

Catalyst

Catalyst is for alumni of our seminars and workshops to remain connected, and for coaching clients, prospective clients, and other interested parties to learn about who we are and what we do. Also available electronically in *Writings* at www.DancingStar.com.

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The Bigger Game – For What do You Hunger?

[this is part two of our series on the Bigger Game leadership and change model. Overview and Part One in Writings at www.DancingStar.com.]

As you go about your work, are you inspired by what you do, with whom you interact, who you are as you do what you do? Or are you starting to notice that you and/or people around you are bored, that things have gotten a little stale? Has work become just "business as usual?" Is something missing? Do you have thoughts of or have you heard other people say "we (or I) should really change the way we (or I) do things around here," or "it should not be this way," or "they should do things differently?"

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you are tapping into the hunger – your hunger or yearning for your professional and/or personal life to offer more, to be more meaningful. It is a hunger that often goes unnoticed as we scurry about our day, checking off items on the "to-do" list, slaying the proverbial business dragons, "managing" and/or directing people, returning to email time and again as a way to prove we're busy.

You are familiar with the feeling of hunger. You satisfy it with 3 daily meals, or liquids to keep your body hydrated. If you have a significant other or children you know the longing to see them after extended travel, and the feeling of that longing being satisfied on your return.

The hunger we are referring to is different and yet the associated feelings can be similar. It is the hunger for things to be other than they are, for a change for the better. You may

The Bigger Game Model

Comfort Zone	Hunger	Higher Purpose
Sustainability	The size and quality of the game you play designs who you become	GULP!
Allies	Bold Action	Investment

not even notice the hunger building until one day you feel uneasy, anxious, frustrated, and the ways you've eased those feelings in the past – venting to a colleague, going home early, burying yourself even deeper in a project, feeding the vending machine – no longer work. Perhaps this is the sign that it is time for a new game, one that will require that you be different and do different.

Hunger is that unanswered feeling that demands attention, the hole which must be filled. It is this longing to be fulfilled that drives us. If we stop to identify and align with the hunger then we can find ourselves on the path toward a game which serves a compelling purpose, whereas simply attempting to fill the hunger in our usual ways will often leave us frustrated and directionless.

Even when we recognize the growing hunger for things to be different in the world and specifically in our corporate environment, many of us have a voice that says "who am I to initiate those big changes" or "it's too big" or "it's too hard." We leave ourselves with a sense of powerlessness, a resignation, a settling for what is.

The Bigger Game Model opens the space for corporate citizens to rekindle their personal power and capacity to make things different. It invites us to not settle for status quo, instead showing us the way to satisfy our personal and our team's hunger to create a more meaningful, impactful work environment.

If the game you're currently playing satisfies you fully, you're blessed. However, if you have a sense that there's something missing, something left undone, perhaps the game you're playing isn't yet big enough or you are still in the process of finding it.

Take time to tap into your growing hunger; identify and embrace it, even when it appears that the hunger might take you in a different direction to your business unit's strategy. It could be that you are on the verge of breaking through a challenge that has been plaguing management, your colleagues, or your customers.

More to come. For now let's just say that hunger is the soul's question. Next month's topic, compelling purpose, is the heart's answer. – Susan Valdiserri, IBM, & Deborah Huisken

ARE YOU UP FOR IT?

For coaching (of executives, entrepreneurs, and other artists) or consulting services, to bring an experiential workshop (Bigger Game, Dimensions of Leading, Power at Work) into your company, or to subscribe to this newsletter, contact Dancing Star Productions, phone: +1 413.367.9416, email: info@DancingStar.com, or on the web at www.DancingStar.com.

Restlessness and discontent are the first necessities of progress. - Thomas Edison



Catalyst – A Dancing Star Production
*One must have chaos within to give birth
 to a dancing star – Nietzsche*

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Submissions

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Advertising

Rates and deadlines available on request.

Deb's Corner



I started playing Bigger Games because I hungered.

I came face to face with the personal, yearning, hungry-for-answers side of me

which at the time was at odds with the public, professional, I-have-the-answers-and-even-if-I-don't-I-won't-admit-it-'cause- I'm-supposed-to-have-them side of me – are you familiar with this one?

Or perhaps you're familiar with "I have a voice and I should use it...but I've got too much to do already".

Or are you totally focused on hitting the bottom line and making your numbers, yet suspecting that there's something more?

Well, the good news is, there is.

Me, I want to make the world safer. I ask myself, how? How to awaken the abuser to the impact of his abuse on those around him?

How to connect the childless people who want to be parents with the parentless children who need them?

How to help the corporate exec at the "top of her game" – yet addicted to having more – see the cost of her greed to herself and others?

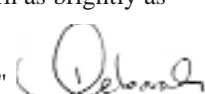
How to get the man convinced he's embarked on a holy war to see the destructiveness of blinkered single-mindedness, whether he is leading "our" side or "theirs"?

Do we just wait for people to hit bottom, figuratively or literally blowing up our world in the process, before they (and we) realize their mistake? Or is there some way to

make a difference, to help them see?

These are some answers for which I hunger. How about you? What are you hungry, yearning, longing for, so deeply that maybe it's hard to even recognize it?

Feeling and naming hunger is the first step towards identifying our role in this life. So I'll ask you the questions I ask myself. Where are you hiding, what are you hiding behind? What upsets, horrifies you? What steps do you need to take to, paraphrasing Gandhi, be the change you want to see in the world? What is the gap, the hole in your life? What is the action which, if you stepped toward it rather than over it, would lead you on? What would you willingly embrace discomfort, inconvenience, ambiguity to do?

To quote George Bernard Shaw, "this is the true joy of life, being used up for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. Life is no 'brief candle' to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations." 

QUOTE OF NOTE

There is ...an energy... translated through you into action, and because there is only one of you in all of time this expression is unique. If you block it, it will never exist through any other medium, and will be lost. The world will not have it. It is not your business to determine how good it is, how valuable, how it compares with other expressions. It is your business to keep it yours, clearly and directly, to stay open and aware to the urges that motivate you. Keep the channel open.

- Martha Graham, to Agnes DeMille

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

3 March 03: Deborah – I have perused your [newsletters] with interest. Right now, though, my box is full of perspectives on the Iraq situation – mostly from other people here in the UK desperate to find a way to hold back the US and Tony Blair from committing to war. Bush is succeeding in making not only terrorists hate him and the US, but even moderate British people, who are expressing anti-American views, and celebrating whenever a more reasonable voice or one which exposes the true motives of Bush and co is heard. Blairs' own Labour Party, here in the UK, is gradually turning against him, with over half the free-voting MPs in his own party now saying they will vote against him if they can create an opportunity to do so. But it seems as though the only way that war might be averted is if sufficient Americans can bring some calming influence to bear on the White House... Peter Martin, petermartin@newventurecentre.net

Peter – Many of us share your hunger, now more than ever. What game might it be calling you to play; what can you do with what you have now to start, with what you see right in front of you? Tough questions, I realize – I'd be interested to hear your thoughts. [see the articles he sent, plus others, in *Thoughts on the War* at www.DancingStar.com]