



## **A Tree Talk by Brent Powell in 1988**

As Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young sing in “Teach Your Children,” “you must have a code that you can live by.” I found starting in the third grade that my code has been constantly challenged. The more we establish our code, and test ourselves in different situations, the stronger the code will become. This code could cover such topics as stealing, picking on others, lying, drinking, smoking, and vandalism ... With the help of this code one can develop another necessary tool to combat peer pressure and that is consistency. If your code is strong, then every time the same situation arises you will handle it the same way. For instance if you decide you will never damage another’s property and give that answer every time, then soon people will stop asking. This consistency also helps develop a habit of response and makes the whole problem easier.