

In their own words

Scott Davidson
Guest commentary

The gift of fatherhood

Last October, I became a father for the first time. My poor wife Becky had endured a full day of labor and medications and difficult decisions before hearing the telltale scream of our son Benjamin echo through the operating room. Amidst the commotion of the delivery and the confusion of the medicine, I could hear her ask me these questions that I will never forget.

Question #1: "Is it a boy?" "Yes!" I answered. Question #2: "Does he have any hair?" "No," I replied. "Why? Yes, he does have hair!" (Who knows, let's just say that at 8 months, my son probably has more hair than I do.) Question #3: "Does he have all of his... arms?" Smiling, I replied, "Yes, he's perfect!"

It was a very long day for everyone. I had to make lots of calls, entertain lots of visitors, run lots of errands, etc. It was a happy day to be sure, but it was also a day filled with fear and pain and worry and the overwhelming sense that somehow, everything had changed.

Eight months later, my family celebrated Father's Day and expressed gratitude for dad, me, that is, I still can't get used to that new name! When I think about it, though, I feel sure that I am the one who should be grateful for fatherhood.

It is such a privilege to watch my son develop and grow, and to care for him. Friends of mine who are older fathers have often told me, "Enjoy these years—they go by much too quickly." I can tell that they would be right almost anything to be able to relive their first few years of fatherhood.

I can doubly fortunate because my job has enough flexibility that I am able to care for my son during a large portion of every day. We go for walks down Main Street and visit friends. (You may notice us some time Benjamin is the one riding in the blue backpack.) We take naps and explore the house and watch very bad television shows. We read books and change diapers and try not to spill food everywhere (well, OK, only do those things).

My father was taken away from this world when I was 21 years old, and there is so much that I wish I could share with him. I can only imagine that he experienced the same delights with his son that I experience with mine, and I can only hope that somehow he is able to be with me now as I walk down

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Commentary

Local stations the best in radio

If ever I sell my trusty pickup truck, whoever gets it will surely wonder about the four preset radio stations. They won't find any major market stations on my short list of favorites.

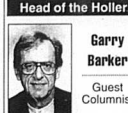
The one most used is 90.3 FM, Morehead State University's WKMY, used for the drive to and from work each day to catch up on local, state, national, and international news plus the locally produced talk and news shows, "Front Page" and "Mountain Edition."

Every now and then I even get to hear myself on Mountain Edition. "Head of the Hollar" on the airwaves, and people tell me the spots get picked up and used on the Richmond and Lexington NPR stations. It's a new experience.

On Saturdays, WKMY offers Sandy Knipp's "Bluegrass Diversions," traditional and bluegrass music for three hours, with highlights of background, interviews, and previews.

I also enjoy listening to the call of an 8-10 for talk or classic rock, and since I

Head of the Hollar



Barry Barker
Guest Columnist

progressing from faltering beginnings to a near professional polish, and the many MSU graduates in the broadcast profession are proof of the process.

I still relish, though, the student a few years back who'd learned a smooth, sophisticated radio voice, and was reporting on the spring floods which hit "Fool-mouth," pronounced just like that, with never a blip in his practiced tones.

I hope nobody ever told him to properly pronounce "Fool-mouth."

Most of my work and personal travel is east into the mountains, and for me there's

only one station in East Kentucky. That's WSGS in Hazard, 101.1 FM, where they still play Holly Parton and Tom T. Hall, plus local bluegrass groups, a mix of old and new country music, where locally produced spots and news are still part of the package and the daily "free market" opens the airwaves to everybody.

The third slot on my radio goes to WFLE in Flemingsburg, 95.1 FM, hometown happenings and hometown advertisers, which live remotes from local events.

I don't actually need the fourth preset button on my radio, though right now it's set to a Morehead country station. The cassette tape player fills in when I make longer trips, with plenty of Keith Whitley, Johnny Cash, the Eagles, Bob Seger, Creedence Clearwater Revival, and the Osbourne Brothers stashed away in various compartments. Four speakers provide more than enough quality and volume inside the cab of an 8-10 for talk or classic rock, and since I

usually travel alone I don't have to fight over the volume controls. Sometimes a little silence is golden, and drive time can be good think time. Just how much drive time is left in the pickup is debatable.

There are 119,000 miles on the odometer, but the rugged V-6 engine seems to run as smooth and strong as it ever did. The truck still looks good, and everything works except the backup lights system. The braking system worked until a GM recall, a computer update, crashed the system.

The next owner might also wonder about that snip of duct tape on the instrument panel. If he peels it off, he'll see the bright orange light indicating that the anti-lock doesn't work.

The brakes still do. I just fixed the glowing symbol so I could drive at night without sunglasses.

Contact the author at garyrbarker@netscape.net or www.angelfire.com/ky/barber

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Nicholas County Fire Chief & Emergency Management Director Mark Hughes

Magistrate Billy Dixon

Magistrate Daryl Stacy

Magistrate Agave Thornburg

Magistrate Jeff Handolph

Magistrate Steve Hamilton

Deaths

Robert McFarland - Robert Charlton McFarland, 64, of Kennedy Heights, died Monday, June 18 at St. Joseph Hospital.

He was born in Nicholas County to Betty Wilcox Mather of Carlisle and the late Charlton Hitch McFarland.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran, a retired employee of I.B.M., a member of Dougherty Lodge #784 and a member of Marie Chapter O.E.S., and a member and Elder Emeritus of Carlisle Christian Church.

Survivors include his wife, Faye Donovan McFarland; a son, Daryl McFarland of Lexington; a daughter, Amy (Jeff) Hamilton of Carlisle; a step-brother, Taylor T. Mather of Carlisle; and three grandchildren Ashley Ann McFarland, Morgan Elizabeth Hamilton and Jeffrey Tyler Hamilton.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charlton Hitch McFarland.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, June 20 at Mather-Gaunce Funeral Home with Rev. Steve Smith officiating. Burial at Carlisle Cemetery.

Palbearers: Bill Donovan, Norman Duncan, Pat Durrin, Jeff Hamon, Tim Moreland and Tom Moreland.

Honorary pallbearers: Paul Donovan, Jimmie Hall and the Carlisle Christian Church Board.

Contributions are suggested to Carlisle Christian Church Ramp Fund.

Neel Gaunce - Neel Gaunce, 90, of Carlisle, widow of Fritze Gaunce, died Saturday June 16 at Nicholas County Hospital.

She was born in Bourbon County to the late Thomas "HT" and Lillie Groen Richey. She was a retired employee of Johnson-Mather Nursing Home was a member of Saltwell United Methodist Church and was Ky. Colonel.

Survivors are a daughter, Phyllis Frise, Carlisle; three grandsons, Ricky; (Edith

Price, Mt. Sterling; Jimmy (Dana) Price, Carlisle; David (Drona) Gaunce, Mississippi; two granddaughters, Nyri (Don) Stacy, Carlisle; Debbie (Greg) Purle, Henderson; nine great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a son Donnie Bobby Gene Price and a son-in-law Jeff Hamilton.

Services were 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 19 at Mather-Gaunce Funeral Home by Rev. James Gaunce and Rev. Gaylord Gillespie. Burial was in Carlisle, Cemetery.

Casketbearers were Phillip and Jeff Mattox, and Bobby, Chad, Kyle and Bradley Price.

Honorarybearers were Mary Lou Alexander, George Cord, Doris Eton, Anna Mae Gillispie, Dr. A. J. Hamon, Nola Johnson, Rusty Lawrence, Brandon Price, Charles Ring, Chuck Smith, Reese Smoot, Jeri Nell Stacy, and Opal Thomas.

Pinkie Compton - Pinkie Compton Franco, 66 of Mt. Sterling, widow of Robert Wendell Franco, died June 16 at his residence. He was born August 10, 1934 in Grundy Va. to the late Joseph Stewart and Rachel Matney Compton.

Survivors were: one daughter, Janet (Greg) Galley, Flemingsburg; two sons, Ike (Ronna) Franco, Carlisle; Wendell (Cathy) Franco of Mt. Sterling; seven grandchildren; four brothers; Dennis (Diane) J. Compton, Lesse (Peggy) Compton and Barnes (Sue) Compton all of Mt. Sterling.

Also preceded in death by one sister Virgie Compton and two brother Dewey and Joseph Compton Jr.

Palbearers: Jeff Nealis, Kenny and Richie McVey, Darrell Wells, Jamie, Greg and Charles Edward Compton, Barry Bryant, Rodney Lykins.

Honorary Pallbearers, Robbie, Austin and Phillip Scott Mitchell, Zachary, Timmy, James, John

and Madison France, Tiffany Lykins, Tonya and Teri Lynn Mattox. Contributions: Hospice

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the same path of fatherhood. So on behalf of fathers everywhere, whose children and families express gratitude on Father's Day, the privilege is ours. Trust me. The gift of fatherhood is simply too good for words.

Scott Davidson is a resident of Morehead and an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Morehead State University.

Call the newsroom: 289-2464

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

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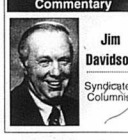
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The power of words

There is an old saying that goes, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me. While I don't know if you have ever heard this or not, I'm here to tell you that it's not true. The biggest lies that have ever been told. In my own personal experience, I have seen the power of inspiring words lift a very dependent person to overcome all manner of his obstacles and I've also seen how words can tear another person down and make them feel worthless, as

Commentary



Jim Davidson
Syndicated Columnist

a human being. Like you, I love the English language and do my best to

express myself in a clear and convincing manner and care is what Leo Rosten, a noted authority on our language has to say about words. They sting. They hurt. They teach. They sanctify. They were man's first, immeasurable feat of magic. They liberated us from ignorance and our barbarous past.

There is no doubt about it, words are very powerful and we should be very careful how we use them. As a writer, my relation to the words and dignity of other people. This is even more important as it

relates to members of our own family and others we have the power to influence. For some reason, our nation's school teachers just came to mind here. To illustrate what I mean, I'd like to tell you about an interesting experiment that has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of those unfortunate people who spend all or most of their time in a negative environment. This experiment began as follows: one time some research scientists took a large glass tank and filled it with water. In this tank they

placed a large fish and a good number of small minnows. Hopefully you can see this in your mind. What do you think when? If you said the fish ate the minnows, give yourself an "A". For several days the scientists kept adding more minnows to the tank and the big fish had a good thing going, because he just kept on eating them. Then one day the scientists placed a glass partition between the tank with the big fish on one side and the minnows on the other.

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