

Commentary

Jim Davidson Syndicated Columnist

Just say 'No'

The late Thomas Hughes, English author and reformer, once said, "Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things, but above all, the power of going out of one's self, and appreciating whatever is noble and loving in another."

However, there is a moral and social crisis in the world today which can make it difficult to know who our true friends really are. I'm referring to the terrible scourge of illegal drugs. For those who choose to get involved, the idea or thought of true friendship can quite often be a rude and painful awakening.

There are millions of tragic stories that will be told here and there in one of those stories to share with you. This true story involves a young person who got involved with drugs and it took place only a few miles from where I live, so it really hit close to home.

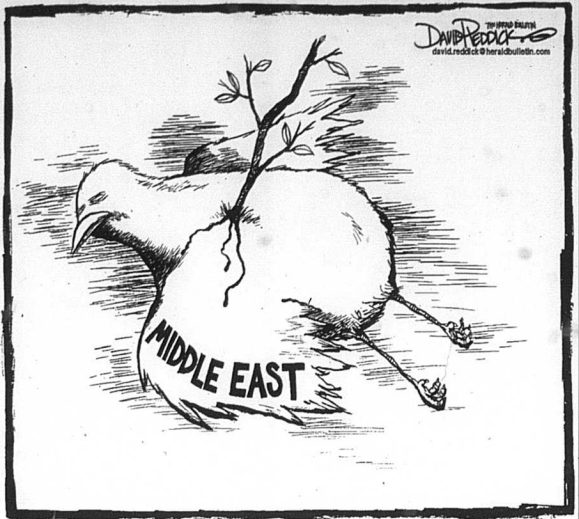
A young man in his twenties was a college student, and like so many others, he fell into bad company and before long he was using drugs on a regular basis. During this time he met another young man and they became friends.

He had been in an old house in a well, and he was fixing it up to live in and his friend spent several days helping him get it ready. A few miles from the college town where these young men were both living, they had started a marijuana field to grow plants, harvest them and sell the buds to other students and anyone else who came along.

One afternoon, just a short time ago, they both took school early to go to the marijuana field to harvest some plants. It had become their custom for one of them to carry a gun, since they had become wary of the local authorities. As they made their way through a thicket of small pine trees, the young man who owned the house, who was the friend of his friend, and he heard the hammer of the gun click.

The next thing he knew, he was lying on the ground dead, because his friend had shot him and presumed him to be dead. As he continued to lay there, he heard the bite of a shovel as it tore hunk out of the pine floor. His friend was digging his grave. Realizing his only chance to survive was a knife he carried in his pocket, he slowly pulled it out and he opened the blade. His real

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Encyclopedia Appalachia to be published

Fairly soon, as in the year 2002, the new "Encyclopedia of Appalachia" will be published by the University of Tennessee Press. The massive undertaking grew out of discussions at several Appalachian Studies Conferences, an for 5 years or so, committees and individuals have been working and plan and compile the mammoth document.

The Center for Appalachian Studies and Services at East Tennessee State University took on the task of coordinating the project, surely one of the most ambitious undertakings ever within this region, and now section editors are scrambling to collect, edit, and finalize the thousands of entries.

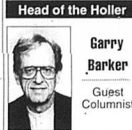
There's a web page, http://www.atsc.edu/encyclopedia.htm, where you can take a look at the details, see lists of advisors and editors, topics, sections, and progress reports. There are some sample entries, for those who yet like to venture into such a dubious challenge. Having attempted five entries, I can attest to the difficulty of writing an impersonal, factual description within the word limit, especially since I have been often quoted as saying "I do not let the facts stand in the way of a good story."

These are not stories. Just the facts.

labor of love. New books about Appalachia are now published on a fairly regular basis, and just about every year I agree to be a "reader" for one or two university press manuscripts. Most academic publishers send every manuscript out to two or three readers for evaluation, and so far I've recommended every book for publication. Of course, they've been good ones, like Billy Clark's "By Way of the Forked Stick" and Sam Venable's "Mountain

Hand: A Portrait of Southern Appalachia," both from Tennessee, and a new study of weaving in the southern highlands to be published by the University Press of Kentucky. It is satisfying to see the books in print after reading them in manuscript form. Just as it will be to see the new Encyclopedia.

Contact the author at garybarker@netscape.com or www.angelfire.com/lybarker



Head of the Holler Garry Barker Guest Columnist

How to reach your City & County Officials

CITY OFFICIALS

- Mayor Ronnie Clark
Council Members Doug Garrett, Tommy Vaughn, Sandy Ritchie, Betty Barton, Charlie Fay, Frankie Hughes

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

- Annette Flora, Charles Ring, Donna Mattox, Mona Vice, Sherry Uptgraft

COUNTY OFFICIALS

- Judge/Executive Larry Tinscher, County Attorney Donnie Bromagen, Sheriff & Deputy Charles Ring, Clyde Miller, Jailor Billy Mac Gauce, Nicholas County Fire Chief & Emergency Management Director Mark Hughes

- Magistrate Billy Dixon, Magistrate Daryl Stacy, Magistrate Avery Thornsburg, Magistrate Jeff Randolph, Magistrate Steve Hamilton

IN THE RECORD

Noticias

District 27001 Estate of Over Day, will admit to probate, order entered. Estate of Homer Ray Willoughby, probate hearing, order entered. Betty Willoughby and Penny Watkins appointed as joint surisors. Estate of Henry F. Young, probate hearing, order entered. mail to fiduciary with copy to attorney for Sept. 17. B o l l s o u t h Telecomunications v. Jason Metcalf, motion heard, no parties present, passed, to be decided on motion. Shirley Adams, show cause hearing, bench warrant issued, \$1,000. Joseph L. Joseph, arraignment, alcohol intoxication, public defender appointed, not guilty by court, pretrial conference Aug. 20, bid to remain set.

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problem however, was that the blast of the gun had left him blinded. When his so-called "friend" who had now become his assistant, finished digging and came over to put him in the grave, as he helped and footsteps close by, the young man lunged at him with the open knife blade and ripped into the calf of his assailant's leg. He expected to be finished off, but his assailant left without doing him further harm. Later it was revealed he had left to get medical attention. For the next two days and nights, in a mosquito and snake infested forest, the young man wandered totally blind until he finally staggered upon a farm house where he was able to find help. Today he is living with his parents in a nearby town and will be blind for the rest of his life. While the subject of drugs and the havoc they wreak in people's lives is endless, I believe this true story will shed light on the problem from a little different angle. It's true, when you get involved with drugs, you never know when you will be blindsided.

Saltwell News

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Snapp traveled to Roanoke Valley where they enjoyed a variety of shows before returning home on Sunday. A large crowd attended the lovely wedding of Francis Mitchell to Daryl Moore at the Saltwell Church on Saturday afternoon. The wedding was served following the wedding. The wedding rehearsal and dinner were conducted on Friday evening at the church. Mrs. Betty Livingston, Rev. Howard Livingston, Fred and Mary Hollar and Bob Kenny of Grant County visited the past week with Gladys Kenny. Mrs. Ramona George visited Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hollar. Hannah Oldiron and John Lee Allison spent Sunday night and Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hollar. Mr. and Mrs. David Earlowine and Mrs. Phyllis Brady enjoyed the tremendous and powerful preaching and singing of Rev. Dan Frederick at the Berry Methodist Church revival in Harrison County. The church was filled the two nights they attended.

Check Out These Web Sites: Kinetics Incorporated at www.kinetics.com. The Intelligent Transportation Society of America at http://www.itsa.org. Specialty Steel Industry at www.ssiusa.com. UniFirst at www.unifirst.com and www.shopunifirst.com. The Society of Financial Service Professionals at www.financial.org. The Love and Logic Institute at www.loveandlogic.com. The National Resource Society at www.resourcesociety.com. The Nassau/Paradise Island Promotion Board at www.bahamas.com. StrongStar at www.strongstart.com. Dunkin' Donuts Coffee By The Pound at www.dunkindonuts.com. The Caring for Every Child's Mental Health Campaign at www.mentalhealth.org/child. New Outdoor Power Products at www.RyobiOutdoor.com. Pentair Pool Products at www.pentairpool.com. MeLife at www.melifelife.com. Global Travel at www.globaltravel.com. Volunteers of America at www.volunteersofamerica.org.

arrangement, driving on DUI suspended license, failure to wear seat belt, no insurance, amended to operating on suspended license, not guilty plea to all charges, pretrial conference Aug. 27. Shawn Peterman, arraignment, license to be in possession, proof dismissed, no operators license, proof dismissed; failure to produce insurance card, proof dismissed; failure to wear seat belt, proof in full. Melissa G. Glass, show cause hearing, show cause order Oct. 15, to continue payments as ordered. Jeffrey S. Dunn, show cause hearing, community service complete and paid in full. Jillian Golden, show cause hearing, bench warrant issued, \$200. J. Alan Golden, show cause hearing, bench warrant issued, \$200. Brandon V. Mattox, show cause hearing, paid in full, community service not completed, show cause order Sept. 24. Joseph L. Joseph, community service, not completed, show cause order Oct. 15. Joseph L. Joseph, community service, not completed, show cause order Oct. 15. Joseph L. Joseph, community service, not completed, show cause order Oct. 15. Joseph L. Joseph, community service, not completed, show cause order Oct. 15.

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