

Ron's Rants Ron Middleton Staff Writer

What price vanity?

I was watching television the other night, as I am prone to on a regular basis, and came upon a show about cosmetic surgery.

As an almost middle-aged American male suffering from male pattern baldness, I find it fascinating to see the lengths people will go to prevent nature from taking its course.

I am all for cosmetic surgery if it is medically required to help someone, but doing it because some magazine says it's the "in" thing or because someone has "Too Much Money Syndrome" is not plain vanity.

I find it disturbing the ways men and women will mutilate their bodies before they think it will keep them young, instead of enjoying being alive for another day.

One lady on the show had Bo Tox, which is a form of botulinum, or food poisoning, injected into her face between her eyebrows and in the corners of her mouth, so that she wouldn't look angry.

Now this Bo Tox stuff literally PARALYZES the muscles where it is injected which smoothes out the skin on top of it and was originally used to treat face spasms, and this lady will pay \$600 and wait every six months to have this done voluntarily.

The next lady had fat sucked out of her rear end and had it injected into her lips. "WHY?"

Why can't people just leave well enough alone? How do they look at this people that have done this recently?

Cher, Melanie Griffith, Goldie Hawn and Dyan Cannon looked so much better before they had their lips inflated.

Does it make them look younger? No. Does it make them look like a cartoon character? YES.

There was even a man on this program. He had collagen injected into his laugh lines around his mouth and when it was over, he smiled.

The sides of his mouth were so out of proportion with the rest of his face, he looked like he was auditioning to play The Joker in the next Batman movie.

At least it wasn't bad. And if that wasn't crazy enough, women wear makeup that makes them look like they're not even wearing makeup.

See VANITY on 5

Viewpoint



Commentary

Patton says children and alcohol don't mix

The editor: "Recent newspaper articles and television news stories on 'alternative' beverage marketing speak to an issue that is so important to me, and to Kentucky.

Children see and hear messages about alcohol everyday. Billboards and promotions for alcoholic beverages often display attractive young people or cartoon characters, encouraging kids to think that alcohol use is accepted, expected, and essential to having a good time.

It is reported that underage drinkers were more likely to try those sweetened "alcohops," and 41 percent of 14 to 18 year olds said they had actually tried an alcohol pop drink.

Studies show that more than 2.1 million minors are considered to be heavy drinkers, and that more than 100,000 12-13 olds binge drink every month. This is a danger to our youth is clear.

Since children are drinking more and at earlier ages, and implications of this research for our children's health and future success must be taken seriously.

Knowing author was great experience

A Kentucky literary legend died April 28 in Hazard, and the legacy of James Still was evident in the gathering of his authors in Hindman to honor his life.

In the crowd were Wilma Dykeman, Gorman Norman, George Ella Lyon, Lee Smith, James Baker Hall, Loyal Jones, Bill Best, Wade Hall, David and Lallie Dick, and others I didn't get to visit with.

We gathered to honor the man from Troublesome Creek whose sparse prose touched minds and hearts for about 70 years and will continue to be a crucial part of this region's literary heritage.

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James Still was not, at least openly, a sentimental man, but he touched so many lives so deeply that his reputation as a cranky recluse was shaky at best.

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James Still was not, at least openly, a sentimental man, but he touched so many lives so deeply that his reputation as a cranky recluse was shaky at best.

He spoke directly and bluntly, though always softly, and there was never a wasted word.

Just like his writing. Contact the author at garrybarker@netnet.net or www.angelcity.com/ky/barker

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