

Being young isn't a bad thing

In the 2004 primary election, many admired Dan Rasure's enthusiasm, yet not everyone took him seriously. Was it because he twisted famous quotes, tripped down flights of stairs or choked on party snacks?

Nope.
Was he undereducated, underfunded or under publicized?
Not at all.

It was because Mr. Rasure was young.
Many strongly underestimate the younger generation. Dan Rasure is 22. But he is not just 22. Twenty-two is an age, not a measure of character. Yet in this past election, his young-twenties status is what lost him the most votes.

That makes no sense.
If you're capable, then by all means you deserve the job, whether you're 20, 50 or a 100. Age alone should have no affect whatsoever on whether or not you're hired, fired, demoted or elected, in any profession.

There are older people who look down on the younger generation simply because they haven't "lived" yet.

Yet, these same people are the ones who spoon-feed them the answers, fill out their paperwork and decide their careers for them.

Isn't the whole point of living learning?
Young people want to get their hearts broken, have their beliefs challenged, be forced to make decisions of their own.

But if they're never given the opportunity, then how can they succeed?

Believe it or not, the younger generation isn't built solely on PlayStation, Pepsi and pot.

It's built on the values, ideas and traditions that older, wiser mentors have passed down.

What people know is what they've been taught, what they've seen, and the experiences that have brought tears to their eyes and smiles to their faces.

And that wisdom is an impressive platform to start a journey.

At the end of the day, the only real difference is a smaller portion of years.

Looks can be deceiving, but there is far more to the young than youthfulness.

— Priscilla Van Der Weele



A priceless gift will be cherished always

This past weekend a Norton resident opened her home for two elderly women. Two women she had never met, will probably never see again and whom she probably was not even aware existed.

Lorraine and Dorothy's grandparents had once owned the home many years ago. Much of their family history had been written inside its walls. The women's parents were married in front of the corner fireplace and both women had been born in the home, which they had not seen in a long time.

As they walked along, memories of long ago conversations, incidents and friendship were recalled. Their childhood became alive and, for a short time, I'm sure, the presence of their parents and grandparents was felt throughout the numerous rooms.

The home's owner took notes and listened to the stories to uncover the "history" of her home.

"It seemed so much bigger back then," was frequently heard.

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



Why? Perhaps because they were smaller or maybe the memories have become larger than life, it doesn't really matter.

Our minds hold the blueprints and they are ours for the interpretations. And so I want to thank Karla Anderson for opening her home so my cousins, both over 80, could return to Colorado and California with new stories to share and a renewed sense of who they are and where they came from.

The value of this gift?
Priceless.

During that weekend the two women also toured an old adobe house.

A large family get together for their favorite aunt's 100th birthday was the occasion to open her former home for the out-of-town relatives to enjoy.

For the last seven years Matthew and Gabrielle Woodyard have worked to bring life to the home. A daunting task considering it was uninhabited for almost 40 years, by anything other than four-legged creatures.

The home is full of warmth and of family. They took an aging shell and reconstructed a history. Five generations of John Foley descendants have lived in that home.

Each person who toured the homes brought their own history to share and memories to reflect upon.

Some remembered dinners and Christmas. Some saw tractors and fields of wheat or corn in their mind's eye. And still others had married into the family and the place made the stories come alive.

Some people show a house and some share a home. Thank you Karla, Gabrielle and Matthew for sharing your home.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Flyer does not impress Norton man

To the Editor:

The flyer was signed, Concerned Citizen.

They must not be too concerned if they send out a flyer to my address and don't ever sign it. Just paid for by Concerned Citizen. If you want me to be concerned, sign it. I hear you couldn't get it in the paper without signing it.

Another thing about the county spending \$112,645.86 on livestock regulation. They'll spend that much on equipment. Over three to four years that's not bad. It's

just operating expense.

Maybe they're just looking out for the other side of Concerned Citizen on livestock. Can't satisfy everyone.

Maybe they should be concerned about using the Norton County letter head. I thought that was illegal.

Too bad they didn't send this flyer out a week or two earlier so a person could do some research (just politics).

Neil Severns
Norton

WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

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The words of the week are stress, crisis

It's been a down week. Some weeks everything goes right and the world is wonderful. Then there was last week.

Monday wasn't too bad. We had no disasters and the papers got out on time.

Then on Tuesday came the call from my sister.

"Cyn, Mom's fallen and broken her hip."

Mom's balance has been bad for years, and she falls about twice a week. Every time it happens, my sister tells her she's going to break a hip one of these days.

"Don't you just hate it when you're right?" I said.

Mother was transferred from her home at an assisted living facility in Concordia to the Salina Regional Medical Center, where she had surgery on Wednesday.

I called our oldest daughter to tell her how her grandmother was.

She told me her dog had cancer and she and her husband had decided on chemotherapy. The success rate is 75 percent, she said, but the cost will be between \$30-\$40 a week for a year.

But they love their dog and have no children upon which to spend their hard-earned money

Which, speaking of money, my son-in-law's wallet was stolen on Thursday and someone is using his credit cards.

I went to Salina to spend Wednesday night with mother so my sister and her husband could get some rest.

Between the two of them, they've spent almost every waking hour at Mom's side and a whole bunch of the sleeping ones.

Youngest daughter, who is moving to South Carolina this week, joined me. She was planning to visit her grandmother before leaving the state anyway.

After her visit, she headed back to Lawrence, where she was busy packing.

On Thursday, she tried to call the movers, who were scheduled to pick up her

Open Season

Cynthia Haynes



stuff on Friday. She got a recording.

Next she went to the Internet to check out their web site. She couldn't find it. However, she did find one dedicated to people who were unhappy with the moving company.

Boy, was she thrilled.

Friday morning, the movers called and said they would be there sometime that day. Later, they called to say they'd be there between 4 and 6 p.m. She was relieved.

The movers finally showed up at 8:30 p.m.

She was steamed, but still relieved.

While the movers were taking her stuff to the truck, her brother was moving his into a friend's garage. He had been sick all week and had forgotten to get a U-Haul trailer until the last minute — and of course, they had none.

So "the go 'n' throw" bug combined with trying to move and clean his old apartment kept him busy over the weekend.

As of Monday, his stuff was still in the friend's garage. His ex-roommate, who had offered a truck to help move the furniture, had lost the keys. And, he had no hot water because he forgot to call the gas company and get it turned on.

Mom is getting better. Steve is helping youngest daughter move this week. Son finally got moved, but not until he'd had a couple of nights sleeping on some very pretty, but very solid, hardwood floors.

Oldest daughter and son-in-law will get things figured out.

Me, I'm hiding under the bed for the rest of the week.

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