

From the Sidelines



Denver Brown Sports Editor

The best fan in the stands...

You know, it's a shame that it takes a specially set said day for us to acknowledge Her.

Mother's Day means pink and red cards, flats of flowers, and burnt toast made by kids breakfasts, but the notion of the honorary day set me to thinking.

In my chosen profession, I deal with those special human beings on a daily basis. I get phone calls from mom's whose kids' names weren't spelled correctly in the sports pages. Or from the maternal force demanding to know why her offspring's athletic accolades were omitted when a much more insignificant sporting stat made it into print. Yes, I hear from this bunch quite a bit.

But then I think back to the Discovery Channel — and I smile. When a young cub gets the wrong end of a snake or hymn, Miami Lion set far off. And Mrs. Pachyderm and her troupe line up shoulder-to-shoulder to keep Lil' Jumbo from harm's way.

Come to think of it, sports-watching mom's aren't much different. Not to associate their looks, nor mind you, no, no! Their temperament and protective nature only!

But I also remembered a story I'd heard years back. It may have been an article I read (remember I love Reader's Digest) or just a re-told second hand witnessed account from somewhere or another. No specifics, just content.

A young man of 10 or 12 stood on the mound in a bright orange and white No. 2 jersey. He'd thrown as well as could be expected for a little league battle with an arm not quite as thick as the bat handles used in the game. And now, it was down to the final few outs and seventy minutes of mid-July baseball action.

The pitcher's team was up by one and his teammates in the field kept his spirits buoyed with "You got 'em" or "Strike him out". And still the more ironic calls from deeper voices in the stands of "Don't blow it" and "It's up to you".

With two outs and one baserunner more interested in the humble bee zipping from dandelion to dandelion

See BEST on 6

Viewpoint



Commentary

The eye(brow)s have it

"OH MY GOD! Did that hurt?"

Nine times out of ten, that's how I've been greeted in the first two weeks of wearing my shiny new eyebrow ring.

"An eyebrow ring?" you may be asking, but actually, it's more of an eyebrow bar.

Before you go showing me in that stereotypical tupe-wearing, Corvette-driving, mid-life crisis posterboy, it's not like that. If I'm having a mid-life crisis at 32, then I'm in trouble.

The reason I paid someone to shove a small needle through my eyebrow and stick a piece of jewelry through it was half a reward for reaching my weight loss goals and half just wanting to try something different.

Think about it. How many times have you told yourself you wanted to do something different... and actually gone through with it? Well, I've finally done that something different, and I can't express the amount of joy I've had due to the various reactions I've gotten from some people.

It amazes me when I think



Ron Middleton Staff Writer

how something I've had put through MY eyebrow makes some people so uncomfortable to the point they cannot even look me in the eye.

It's not like it's bleeding, scabbed over or all swelled up.

Sure, I have one of those "you-shouldn't-see-the-other-guy" shiners, but other than that, it looks totally normal.

When you go into the store and can't buy the clothes you like because they're not in style and therefore not carried by the store in question, you want to try something new, it makes it kind of hard to make a personal statement and feel like an individual when there are 100 copies of the same shirt in

a little to the left... back to my eyes and a little to the left... and so on. (If you've seen the movie JFK, you'll understand that last line.)

I keep talking just to see how long it goes on and then I have a good laugh later.

I'm still the same guy I was before.

And it's really sad that I have to make that statement because who else would I be? Even though I have DONE something different doesn't mean I am a different person.

My point is, everywhere we go we are inundated with people telling us to be individuals, but where is the message coming from? Could it be advertisers? I think so.

There are no true individuals out there anymore.

When you go into the store and can't buy the clothes you like because they're not in style and therefore not carried by the store in question, you want to try something new, it makes it kind of hard to make a personal statement and feel like an individual when there are 100 copies of the same shirt in

various sizes hanging on the rack.

Sure, I'm ragging on clothes, but it applies to every aspect of our lives: clothes, food, entertainment, what kind of car to drive, who's the prettiest star in the world, etc...

We are all a mishmash of everything we have seen or heard in our early lives and have been influenced by that one thing that got us really excited, whether it is golf, painting, football, comic books, fishing, stamp collecting or even religion.

It's what we do with the "tools" we are given that makes us individuals and not just another weak copy of the beautiful people we see in the magazines and TV.

So please forgive me if I have deviated from the herd mentality long enough to do something a little "out of character."

Just remember, "Constant change is here to stay. That's just my opinion. Actual user opinion may vary."

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