

QUIZ > Do You Take Things Too Personally? (Who, Me?)

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IMAGES, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: CHRIS CUMMINS; PETER LAMASTRO; LARS KLOVE; JAMES GODMAN

great-great-great-granddad played the fife for the 2d Virginia Regiment, which fought during the Revolutionary War. Steve decided to follow in William Dillon's footsteps (and fingers) and take up the fife.

That's not so surprising for a musician who has loved instruments ever since his trombone lessons in fourth grade. By junior high Steve was collecting and trading instruments. Today he owns a store that sells brass and woodwind instruments (antique and new) to orchestras all over the world.

Steve found the 2d Virginia Regiment recreators online in 2004 and joined up as their fifer. But even for a man with a more than passing interest in the past, serving with the 2d Virginia took a stretch of the imagination—and some long drives to battle sites since he lives in New Jersey. The group's strict code of authenticity means everything must be a faithful representation of the 18th-century soldiers' life: the uniform from hat to shoes, and what the men eat, do and discuss in battle.

"It's roughing it, but you really get a sense of what the men had to endure,"

Steve says. "It's one thing to see history in books but seeing it live makes all the difference in the world. It gives it more meaning."

As a fifer, Steve's job is to tell his fellow soldiers when it's time to rise and to retire, to eat, to march and to be on alert. When the spectators have gone home the reenactors share stories over hardtack and homemade wine. Says Steve, "It's a real brotherhood."—AL

► Kevin Gordon

Kevin Gordon and his wife, Natasha, and son, Mico, founded Camp Kupugani just two years ago, but their journey to ownership is the stuff of campfire legends.

Kevin didn't go to camp as a kid. One summer in college he taught tennis at Eagle River Camp in Wisconsin and got hooked. "I was blown away by the social impact camp had on the kids and the growth and transformation that they experienced being away from home," Kevin recalls. Over subsequent summers working at camps in Pennsylvania and California he noticed something else: The vast majority of the campers were white and upper middle class.

Why not open a camp

that set out to be multicultural? After college he taught tennis to pay the bills while he tried to raise funds for his camp. "I discovered the old adage, it takes money to raise money," Kevin says. How would he make money? He settled on law. He graduated from the University of California-Berkeley School of Law in 2003 and began working in employment litigation at a top law firm.

Though his big paycheck was bringing him closer to starting a camp, says Kevin, "I realized doing something purely for money is not fulfilling. Even knowing the purpose, it wasn't enough." It was time to commit fully to his dream. He and his wife searched for camps to buy, discovering the

KEVIN'S TIPS ON HOW TO DO WHAT YOU LOVE AND LOVE WHAT YOU DO

- **Be persistent.** Becoming a lawyer wasn't easy, but it helped me achieve my dream.
- **Look at the big picture.** You can always take something to the next level.
- **Get your family on board.** I couldn't do without my awesome wife and son.

best fit in Camp White Eagle, established in Illinois in 1951. They renamed it Camp Kupugani, which means "to raise oneself up" in Zulu. The name applied to all the work Kevin and Natasha had to do, recruiting both campers and staff. "We wanted the staff to reflect the campers," says Kevin. The first session in the summer of 2007 brought together black, white, Hispanic and Asian girls from different

economic backgrounds.

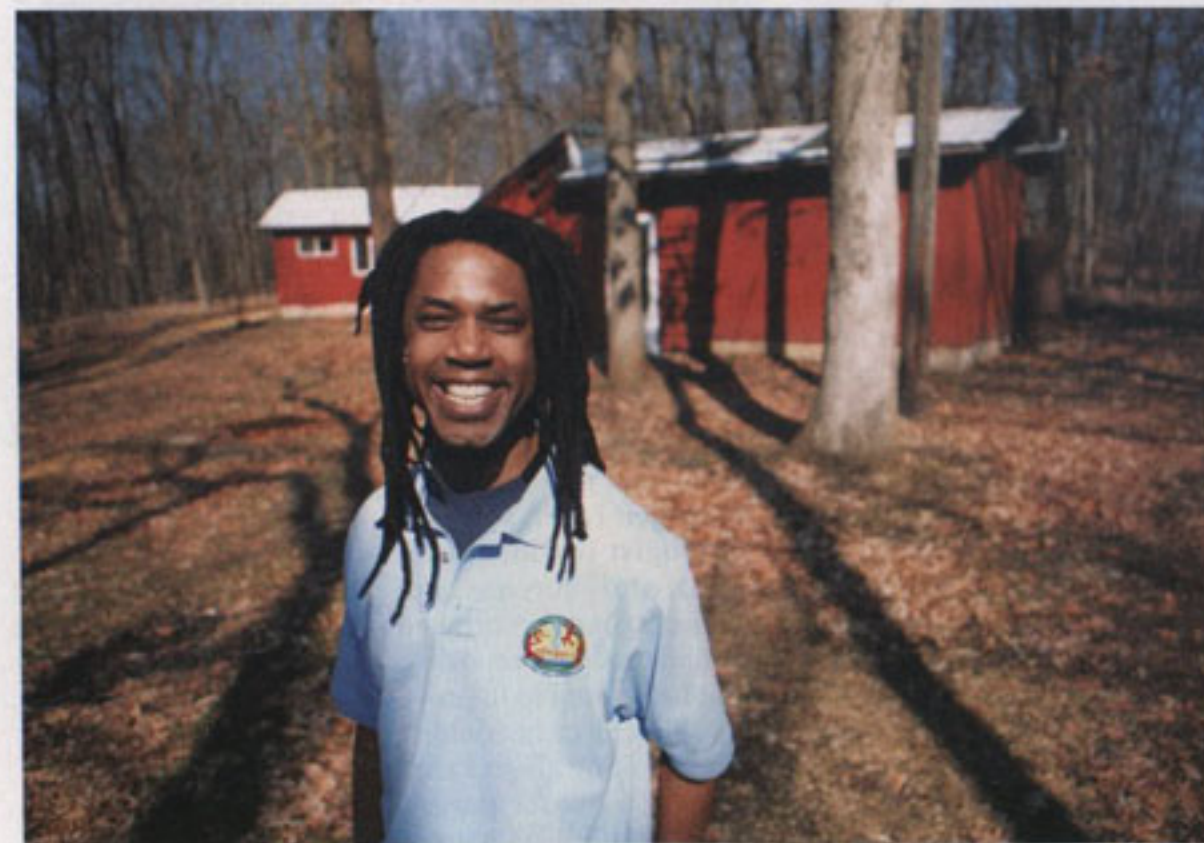
"Most of the girls were afraid of grass or insects, and refused to do this jump into the lake," says Kevin. "But they all got over their fears in just a few days. Just to see them become more empowered, gaining independence, social skills, feeling good about themselves—it's long hours and hard work, but infinitely better than a career I had no passion for."—AL

► Aaron Wolfson and Peter Menge

It was August 2005. New Orleans natives and grade school pals Aaron Wolfson and Peter Menge were elated. After spending more than a year and more than their savings to renovate a space to hold Creole cooking classes, The Savvy Gourmet finally opened.

Just days later, news of an impending hurricane broke. They evacuated for what they assumed was the

KEVIN realized his dream of running a multicultural camp; he even gets to live there year-round!



PHOTOGRAPH BY SCOTT JONES