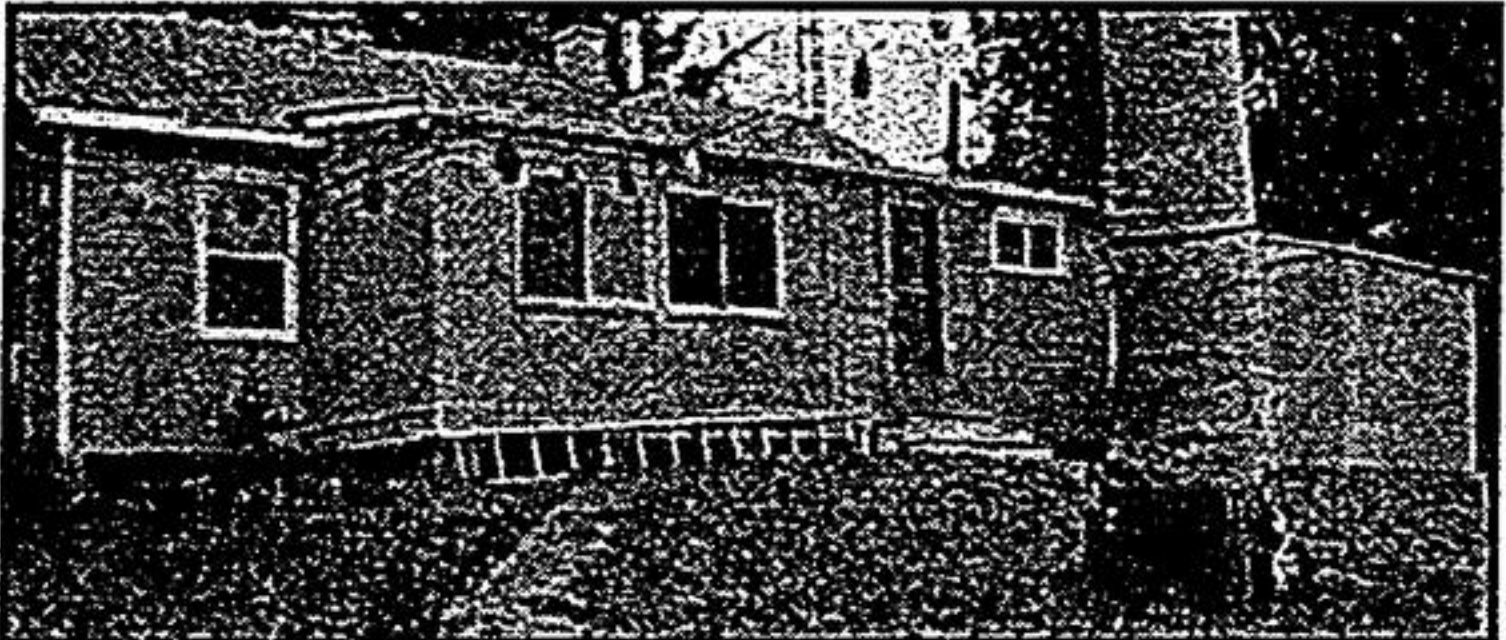


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'Rosie-coloured' glasses magnify my wrinkles

Rosie, oh Rosie. It seems Toronto Star columnist R. DiManno doesn't like baby boomers.

In fact, she positively drips vitriol when it comes to the subject of my g-g-g-generation. In a recent diatribe, she not only blamed a litany of woes on our very existence, she also described us as old, wrinkled and sagging.

Well, as I used to mutter darkly when I was even younger than Rosie — hardly a spring chicken herself — excuse me for breathing. It seems to escape her notice that we had no say in the timing of our conception, so what does poor, hard-done-by DiManno expect us to do about it?

Like the vast majority of my peers, I do not wear mini skirts, an



Kate's Corner

Kate Gilderdale

act Her Disdainfulness considers a cardinal sin for crumbles. "You look silly in a mini-skirt," she scoffed.

No sillier, I would venture to suggest, than Rosie does in her head shot, with what looks like an ex-parrot dangling from her right earlobe.

To address some of her other accusations, I have never aspired to the ownership of a Beetle or its current reincarnation and the closest I've ever been to a golf course is the restaurant at the Maples. My careerette has not enabled me to acquire "expensive doodads," just groceries, and I have never claimed to be an oil painting, although I am pathetically grateful for my fellow columnist's kind assertion that "There are many handsome men and women in their 50s."

Of course there are also, as we used to say before the self-esteem police got their oar in, some dogs in their 20s.

But life, as we old, wrinkled, sagging folks have long recognized, is seldom fair.

The real irony of Rosie's sermon, however, is that it's the kind of stuff she's been known to slag other people for writing — self-absorbed and personal.

Then again, that's one of the reasons I enjoyed it. In fact, I heartily concur with much of what she says.

I, too, am tired of reading about "menopause," "mature lifestyles," "healthy living for the age-enhanced" and 101 things to do in an empty nest. Sadly however, market research, the Holy Grail of the nineties, reveals that these endlessly dissected topics are what most people want to hear about and, as blockbuster movies and mega corporations clearly demonstrate, market research rules the world.

So don't blame us, Rosie, blame the gurus (probably part of your benighted generation) who saturate the airwaves and periodicals with exhaustive details of our insomnia, sexual and emotional dysfunction, prostate glands and hearing impairment, the latter brought to us by The Rolling Stones and their geriatric ilk.

I am as sick of us as you are, dear Rosie, and if you could show us to a seat on the sidelines where we belong, I, for one, would be grateful.

But it may be too much to hope that the force will be with you. Today's Seniors — a publication for the mature lifestyle — has just been renamed Forever Young.

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