

# Journey: The group will meet up with celebrities in San Francisco

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 job, not anywhere," she said. "That's when I first learned the quote by Booker T. Washington, 'Once you expand your mind, you can never go back.'"

After spending a week with Saperston, serendipity intervened and O'Brien left her job to hop on the bus and begin her own Journey.

"I couldn't go back to my job, I couldn't go look at my computer, I couldn't do anything," she said. "I realized I wasn't on the path I should be on. As fun as it was, there's more to life than just making money. You need to do something you love. So I quit my job, I got on the bus with Eric, and here we are."

And just six months ago, serendipity stepped in again when Saperston and O'Brien checked in at the same Houston, Texas hotel as the crew from MTV's *Road Rules*. It was there they met up with Kelly, who had been working for the popular TV show. It wasn't long before she hopped on the bus too.

"I was really taken by the project," Kelly said. "Right away we

were interviewing the Unknown Comic, the director of the Cirque du Soleil, we talked to young people late at night, and I realized it was a big adventure, and it really had a purpose I could believe in. I got so much respect from my parents and my older relatives. I thought I was really honoring them by doing this."

But The Journey has become more than a documentary project for Saperston, O'Brien and Kelly. The trek across America and across the generations has proffered up some new life philosophies for the trio.

Namely, they said, it comes down to identifying everyone's individual gift, offering the gift's services to the community and staying committed to the gift and the process of serving.

"It's a paradox," Saperston said. "If you cling to the surface, nobody will come your way to help you. If you let go and you commit yourself to your gift, and you are able to clearly identify being of service, leap and the net will appear. But you have to have faith in the process."

"And when you're scared —

like we have been and still are today — go out and seek the people who are still flying because they'll give you the strength and courage to keep going. 'Fake-it-'til-you-make-it' and 'never-let-'em-see-you-sweat' are bogus messages. Don't get caught up in it. The real people who succeed are the ones who are vulnerable."

The next stop for The Journey is California. The group is tentatively scheduled to head to San Francisco, where they'll meet up with Bobby Weir, Angela Davis and Francis Ford Coppola. From there, they said they'll make their way to Los Angeles, where the editing of their documentary will begin.

When or how serendipity will again step into their travels remains to be seen. However, Saperston said The Journey may not be as serendipitous as he once thought.

"I think if you want to get anywhere even close to grace, you need to get rid of plans because grace just kind of happens; but all the elements have to be in place. You've just gotta let go of an awful lot for those elements to align.

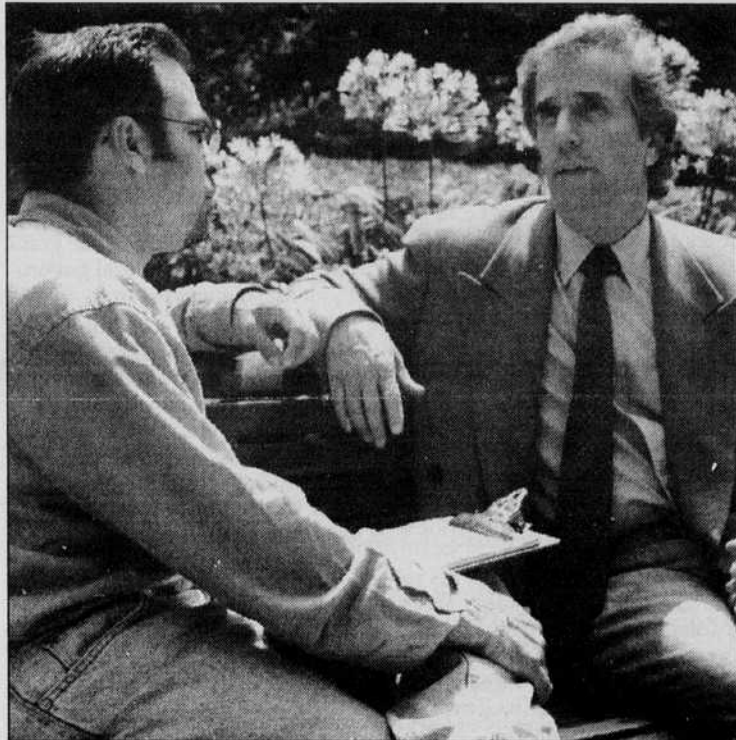
At one point I thought this was serendipity," Saperston paused. "Now I wonder if it's grace."

The members of The Journey will be spreading their messages of self-fulfillment and sharing some of their trip experiences today in the EMU Ben Linder Forum at 3 p.m.



Billy Crystal thinks this Journey is "Just Mah-velous."

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Henry Winkler spends a "Happy Day" with Saperston.

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Paige O'Brien, one of the Journey members, exclaims "Say Cheesey."

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