

Reflections From a 'Moor' Studious Student

ELTON HO
Copy Editor

A month ago, I received the honor of being named the "Most Studious" male senior in the yearbook. It's official: I'm one of the biggest nerds in my class. Finally, some recognition! I didn't stress out, skip meals, and stay up until 2 a.m. every night for nothing, you know.

It's strange. I should feel a sense of gratification but instead, I just feel utterly drained. I can't help but wonder about what I had lost as a relentlessly studious student.

I mostly remember high school as a time of persistent physical and mental duress. With the constant pressure to succeed academically, I would consistently find myself and my peers prioritizing schoolwork over health and happiness. Soon I began to feel guilty if I didn't spend every minute of every hour on productive tasks; a nonstop cycle of homework, studying, reading and scholarships. The ultimate result is

that I feel my high school years have passed me by. In deciding that the time for "fun" was in the future, I forgot to enjoy the now.

At times, I wondered what the purpose of all this stress was. Ostensibly, it was so we could educate ourselves about the world and hopefully use that knowledge to make a change. I only wish that were true. In actu-

ality, much of the work I did felt like busy work that was only meant to add points to PowerSchool and provide me with a particular grade. The purpose of this always came back to college. We both admire and dread this institution that can propel you to success, our reward for all our effort and anxiety over

ences — to put on personal statements for college. College is undoubtedly important; I very much look forward to it. But when everything is about college, it is easy to forget the intrinsic value in our high school experiences and our internal motivation for learning. "Where do you want to go to college?" still rings in my ears. When was the last time we were asked "What problems do you want to solve in the world? What impact do you hope to make in your community?"

I do not particularly wish to see my "Most Studious" yearbook photo. It shows me with a posed smile, brandishing a novel that I had only skimmed for my English class and did not remotely enjoy. In much the same way, my reputation as a studious student has sometimes felt like a facade. There were days where I hated school, passionately, fervently, hated school. There were times where I felt trapped by my academics, crammed into the tiny corner of my desk where I ignored my emotions and worked robotically.

Still, there are a few amazing memories for consolation. My friends, who I have been through so much with. A handful of classes that have forever changed how I view the world. And my clubs and activities including, yes, The Moor Weekly. Come May, I will once and for all bid farewell to high school. Goodbye, AHS. Thanks for all the memories.



the years. It's why parents pay big money for elite test prep classes and why students overwhelm themselves with classes they hate and clubs they don't actually care about.

Sometimes, it seems as if absolutely everything in our lives revolves around college. Preparing for college. Looking good for college. Having revealing, enlightening experi-

GENERATION Z: FAR FROM LAZY

KYLE ANG
Staff Writer

They are recognized as lazy, apathetic, technology obsessed, and socially detached; this is Generation Z, the age group born between the late 1990s and the present.

In the midst of all these stereotypes, it is disregarded that Generation Z is filled with hard-working, passionate intellectuals and diverse people. According to U.S. News, colleges have redefined their admission process since the 1980s, no longer basing qualifications only on high GPAs and test scores but also on students' overall uniqueness and involvement in activities outside of school as well. With increasing expectations and academic competition, many kids are working harder than ever, loading up on advanced placement classes, joining clubs, sports and volunteering, all to increase the possibilities of getting into selective colleges.

Others argue that Generation Z has become technology dependent, but technology is something that allows us to become smarter, more aware and more innovative individuals through self-teaching new skills, and learning from others' experiences online. It is important to consider that with greater technology, there is also a higher expectation for superior production, pushing Generation Z kids to break standards.

Generation Z kids are far from apathetic and are made up of many ethnicities which guide them in becoming more accepting towards other cultures. The Census Bureau estimates that, within four years, more than 50 percent of Generation Z kids will be a minority.

Looking at previous generations, there is a pattern in being labeled negatively by the generation before them. George Orwell puts it well, stating that, "each generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it, and wiser than the one that comes after it," proving that each generation depends on a false idea of superiority. What we need is the elimination of unfavorable sweeping assumptions and a greater respect for the still maturing Generation Z.

MOOR graphics by LESLIE HWANG



Infomania: Useful or Useless?

CRYSTAL CHEAH
Staff Writer

The use of the Internet is an integral part of our daily lives. Those who are constantly checking information online are believed to be affected by infomania, an excessive enthusiasm for acquiring knowledge. According to the LA Times, infomania negatively impact people who are eager to absorb new information by stressing them out. However, infomania can actually be useful.

Through the internet, people become more conscious of what is happening in the world around them. Knowledge of world events can impact the lives of individuals daily by enhancing job interviews, initiating debates or even starting up a class discussion. Competition amongst professionals is constantly growing, making it increasingly vital for job seekers to set themselves apart from their peers. Infomania is thus useful because it allows people to display a broad understanding of international affairs and current events.

Aside from getting caught up with current events, people can easily find the information they want on the internet. For instance, people who want to learn another language can do so by searching for an official website that teaches different languages. Learning independently allows people to set their own pace and put more time into a subject they do not fully understand before moving on to another one. Therefore, in this case, people can obtain an in-depth knowledge of a subject through the internet.

Overall, infomania can be advantageous. People have gathered so much knowledge that they can get a better understanding of the world around them and develop their own skills.

SHELLEY LIN
Staff Writer

Throughout the day, children, teenagers and adults are prone to spend much of their time on the internet. Besides having conversations online, people have the tendency to jump through numerous links, posts and articles on their phones or computers to update themselves of what is currently occurring. Individuals who are diagnosed with "infomania" find themselves craving information on the internet, ultimately overwhelming themselves and wasting their time.

Although absorbing tutorials, news and other fundamental information online can be useful, there comes a point where people need to know their limits. Obtaining an overflow of information is not beneficial. In fact, the stress of data overload affects sleep and relationships, according to a survey by analytic company Esri UK. The time spent scavenging for information online is wasted when that time could be used for resting or activities that could better relationships. It is also pointless if people read articles without absorbing the information they read. Instead, people need to decipher and reflect on the information they are intaking to truly make the most of the time and effort they put in to check the news.

It is important that "infomaniacs" limit their usage on the internet and realize that obtaining too much information is not always beneficial. Much of the information online are interruptions from being productive in the real world. It is important to stay up to date, but taking in too much information to the point where it becomes useless is not constructive. Rather than overwhelming the brain with information online, individuals could use much of that time and energy to benefit themselves through doing other activities.



One Size Doesn't Fit All

ANGELA YANG
Editor in Chief

I love clothes just as much as the next girl. Even so, there's a nagging feeling in the back of my mind whenever I wear something made by a "one size fits all" (OSFA) brand — specifically, Brandy Melville. The brand is unique in that its advertising is concentrated on creating the perfect social media image; there are no billboards or TV commercials, but instead a strong Internet presence. As an article published by the fashion website Racked puts it, "the Brandy Melville girl has long hair and longer legs. She's a California cool girl, very young and very thin, in shorts and oversized sweaters."

As cute as their clothing is, Brandy Melville's social media presence cannot erase my concerns that a OSFA brand can never really fit everyone. While it does make shopping much more convenient it disregards the fact that many different body types exist. The BuzzFeed video "One Size Fits All" on Different Body Types" explores this by showcasing women of different shapes and sizes trying on articles of clothing from the brand. One woman states, "When I didn't fit into it, it felt like something was wrong with my body [...] you could definitely hurt younger women that grow up feeling like they need to fit in one size."

When a brand ignores that people of all different body types exist, they are inherently idealizing one specific body type. In doing so, the brand not only loses potential customers, but also makes those who cannot fit into their clothes feel as though there is something wrong with them. A clothing brand should never make their consumers feel uncomfortable in their bodies, but rather give confidence.