

Letters to editor/crime, violence: March 25

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Help youths tap into their power

It often seems we bring youth to the forefront only in the context of problems and youth violence. Many of us try to empower youth and we should. However, we must also recognize that youth are already empowered. They have the power of imagination, drive, energy, life, physical ability, learning ability, resiliency, teamwork, morality and, most importantly, identity.

Every single youth has all the power they need to overcome the high hurdles they face on the outside and the hardest hurdles that are on the inside. They already have all the tools necessary to lead a peaceful life and achieve what they want in this world.

It seems that many youths do violence to gain some perceived control in their life or to gain empowerment. What they find is that doing violence is a power demagnetized. They lose control, respect and time at a crucial time of their lives.

And, according to research, who are the greatest victims of youth violence? Young people, of course. Youth violence is self-destructive to its core. And who are the most often attacked? The ones who themselves do violence. Young people who live by the sword very often die by the sword. Do drugs and alcohol factor in violence? Of course. Abusing drugs and alcohol turns your identity into mush. Goodbye, superpowers.

Looking for respect? You've got it. Everyone with an identity is completely worthy of total respect, whether other people recognize it or not.

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