	1-car gar & spa
6771	Rycroft	\$540,000	4 bed, 2.5 bath	2493 sq ft	3-car gar & pool
4218	Sunnyside	\$354,900	3 bed, 1 bath	1100 sq ft	1-car gar & spa
5754	Tower	\$439,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1600 sq ft	2-car garage

IN ESCROW

3559	Beechwood	Sold prices posted in next "Activity Report"	3 bed, 1 bath	1626 sq ft	4-car garage
4483	Beechwood		3 bed, 1.75 bath	1911 sq ft	2-car garage
1991	Benbow		4 bed, 4 bath	3522 sq ft	3-car gar & spa
4953	Jurupa		2 bed, 1 bath	814 sq ft	2-car garage
4411	Rosewood		3 bed, 1 bath	1154 sq ft	1-car garage

AVAILABLE

4555	Edgewood	\$349,900	2 bed, 1 bath	900 sq ft	1 carport
3564	Elmwood Drive (duplex)	\$550,000	5 bed, 2.25 bath	3105 sq ft	2-car gar (duplex)
3581	Elmwood Drive	\$569,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	2052 sq ft	2-car garage
4259	Oakwood	\$369,900	2 bed, 1.25 bath	1029 sq ft	2-car garage

All of the properties above were listed and/or sold by "The Sister Team."

If you would like information on other properties in your neighborhood, please contact us at (951) 205-4429.

PLEASE POST THIS ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD AT WORK



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ONE OF THE FEW HOMES
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square feet living space. Right side boasts 3 bedrooms with approximately 1500 square feet living space also. Your tenants will enjoy this quiet cul-de-sac location. **List price: \$550,000**



← **AVAILABLE**
“Wood Street” cottage
2 bed plus enclosed porch,
1.25 baths, low-maintenance
backyard for \$369,900



AVAILABLE →
“Wood Street”
Spanish-style, 3 bd,
1.75 bath, **2050** sq ft
for \$569,000



← **AVAILABLE**
“Wood Street” cutie,
2 bed, 1 bath, turnkey,
remodeled bath and kitchen
for \$349,900



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in 5 days!**

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Tara and April Glatzel
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390 N. McKinley St., Ste. 106
Corona, CA 92879
E-mail: aprilglatzel@remax.net
Website: www.woodstreethomes.com
Tara: (951) 205-4428 April: (951) 205-4429

Chit Chat

Referral Reward Program ...

We want to thank those of you who have participated in our Client Referral program! Marketing for new clients costs us tons of time, money and energy. Like any company, we need new clients to stay in business. Over the years we've found that looking for new clients takes away from the time we would rather be spending focusing on your goals, explaining your options, and providing the excellent service you expect.....*and deserve!*

If you refer your friends and relatives to us, everyone benefits. We can serve you better. We send you a nice gift. And we assure you that we'll take the very best care of anyone you refer to us.

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