

Have you noticed how most of the news ~~that~~ the media highlights is bad news. Wars and famines, --ships sinking -- planes crashing, scandals brewing: usually, that's news. But when good things happen: it seldom makes the news.

However,

A couple of weeks ago I read a headlines that warmed my heart, because it *was* good news. Well, truth be known: it is a "good news" story ~~that~~ is grafted atop the rootstock of a very sad story. On the top front page of the Times-Standard, it showed a picture of Tristan Rose with his arm around his grandmother, Carol Rose. Tristan, is one of the many kids who doesn't live with his parents; he's being raised by ~~a~~ grandparents. The article by Natalya Estrada says Tristan has been with his grandpa ~~since~~ ^{found} he was two months old... I can hardly count how many times I've heard this familiar story since moving to Humboldt. Grandparents raising a grandchild or two: why? Because Mom or Dad are in jail, ~~most~~ ^{often} they have become addicted to drugs, and adopted the lifestyle of crime that so often accompanies a drug habit. Whether or not these absentee parents were interested in raising their child, they become incapable, because they lack the social and mental stability to be a good parent. Now, here is where the story becomes tragically interesting: Tristan Rose's father is dead, having been shot by police officers 6 years ago.

Hence, Tristan is a young man with out a Dad whose mom seems to be busy doing other things. At age eleven we might expect him to be a bitter kid with a chip on his shoulder. Apparently not. A few weeks ago there was a block party in Tristan's neighborhood. In attendance at the block party was Eureka Police Chief Andy Mills. Tristan went over and said hello to Chief Mills — on his own initiative. According to the Times-Standard he did not go over to chew out the Chief. Rather, he went to "make up for his father's lifestyle and apologize for mistakes." Later in the article ~~the article quotes~~ ^{Tristan} Tristan, saying, "I look at myself in the mirror every day and try to set goals for that day. Just because my dad made bad choices doesn't mean he was a bad person, but that doesn't mean I will make those bad choices too." Wow! How many mature adults do that; let alone 11 year olds!

~~Now~~ I don't know about you, but I find the situation with so many parents abandoning their children to the grandparents disturbing. If it were an isolated incident—OK. But this is not ~~an isolated case~~. Before I sound like I'm condemning the parents, I want to commend the grandparents who stand in the gap when their grandkids need help. These grandparents should get credit for what they're doing and I think they deserve stars in their crowns and loud hymns of praise. But what will happen to the grandkids of the next generation? If the parents were too busy to raise their kids, will they suddenly wax strong with ^{and responsible} responsibility and volunteer to be grandparents? I doubt it. The trend is foreboding.

Moreover,

I often hear from teachers and educators who have been in their schools for a long time, that a steadily increasing number of kids are showing up for class with a number of emotional deficits. Who will raise the kids of America? It takes a village? Well, ~~it also~~ ^{they say} it takes a Mom and Dad. So, where have all the parents gone?

This has been Dan Price for Community comment

1st in line
at any village