# What's News

## February 2006

## Susan Van Vleet Consultants, Inc.

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### The Broncos and a 28 Year Marriage

The Broncos have just lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC Championship game. If you think this is going to be an article on sports, don't change the channel too quickly. This is truly an article on the miracle that is a long-term marriage.

Susan has become a football fan. I am not sure how this happened. It's not that she is a stranger to sports. She grew up with the Yankees and Christmas day games at the Garden with the Knicks. But football has no such childhood roots. Though she cheers for the Broncos', this goes way beyond local affiliation and loyalty. I cannot tell the day it started, but I can tell you it turned a corner and headed down the street today.

Today, I came close to saying something but I feared it would cause a rip in the time space continuum. It was an hour to game time and I was squeezing in an hour of yoga prior to 3 plus hours of mayhem. She had turned the pre-game show up so loud I could not hear my yoga CD. I started to yell, "Susan turn down the pre-game show, I am trying to do my yoga!" That clearly would have caused a shift in the time space continuum that may have been irreconcilable.

It is not just this one-day. She asks me to make sure she hears Howie and Bradshaw argue or Shannon's opening shtick. She quotes obscure stats and questions if sitting back in a two deep zone makes as much sense as blitzing Lynch and forcing a quick throw. I swear it was just a few weeks ago I was re-explaining offsides.

As I think of this miracle, it has been a long time coming. We have chosen to be together for a long time. Our sitting together now is about as important as anything, and certainly more important than whose show is on. Consequently I use phrases like "Toile" or "accent wall" with

out being sarcastic (I've watched lots of decorating, makeover shows, too). I guess wanting to spend time together has an amazing by product, "true shared interest". I like watching "What Not to Wear" *together*. If I am alone I won't chose it over Super Bowl XXIII highlights, but together, it's different. And then things just seem to happen.

For those of you that have not been married for 28 years or fear that being empty nesters may be more crises than joy, think of this story. Susan and I are very strong willed, independent people with our own interests. But there is a hidden surprise in just wanting to be together. For those of you that seem to argue way too much over meaningless subjects, take heart. Today *I* had to console Susan about the loss by our beloved Broncos. This does not mean she will be picked to replace Kubiak as Offensive Coordinator or any one will ask me to decorate their house. But she does know who Kubiak is and is sad that he is moving on to be the head coach of the Texans and that makes the future of our marriage quite sublime.

#### **Productive Relationships**

#### March 7-9 and September 12-14, 2006

Managers today are asked to handle a diverse range of communication challenges. This course trains you in techniques that will help you do your job successfully no matter what the communication challenge. You will leave the course with the skills to confront and handle confrontation, to listen and determine what someone is really saying. To register contact our office.

#### **Women Moving Forward**

#### Feb. 28 – March 2 and June 6-8, 2006

The February workshop is **full** but we are extending registration to 2 more attendees. If you are interested or have someone to refer please call us as soon as possible. The June workshop still has space available but is already ¼ full. If you plan to register and attend in June we recommend you let us know now.

#### Women's Leadership Retreat

May 8-10, 2006

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We are opening registration for May 2007 if you are interest in attending.

#### **Advanced Men's Course**

October 10-12, 2006

This year's course will continue the focus of last year's course. Men will learn to live on purpose, complete their past, build a support system and manage their career. To register call John or our office. It is already 50% full so act quickly.

#### **Achieving Commitment**

November 14-16, 2006

This is a great program designed to have participants define the goals they are committed to and achieve them. Whether it's a team / company goals or a personal one, this workshop shows you how to get it done. Contact our office to register.

**NOTE**: Don't forget if you don't see a workshop you want to attend, let us know so we can schedule it or design it for you.

#### AND

To bring any of our programs to your company contact John or Susan. They are happy to discuss this with you. They will even design a new workshop just for you and your company.

# Congratulations Are In Order ......

- To Denise Andrews on her retirement from P & G and to Denise and Candy Fetzer on their new consulting company. We wish them much success.
- To Dr. Doreen Rienkee from Scottsdale Insurance Company on her Martin Luther King, Jr. Diversity Award. Doreen was recognized for all of her work in Arizona.
- To Asylum Entertainment and to Charlie Van Vleet on the premier of their new program "Anything to Win" which is on Tuesdays on the Game Show Network (GSN).
- To Pam Viscione and Peter Matthews on their engagement at Christmas. Pam is a director with P&G and Peter is a Pastor getting a Ph.D. We wish them a wonderful life together.
- To Jen Berndt on her promotion to Technology Leader (Band 2) at P&G in Cincinnati. Her promotion was effective January 1.

#### **Some Movie Recommendations**

For those of you as old as we are, you remember the Texas basketball team portrayed in the movie <u>Glory Road</u>. For those of you who don't, that team, changed basketball forever. This is a great movie about what it takes to produce a culture change.

<u>Last Holiday</u> is a fun film with messages about overcoming your fears and living a full life <u>now!</u> Not a bad message for all of us.

## PUBLIC WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

#### 2006 Courses

WOMEN MOVING FORWARD	Feb 28 – Mar 2	Lonetree, CO	\$3,000
PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS	March 7 - 9	Lonetree, CO	\$3,000
ADVANCED WOMEN MOVING FORWARD	March 14 - 16	Lonetree, CO	\$3,600
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP RETREAT	May 8 - 10	Edwards, CO	\$4,200
MANAGING CORPORATE CHANGE	May 23 - 25	Lonetree, CO	\$3,000
WOMEN MOVING FORWARD	June 6 - 8	Lonetree, CO	\$3,000
PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS	September 12 - 14	Lonetree, CO	\$3,000
ADVANCED MEN'S COURSE	October 10 - 12	Vail, CO	\$4,200
ACHIEVING COMMITMENT	November 14 - 16	Lonetree, CO	\$3,000

To register for any course, retreat, or conference, contact our office. We accept MasterCard, Visa and American Express

There is a \$500 discount when two or more people attend the same \$3,000+ workshop from the same company and location.

You must register together and attend together

All prices are subject to change. No refunds are given.