

PARENTS TALK BACK

Most photographed generation: Robbed of childhood memories?

I heard a dire prediction of what will become of today’s children, the most photographed generation in history. It didn’t have to do with the potential psychological impact of being hyper-documented, although those are legitimate worries.

“The irony is that kids will end up with little visual documentation of their childhood because it will be lost to the cyber world. The 1s and 0s will just go away,” said David Carson, one of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*’s Pulitzer-prize-winning photography staff. He’s also the father of a much-photographed 9-year-old daughter.

“They are going to lose all this history,” he said. Technology changes so quickly, it renders older formats obsolete. Quantity overtakes quality. Performance — mugging and posing for the camera — replaces capturing candid moments. And losing it all doesn’t require a house fire or natural disaster: All it takes is a technological glitch, a lost phone not backed up, a corrupted hard drive.

It’s the paradox of the times we live in: Our children grow up with hundreds of thousands of photographs of their childhoods, yet so few they will hold or carry with them.

We rely on our visual documentation as our memory fades. But the physical experience of revisiting memories has changed. The boxes of photographs stashed in the closet or envelopes shoved in drawers are replaced by albums on social media or camera rolls on our phones. Scrolling through pictures on a screen is viscerally different than thumbing through them in an album or box. At some point, your eyes glaze over digital pixels.

Part of the problem is sheer volume. In the olden days of film (when I was growing up), taking a photo had to be more deliberate and conscious rather than reflexive. The camera came out on birthdays, holidays and vacations. When digital cameras eliminated the cost of film, the floodgates opened. Smartphones provided yet another leap forward. Consumers are expected to take 1 trillion photos this year, according to InfoTrends’ 2014 Worldwide Image Capture Forecast. More than 740 billion of those images will be taken using smartphones.

It’s not unusual for parents to have thousands of digital images of their children from a single year.

And photo purging is hard.

“You don’t get rid of bad pictures,” Carson said. “People rarely value a picture enough to print it out.”

But as much as we like to believe in the promise of forever in the cloud, veteran photographers are skeptical. Carson doubts if he can still open pictures he took on a digital camera 15 years ago because the technology has changed so much.

One photo editor said he has CDs from the late ’90s that won’t open anymore. New systems aren’t equipped to read old formats.

Of course, hard copy photographs are susceptible to fires and floods, but so are hard drives. And, as recent hacking scandals brought to light, there are privacy concerns in the ether.

So what should you do?

Create an electronic archive and backup, but also take advantage of print deals. Carson suggests periodically picking a few dozen photos that you respond to emotionally and printing those out. Throw them in a shoebox under the bed, or put them in an archival-quality album.

Before ordering a ready-made photo book, check the archival quality to see if books ordered online will hold up decades down the line. Keep in mind that even CDs and DVDs go bad over time.

Give hard drives as gifts. Back up your own drive, and keep it in a different place. I store the negatives of my wedding photos in our bank safety deposit box.

And consider how much documentation of your own childhood you actually revisit.

Perhaps it is time to rethink the photographic legacy we want our children to inherit. I’ve decided to create four books or albums in a set for each of my children: one for babyhood, another for the elementary school years, then middle school and high school.

This sort of collection seems so much more manageable than a hundred thousand digital images in a virtual gallery. But I imagine we will store (and back up) all the excess images, as well — just in case we want to meander through a virtual attic one day.

Parents are documenting this generation with gusto; it’s just as vital to protect those memories.

After all, preserving the story of someone’s life is about more than clicking, sharing and gathering likes. It’s a priceless gift.

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AISHA SULTAN
Parents talk back

Puppy reunions might be more fun for humans than for dogs

By KAREN SCHWARTZ
Associated Press

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — It wasn’t up to Guinness World Record standards, but I was pretty shocked when the rescue dog we were fostering had 13 puppies. And although it was a ton of work, I resisted when the vet told me they usually divided such large litters among multiple temporary homes until they were old enough for adoption.

They were, after all, a family. None looked like their redheaded mother, Goldie, yet the pups were so similar I could only tell the brown fur-balls apart by their numbered collars.

Besides, they had so much fun together. A couple would start to wrestle and the others would come running, to watch or join in. The largest and the smallest were inseparable, curling up together when they slept. They all spent countless hours playing their own versions of hide and seek and king of the castle.

When it came time to send them to their forever homes, we tried to lessen our loneliness by adopting one. We named him Simcha, the Hebrew word for joy.

Still, three months later, I was thrilled when an email arrived inviting us to a puppy reunion.

“I was curious to see how they would do with each other,” said Elise Branson, who arranged the gathering that drew Goldie and five of her then-5-month-old pups. They ran and played like old times.

“They definitely got along,” Branson recalled. “I don’t know that they would have done that in such a large group if they weren’t that well-bonded.”

Once they leave the litter, however, reunions like this might be more for the owners than for the pups.

A study into kin recognition in dogs, conducted by Peter Hepper, a psychologist at Queen’s University of Belfast in Ireland, found



This March 30, 2014 photo shows three of the puppies from a litter of 13 playing at a reunion in Fort Collins, Colo.

that puppies could recognize their siblings’ smell for the first month or so, but by two years, if they were living apart, that was no longer true. (They could, however, still recognize their mother’s scent and vice versa.) He didn’t test for recognition in the interim, so it’s unclear when the memory of their littermates starts to fade.

I had so much fun seeing the pups romp together at the reunion that I started a Facebook page for the owners. Every few months, someone posts a photo or an update. I know, for instance, that the puppies now range in weight from 70 pounds to more than 100 pounds. One owner shared her pup’s genetic testing, which determined that Goldie is part American Staffordshire terrier and part Cardigan Welsh corgi, while the pups’ dad was a German shepherd.

Other dog owners have similar pages, especially those who have adopted retired racing greyhounds, since their lineage is more easily traceable. The site www.facebook.com/Greyhound.

Littermates.List claims it has helped reconnect 1,500 siblings in the past 16 years.

Of course, there is a difference between reading about your pet’s siblings and watching them hang out together. So it’s especially exciting for me when we run into Simcha’s sisters, two of whom frequent the same dog park.

Their owners met when they happened to adopt their puppies from Animal House Rescue in Fort Collins at the same time just before Christmas 2013. Unbeknownst to each other, they named the puppies June and Juna. Since then, they’ve arranged get-togethers, often a few times a week.

“They truly, truly love each other,” said June’s owner, Bonnie O’Brien, 32, a small-business owner.

The dogs have a ritual greeting when they meet: They run a few laps and then settle down to play, never leaving the other’s side.

“They play in a unique way too,” she said. “It’s strange to watch them. It’s more like they’re having a conversation. They will

lie down and just pat each other. It’s really gentle when it’s the two of them. When she’s playing with other dogs, it more roughhouse. This is definitely different.”

The research suggests that dogs who live with a sibling into adulthood seem to recognize their brother or sister’s scent, Hepper said. Because June and Juna have stayed in touch regularly since they moved to different homes at 8 weeks old, they might indeed know each other as siblings.

Like humans, however, not every family relationship is a smooth one.

“I’ve known dogs who were siblings and they wanted to kill one another,” said Dr. Nicholas Dodman, founder of the animal behavior clinic at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, in Boston.

Fortunately, that doesn’t seem to be the case for Goldie’s brood of 13 (nine fewer than the Guinness record.)

So I don’t know about Simcha, but I can’t wait for the next reunion.

OUT OF THE VAULT

Falling man saved from death by fancy ropework



RENEE STRUTHERS
Out of the vault

Round-Up roping champs, move over.

A workman hurtling to his death from the 14th floor of the Loop Hotel in Chicago was saved when a coworker caught him with a loop of rope in a one-in-a-million rescue April 10, 1946.

James Anderson, 29, swung out on a rope from the scaffolding on the 15th floor of the partially finished hotel, intending to lower himself to a 14th floor window to enter the building and

pick up his tools at quitting time. He lost a glove and suddenly began to plummet to the street.

Coworker Philip Walsh, a 53-year-old tuck pointer, grabbed the rope from which Anderson had fallen, twirled it in a wide circle and jerked. The rope, corkscrewing in the air, looped around Anderson’s body and braked his descent. Anderson slid the length of the rope with the loose loop around him but lost his grip at the second floor and fell the rest of the

way to the ground.

Walsh rode down the elevator and found Anderson sitting up in the street. Anderson was rushed to St. Luke’s Hospital, where attendants said he suffered from nothing but rope burns.

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Renee Struthers is the Community Records Editor for the East Oregonian. See the complete collection of Out of the Vault columns at eovault.blogspot.com

ODDS & ENDS

Governor blocks baby pictures on beer bottles

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Sorry, baby, your picture isn’t going to be on the front of any beer bottles in New Hampshire.

Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan on Tuesday vetoed a measure that would have allowed some images of minors to grace alcoholic beverage labels as long as they didn’t encourage young people to drink.

Republican state Rep. Keith Murphy, who runs a popular tavern, sponsored the bill because he wanted to be able to buy Breakfast Stout, crafted by Founders Brewery Co. in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The beer’s label depicts a chubby, Norman Rockwell-esque baby scooping oatmeal into his mouth.

Hassan said allowing the images could undermine the state’s efforts to fight underage drinking.

“Substance misuse, including alcohol misuse, continues to be one of the major public health and safety challenges facing us as a state,” Hassan said in her veto message. “Moreover, statistics suggest that New Hampshire has among the highest rates of underage drinking in the country.”

Murphy said the veto is an overreach and noted that neighboring Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont sell the beer. He also pointed out that a New Hampshire-produced craft beer, Smuttynose Baltic Porter, would have to come off the shelves because its label shows Father Time and a baby.

The federal government already prohibits alcohol labeling or advertising that targets minors.

Murphy’s bill would have given the state’s Liquor Commission discretion to approve or deny labels. He said he could understand the commission denying a label showing college kids partying but not the Breakfast Stout depiction.

“No reasonable person would believe that this label is intended to appeal to minors in any way,” he said.

But the director of enforcement and licensing for the New Hampshire Liquor Commission, James Wilson, said when the bill was introduced in January that the commission already has a “bright line



AP Photo/Elise Amendola, File
This Jan. 15 file photo shows bottles of Founders Brewing Breakfast Stout.

standard” for labeling and was opposed to Murphy’s proposal.

Man’s red underwear leads to burglary arrest

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) — The blue sneakers were the subject of the crime, but police say it was a man’s red underwear that led to his arrest on Long Island.

Police say 18-year-old Taykim Ross stole \$200, electronics and Air Jordan sneakers from an apartment Monday and stopped in the backyard to try on the new kicks. That’s when a neighbor snapped a photo of the suspect with red boxers visible above his jeans.

Hempstead Village Officer Russell Harris says he was returning after a canvass of the neighborhood when he noticed someone taking garbage out. He saw someone bending over with “bright red underwear.”

Turns out, it was an exact match.

“I just happened to sit in the car for a moment and in my rear view mirror about 500 hundred yards away I see a guy bending over putting garbage bags down and what do I see, low and behold, I see red underwear standing

out,” Harris said.

The officer acknowledged that young men in Hempstead are often seen not wearing belts with pants hanging low.

“If he would have gone home and put a belt on, I probably wouldn’t have noticed him.”

Harris was arraigned on a burglary charge Tuesday in district court and was conditionally released to probation. He was represented by a lawyer from Legal Aid, which does not comment on pending cases.

Florida woman reunited with her dog after 7 years

HOMESTEAD, Fla. (AP)— A South Florida woman has been reunited with her Boston Terrier who ran away seven years ago.

WFOR-TV reports Julie Arango got a call Sunday saying her dog, Lola, who ran away from her home in southwest Miami-Dade County seven years ago after digging a hole under a fence, has been found.

Linda Gall, a former veterinary technician, told the station someone was giving Lola away for free on Craigslist after caring for her for almost seven years. Gall took Lola to a vet, discovered the info on the microchip and got in touch with Arango, her former owner. Arango says she never thought she would see her dog again.

On Monday, Arango and her daughter, Celina Papas, drove to Fort Lauderdale to be reunited with their long-lost pet.

Doctor robbed of more than money: Pants stolen, too

MACON, Ga. (AP) — A robber got away with more than money in Georgia: Officials say he demanded his victim’s pants.

The Macon Telegraph reports that law enforcement officials say a man walked into the Harmony Medical Services office on Monday and asked to see a doctor.

The Bibb County Sheriff’s Office says he was taken to the doctor, then pulled a gun and demanded his briefcase and pants, which had his wallet, ID and an undisclosed amount of cash. Officials say the robber left the Macon office with the items, fleeing on foot.