

SILETZ AREA PROGRAM NEWS

Is Tribe Losing their Tribal Youth?

By Alan Hicks, A & D Program Director.

Young men and women need help in order to open themselves to adulthood. The raw passions and ideas of youth need expression and attention if they are to grow towards the skills and wisdom of Elder's.

Youth are the next adults being nourished by the psychological, emotional, physical and spiritual foods of the culture. The adult is the being who grows out of this second birth in each human life. If the culture doesn't stop for the crisis inherent in youth, the youth will become adults who are not ready for the crises they are about to encounter. If the deep conflicts of youth are ignored and left unresolved, the new adult will be unable to solve deep conflicts in the culture. If the adults feels they were not nourished, their elders will be ignored, and forgotten.

The spirit needs to be seen, and the power of it experienced. One day the whole youth's life will break open, that one day a great opportunity will fall like a golden feather before them. Then they will be needed, the will be desired, and the purpose of their life will become clear in which they must go one way or the other. Picking up the golden feather is a symbol for risk taking. The young hunter is willing to risk trouble and great fear in order to touch the gold of the feather that has fallen to them.

We are watching the golden feather drop from the heart of the eagle into the heart of the hunter, like a spark of destiny falling into their life. The golden feather is a symbolic piece of the heart of the eagle that causes a man's life to heat up and pull him in a certain direction. If the youth comes upon this feather without a connection to the spirit of the eagle, without a culture, they will burn up.

Anything that shines like gold, burns like fire, and causes a respectful silence to fall and will appear to they to be a sacred power. Hordes of wounded warriors have confused the power they feel in holding a gun or a needle or a bottle with the sacred power they seek.

A youth picks up the golden feather in his hand is like someone returning from a vision quest, he needs another to help him hold the vision. For these things he turns towards the culture, and a mentor. Without the mentor, the youth would not know where to take the feather. This is liken to Rites of passage in that a sense that one stage dies and the next grows out of it, leading to greater life—birth, childhood, youth, maturity, elder.

There is a great question that hangs in the air: Will this generation of youth find connection to spiritual meaning and beauty of the culture that can lift the flames of strong warriors to high emotions and ideals that keep the light at the center of the tribe burning?

Joe Blow: A profile of an small town Drug Dealer

By David Quincy

Drug dealing is considered a scourge on any community and dealers are thought to be predators whose victims are the youth and other week willed, possibly feeble minded town members. Drug dealers ply young teenage girls with alcohol and drugs in order to have their sordid way with them. By initially offering free samples they ensnare their victims in the miasma of addiction. In short someone who would cheat at solitaire.

That is the stereotype of an drug dealer and while there may be some truth to this profile of an dealer, it is not necessarily true for an small rural community. In an small town, your local dealers are people whom every knows. They are not "pushers", but rather are waiting at home for their customers to stop by and "score". While not everyone may not know that they deal, a good percentage of people do. The reason they do is because they are somebody's uncle or aunt, a cousin, a brother or sister, nephew or niece, or an old high school buddy or an classmate. Another reason the dealer is known is because a community member is a customer.

Drug dealing, in one sense is an customer driven business. The law of Supply and Demand works very well here. Without the demand there would be no reason to supply the product. Conversely when there is an strong demand, and supply is limited, the cost will be driven up. A lot of times the Dealer is his/her own best customer, your average small town dealer is not dealing to make large profit, but rather to support their own addictions. Customers can come in all shapes and economic classes. They could be White collar management, government official and employees, teachers, students or even low income welfare moms. In fact the citizens with good jobs, because of income, is probaly considered a good customer. What all of these people and most of the time the dealer share, is the disease of addiction.

The above stereotype derives from what is seen on the news and on film and are based largely on urban dealers. A small town dealer's profile can be vastly different in most respects and similar in others. Because most dealers are addicted to their products they are into an "partying lifestyle". Partying with their customers is a common occurrence, regardless of the age of that customer. Impaired judgment is a part of the addictive lifestyle. Certain types of drugs can produce violent paranoia. All of these factors can lead to assaults, murder, rape (including statutory) and domestic violence in the worst instances.

Most of the time however, it is fairly routine and in the viewpoint of the dealers and customers normal: Joe the drug dealer opens the door to his house. He invites Jill in. Jill is a long standing customer who went school with Joe's sister. She asks Joe if he has an gram of skunk, he nods and quotes a price. She says ok, he then will reach under the couch and pull out a sock which partially filled little baggies filled with a gram of Marijuana. He lets her choose one. Sometimes if he or she is feeling generous They will smoke a hit or two together. At some point Jill leaves and Joe goes back to watching TV. Joe may get 5, 10 or more customers that day and evening. They will all be people he knows. Generally he will not sell to a stranger for fear that this person will be a "Narc" someone who is either a cop or working with the police.

So a characteristic of an dealer will be traffic he or she will have a lot of people coming in and out of their homes and not staying very long. Cars will be parked outside either in front or if the customer is cautious down the street and sometimes will have a person or persons waiting in the car. Another characteristic, is if the suspected dealer has no visible source of income and drives a new vehicle. It should be kept in mind however that dealers can and do work and deal just make ends meet or to support their addictions.

Identifying drug dealers in an small town is not the problem, because for the most part people know who they are for the reasons given above. The way to rid a small town of drug dealers is not so much to identify and arrest them, but to eliminate the demand for their product. If you arrest a dealer, another will step in to supply the demand. It is those community members who use drugs and subsequently keep drug dealers in business that must be targeted. In brief the solution lies in three areas, prevention, enforcement and treatment.

Prevention includes education in schools, job sites, the community at large and in homes as to the nature of addiction, types of drug use and consequences to a persons health and well being. Mandatory drug testing of teachers, students and employees is another prevention tool. Many employers already require drug testing upon hiring and subsequent random testing. Some employers also require drug testing upon suspicion of drug use. Parents need to get over the idea that preventing their teenage children from getting into trouble with alcohol and drugs does not mean buying them a six pack and making them drink at home. Parents also need to set an example at home, for that is where prevention needs to start.

Enforcement means just that. Enforcing drug free workplace policies and just as importantly enforcing the drug free community. It means zero tolerance in housing both low income and rentals. Parents should enforce drug free homes. Consequences for drug use and dealing should be strictly enforced and should include: Loss of employment, housing, welfare benefits, drivers license ect...

Treatment is not a consequence. It is like a carrot with the consequences listed above the stick. Because drug addiction is an disease, treatment can be an effective way of dealing with that disease. A combination of these three areas will go a long way towards solving the problem of drug dealing in any community, small or large.

CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES NEWS EXPANSION OF SERVICES OUT SIDE THE 11 COUNTY SERVICES DELIVERY AREA FOR ELDERS

The CHS department is expanding services one time only for all ELDERS, 55 years and over, for an eye exam and up to \$175.00 for the cost of eye glasses. This service will only be offered this year due to the savings we had from (1-1-96 through 12-31-96) the Pequot Pharmaceutical Benefits Plan, CHS is able to do this increase for out of area Tribal Members. Contract Health Services will use the information from the Tribal enrollment department to locate and send CHS health applications to eligible elders.

Contract Health Services will send an individual CHS health application with a letter explaining the eye service which will be available. The application must be mailed back to CHS before services can be authorized. Please call the Technicians below for more information on billing or if you do not receive a notice and you are an elder 55 years old or over. Our office hours are 8:00am - 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except Tuesday afternoon our office is closed for meetings.

CHS TECHNICIANS: DARLENE SMITH 1-800-628-5720
TAMARA MORROW 1-541-444-1236
LINDSI STEIN

EXPANSION OF SERVICES FOR ALL OUT OF THE AREA TRIBAL MEMBERS PEQUOT PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS WILL INCREASE TO \$400.00 A YEAR EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

All Tribal Member living out side the 11 county service delivery area will be eligible for a maximum of \$400.00 of pharmacy. This is an increase of \$200.00 over the previous years. CHS is able to offer this increased benefit because of the savings received where Pequot Pharmacy plan has been used. Tribal Members can also save money by using the mail in distribution plan, by doing so you purchase your prescriptions at a lower cost and get more from your plan. You may contact Pequot directly for instruction on how to use this service at 1-888-779-6638. If you have any questions regarding your card please call Ronda Austin in the CHS office at 1-800-628-5720 anytime between the hours of 8:00am and 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except on Tuesday afternoons.

