



SMITHVILLE
REVIEW

Established 1892
Publication No. 499280

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Published every Wednesday in the year at
Smithville, DeKalb County, TN Entered at the
post office in Smithville as periodical mail.
POSTMASTER: notify publisher on Form
3579, of undeliverable copies, Smithville
Review, P.O. Box 247, Smithville, TN 37166.

Print Subscription Rates:
(DeKalb and adjoining counties)
\$45 annually • \$27 six months •
Senior Citizen \$39.75 annually •
\$25 six months
Elsewhere: \$55 annually •
\$38.50 six months •
\$50.50 Senior Citizen annually •
\$34.50 six months

Online Only Edition:
\$30 annually • \$17 six months

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2018 PRESS

Kindness comes around in Hazzard

Like many of you, I ended up standing in line this past week for a chance to meet Sonny Shroyer or, as he is better known to most folks, Enos Strate of "Dukes of Hazzard" fame.

Now let me explain that I'm not a line-stander. I'm not into autographs or stuff like that. I barely have the patience to stand in line at Walmart for something I need, let alone spend an hour in line for someone to put their John Hancock on a picture. I'm not even into waiting in line to meet the prince or princess of the week at Disney as I, much to the chagrin of my family, wandered off with my oldest son last time we were at the Magic Kingdom to ride rides while the rest of the gang wanted in line to pose for a picture alongside some kid in a Cinderella costume.

However, in the case of Enos, I was there for a friend. Seth Wright, who puts the graphics together for the paper and also does all my book covers for the wild-

ly successful R.D. Sherrill novels, is a huge "Hazzard" fan. Therefore, being the good friend that I am, I decided to wait in line to get him an autograph. But, I had no sooner got in line that I realized they were charging for autographs. Imagine that, getting paid to sign stuff. As luck would have it, I'd arrived with nothing in my pockets but some lint. So, I decided to play Frogger on the highway and run across the street from the Complex and buy something at the drug store so I could get cash.

After surviving my crossing of McMinnville Highway, I settled into line, sweat dripping from my brow. I'd been standing there for about 15 minutes when I noticed this one young man with a laundry basket full of memorabilia.

"Surely he isn't going to get ALL of that

signed," the lady behind me commented.

"Let's hope not," I responded.

Well, as luck would have it, he did get all that stuff signed. He is either the biggest Dukes fan ever or he's doing well on eBay today.

With it taking a good 30 minutes for the guy to get his stuff signed, we finally hit the table where Enos' wife was selling pictures and taking up money. I gave her a 10 bill for picture I could get signed.

"I didn't know there was a charge just for an autograph," the woman said behind me. She and her grandson had waited dutifully behind me for an hour. "I just wanted my shirt signed."

I looked at the shirt that had been signed by other cast members from the Dukes. "Here, keep the 20," I told Mrs. Enos, paying for her autograph.



THAT NEW GUY
by Duane Sherrill

"Thank you very much," she seemed surprised.

"Ah, I'd just blow the other 10 anyway," I laughed.

That's when I reached Enos. He grasped my hand like an old friend and began talking. I handed him the newspaper which had his picture on the front.

"I'm never on the front page of a newspaper," he seemed genuinely touched as I handed him my picture to sign.

"This is for a buddy?" he asked. "Nothing for you?"

That's when he whipped out a picture. "What's YOUR name," he asked and then signed it to me. "And while I'm at it ..."

He pulled out a big cast picture of the Dukes and signed it to the *Smithville Review*.

They say that what comes around, goes around. I've just never seen it happen so fast.

Contact Duane Sherrill at news@smithvillereview.com

Blind obedience

On October 1906, an unbelievable robbery took place in Germany when a shoemaker impersonated an army officer. He humiliated a troop of soldiers by ordering them to follow him to a town near Berlin. He went into the mayor's office and ordered him to be arrested and taken into custody. He took all the money out of the cash box and ordered the mayor delivered to the police in Berlin. On the way, the shoemaker managed to disappear with the money, and it took several hours before anyone realized it was a hoax. The shoemaker was eventually caught and imprisoned, but he was considered a hero by many. However, the troops were furious that he had taken advantage of their blind obedience.

This may seem amusing to some, and some at the time did think it was amusing. But there is an evil person who has been taking advantage of people ever since the beginning of time. He deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and he has not stopped deceiving people ever since. He impersonated a serpent, the most subtle of the beasts of the field, according to Genesis 3. II Corinthians 11:14 tells us that the devil has the ability to impersonate an angel of light.

But worse than deceiving people through imperson-

ations, the apostle Paul tells us in II Corinthians 4:4, that the devil has blinded the minds of people who do not believe in God. He blinds their minds so that they will continue to not believe in God, and so that "the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus, who is the image of God, should not shine on them." The result is the same as for the troops in Germany fooled by the shoemaker, because people deceived by the devil follow him in blind obedience. They do not realize that the devil has "pulled the wool over their eyes", and so they continue to blindly follow him, even though it brings destruction to their souls.

There is good news, however, because God, according to I Peter 2:9, "has called us out of darkness into His glorious light." God has far greater power than the devil, and He can give us victory over the devil by giving us His Holy Spirit to live within us. James 4:7 tells us, "Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." But let's remember that we cannot successfully resist the devil until we first submit to God.

Larry R. Steffee is pastor of the Center Hill Brethren In Christ Church on Miller Road in Smithville. Everyone is welcome to attend. You may email lrsteffeetn@yahoo.com for information.



WORDS FROM ABOVE
by Larry R. Steffee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The *Smithville Review* encourages readers to express their views on subjects of interest. Letters to the Editor may be edited for length, libel and clarity. Readers should limit remarks to 300 words or less and should have a daytime phone number for verification. Letters without full address and signature will not be published. Mail to: Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 247, Smithville, TN 37166 OR email to: news@smithvillereview.com

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90 days to a worse you

I've always dreamed of writing a million-copy-selling self-help book, but since I'm not very good at anything, I thought it was just another pipe dream.

Then I realized: I'm good at being a failure! And I could help other people become failures! Instead of taking years to become a bitter, dismal, self-hating loser, I can teach you how to do it in months -- days, even!

Here are some quick and easy-to-follow lessons from what may be a publishing first: a self-hurt book. These tips are all from the chapter entitled "The Workplace: Failure On the Clock."

DRINK ON THE JOB

It sends the message that you're so talented, you don't even have to be sober to do this stinking job for which you're overqualified, anyway. You don't have a problem -- THEY'VE got the problem.

IF YOU'RE UNHAPPY, MAKE SURE EVERYONE'S UNHAPPY

Some people are afraid to show their feelings. Not you. If you're having a bad day, let people know it by making sure they have a bad day, too.

LET THEM KNOW WHO SHOULD BE THE BOSS

You SHOULD be the senior assistant to the associate manager of eastside office supply distribution, but all the women in the head office told Harris that you made them uncomfortable, when really you were just being friendly.

REALIZE THAT IT'S ALWAYS SOMEONE ELSE'S FAULT

Remember, none of your problems are caused by you. You're not the reason you're late for work; the cop who pulled you over for speeding is the one to

blame.

TELL CO-WORKERS WHAT THEY'RE DOING WRONG

This is an especially effective way of derailing your career path. It works even better if you're not doing your own job particularly well.

TALK ABOUT OFFICE POLITICS ALL THE TIME

That's why you had to take diversity training, twice. Office politics. That's why you got a bad review. Office politics. That's why you flunked the random drug test. Office politics, yet again.

DON'T BE A BUTT-KISSER

All those people who get their work done right and on time just to make the boss happy make you sick, don't they? Do stuff whenever you feel like it, not when it's convenient for the strivers. Like Harris.

LET THE BOSS KNOW YOU'RE DOING HER A FAVOR BY EVEN SHOWING UP

This single step can speed up the whole process of your goal of becoming a lifelong loser. Make sure everyone in the company knows you're just here until something better comes along. It practically guarantees you'll be laid off in the next round of "right-sizing," leading to your long, steady spiral into a bottomless pit of remorse and recrimination. Which is what Harris probably had planned for you all along, the backstabbing, credit-grabbing butt-kisser.

Remember, only you have the power to royally screw up your life. I can only tell you how; it's up to YOU to act on these surefire steps to absolute failure. Good luck!

Contact Jim Mullen at mullen.jim@gmail.com.



VILLAGE IDIOT
by Jim Mullen