

A Generation of Indolence or Opportunity Shortages?

SUSANNA AIGA
Opinions Editor

As teenagers, one of our biggest concerns is fussing over how much our parents can support us. However, when the Opportunity Nation coalitions came out with a recent report that approximately six million of American youth, from 16 to 24, are neither in school nor in work, it is apparent that adolescents are even more directly affected by the current economy. This suggests the poor state of our economic conditions, but it also brings up the attitudes both from and toward today's youth as well as from society itself.

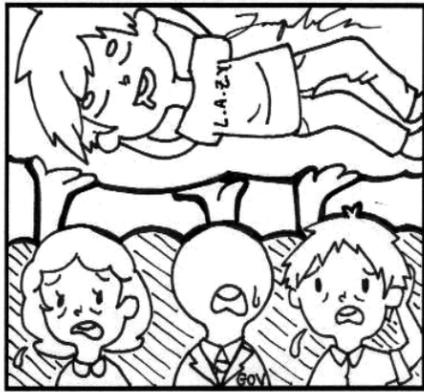
According to the Huffington Post, some of the nation's largest cities, including Los Angeles, have more than 100,000 idle youth. Also according to the Huffington Post, research has demonstrated that in the absence of school, teens are more likely to be involved in crimes and to rely more on government assistance, which is a slap in the face to their

parents who worked so hard for them to be successful and educated. All these youths are not accumulating human capital in the form of education or work experience, which negatively impacts the success of their futures. Not only are they choosing to put aside the American Dream past generations struggled

for, but they are also choosing to live off of the help of the government, also known as the taxpayers' money. It hardly seems fair that those who do end up finding employment will be working twice as hard to provide for themselves and the rest of their sorry unproductive generation.

According to the Opportunity Nation, this category of youth in-

clude those living in poverty and individuals with a lacking education—high school dropouts and those with a high school diploma as their highest degree. Social and



economic status has much to do with the rate of unemployment, since those with a lower income and with a poor community are more likely to be out of work. However, the Bureau of Labor

Statistics also reported that among those marginally attached to the labor force, there were 852,000 discouraged workers as of September 2013. Giving up on job searching due to the belief that jobs are not available should not be an acceptable excuse for not doing anything.

Each employer is different and is looking for a multitude of

qualities in an employee which a prospective worker might possess. Also, according to the White House website, over 3.9 million jobs in the private sector were added within the last two years. There are always options for even the most disadvantaged youth, and maybe all a successful job search needs is open-mindedness and creativity.

This problem can only be solved through cooperation of employers and determination of the individuals. For example, the Opportunity Nation's Shared Plan currently attempts to help with educational and employment opportunities through a combination of community and employer action, local innovation and reform of federal policies.

Six million American youths out of school and work is a rather depressing finding that we, as part of this disconnected generation, should be aware of. It is important that we do not give up on our education and on our job searches, because there is always hope.

My Little Ponygraphic Fanbase

CAROLINE REN
Editor in Chief

Every Saturday morning from the ages of six to nine, I watched cartoons on television with a ritual fervor. Now that I'm older, these shows no longer hold the same appeal to me as they once did, yet somehow, children's shows manage to maintain large fanbases.

Even more surprising is the consideration that the particular show in question is aimed at young girls under the age of 11 and that portions of its adult fanbase have twisted the cartoon into a means of satisfying sexual fantasies.

In true harmony with its name, My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic (MLP), is dedicated to teaching its young audience moral lessons through cartoon images and humor. More specifically, MLP emphasizes female empowerment; however, being a fan of the show elicits a certain shame when the sexualization of these cartoon ponies is brought to light.

Searching MLP-related tags on unfiltered websites such as

Tumblr demonstrates the graphic nature of the corruption wrought upon what was intended to be an innocent lesson-teaching cartoon.

What is most repulsive is not that adults are watching a children's show or that they lust after animated horses, but that these adult fans, or "bronies," utterly ignore the intentions of the creators of the show in order to make everything about themselves. A cartoon about empowerment for young girls, especially crucial in this day and age when societal pressures about image attempt to make impressionable children conform to expectations, has been manipulated into nothing more than an animation to derive pornographic fantasies from.

Certainly not all adult fans of the show view it in such a fashion, but the numerous sexually explicit images floating around the Internet provide evidence of the ones who do. Nowadays, the kind of cartoons we ourselves enjoyed seem to have become less about depth of thought and more about personal, superficial satisfaction.

WRITE OR WONG?
From Shirt to Gun Control

KAYIU WONG
Staff Writer

On Sept. 19, 16-year-old Haley Bullwinkle wore a National Rifle Association (NRA) t-shirt to her school, Canyon High, and was forced to remove it. School officials believed that the shirt depicted violence and dealt with it as a dress code violation. Outraged, her parents demanded an apology over the rash misinterpretation.

In retrospect, Bullwinkle had the right to wear the shirt. It was an unintentional offense and it was ignorant of the administration to assert it as a promotion of violence. The NRA works to lobby Congress in maintaining the right to bear firearms; they are not advocating extreme gun use, and most definitely not through a shirt.

Yes, that still does not make the NRA the most humanitarian organization, but then again guns are naturally not the most humanitarian topic. The fact that a simple shirt sparked up these gun violence issues really represents the ambivalence our nation has over gun legislation.

For over a century, lawmakers and gun lobbyists have been debating over gun regulations; unfortunately, it has taken occasional acts of gun violence to really bring this issue into light.

Proponents of stricter gun control laws maintain that they will prevent the needless loss of life, while adversaries argue that they restrict individuals from protecting themselves. Since both sides are so polarized, there has not been a compromise and, frankly, the government's stance on this issue is too obscure. Without due action, issues regarding gun control still remain unclear, and this is why misconceptions begin.

Just as the school needed to reevaluate what violence meant in their dress code, both Congress and we citizens need to reevaluate the balance between maintaining ownership rights with common sense in terms of gun safety.

MOOR graphics by SIMON ZHAO



TRICKS 1/4 lb. CHAR BURGER
Drive In & Out DRIVE THRU
Bring a friend

BUY ONE 1/4 LB. HAMBURGER, GET ONE HAMBURGER FREE WITH THIS COUPON

BUY ANY BREAKFAST AT REG. PRICE, GET 1 OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE 10% OFF 10% OFF BREAKFAST WITH THIS COUPON

132 W. Main St. 576-8519
(Corner 2nd and Main)

One coupon per visit • Not valid with any other offer • Not valid on weekends or holidays

Dog Haus

Show your valid **Alhambra HS student ID** for free fries or tots with purchase of any Haus Dog, Sausage or Burger

410 E Main St. Alhambra CA 91801
mon-fri 3-5pm

Studying Overrun by Online Aid

ELTON HO
Staff Writer

With neatly organized summaries, sophisticated analyses and study questions, SparkNotes and other related websites are many students' primary resources for literary aid. Unfortunately, while these websites have benevolent intentions, they can easily be abused by students who are looking for an easy way out of doing their homework. Internet study guides are best used as supplemental resources for gaining other perspectives on the text, not as cheating tools.

Issues can arise from over-reliance on online aids. Plagiarism is one of these problems; students often regurgitate ideas they find on the Internet into their schoolwork without including their own input. In addition, students may form valid interpretations of the book that differ from the ones addressed on SparkNotes,

but subsequently dismiss their own idea as incorrect, because it doesn't correspond. To avoid these conflicts, SparkNotes includes a lengthy segment on plagiarism in their help section which emphasizes proper citation and original thought. Their efforts are commendable, not particularly effective as a hard-pressed student may still find it reasonable to sacrifice personal integrity for a good grade.

Overuse of literary aid websites causes students to miss out on fully enjoying aspects of the reading experience, which include witnessing development of thought-provoking characters, feeling the suspense of a thrilling climax and experiencing the catharsis that comes with the denouement.

By teaching students to take the easiest route in doing their schoolwork, these websites hinder students' learning ability and diminish the satisfaction they receive from doing their own work.