



Jocelyn Krieger

'Coach' gets Father's Day thanks

By Evelyn Krieger

Dear Dad,
You always told me I could do it. Whether I was learning to ride my first two-wheeler, bike or mastering the multiplication tables, you were always able to instill just the right amount of faith and confidence to help me accomplish whatever I needed to do.

It was never easy for me, though. As the oldest child, I never seemed to exhibit the characteristics normally attributed to the "leader of the pack."

Assertiveness, social ease and self-confidence didn't come naturally. My extreme shyness often created barriers for me, but you could always break through. "Isn't it silly how people are afraid of people?" you once pointed out to me.

I'll never forget my first ballet solo in my dance school's annual recital. I was only 10 years old. Feeling very confident that I would forget my dance steps, I was ready to back out the night before the performance. You sat me on your lap, as you had done dozens of times before, and began your "lecture."

"Now Evelyn . . ." you would say, as my eyes grew watery. You always had a saying for every occasion, and that night you talked about fear. "There's nothing to fear but fear itself," you assured me as you tucked me in bed.

YEARS LATER, on the night before my high school graduation, as I nervously practiced my speech, you reminded me of that quote. It wasn't until then that I really appreciated and understood the full meaning and appropriateness of that simple statement.

I must confess, Dad, that it wasn't until recently, after 2½ years of college in New York that I realized how much of your fatherly advice had really sunk in. I found myself repeating your favorite quote, as well as living by many of your philosophies.

Remember my first final examinations in college? Exhausted, homesick and frightened of failing, I cried long-distance to you. "Now Evelyn . . ." you said comfortingly, as if I were still at home struggling over trigonometry. For 15 minutes you told me how well I was going to do and why I would do so well. There was nothing you said that I

hadn't heard before, and nothing I didn't already know myself. It was no longer a lecture, though, but more of a pep talk, and you, Dad, were my coach.

LAST WEEK I finished all my finals and did very well. I felt like an old pro. I have never failed and I laugh at myself for ever having entertained the thought.

So many of my friends, in high school and college, have cried over their marks because their parents insisted that they get only high grades. You never once pushed me to get "A's" or punished me for a low grade. Your one request was that I do as best as I could.

The only pressure I had concerning grades was what I put on myself. I became more confident of my abilities when I achieved a high grade-point average because I knew that I did it for myself.

Leaving home and growing independent is never an easy adventure. New York City life can bring out the boldness and inner-strengths in anyone.

However, it's hard for me to imagine having adjusted so well to the "fast

lane" if I hadn't packed along the priceless lessons that I had learned from you. The most important thing you taught me was that I will never get anywhere without first believing in myself.

Consequently, pressuring situations such as job interviews, giving speeches, examinations, and dance performances, I now approach with the utmost confidence.

I can proudly say that I have begun a new life. I'm very used to being on my own and I enjoy it. No matter how far I am, though, it's always comforting to know that I can turn to you when pressures are mounting or when my acquired confidence is dwindling. After all, everybody can use a little coaching.

Happy Father's Day, Dad!

Love,

EVELYN

Evelyn Krieger is the daughter of Jocelyn Krieger, regular writer of this column, and a junior at New York University. She writes poetry and short stories and is studying for a career in special education.

class reunions

PLYMOUTH 1930

The Plymouth High School class of 1930 will hold its 50-year reunion June 14 in the Mayflower Hotel in Plymouth. Those interested in reservations or more information may call Ethel Burns, 453-1620.

SOUTHFIELD 1960

The Southfield High School class of 1960 will hold its 20-year reunion Aug. 29. Specifics are available from Ed Schaff, 522-7552.

FARMINGTON 1975

The Farmington High School class of 1975 will hold a five-year reunion July 12. Those interested in attending may call Chris Bergers, 477-7283.

ROYAL OAK DONDERO 1955, 1956

The January and June classes of 1955 and the January class of 1956 will hold a reunion Aug. 2 at the Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester. Those interested in attending should call Patty Ginter Kearns at 652-2395.

DETROIT MACKENZIE 1950

An Oct. 18 reunion at St. John Armenian Church of Southfield is planned by the Mackenzie High School classes of January and June 1950. The evening's program will include music by John Popp, dinner and setups. Committee members still are seeking about 200 of the class that numbered 938. Those interested in attending the 30-year reunion or having information on classmates may call Betty Lucas Ravary, 382-7660, or June Jackson Grace, 532-4429.

DETROIT ROSARY 1971

The Rosary High School class of 1971 plans a 10-

year reunion next year. Those interested in being kept informed should call Denise Iawera Kwas, 591-6156, or Betty Cwik Monette, 537-8184.

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Baby's soft spot
The fontanel, or spot spot, on a baby's head, which some mothers are fearful of touching, is protected by a membrane as tough as canvas.

The less he speaks, the more he hears. Why can't we all be like that bird?

-E. H. Richards

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