

JUDGMENT, from page 10

guilty. But mental health courts, drug courts and so on, really deal in gray areas, and take into consideration someone's life circumstances.

G.L.W.: The humanization of law is really what the main focus is about. Philosophically, our goal, number one, is developing a rapport and a connectivity with the person from a humanistic way. How can we get connectivity with somebody so that we can ask them, for example, tell us about yourself. Tell us about your dreams. Tell us about your vision. What do you love to do? You'd be surprised how many individuals that we see in court come from various professions. We've had professional nurses and accountants and athletes and professors.

Our belief is that if individuals become involved in the criminal justice, or are revolving in and out of a justice system, they are not effectively linked to proper care or behavioral health care in the community, then we want to get that root cause. If we get to the root cause, we believe that we will never see that person again. That is the theory under which we are operating.

A.W.: When courts come to you for advice on how to do this, what have you noticed is the most common concern?

G.L.W.: As soon as the first news report appeared about the establishment of the court, delegations were just

showing up in the court. They were people coming from all over the country to see what we were doing and how we were doing it. What I hear is that it's hard to drive consensus among all the key stakeholders. If you don't have consensus with the state attorney's office or the prosecutor's office, that's a barrier. How you get the shared buy-in of a community

is not easy. You need very strong leadership and you need to know how to lead that kind of change. It is often transformative. And change can be very threatening.

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A.W.: You've brought up these examples of people who commit crimes because they're sleeping out on a beach, because they're psychotic, or they've been living in fairly desperate

circumstances. What does that teach us about why people commit crimes?

G.L.W.: I don't know what it teaches us about people who commit crimes. What I could say is, what does it teach about us, about the importance of prioritizing mental health and behavioral health system of care, and really investing in our public health and mental health systems in our communities? We know that there are so many intersections of crime. We know that trauma is a contributor to crime, that poverty and race disparities, education and health are all drivers and contributors to crime. Having a strong safety net system and a well-developed behavioral health system where mental health is really prioritized to me is vital. We have learned that recovery is real. Treatment works.

Friendship

by Maddy Brown-Clark

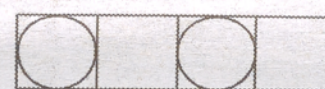
Friendship is a wondrous thing
It makes the heart and body sing
It's worth is valued more than gold
Good friends care about you
As you grow old
Celebrate friendship everyday
Cause friendship and love
Is the only way.



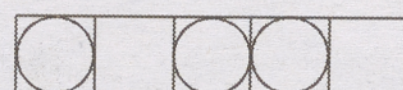
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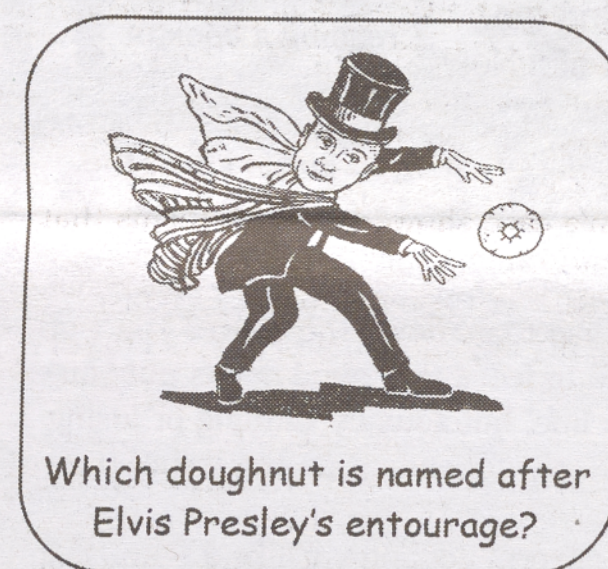
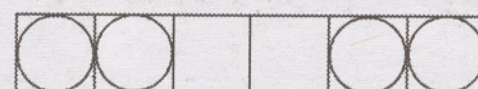
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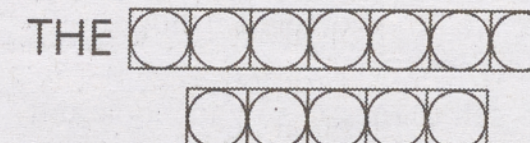
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