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Special Message: Don Hutson, Past President, US NSA

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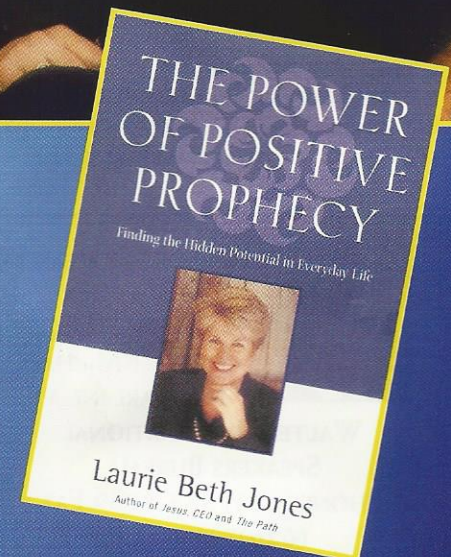
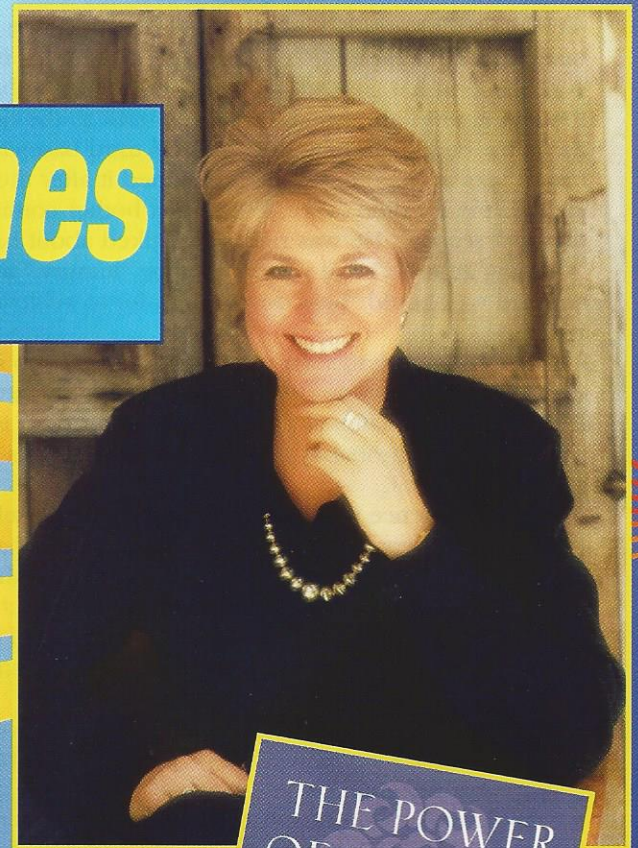
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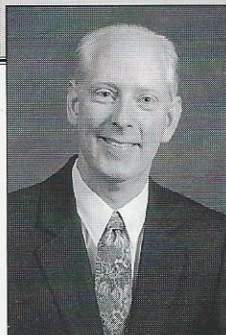
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THE COACH THAT INFLUENCED ME MOST

by Frank Felsburg



The coach who has influenced me most in my life is a man I disliked very much, yet what he did for me has made me a better person. The man I am referring to is my college baseball coach. I now view his outlook on baseball as a microcosm of every day life.

I participated in only three games in the two years that I was a member of his team. I didn't think he realized how badly I wanted to play. He reprimanded me on the last day of the first season for not concentrating on the game at hand. We were losing badly in the late innings and I had turned my back to the field as the game ended. Seeing this from his third base coaching box (I was in the dugout) he mentioned it after the game. He told me if I didn't care, I shouldn't bother coming out the next season. He was right. He talked about having a "winning attitude," that you have to be "hungry," and stressed we should "bear down" in order to achieve desired results.

These three things make much more sense to me now than they did when he first brought them to my attention. Whether it's the national pastime or life itself that is in question, I will probably never forget these values as long as I live.

My experience with this man and college baseball proved to be very disheartening. What I should have done with alacrity, I plodded through stolidly. What I thought was of utmost importance wasn't very important at all.

I felt performance on the (practice) field displayed my eagerness to play, but apparently it was not evident to the coach.

The coach constantly reminded us of his philosophy about having a winning attitude as part of developing the character of the team.

Looking back on all this reinforces these major facts of life in my mind. I realize my overbearing pride is what prevented me from excelling in base-

ball. But fortunately, my recognition of (and adherence to) these principles helped me go on to achieve success in life.

Frank Felsburg, 1084 E. Lancaster Avenue, Rosemont, PA 19010-1515 or Ph - (610) 525-5932 or E-mail - FrankFels@aol.com. Frank Felsburg speaks on the subject of listening.

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