Editorial for the Salisbury Flyer

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**Wash, Rinse, Repeat: Life lessons at the Laundromat**

As I spent a free afternoon at the local laundry mat, I stared at the time on the washing machine that read nine minutes left. Nine minutes until I would handle the tangled, saturated pieces of cloth and throw them into a 50 pound limit dryer, then proceed to wait longer. I sat and gazed as the speed of the washing machine increased every few intervals. Then, I began to relate the clothes to my thoughts, and even just life in general.

Articles of clothing are associated together; they’re torn up and sewn back into one piece, destroyed and reused, soiled then rewashed. This process can be easily compared to how people live, or how others are treated.

Then again they could easily be opinions or beliefs. Feelings, emotions, and everything else that stresses us out is jumbled up in our heads, and sometimes they disperse, but not as often as we hope they would. But when they do get released, they’re washed up by judgments or understandings, then either forgotten or discharged in another context.

On another note, we lay in bed at night going over countless flaws, mistakes, wishes, and stress scenarios that usually never get folded away into a storage space, and what for? In the end, if we worry about ridiculous mistakes and ‘could have,’ ‘would have,’ ‘should have’ moments, we may never reach any type of satisfaction. There needs to be a point in time for when we take these internal debates and wring out the negativity so that our minds can eventually rest.

So, once the wrinkly clothes sit in the basket at its next destination, we sit there without unraveling the truth, without forgiving, without forgetting, and just let things be how they are. Accepting a matter may or may not even be a factor within this avoidance.

Once someone is ready to flatten out the crinkles and folds, they are finally prepared to store them away, at least until another occurrence. It’s unfortunate for some people though, because not everyone can wait a little over a week to get their laundry done outside of their home, this process is easily capable of occurring every day.