

IS OUR GENERATION DESENSITIZED TO WORLD AFFAIRS?



Elizabeth Knarr
Reporter

YES

With videogames, movies and television shows at the fingertips of our generation, the vast amount of information we have access to is ever-increasing. Yet much of this information has a negative effect on us as people, because it causes us to become desensitized to the violence and bloodshed that occurs in our world.

Since the dawn of television, shows have grown progressively gorier and bloodier, just to spike their ratings and heighten their entertainment value. This national fascination with death and destruction transfers over to the videogame industry as well, with games centering around gunshots, explosions, and killing. This leads to a belief that such violence is commonplace and even acceptable, and it minimizes the damage violence causes to people who actually have to experience it in everyday life.

The immense amount of violence that our generation is exposed to at a young age through entertainment and the media leads to a large degree of apathy when exposed to real-world violence and traumatic experiences. Seeing people get shot and blown up on a television screen desensitizes us to the grim reality that many face on a daily basis, such as the current events in Libya.

Hearing about the Libyan people being fired upon by their own government would ordinarily resonate with people, invoking their sympathy and perhaps a desire to help change the situation. However, because so many have been exposed to violence and warfare, they no longer see it as being impactful or meaningful.

This apathy transcends contemporary world affairs and also affects adolescents' opinions of historical events. Catastrophically devastating affairs, such as World War II and the Cold War, become downplayed in students' minds, because they no longer comprehend the sacrifice of the soldiers, or the ravages of war. Videogames that center on war and violence greatly demoralize the sorrow and pain that was felt during this time.

It is easy to forget the devastation of taking someone's life away, because today, points are awarded for killing people. The youth of today will never understand the hardships that soldiers had to face during war. Unfortunately, with each passing generation, the negative effects of apathetic teenagers will accumulate, until the word "war" is completely devoid of meaning, and we have absolutely no ability to comprehend the suffering it causes.

The desensitization of our generation due to videogames, movies, and television shows is regrettable, but it doesn't mean that we all have to stop playing Black Ops. Rather, we have to make a conscious effort to recognize the devastation of war and violence, and realize that real life is no videogame.

"MAN ON THE STREET"



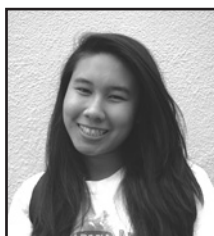
Matt Sanders (9)
"No because the Internet causes us to be globally aware."

Maddie Cooke (10)
"No, the exposure to internet has caused the generation to be more connected."



Clarence Chu (11)
"Yes, because people already forgot about what happened in Japan."

Alonso Mejia (12)
"No, because to some extent the media allows us to know what's going on."



Jasmine Kyi (12)
"Yes, not many people pay attention to world affairs."

Mrs. Klingaman (Librarian)
"No. I think because of technology we are aware of the world and it's hard to ignore the stuff going on in Libya and Japan"



Reetu Inamdar
Sports Editor

NO



As technology continues to grow and advance, many students have not become desensitized towards world affairs. Due to increasingly advanced mediums of technology, students are able to access news and features that allows them to connect to world affairs instantaneously. Cell phones, Internet, and other forms of mediums allow our generation to cultivate as well as become more sensitized towards modern affairs. Cell phones have provided easy access to information as well as are updated quite frequently, causing students to be more aware of the political, economical, and social affairs. More innovative technology such as Iphone, Android, Blackberry, and other cell phones contain applications that allow streaming of events in minutes.

Students are now more inclined to create clubs, help organizations, and spread the word around. For example, the devastating earthquake in Haiti has had a tremendous impact on our generation. Many organizations such as the Mercy Corps Haiti Earthquake Fund, Partners in Health Haiti Earthquake Fund, and many more just prove that the world has become aware and sensitive to the situations presented in foreign countries. These organizations were brought by people of our generation to help provide relief to those who suffered in the Haiti earthquake. Many people may attribute the fact that video games adhere to the desensitization of our generation. However, children nowadays are no more desensitized towards world issues than they have been in the last century. The shooting and killing that video games display are also displayed in movies, since the early 1900's. In fact, many children do acknowledge that video games are quite different than the real world, despite the realistic graphics presented in video games. Lastly, the increase in technology allows students to empathize through social networking. Social networking has dominated the world as many people contact and connect with others through online resources. The simple post or tweet allows friends, families, and other people to know what is going on in the world and also display trends of sympathy as they send their condolences and views on world affairs. The current uprising in Egypt gained momentum from social networking and has thus shown that our generation is not only been increasingly active, but has also provided their input on the political situations throughout the world. The creation of social networks has had a significant and tremendous impact on society. Therefore, our generation is more sensitized towards world affairs through modern technology.

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El Tigre is published by the newspaper staff at: Valencia High School 500 N. Bradford Ave. Placentia, CA 92870 El Tigre welcomes letters and commentary on all matters and reserves the right to edit as needed. Unsigned letters and commentary will not be printed.

Letters and commentary may be emailed to rschiff@pylusd.org. Signed commentaries

and editorial cartoons represent the opinions of the writer or cartoonist and in no way reflect the opinions of the El Tigre newspaper staff.

1ST, 2ND, 3RD DIMENSION AND So 4TH

By: Richard Ma
Reporte

Throughout history, scientists have proposed a theory of a universe outside our own. But does such a universe exist?

What exactly is the fourth dimension? In order to put it in simpler terms, imagine a piece of paper as a two dimensional universe. This piece of paper has various dots

that represent people and objects. To make things simple, we will refer to these "people" as Flats. The Flats can only see objects that are laid flat on this piece of paper (for example a line or another point).

Now imagine a three-dimensional sphere placed on top of this piece of paper. Instead of seeing the sphere as a whole, the Flats can only see the point where the sphere intersects the piece of paper, which is a point. As the sphere goes through this piece of paper, the Flats can only see the two-dimensional version of the sphere, which is a circle. In essence, when this three-dimensional object passes through a two-dimensional universe, the Flats will see a point appearing out of nowhere, which then morphs into a circle. Now replace the two-dimensional universe with our three-dimensional universe, and

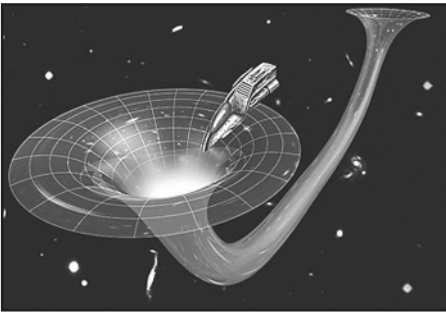


PHOTO COURTESY FROM: YANKEES.LHBLOGS.

you have entered the fourth-dimension.

It may seem like just another part of a science fiction movie, but there may be some truth in this hypothesis. While it is hard to believe, there may be a possibility that another universe exists outside our own. The universe is an endless mass of space that is filled with infinite possibilities, so why can't there be a fourth dimension.

Those who are skeptical about the thought of a fourth dimension have every right to think so. This is simply due to the fact that

no one has ever witnessed the fourth dimension firsthand. In order to enter the fourth dimension, one must create a rip in the universe (much like one would create a rip in a piece of paper). This, in effect, creates a

wormhole in which objects can travel through

(see picture). Because this is impossible to do with modern scientific knowledge and technology, we will never be able to enter the fourth dimension. But this does not mean that the fourth dimension does not exist.

The fourth dimension can provide an answer to life's most intriguing mysteries such as Bigfoot, Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and even unicorns. Could these mythical creatures be inhabitants of the fourth dimension, trying to make contact with us? This is one interesting hypothesis to the striking world of the fourth dimension.

WITHOUT SCHOOL I WOULD HAVE NO CLASS... GET IT?

By: Allen Lin
Reporter

Hello Valencia! It's your most favoritest reporter, Allen Lin, here. I got a comedy column! They must have picked me for my responsibility (ha!). It's certainly not for being funny.

Actually, I take that back. I am funny, in the way a leech is funny. I correct people's humors. It's not my fault that my jokes are painfully bad. Sure, reading my shtick may be bad right now, but at least you aren't too sanguine! Wait, the sanguine humor relates to hope and courage. Let me get back to you on that.

Well, I think I'm too stuck in the past (you young whippersnappers). Let's talk about some events that matter now. You know, news. It's in my job description. I report news.

Recently the Vice President (oddly enough, the job has little vice in it, at least not that I know of), stuck a reporter in a closet. Evidently keeping reporters stowed away while the Vice President isn't unusual ("Biden" his time as always), but

the choice of location is rather odd. Then again, given the Vice President's reputation for gaffes, maybe it wasn't such a bad idea. Maybe they were hoping that if they stuck the reporter by the brooms, he'd be swept away.

In Illinois, some 2500 rubber ducks were stolen from the police. The ducks were meant for a fundraiser for the Yorkville Citizens Police Academy. But look at the bright side, these fresh young students have their first case!

A 92-year old Florida woman shot at a 53-year old man after being refused a kiss. Love may be blind, but I was unaware it also frequented retirement homes. Soon Helen Staudinger, the kissing not-quite killer, will be meeting another blind anthropomorphism of a concept: Justice. Speaking of which, I've wondered how Justice could see the evidence if she's blind. One wonders if on some days, she just plays it by ear.

Well, that's all for now, folks (and not a moment too soon). Remember, laughter is the best medicine. It's why, as part of Obamacare, we're instituting a new clown division.

COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN

By: Samantha Green
Reporter

When was the last time you listened to yourself speak? So everyone knows what freedom of speech is right? If you don't it means that you have the right to say what ever you want to say and to express your opinion. One way of expressing our opinions or how we think is the way we use our languages. My interest peaked in fascination when I noticed that the language we (teenagers) speak varies from the adult population and separates us from them. It individualizes us because when we speak we display apart of whom we are and our thoughts. Our language has manifested itself in many ways for example with slang. We change things around so that it's more difficult for not only adults to understand but also for people we deem as outsiders. We use things like expletives to express ourselves, different expressions, we mix in different languages and make up words and this creates that interesting dynamic that's now in our school. Language or the language we use has become a way for groups to stay together in a tightly-knit setting. For example some students may use more expletives than others and they get along better with students who don't. Or people who speak a certain language will group together because the mutual understanding they have with each

other is similar. This is seen especially when there's a cultural basis behind the language being used. This dynamic creates a diverse and interesting setting but at the same time we don't have an understanding of how to communicate on a greater scale. Especially with adults or people who aren't apart of our group. This then becomes a problem when entering the world because of the language or slang we've been conditioned to use with our friends. Our colloquial language lacks the formality needed to communicate with people of high prestige, honor or respect. If we use it, it may be seen as disrespectful, or people will look at us funny, because quite frankly when was the last time you listened to how we speak with our peers? We sound crazy. This is what has happened since the beginning of time, there is slang for every time period but right now at this point not only is our language radical but also our approach in how we speak it to adults and our peers. There's a lot less respect and our openness to certain discussions has increased while modesty has decline. The point we always need to have limitations and that healthy balance. You want to be able to have a discussion with your friends but also a discussion with someone that can impact your life in an intellectual sense. Our slang is a barrier to us and different generations but we need to acknowledge the importance of diplomacy, respect, and as our school hosts, 'pride, tradition and excellence'.

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