

X MARKS THE SPOT ©

By Connie J. Schlosberg

Recently, while reading an article on the disturbing suicide of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain, I saw the name "Generation X" mentioned throughout the article. The first thing that came to my mind is what does Billy Idol's old punk band have to do with someone's self-destruction? I decided to do further research this term and found it refers to people born between 1965 through 1980. I suppose it is the generation after the "Baby Boom" generation, which makes me wonder what happened to the "Me" generation? Since I was born in 1967 and am systematically part of this "group", I take great insult to being branded with an X.

In my opinion, defining a generation with an X defines a generation that is vacuous and unknown. I find it to be an unfair and uncalled for statement. Why do we feel the need to give every circumstance and groups of people names? How about calling generations before us "Generation F" for Failure? Most of our elders would say today's youth are lost causes. How can anyone blame us for our feelings of despair, anger and disillusion? Living in a dog eat dog world where every man/woman/child must fend for themselves. A lot of people my age came from parents who only seem concerned about their own self-indulgences. We are just the products of their greed. Selfish parents begot selfish children. Makes sense, doesn't it?

The so-called American dream is growing dimmer as time continues. With jobs becoming scarce, housing prices becoming astronomical and criminals getting book deals, can you condemn us for our attitudes? Oh, I know, attitudes can be adjusted. We all want the same basic things from life regardless of who we are.

Don't get me wrong. I certainly am not looking for anyone's sympathy. We all want to be young and carefree, but unfortunately a lot of my generation hasn't had the opportunity to experience "young and carefree." Being young is a wonderful thing and I really regret that I have to grow old. But being young isn't always as easy as it looks (or as easy as you remember). Our problems are as legitimate as any other generation. Let's not forget that point. The only thing we can do is learn from our ancestors, and hopefully, we won't repeat the same mistakes. I think we can handle this stipulation. After all, if we can master Super Mario Brothers, we can certainly tackle this feat.

I know a family that is a perfect example of the failing family of today. Two parents who spent most of their two children's lives worrying about their own fun, ignoring the responsibility of raising their children as a family. Now that their children are troublesome teenagers, they can't understand where the problem stemmed from and suddenly decide to become parents. I'm sorry, but you are far too late. I'm not proclaiming that I will be a perfect parent but you have to spend time in your children's lives if you expect to see good results.

Believe me! I am not preaching the Dan Quayle Family Values nonsense! I am not unrealistic, but logic does tell me that if you want your garden to grow flourishingly, you need to consistently water and nurture it and take it on vacation once in a while. If you are not able to provide that time, then maybe you should reconsider until you can.