

# Laments From a Lover of a Linear Lifestyle

# Let's Start with a Quote

- ◆ “Plans are worthless, but planning is everything” -  
- Dwight D. Eisenhower
- ◆ “The shortest distance between two points is a straight line.”  
-- Mrs. Riddick, my high school Geometry teacher and pretty  
much every mathematician worth their abacus
- ◆ Why am I starting with these two quotes?

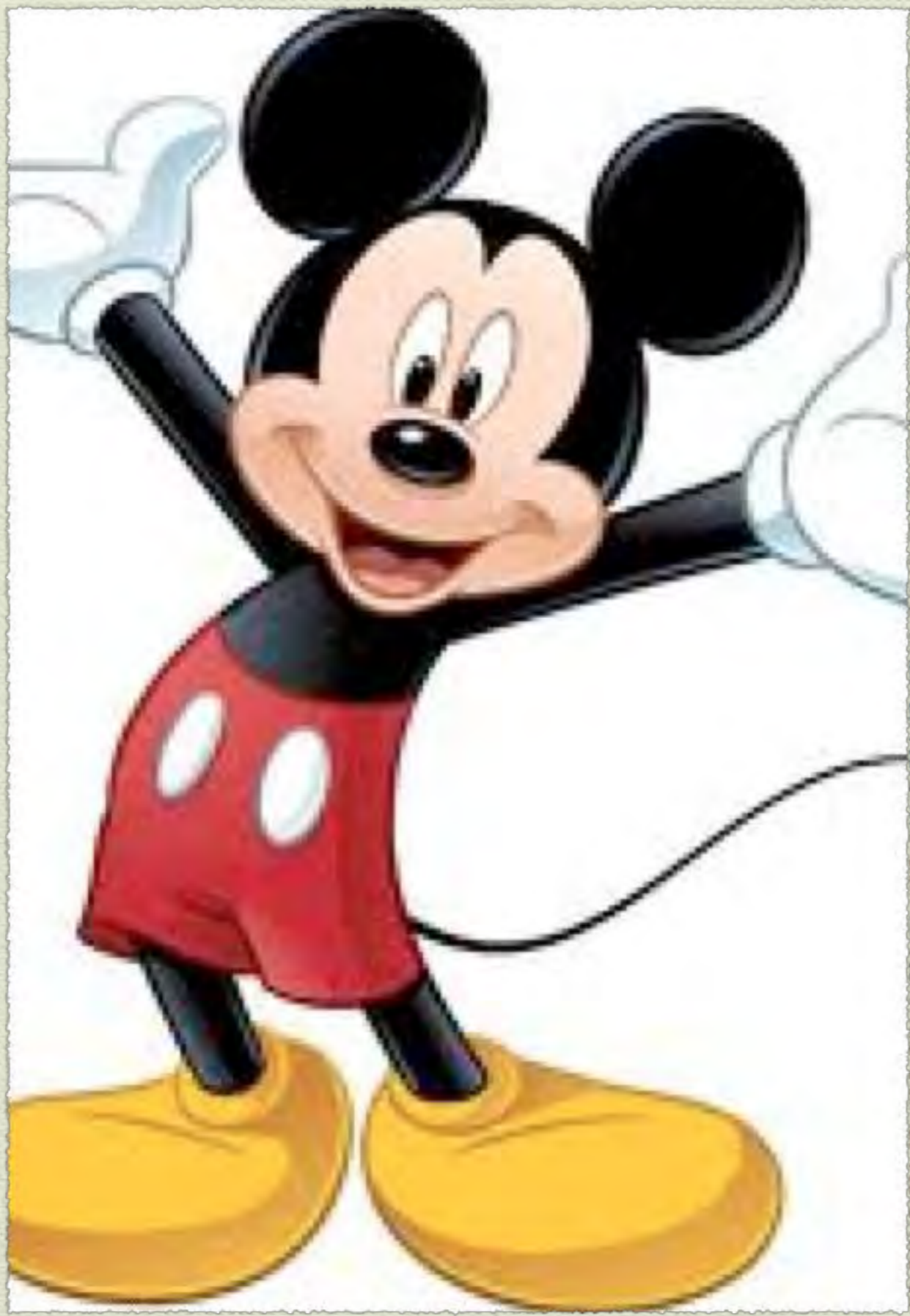
# An American Journey

- ◆ Get good grades in school
- ◆ Get into a good college
- ◆ Get a good major
- ◆ Finish college with good grades
- ◆ Get a good job, with good pay, and good benefits
- ◆ Stay there 30+ years, retire, go do some fun stuff

# Some Variations

- ◆ After college go to grad school
- ◆ Non-academic route, learn a trade, apprentice, get the job
- ◆ A stint in the military to either learn the trade or to help pay for school

Let's Do a Character Study





Not These Characters!



Abraham



# Abraham

- ◆ Starts in Ur (as Abram no less)
- ◆ Travels up the Fertile Crescent to Haran
- ◆ Receives the Call of God at Haran at Age 75!
- ◆ Travels to Canaan and the Lord promises the land to him and his offspring
- ◆ Detours to Egypt because of famine (lies about his wife)

# Abraham

- ◆ Moves back to Bethel, he and Lot separate
- ◆ Abram rescues Lot, very wealthy now
- ◆ God covenants with Abram that his descendants will take this land and be more numerous than the stars in the sky
- ◆ At age 86, Abram tries to “help” God by having a child with Hagar

# Abraham

- ◆ At age 99, name is changed to Abraham
- ◆ God gives the covenant of circumcision
- ◆ Promises that Sarah will have a son, and his name will be Isaac
- ◆ At age 100, Isaac is born



Abraham

# Joseph's Journey



Joseph

# Joseph

- ◆ Gets the Coat, Shares dreams, irks his brothers
- ◆ Gets sold into slavery
- ◆ Achieves high rank in Potiphar's house
- ◆ Wrongly accused
- ◆ Thrown in prison for at least two years
- ◆ Interprets Pharaoh's dreams, put in control of Egypt

Moses



# Moses

- ◆ Supposed to be killed
- ◆ Mom puts him in a basket, floats him down the Nile
- ◆ Gets adopted by Pharaoh's daughter
- ◆ Grows up in the court of Pharaoh
- ◆ Kills the Egyptian
- ◆ Flees to the desert



# Moses

- ◆ Gets married, has kids, works as a shepherd for 40 years
- ◆ Encounters God at the burning bush
- ◆ Returns to Egypt to lead God's people to the promised land
- ◆ Wanders in the Wilderness dies just before the people enter

David



# David

- ◆ Youngest of Jesse's sons
- ◆ Anointed by Samuel
- ◆ Enters Saul's service to play the harp
- ◆ Kills Goliath
- ◆ Stays loyal to Saul even after Saul tries to kill him
- ◆ Spares Saul's life TWICE
- ◆ Refuses to harm Saul, kills the man that does

# Isaiah a different look

- ◆ Commission of Isaiah Chapter 6:1-8
- ◆ And now for the rest of the story 6:9-13

# Let's Revisit the Journey

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# Let's get this straight...

- ◆ To retire with the good stuff you have to...
- ◆ Finish college with a good major, to have that you have to ...
- ◆ Know what a good major is for you, so you have to ...
- ◆ Know what college has that major, so you have to ...
- ◆ Know what college you should go to, so ...
- ◆ You have to know what you want to do for the rest of your life when you are 16 or 17?

# Revisit the Quote

◆ “Plans are worthless, but planning is everything” -

- Dwight D. Eisenhower

◆ “No plan survives first contact with the enemy” --

Helmuth von Moltke



How About This One?