

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Our View - Forget 'Don't trust anyone over 30'; listen to senior advice

STORYCHAT:

Post comment

In the 1960s, we heard, "Don't trust anyone over 30," and we've long learned the folly of ignoring the advice of our elders.

In the 1990s, we heard, "Forty is the new 30," and we've come to learn that each age calls upon different strengths and exposes different weaknesses.

In the 2000s, we've seen groups like The Johnson County Consortium on Successful Aging ensure that, rather than being afterthoughts, questions about senior quality of life issues are an essential part in discussions of community development. As a result, Money magazine has hailed the Iowa City area as the No. 3 place in the nation to retire.

With Johnson County being home to 17,000 UI students and more than 8,300 senior citizens, it makes sense for various groups to take an extra step to ensure that the wisdom of those over 50 can reach those under 30.

Thus we're happy to hear the University of Iowa's leisure studies program working with the Iowa City/Johnson County Senior Center to conduct the Legacy Letter Project -- in which adults age 50 and older, who have a connection to Johnson County, share stories, advice and thoughts on what they know now that they wish they would have known earlier.

The letters will be collected and displayed at the Senior Center during the June 1 Gallery Walk, but in order to ensure that they help bridge the generational divide, we're committed to helping the letters find their way into various other forms of publication.

The issue:

We suggest - What do you think?

Legacy Letters Project

- The University of Iowa and the Iowa City/Johnson County Senior Center are conducting a Legacy Letter Project.
- Everyone age 50 and older should submit letters to ensure younger generations can take advantage of such advice.
- What other projects would help bridge the generational divide?
- Send comments to opinion@press-citizen.com.
- Letters can be of any length and are being accepted until May 1. Letters can be mailed to David Gould, 219 McBride Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242; or e-mailed to david-gould@uiowa.edu.