

The Hopeless Generation

by Andrew Sandlin

A college professor recently made a statement in his class that shocked me. He said that the present generation doesn't have any hope for the future. What? What he meant was that compared to the past generations, my generation doesn't hold high expectations that the world's problem will get any better.

In some ways he is right. Kids today have the threat of nuclear war to worry about. At anytime, any nation could launch a missile towards us. A war with America or any other highly developed country (England, France, Germany, Russia, China and Japan) is a scary thought. With the technology today, the world would be completely annihilated in seconds. Smaller nations like Iraq, Iran, and Pakistan, have smaller nuclear weapon's programs that can still wreak havoc on their enemies. Furthermore, we have the threat of terrorists. Again, at anytime, someone could drop a chemical weapon on any heavily populated area. The threat of a nuclear war while growing up is enough to discourage anyone from ever hoping the world will be okay.

Besides the threat of war, we have the economy to worry about. Even though everything seems to be in shape, we have had several stock market crashes in the last ten years. Now days, the economy is shifting towards a global economy. This means

a reliance on other countries to keep the economy going and money flowing. But what happens when a country does not meet these expectations? It would effect and reflect poorly on all the other participating countries.

Besides the threat of a collapsing economy, we have crazy, senseless, violent people. I can still remember hearing about three white guys who dragged a black man until only the upper half of his body remained. And we live with people like these guys? We have a rise in militia groups. Who can forget Waco? Western North Carolina has a high percentage of active militia. What are these guys preparing for? What if they all teamed up on the rest of America and started another civil war? What about the Unabomber? Anyone can mail a bomb to any address in America. The news and papers are filled with countless tales of murder, child molestation, rape, and assaults. Is there any hope this country's crime scene will get better?

Now days we have drugs being sold on nearly every big city corner in the nation. Crack use, once thought to be on the decline, is now springing up in rural areas and small towns everywhere. Its availability is surprising. Its popularity is becoming more acceptable in peers' eyes. Heroin is another hard drug making a comeback. Even though countless numbers of people have overdosed and died, people continue to think of the drug as enjoyable. The

drug is becoming fashionable. Hollywood is gaining from it. A recent movie, "Train spotting," glamorized the use of heroin. Numerous entertainers have reported using this drug. Then we forget about this fact and still support their art. There is also a rise in the use of a number of new drugs. Ecstasy and special K are two good examples. Various forms of speed and meth are also springing up at parties. Is there any hope that people will begin to see the danger in drugs and stop using them?

Then there is the environment to worry about. Scientists tell us that the average global temperature is rising. This is because there is a big hole in the protecting ozone layer overhead. Yet, we still rely on our cars for transportation. The irony behind all this is that we have already developed engines that have a 90 and 100 miles per gallon rating. But no one is producing such cars because it would lower the oil trade. How stupid! We still have polluted rivers and lakes. The Hudson River is slowly making a

comeback. But will we learn from our past mistakes?

This is where I'm supposed to grow up? In this car polluted nation with violent, immoral, criminals as well as a wife cheating president? Tell me where the hope is? Nostradamus predicted a third world war in the year '99. He also predicted that all of mankind would be eliminated sometime around the year 2063. A lot of young people know about these predictions and some of them believe this man is right. They see no doubt that these two facts will occur. With the way things are going in the world, I'm starting to believe him myself.



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