

March 31, 2000

Student Opinion: Campus Apathy

Somewhere, shortly after the baby boomers did their booming, the entire system fell apart. The proverbial dung hit the fan and everything went to pot. We are living in a time that creates, or is composed entirely of, apathy.

We are apathetic people doing deeds with deliberate absence of speed and purpose. We are purpose deficient. We are without real definition in our lives. We move about mechanically, following the rules like lab rats, afraid to jump off of the table.

What ever happened to solidarity and human chains across the gates? The sit-ins and the stand-ins? When democracy didn't do the job, protesters used to enact their own system of checks and balances and could actually get things done. Back then they didn't have to con people into voting with cheesy promotions like "Rock the Vote." People knew their rights and were prepared to defend them with our lives.

What we now know as reality is merely a thick veil over a horrid truth. It is a matrix designed to fool you into thinking that everything is fine. There are no significant problems with the world we live in, right?

The truth is that as a young nation, we have fallen into a slump so low that we cannot even imagine freeing ourselves. We are so deep into the doldrums that we don't even realize it. According to one student, "Everybody's just so 'bla' nowadays." Bla? Do you see that? We can't even bear to spend the time to come up with the words.

Apparently there was a fire the other day on the campus, as well as a broken window and several other minor "bla" events. The parties on this campus (the ones that require a party permit or are sponsored by SAU): bla. The food in the cafeteria (when students aren't complaining): bla. The grades I received on my midterm: bla. Everything is placed absentmindedly under that nonsensical heading: bla.

Students disappear beneath our very noses and we do nothing. They take away whole semesters from us and we do nothing. They tell us how, where and when to party and we do nothing. In essence, we are just a few steps shy of the brainwashing and conditioning of high school. Some of us, right now, if we heard a school bell ring, would run around like decapitated chickens, trying to find our locker before the next class.

We are not chickens. Definitely not free-range chickens at any rate. The pens have been opened but we still live within the confines of the farm, where everything runs on a clockwork conveyor belt. The term "loop" comes to mind. Now we all know that a loop is a glitch in the matrix. There's something a little funny about the state of affairs here and it's not that Tommy Hilfiger cologne