

### Dueling Voices

*The wise man whispers while the fool bellers.*

Everybody has two voices in their head. One says, **turn left and go down smokers alley**, the other, *no turn right and go to class*. Explaining this the other day to students, one asks "what if there is only one voice in your head and it says, turn left to smokers alley?" You just have to listen closely. The wise voice often speaks softly. They're both there.

Many times the decision is as innocent as whether to play another round of solitaire on the computer or get back to your real work. Other times the dueling voices determine life-altering events. Yesterday, I thought I was going to witness the death of a student. As it turned out, I only saw a shattered driver's-side window, then blows to the driver's head, ending with a fist punched through a windshield in insane anger. That was something to see.

Say you are driving in front of the school and the cool dudes from smokers alley jaywalk out and force you to stop, then causally saunter across the road. **Run em' over** says the bad voice while the wise voice counters, *Don't do it!* Say they slap your car and taunt you .. bad voice yells **At least scare 'em**. Hit the gas, stop too late, bump the antagonist with your car ...the voice in that guy's ear may be **Shoot him in the head**. Not having a pistol, he does what he can with his fists; the cacophony of rage drowning out the voice that says, *Stop, that's enough*.

Siddartha Buddha warned us in 400 BC that "It is a man's own mind, not his enemy or foe, that lures him to evil ways."

From The Texas Tower\* to Columbine, the ancient duel continues.

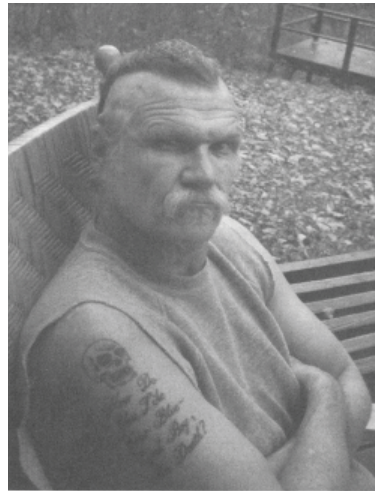
\* See Crews, "*Climbing the Tower*"

Until next issue,

*Tom Hull*

Tom Hull

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*Harry Crews, powerhouse American novelist and gladiator of the dueling voices sports e.e. cummings in ink ... "How do you like your blue-eyed boy Mister Death."*

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# Success Story

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## Garret Bickell



*Big man by the big press*

I had four great years with Garret Bickell in class until he graduated from South Umpqua High School in 2002. During those four years, he took advantage of every opportunity to learn what was available, including joining the machine shop team headed up by retired machinist/engineer Jerry White. There isn't much that Jerry doesn't know about machines, and Garret always listened and watched when this master spoke and demonstrated.

Garret now lives in Manchester, Iowa. For the last six years, he has worked at Henderson Products, where he is now a senior fabricator. Founded in 1946, Henderson Products builds high quality truck equipment accessories such as dump boxes, snow plows and salt spreaders. Garret welds, operates a brake press to form up parts, and works in the machine shop. The company runs two shifts with about 127 people on the shop floor.

Asked what he likes about the job, he said, "It's something new all the time with new products and filling in for people in different areas." One of Garret's strengths has always been his ability to learn, to figure it out. "You have to be open-minded and willing to learn every day," he offered. He didn't fully appreciate in high school how far that would get him in the world of work. "Frankly," he told me, "I am amazed at how many people run into a difficult situation and just say ... 'forget it' ... don't even try to figure it out."

I pegged him in high school as having the mechanical moxie to excel. Some people just don't have it in this area. Some people do. Just the way it is.

*Now I've always be  
It'll come out in the  
Sturm and Drang,  
My baby's leaving*

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that are pleasing to the eye  
This can be a delicate puzz  
and then throw in the hum

To model the attempt for s  
forms this year. The risk i  
of work will result in an ef  
floats unblemished in the r  
tried, how long it took, or  
floor.



*Fashioned from an old  
out of the local Weyerha  
ite top, it's ready to sur*