



BARBERSHOP TALK

A fresh Cut & a Clean Ride



by Robert L. Woodard
The Wynnefield Barber

As a young teenager and now a young "Senior-Ager," I remember working so hard that it was very difficult to find some fun time for myself. However, as a young barber working in the Wynnefield section of Philadelphia, it seemed liked each customer was in a hurry to get their haircut so they could look nice on a hot summer day. Once the hair was on point, the next thing to do was to make your car look as good as your haircut. Back in those times, if you had a fresh cut and a clean ride, it was all you needed to appreciate a beautiful summer day in our city of "Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection."

I remember my first car. A 1966 Volkswagen Beetle with a sunroof. My Beetle had chrome wheels with an 8-track tape player that my buddy Nathaniel Rice and I installed so I could play the latest hit songs. Those songs seemed to make the ladies dance at every corner while I waited for the green light. If you caught the eye of a beautiful woman and she liked your haircut and your clean ride, she could become your summer love. Remember, there were no cell phones back then but if a young lady liked your style, she would let you drive her home and then you would get her phone number. Philadelphia women had their own styles and they were different in every section of the city - North, South, East and West.

I also recall heading to South Jersey very early on a summer Sunday morning to go horseback riding. This became a ritual of mine and it was something I looked forward to each and every Sunday. Those times bring back so many memories that I had to share them with my customers during the week. There was something very special about horseback riding with a beautiful woman as the motion of the horse swayed from side to side.

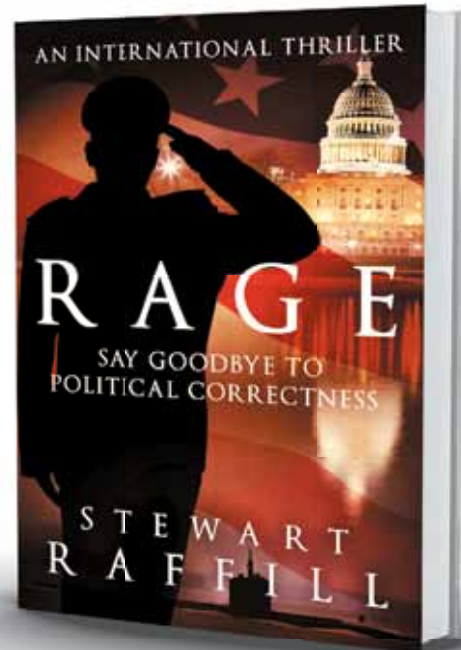
I remember the heat of a summer day trying to find its way through the cool summer leaves from the trees as the horses walked a cool trail through the woods. Those quiet moments never were really quiet for me. It became more of a symphony of questions and answers that would later become a big part of my summertime memory bank.

Trying to find that kind of peace in today's technological world is almost impossible. It makes you wonder where we are headed as humans on this beautiful planet. Your body communicates naturally through electrical impulses from your brain to all other parts of your body.

Every time the cell phone rings, your body becomes the receiver and it disturbs the natural impulses that were just in a state of peace. Every time the cell phone rings, it takes you from where you are to where technology wants you to be.

Human life is the ultimate miracle. Technology and computers are fine but let's not allow them to take away our peace of mind. Being a human being and not a machine must be a part of our future. There is no other way to really enjoy nature and all it has to offer. If we don't teach our children to become more "humanical" and less "mechanical," they could lose the importance of humanity. Being a "Human Life Saver" starts with your own. Learn to control your behavior and be a good neighbor. Always keep in mind that communication does not have to be done by machines. Let's learn all over again how to say "hello" to our neighbors because neighbors just don't live next door. They live around the world. Remember, the future of human life on Earth depends on how we view race today. Take the "RACE Test" at www.BarbershopTalkHFD.org then you will emotionally be able to make every day of your life a happy healthy Sunday summer day. **PRH**

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