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SPEAKERS

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A group of European economists decided to see who would be the best at picking stocks: a group of professional stock pickers, a group of elementary school students, or a cat. Now Orlando would pick his stocks by throwing his favorite toy mouse onto a mat and then of course, a human would enter those stocks into the computer. But many thought he made an enormous mistake when in the fourth quarter, he treated his very well performing (full trota plastic) stocks for an underperforming Scottish-American firm. But in the end, Orlando ended up winning the competition. Not only did he have no idea what he was doing because he was a cat, but he also made a very prominent mistake in the very end, going directly in contrast to this quotation from Lawrence G Peter. "To err is human but when the eraser has gone before the pencil, you can overdoing it you can be you are overdoing it" and we can see Peter is explaining that we need to be able to rectify our mistakes. We need to have an eraser that is bigger than the pencil we use to make those mistakes. However, we must disagree with this quotation, because we can use our mistakes to make a bigger pencil. First, because our mistakes often make a much greater impact than our successes. And second, because we must learn to break our own rules to build a new pencil. First, our mistakes can make a greater impact than our successes. We don't need an eraser to make up for these mistakes. We can use the mistakes to our advantage, finding ways to grow without ever completely removing them. We can see this through Shrek and Richard Reid. First, well DreamWorks was working on Shrek they were



also working on Prince of Egypt, and they saw Shrek as the ugly stepchild of the organization. So whenever one of the programmers made it or whatever one of the animators rather made a mistake on Prince of Egypt. They were sent to Shrek as punishment. Today referred to as getting shreked

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or being sent to the Gulag

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Now, obviously, they saw not only what they did on Prince of Egypt as a mistake, but also Shrek itself as a mistake, but Shrek ended up having a much greater impact than the Prince of Egypt ever did. Showing that we don't necessarily need an eraser to remove this mistake, we can use it to make a greater impact. At the same time, this can be seen through Richard Reid. Richard Reid is the terrorist who first attempted to set off a shoe bomb in 2001. Now he completely failed the bomb never went off. But we were still so afraid of what he did that every year every single person needs to take off their shoes when they go to the airport, and I know we were all really tired of that when we were coming to AFA but not only is it a nuisance, but it also adds to 11 Lifetime's of productivity per year lost just by taking off our shoes. Richard Reid didn't die when he made this mistake, however he continues to take 11 lifetimes of American lives. Per year showing even a much greater impact than he ever could have in the first place. Through Shrek and Richard Reid, we can see that oftentimes our mistakes make a greater impact, meaning rather than needing an eraser, they can become their own pencil. At the same time, we need to see that we need to learn to break our own rules, and in essence, make a new pencil. Sometimes we see breaking rules as a mistake. We have these ideas for what we need to do in order to be successful, but by breaking them we can go in an entirely new direction. We can see this through the charity Smile Train, and Michael Forbes. First, one of the biggest things that I think we can all agree on that we should do to be successful is not buy people. However, that's exactly what the charity Smile Train does in order to save people. They found that in countries particularly India, many children with cleft palate were being smothered immediately at birth, and the people who birthed them, were being paid \$1 in order to do this. So Smile Train decided to buy these children for \$10 and give them cleft palate surgery and help them be adopted out around the rest of the world. They went completely in contrast to what the mission statement of humanitarian organizations should be. And in doing so they not only completely went against the idea of making a mistake, but they built their own pencil. At the same time, Michael Forbes was a farmer who Donald Trump wanted to steal his land in order to build a golf course. Now his main goal was to keep his land, but he ended up having to sell that land in order to

keep it. He sold that land to an Antarctic researcher. Understanding that if Trump wanted to take his land under eminent domain, they would have to hand deliver a letter to the researcher. He had to make what would be a very big mistake in selling his land in order to keep it, creating his own pencil, through Smile Train and Michael Forbes we can see that sometimes we need to break these basic rules. So today, we examine the quotation. "To err is human but when the eraser is gone before the pencil you're overdoing it" and we disagree because we can use mistakes to make a bigger pencil. First because mistakes will make a greater impact. And second, we need to learn to break our own rules, just like Orlando did when he ended up beating every single one of the supposed geniuses in picking stocks.