

Features

What Defines Our Generation?

Is it the crazy, fast-paced music that we love to annoy our parents with, or the big screen TVs and cell phones that we have spent so many days and nights glued to? Or does it have nothing to do with material possessions, but everything to do with the changes in politics and the economy that have occurred during our lifetime? For young adults in the 1950's, they were generalized by their collective desire for change, which was demonstrated through protest. In the 80's, it was fashion—cut up sweatshirts and big hair summed up their adolescence. For us, we cannot be defined by one particular trend or belief that we all share. We are a combination of the generations before us—a unique, and sometimes messy, blend of style, popular culture, world events, politics and innovation.

by Features Editor Lindsay Croon



Joshua French, Senior



Brittini Moriconi, Junior

Catastrophes

With every positive aspect in life, there seems to always be a negative one tailing. As humans, it is only natural that we tend to turn a blind eye to it. Yet, we're still shocked and overcome with devastation when they happen, surprised that something so tragic would occur in the first place. The economic recession and both man-made and high impact natural disasters are a couple major tragedies that have brought us together to offer both comfort and solace to those affected, during our generation.

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, we have recently emerged out of in 2009, what is known as the "Great Recession." Although many individuals saw it coming, they continued to ignore all of the warning signs until it was too late and the economy began to crumble. Warning signs such as high real estate prices and stock market drops only raised already sky-high tension among citizens, which in turn caused panic and added to the recession.

Disasters obviously play a massive part in the undesirable aspects of life we are presented with. Man-made disasters such as the September 11 at-

tacks on the World Trade Center only further prove regression in the human race. As a result of what appears to be miscommunication and discrimination—all which could have been avoided—the tragic event happened.

While natural disasters cannot be prevented, they can be prepared for. Individuals don't like to think about them; therefore, the anticipation tends to be one of the last things on a person's mind. The recent earthquake and the aftershocks that have occurred in Japan have raised fear globally. Rumors that they are going to take place elsewhere and hit each continent are on the rise. However, with proper preparation in this type of disaster, unnecessary damage can be avoided and panic can be quelled.

The negative aspects of life will always exist, and have proven to be dangerous and fatal, especially in economic and disaster categories. Our generation has witnessed much tragedy during our short-lived lives. However, what is left to do is learn from what has occurred, move on and prepare for the future and what it may bring.

By Features Editor Karolina Zydziak

Technology

Many teenagers would find a twenty-four hour iPod deprivation akin to walking barefoot over hot coals—basically, pure torture. Research no longer refers to visiting an actual library to gather information—instead, it has become synonymous with "Google It." In a recent ABC News report, the current generation was referred to as "technology dependent," which is not far from the truth. The Internet, along with smart phones and other gadgets have made communication more convenient than ever. "If it's there—why not use it?" is the common mind-set of many American teens.

By Features Editor Lindsay Croon

Education

For most of us high school students, college is no longer a choice—it's a necessity if we wish to live a financially secure life. The drop in admission rate can be partially attributed to the cord-amount of applicants-regardless of qualifications of prospective students, colleges can only admit is just short of hopeless, places an excruciating amount of pressure on our generation to achieve and gain acceptance from prestigious universities around the world. Currently, countless renowned colleges have announced that the application cycle for the Class of 2015 has been the most competitive in their history—University of Pennsylvania offered admission to a record-low amount of 12 percent of applicants, down two percent from last year's acceptance rate. Dartmouth announced their admission rate

By Features Editor Lindsay Croon

Strange Obsessions

Pop icons: The quirky fashion and music of pop star Lady Gaga have captured our hearts. Our attention span has proven to be longer than two seconds. And although we've waved a sad goodbye to the now-iconic hairstyle of hair-flipping teen star Justin Bieber, most of us still idolize him—most.

Reality Shows: Before 2009, it is doubtful that any generation would have tolerated a TV show following a house of overly tan, drunk, fist-pumping twenty-somethings who's lives revolve around previously unheard-of acronyms; GTL—gym, tan, laundry—and don't forget, the partying. Yeah, we're talking about MTV's Jersey Shore.

Social networking: For whatever reason, we can't resist the urge to spill every detail, interesting or not, of our lives—140 characters or less—to anyone who will read it.

Cult Classics: Although you will have to bribe us with a pretty large sum of cash to sit down and thoroughly read a novel for English class, we will gladly devour anything that involves vampires, beautiful glittery men, goblins or wizards. We'll also jump at the chance to wait hours in line, sleep-deprived on a school night, to be one of the first thousands of fans to watch the latest movie in the series, then immediately log onto Facebook to post our rave reviews.

by Features Editor Lindsay Croon



Mariah Romero, Junior

By The Year Defining Moments

- Jan 20, 1993 - Bill Clinton appointed President
- April 6, 1994 - death of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana sparks Rwandan Genocide
- May 19, 1995 - Balamurali Ambati, world's youngest doctor graduates from Mount Sinai at age 17
- Aug 6, 1996 - NASA announces that life may have existed on Mars
- Mar 4, 1997 - federally funded human cloning research banned by President Clinton
- Oct 31, 1998 - Iraq ends cooperation with United Nations weapons inspectors.
- Mar 20, 1999 - First Legoland outside of Europe opens in Carlsbad, California.
- May 24, 2000 - After 22 years of occupation, Israeli troops withdraw.
- September 11, 2001 - two planes were hijacked by two terrorists and crashed into the World Trade Center killing approximately 2,900
- 2002 - The first season of Fox network's "American Idol" premieres, setting a precedent for many reality show competitions.
- 2003 - Saddam Hussein is captured by U.S. forces in Iraq and later sentenced to death for "crimes against humanity."

- July 10, 2004 - Martha Stewart is sentenced to five months in prison for insider trading.
- Aug 25, 2005 - Hurricane Katrina devastates New Orleans, causing an estimated \$81.2 billion of damage and killing an estimated 1836 people.
- Aug 24, 2006 - Pluto loses its title as the 9th planet of the Solar System as it is deemed a "dwarf planet" by The International Astronomical Union.
- May 4, 2007 - Socialite Paris Hilton is sentenced to 45 days in jail for driving with a suspended license.
- Nov 4, 2008 - Barack Obama is elected as the nation's first African American President.
- Sep 13, 2009 - Musician Kanye West interrupts Taylor Swift at MTV's Video Music Awards as she gives an acceptance speech.
- Mar 6 2010 - An oil rig belonging to BP explodes in the Gulf of Mexico, leaking an estimated amount of 4,900,000 barrels of oil over a period of 86 days, dubbing it the largest accidental oil spill in the history of the United States.