

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

A Message For The Very Young

"Sometimes the very young do not do as they're told." -Anteus of the Nox

When you reach an uncertain age, you begin to realize that your parents were right about many things. This will occur sooner or later, like it or not, depending on how well you have been paying attention to your own life. When it does happen you may even feel the urge to pass along the knowledge yourself, but most will not listen, and those who do may not hear. You didn't either.

The ancients had an explanation for this impediment. As they saw it, there are three levels of intelligence. At the highest level, one hears the truth, recognizes it as truth and acts on it. At the next level, one hears the truth, disregards it and learns through experience. Unfortunately a great many people fall into the lowest level of intelligence. They hear the truth, disregard it, fail to learn from the experience that results, and repeat the lesson.

Your humble servant is not prepared to admit how many remedial lessons he has been required to repeat, but if he could pass on to the very young a few of the things his parents were right about, and some unexpected lessons driven home along the way, the following would be among them:

You can waste a lot of precious time and energy, a lifetime, comparing your life to other people's images of success. You are the only person who must decide what success looks like for you, and if you can learn early how to prioritize wanting what you have over getting what you want, success will come easier. Never discount happiness and peace of mind as an indication of what success should look like.

Nothing comes without a cost. This can be an unpleasant truth in a culture that traffics in addiction, particularly the addiction to instant gratification. If your goal is to become financially independent, observe financially successful people. Unless they inherited their wealth, every single one was able at some point in their life to set aside short term wants for long term goals.

Your generations are plagued by depression and anxiety, anger and suicidal thoughts. You're not the first, nor will you be the last. What is different this time is that there is a technological common denominator to much of your suffering. Social media in all its forms can be a powerful tool for communication. It can also be the cannula through which you feed on other people's lives, and that is not a healthy diet for mind, body and spirit.

Social media can enable, focus and replicate the worst of human behavior. In that realm people think there are no consequences for their actions, but the results cry out from too many young people pushed to despair. Some of you have realized this already, and the old fashioned flip-phone, devoid of all but the most basic functions, is becoming popular again.

Every generation since the beginning has been obsessed with sex. Civilization has always struggled to contain the impulses that can create life and, unbridled, annihilate it. Marriages, friendships, careers, health and life itself have been destroyed over and over in the attempt to satiate the carnal desires.

Yet no civilization in the history of humanity has allowed the narrative around that basic instinct as expressed through gender to become so conflicted and confused as the daily drama media injects into the national consciousness. Your generations are the leading edge of this drama. To be clear, most of us, the overwhelmingly vast majority, are not confused, but the issue has been hijacked, warped, and amplified beyond reason for political purposes and social engineering.

Most people care only about the quality of your character. Truly. As far as those of us minding our own business and trying to make a living are concerned, you can insist you're a stalk of celery if you like. In fact, you've had that legal right for decades, long before it became the latest issue to engage the national pixel addiction.

Just remember two things: First, Nature always bats last, and second, when you insist that everyone around you agrees that you're a stalk of celery or be punished for their contrary opinion, and demand to be accommodated in the produce section, you've gone too far, and people who would otherwise prefer to live and let live will push back.

Walking hand in hand with gender ideology are those three letters of immense concern to youngers and also to some who conflate liberalism with Marxism: D.E.I., which stands for diversity, equity and inclusion. These are fine ideals at face value. You did not invent these concepts.

For generations the US was known as the great melting pot, where peoples from all corners of the globe, with every possible combination of belief and cultural heritage, came together to forge a society uniquely American. We know about diversity. Been there; done that; still doing it better than anywhere else in the world.

The problem with your version of diversity is that it seeks to attach itself to equity and eliminate merit from the equation. When you prioritize diversity and equity over merit, you get mediocrity. With mediocrity, bridges fall and planes crash. The US economy and infrastructure is a complex "system of systems." Most people have no idea of the vast number of systems that have to function properly for you to be able to hop in the car, drive to the market and buy a loaf of bread. Mediocrity is already threatening the delicate balance of our vital systems, as demonstrated by the rotten core of many large cities.

As stated, you did not invent these ideas. Equity has long been at the core of New Testament truth, and for generations the diverse denominations of Christianity as well as other religious beliefs have taught that God is no respecter of persons, and shows no favoritism or partiality. However, what many of you call "equity" and "inclusion," when those goals include universal income and equal outcomes no matter the level of effort or competency - is actually closer to Marxism.

There is nothing diabolical or special about Marxism. It actually contains some laudable ideals. It's just that it has always failed as an economic system, and is doomed to fail because it misunderstands human nature.

Forty thousand years of experience have programmed humanity to compete as much as cooperate. Give us a boundary and we will test it, push against it, and create a new boundary. That is the primary occupation of youth, and you are carrying on that tradition just like all your ancestors did.

Those of us with more mistakes under our belts are concerned that this time around may be different for you, however. There are uncomfortable echoes of the past in the rhetoric, and in the methodology of those who influence you. You are being herded, as all humanity is subject to endure from time to time, into a future of coerced conformity.

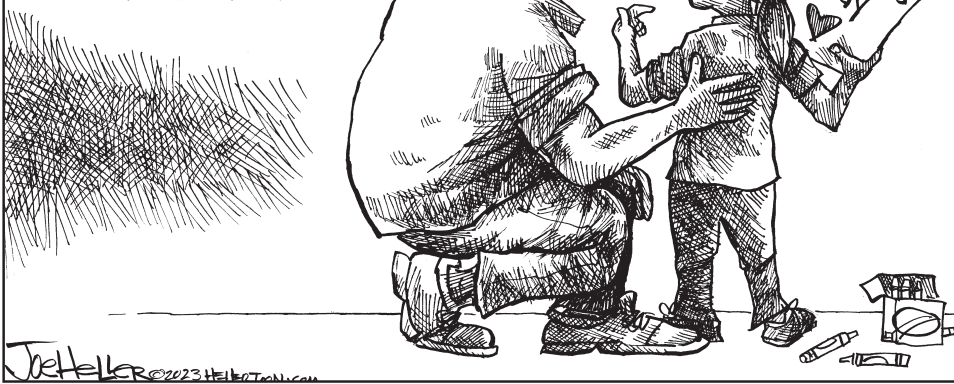
Right now you think that's exactly what you want because the images are decorated with ideals that resonate. Inevitably you will realize that you have been deceived, and you will rebel. Like the generations before you who learned but somehow failed to pass along this vital lesson, you may discover the heavy cost of freedom.

Some of you will understand, and you will be the builders, or rebuilders, of tomorrow. Keep these tools handy, because there is every indication our foundations are weakening. There will be hard times ahead, but hard times create strong men and women, and they in turn create better times.

Outside The Box

By: Don Perry
worldoutsidethebox.com

NO MAN STANDS TALLER THAN WHEN HE STOOPS TO HELP A CHILD
- ABRAHAM LINCOLN



Joe Heller © 2023 Heller.com

Smoke From Fires Can Affect Your Health

As we approach wildfire season here are some reminders for how we can protect our health when a wildfire puts smoke in the air. We are not immune to wildfire here in the east because it can happen here!

RC&D
Executive Director



Frank Riley

The following is information put out by the CDC. Smoke is made up of a complex mixture of gases and fine particles produced when wood and other organic materials burn. While not everyone has the same sensitivity to wildfire smoke, it's still a good idea to avoid breathing smoke if you can help it. And when smoke is heavy, such as can occur in close proximity to a wildfire, it's bad for everyone. The biggest health threat from smoke is from fine particles. These microscopic particles can penetrate deep into your lungs. They can cause a range of health problems, from burning eyes and a runny nose to aggravated chronic heart and lung diseases. Exposure to particle pollution is even linked to premature death.

It's especially important for you to pay attention to local air quality reports during a fire if you are: * a person with heart or lung disease, such as heart failure, angina, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema or asthma. * an older adult, which makes you more likely to have heart or lung disease than younger people. * caring for children, including teenagers, because their respiratory systems are still developing, they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults, they're more likely to be active outdoors, and they're more likely to have asthma. * a person with diabetes, because you are more likely to have underlying cardiovascular disease. * a pregnant woman, because there could be potential health effects for both you and the developing fetus. Hot High concentrations of smoke can trigger a range of symptoms. * Anyone may experience burning eyes, a runny nose, cough, phlegm, wheezing and difficulty breathing. * If you have heart or lung disease, smoke may make your symptoms worse. * People with heart disease might experience chest pain, palpitations, shortness of breath, or fatigue. * People with lung disease may not be able to breathe as deeply or as vigorously as usual, and may experience symptoms such as coughing, phlegm, chest discomfort, wheezing and shortness of breath. It's important to limit your exposure to smoke - especially if you are at increased risk for particle-related effects.

Here are some steps you can take to protect your health. If you have heart, vascular or lung disease, including asthma, talk with your health care provider before fire season to make plans. If you are in a fire prone area, discuss when to leave the area, how much medicine to have on hand, and your asthma action plan if you have asthma. Have a several-day supply of nonperishable foods that do not require cooking. Cooking - especially frying and broiling - can add to indoor pollution levels. Consider buying an air cleaner. Some room air cleaners can help reduce particle levels indoors, as long as they are the right type and size for your rooms as specified by the manufacturer. If you choose to buy an air cleaner, don't wait until there's a fire - make that decision beforehand. Have a supply of N-95 or P-100 masks on hand, and learn how to use them correctly. During a fire - pay attention to local air quality reports. As smoke gets worse, the concentration of particles in the air increases - and so should the steps you take to protect yourself. Air quality reports are available through local news media, your local air agency or on airnow.gov.

Use common sense to guide your activities. Even if you don't have a monitor in your area, if it looks or smells smoky outside, it's probably not a good time to mow the lawn or go for a run. And it's probably not a good time for children - especially children with asthma - to be vigorously active outdoors, or active outdoors for prolonged periods of time. If you are active outdoors, pay attention to symptoms. Symptoms are an indication that you need to reduce exposure. Dust masks aren't enough! Paper "dust" masks or surgical masks will not protect your lungs from the fine particles in wildfire smoke. Scarves or bandanas (wet or dry) won't help, either. Particulate masks known as N-95 or P-100 respirators will help, but they must fit well and be used correctly. If you are advised to stay indoors, take steps to keep indoor air as clean as possible. Keep your windows and doors closed - unless it's extremely hot outside. Run your air conditioner, if you have one. Keep the filter clean to prevent bringing additional smoke inside. Open windows to air out the house when air quality improves. When smoke is heavy for a prolonged period of time, fine particles can build up indoors even though you may not be able to see them.

For more information on smoke effects on your health, check out www.cdc.gov.

Guest Columns

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial.

Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write.

Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

Classifieds SELL!
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Tomatoes

Tomatoes are probably one of the most common garden plants. They are great to have in your garden because there are so many different varieties. Tomatoes are usually pretty low maintenance, but let's talk about a couple of things to be on the lookout for to make sure you have the best tomatoes that you can.

UGA
Extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



By now most people have their tomatoes in the ground already. Even so, I want to talk about spacing plants a little bit because if plants are well spaced, it will help reduce the problems that you have later on. Plants should have 2 feet between them in the row, and 4 to 6 feet between the rows. Proper spacing will reduce the amount of disease that you have later on. If plants are touching there is less airflow between them. This creates a situation that is ripe for disease.

Except for wildlife, disease is going to be one of the main issues when growing tomatoes. It is almost impossible to keep tomato plants disease free for an entire season. Once we get to the end of the season plants will inevitably start to decline. What you want to do is keep them healthy enough for long enough to make you some good tomatoes.

There are several different leaf spot diseases that tomatoes can get. Septoria and Alternaria are some examples. Septoria is a fungal disease that creates small round spots on the leaves. Alternaria is also called early blight. These spots are more angular. Phytophthora, also called late blight, is another disease that tomatoes can get. This one tends to be more common for us because it likes cool nights and warm days with high humidity. Late blight will make large lesions on the leaves and the fruit. Late blight is commonly known for causing the Irish potato famine in the 1840s (You are welcome to impress your trivia friends with this tidbit).

There are also a few wilts that can damage plants. At the end of July, in the heat of the day it is not uncommon to see some wilting. However, if plants are wilting in the morning while it's still cool and they have plenty of water, you might have a wilt problem. Fusarium wilt affects the vascular system of a plant. If you have had fusarium wilt in the past it is best to plant resistant varieties in that spot. Bacterial wilt will also cause the tomato plant to wilt. Cut the stem and place it in a clear cup of water. After a few minutes you will be able to see the bacteria oozing out of the stem that is milky colored. If you see that don't plant tomato, pepper, potato, or eggplant in that spot for at least 4 years. Southern blight causes a white mold at the soil line that will infect the plant. If you have had southern blight in the past you can wrap the bottom 3 inches of the plant with aluminum foil to reduce infection.

If you have questions about what might be affecting your tomatoes during the growing season, contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Letters To The Editor

Judgment Day

Dear Editor,

There are two judgment days coming. One is called the Great White Throne Judgment, and the second one is called the judgment seat of Christ. All believers and non-believers will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and give an account of what they did in this life to merit entrance into heaven. There will be no jury. No defense attorney. The only judge will be King Jesus Christ. One by one each person ever born on earth will stand before a Holy and just Savior, and those who have accepted the saving grace of the cross and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ will have the blessed hope of entering the glorious gates of heaven for eternity, and the angels will sing a new song of the redeemed that only the saved can sing with angelic voices praising God with joy forevermore.

All non-believers with white knuckles and faces of disbelief will also stand before a Holy Christ and be judged and punished according to the works they have done. The Bible is very clear that unbelievers are storing up wrath against themselves because of not surrendering to the commands of God. Will the unbeliever have anything to say that would be worth saying when they look into the eyes of Christ, or will they be able to even speak at all? At that moment they will know what fools they have been believing in the devil, instead of the One who died on the cross for them. WOW!!, as pastor Jerry Helton would say.

God has a book called the Book of Life. In it all believers' names that have received God's gift of salvation because of their faith in a risen Savior, Christ, Jesus have been recorded. They will be rewarded throughout eternity for their faithfulness that will never end. Those who don't have their names in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire called hell along with Satan and his fallen angels. Please heed God's word of truth and choose wisely who you want to follow into eternity. Penned by me, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Frank F. Combs

Towns County Community Calendar

First Monday of each month:	School Board... HS/MS Media Center	6:45 pm
Every Tuesday:	Storytime for Children... TC Library	10:30 am
First Tuesday of each month:	Hiaw. City Council... City Hall	6 pm
	YH City Council... YH City Hall	6:30 pm
Second Tuesday of each month:	Conventions & Visitors Board... Civic Center	8 am
Second Wednesday of each month:	Board of Elections... Elections Office	4 pm
Third Monday of each month:	Planning Commission... Temporary Courthouse	6 pm
Third Tuesday of each month:	Commissioner's Mtg... Courthouse	5:30 pm
	City of Young Harris Planning Commission...	
	Meeting Room in City Hall	5 pm
	Water Board... Water Office	6 pm

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