

campaign trail.



What could Louis S.B. Leakey, the world-famous discoverer of ancient man, and a young lady from Park Pacifica possibly have in common?

Leakey was a scientist, an anthropologist, a member of the Kikuyu tribe of Kenya (though a white man) and the discoverer of some of the oldest human and semi-human bones known to exist. The young woman is a ballet dancer. Her life is built around dance. Each day she thinks and plans dance. Each day she trains and re-trains her talented muscles, repeats motions she has done a thousand times, perhaps 10,000 times.

Leakey left his native Kenya to attend college in England and against the advice of his professors (ancient man did not originate in Africa—don't waste your time looking) he devoted over 40 years of his life to the search. When at last he and his wife Mary discovered the precious old bones in the Olduvai gorge of East Africa, it was one of the best-planned, persistently courted "lucky accidents" in the history of science.

LEAKEY, in the words of a friend, "KNEW he must succeed."

The young lady, too, is courting success. Day after day, years on end, she has pursued her goals with both perseverance and talent. Her talent is important to her, as his talent was to Leakey. More important, though, in his life's work, and to her future success, is their common strength. They set a goal, and stuck to it. He kept

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his always in mind, as she is doing, day after day, year after year.

It is, in fact, a kind of fanaticism. To do anything outstanding and worthwhile, you have to be a bit of a fanatic. You cannot just be "moderate." You cannot be "reasonable." "Reasonable" is taking ballet for a year or two, as long as it doesn't interfere with your social life. If you were Leakey, "reasonable" would have been admitting to yourself, "My professors are probably right. I won't bother searching for ancient man in such an uncomfortable, dangerous place as East Africa."

I PREDICT THAT, if they will have the same kind of drive, perseverance and talent as Leakey in Africa and the talented young lady in Park Pacifica, then some others in Pacifica will also succeed in the next decade. For example: those who are still attempting to save St. Peter's Church from the wrecking ball. They may still save it, if they persevere. The archbishop is an honorable man. In the end he will accept the fact that the problems of the church building are the responsibility of the archdiocese, not the parish. The fault of the parish was chiefly in trusting the judgment of archdiocesan experts.

The church's flaws, then, are an archdiocesan problem, not that of an underfunded parish structure.

I predict that, if he keeps to his goal, before the decade ends a prominent Pacifica lawyer will achieve his life's ambition and become a judge.

IF THEY HAVE the courage and the perseverance, a 10-year-old now at Sharp Park school will run, and win, in the metric mile at the 1988 Olympics, and a 13-year-old now at Cabrillo school will receive his doctorate from Stanford. His thesis in computer science. I predict will contain breakthroughs that will win him the Nobel Prize, and worldwide fame.

And the young lady of the ballet—after years of pain—no social life—tedious practice—will by the end of the decade be the premier dancer of one of the world's great ballet companies.

A clear goal—the requisite talent—and the will to persevere...Happy new decade.