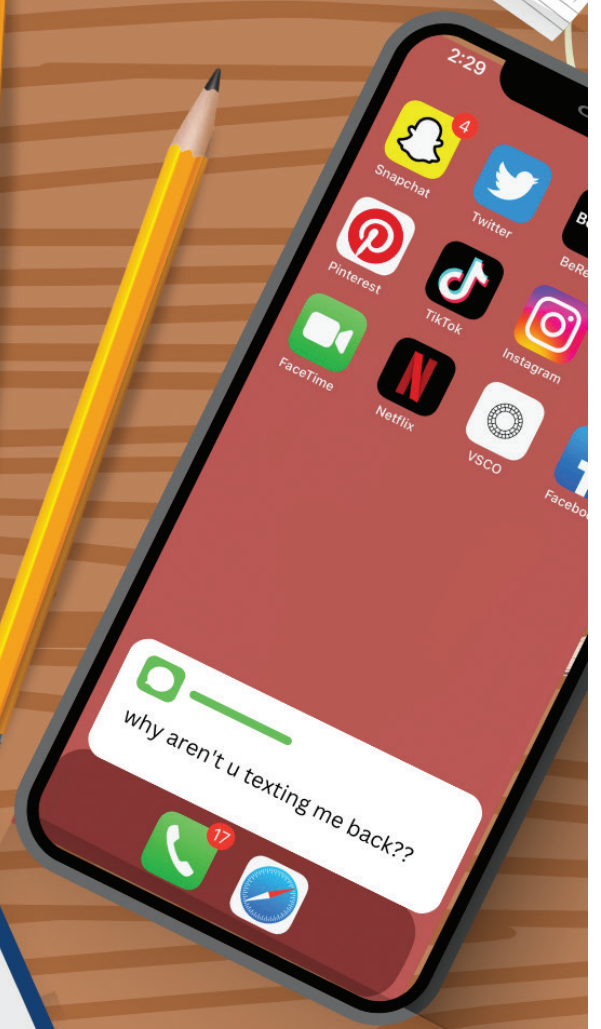
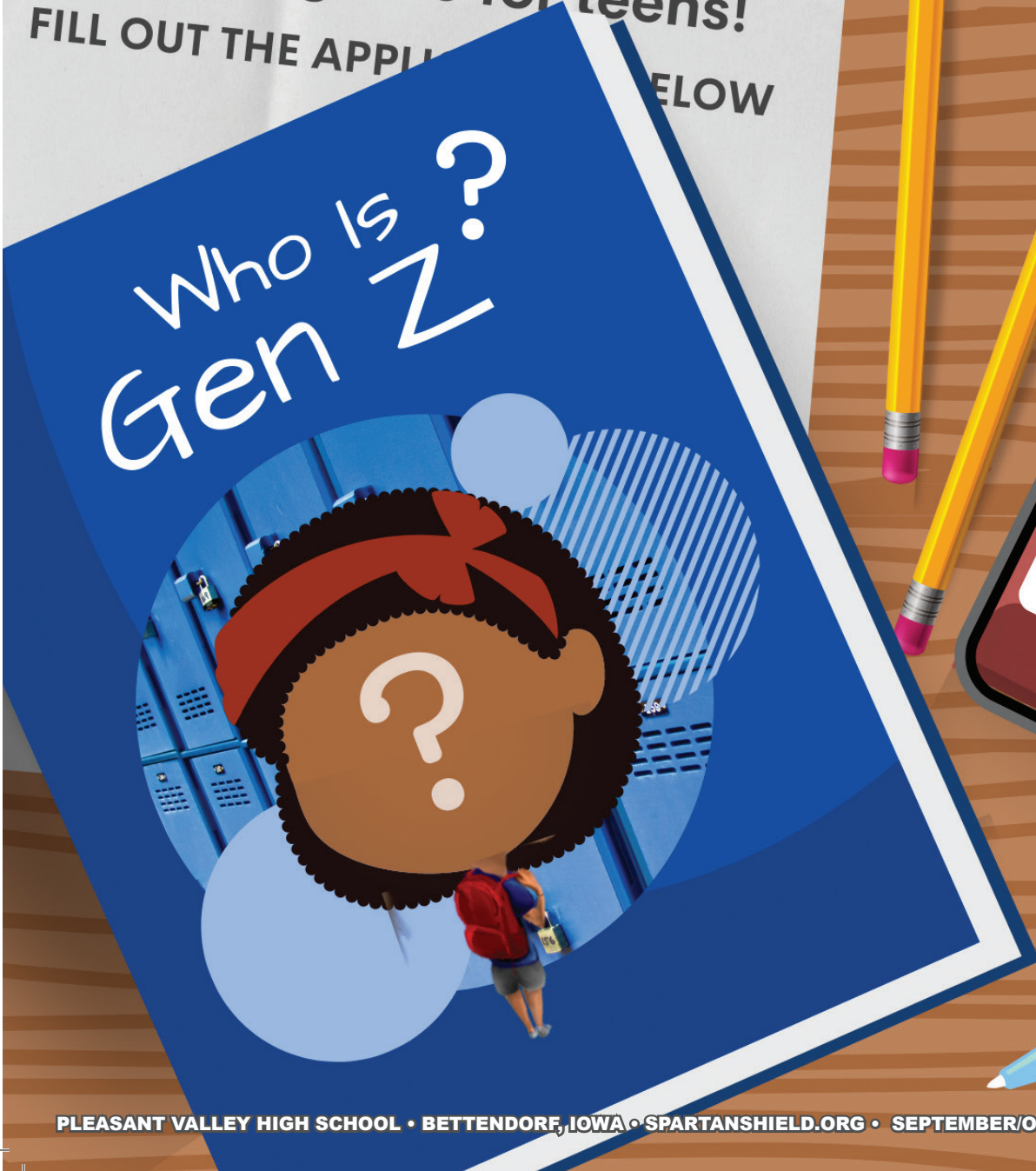


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# Who Is Gen Z

EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT DEFINITION OF A SUCCESSFUL OR MEANINGFUL LIFE, BUT GEN-Z WINS THE RACE OF NEW PERSPECTIVES BY A MILE. NO LONGER INTERESTED IN COURTSHIP, PARENTHOOD, OR EVEN PUTTING IN EXTRA WORK, GEN-Z TAKES ON THE MOST RADICAL APPROACH TO LIFE SEEN THUS FAR. AS THE FIRST OF GEN-Z ENTER ADULTHOOD IN A POST-COVID WORLD FILLED WITH ANXIETIES AND EXTREME OPINIONS, IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE THAT GEN-Z DIFFERS IN THEIR JOURNEYS COMPARED TO PREVIOUS GENERATIONS. BUT UNDER ALL THE ASSUMPTIONS AND HEADS TURNED IN SHOCK, WHO IS GEN-Z REALLY?



## GEN-Z NORMALIZES LOW-RISK DATING

By Anagha Sudhindra

In tandem with their predecessors, Gen-Z brings upon an onslaught of radical ideas and novel perspectives, breaking the “traditionality” of cultural norms instilled by past generations. With diverse outlooks on life, varying from environmental consciousness to political action to human interaction, Gen-Z has found a way to dismantle “old” views on modern topics and replace them with new perspectives. Breaking down the traditionalist ideas of Gen-X and Millennials, Gen-Z’s latest hot take features a phenomenon either heard of or experienced by all adolescents today: hookup culture.

Hookup culture is the new wave of romantic pursuit prioritizing a “good time” over conventional, long-term styles of dating. Originally centered around the idea of quick and easy access to non-committal sex, hookup culture has become exceedingly popular among young adults, instilling a new form of casual dating among this generation.

Hookup culture, and casual dating in general, run at high speeds foreign to previous generations. The lack of commitment and easy access to many like-minded individuals differentiates this form of dating from the prior generation’s, which follows a slow sequence of shy interactions, drawn out get-to-know-you periods, and burdening chivalrous actions.

Senior Shobini Iyer attested to the quick changes; “Like many traditional norms, Gen-Z has tak-

en its own spin on the concept of dating. Redefining the definition of a relationship, this generation has diminished the pressure placed on individuals, especially the concept of men making the first move.” Gen-Z faces much less pressure in relationships, but this side effect may not always be positive.

Opposed to millennials, who grew alongside technology, Gen-Z developed with technology. Romantic interactions and sensual media, which was once so hard to find and featured a thrill factor, are now readily accessible to Gen-Z at the swipe of a finger. Dating apps and social media have exponentially reduced the time necessary to “make the first move.” This fast-paced environment triggers short term dopamine releases associated with not only the rapid pace of media but the rapid transition of partners.

But as young adults find themselves quickly moving from one partner to the next, they lose the intimate humanity associated with love. Casual dating has become a market; a commodity of dating. Adolescents face a business-like detachment when finding a romantic partner. Rather than spending time getting to know one another, Gen-Z relies on constant access to hundreds of other options if one person does not seem like the right fit. There is a certain comfort in knowing that one bad date or hookup has no strings attached.

Senior Atharv Neema agreed with the lack of meaningful connections this generation experiences. “Adolescents today have so many options due to technology that they no longer get attached or give the same affection. There is a lack of human connection and empathy within this generation, leading to less committal dating.”

The wave of casual dating created further subsets of low risk dating. For instance,

“situationships,” a term coined by Gen-Z, are complex stages of dating fulfilling some form of companionship and intimacy without commitment and long term ties. They

“There is a lack of human connection and empathy within this generation, leading to less committal dating.”  
-Atharv Neema

are a form of pragmatic dating without any tangible, lasting affection.

The cyclical nature of generational patterns of love and intimacy has been exonerated by the circumstances of Gen-Z. With abundant access to technology and a long, isolated break from society due to the pandemic, young adults of today have commercialized the dating process. Rather than the traditional goals of love for marriage, Gen-Z has transformed dating into a form of self-exploration and detached, yet periodically intimate connections. As this generation ages into adulthood, their romantic intentions will undoubtedly morph, but until then, Gen-Z will continue to redesign the dating sphere.



## OUR PROSPECTIVE POPULATION: GEN-Z ON PARENTHOOD

By Makenna Leiby

Bearing children: the biological contract or religious prerequisite - Gen-Z's parents did it, grandparents did it and so did every generation since the beginning of time. Yet, in a modern world filled with environmental change, political controversies and human rights debates, Gen-Z questions their desire to follow society's implied path of life.

Traditionally a person attends college, gets married and is drowned in the classic "When are you two having kids?" until they eventually give in and follow suit. Gen-Z, however, is thinking of skipping one - if not all - of the points on the straight line of life. But why are young adults so weary at the mention of raising or even interacting with children?

To discover the root of the problem, one must look into Gen-Z's childhood and their opinions on their parents' lives because as much as parents might not like to admit it, their children see their struggles. Whether with finances, relationships or careers, parents' stress is always noticeable. Gen-Z sees their parents visibly forcing themselves through their days, and does not want to subject themselves to the same regret-filled future.

Not to mention, certain parenting styles have left a bad taste in Gen-Z's mouth. As a whole, Generation X had polar opposite parenting styles; they were either far too involved or nowhere near involved. Aside from a few outliers, Gen-Z has either spent their life trying to create distance from their helicopter parents or begging their parents to provide boundaries. The phrase "you're acting like your father/mother" is not foreign to Gen-Z, and that fate possibly depicts their scariest of futures.

Senior Amanda Nelson weighed in on the loaded topic of how she imagines her parents life would have differed without children in the picture, "My parents probably would've had a way more fun life without kids because before kids they had jet skis, a boat, a jeep and would travel all the time, but when they had kids they had to sell it all." Nelson's parents were forced to replace their life of leisure for one of security and stability.

The hope for financial stability is an additional reason for Gen-Z's apparent hesitancy towards parenthood. The cost of raising a child from birth to adulthood is consistently increasing. In 2020 USDA reported that parents could expect to spend \$284,570 to support their child. Now imagine the financial burden of multiple children. Since Gen-Z is more likely to spend their paychecks on luxuries for themselves, the prospect of financially supporting a child sets off alarm bells in their heads. Nelson represented the thoughts of many members of Gen-Z when she stated, "Kids cost a lot, and I want to be able to have a nice house, travel and do cool stuff."

Similar to their outlook on capital, Gen-Z has a more selfish take on mental health than their preceding generations - and rightfully so. Rather than throwing themselves full force into their career or education, they are taking a more self-first approach to life by giving themselves more time to rest and reflect. Gen-Z allows their hobbies and social life to be components comparable to their jobs or societal

“ Gen-Z allows their hobbies and social life to be components comparable to their jobs or societal responsibilities,”

responsibilities in their structure of life.

There simply is no room for a child in Gen-Z's premeditated hierarchy, as parents, especially ones of a young child, have less time to prioritize themselves or their social lives. Becoming a parent means developing a level of constant stress. Whether it stems from worrying about the child's safety, providing necessities or just trying to be the best influence possible, the layer of stress is ever-present.

Nelson shared how the unmistakable limitations and anxiety connected to being a parent add to her hesitancy, "Looking at young parents makes me stressed out because they all look so miserable and it's way too much of a responsibility because you can't do much besides take care of your kid." Nelson, like many others of her generation, view parenthood as irrational: why have children when you could live a life of near freedom?

There are also practical reasons for choosing to exclude children from one's life plan. The most pressing being the current state of the environment. It is no secret that the climate is the worst it's ever been and no significant changes are being made to fix that. By the time all of Gen-Z gets around to having children, the environmental crisis will continue to exacerbate, creating a more dangerous environment for parenting. If one's goal as a parent is to allow their child to thrive and develop healthily, that outcome may not be possible in a climate conducive world.

While every person is valid in their choices regarding the parenting experience, it becomes worrisome when a vast portion of a generation is opposed to the proposition of parenthood. As Gen-Z grows into adulthood the implications of their dreams of an effortless and uncomplicated future will determine, are traditionalists truly a dying breed?



# HOW DID WE GET HERE?

By: Max Huang



DECEMBER, 2019  
**COVID-19**

WAS DISCOVERED IN WUHAN, CHINA. THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION DECLARED THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK A PANDEMIC ON MARCH 11, 2020.

## WHAT HAS GENERATION Z EXPERIENCED?

Pt. 1

### 2013 *Black Lives Matter Protest Begins*



In 2013, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi created a Black-centered political movement aimed to protest police brutality and systematic racism, following the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting of Trayvon Martin back in 2012.

### 2016 *2016 Presidential Election*



One of the most bitterly divided political contests in our nation's history ended when Republican candidate Donald Trump, a businessman and TV personality, won the presidential election. Trump capitalized on widespread discontent among white working-class voters, targeting undocumented immigrants and political correctness. Hillary Clinton, the first female presidential nominee of a major U.S. political party, won the popular vote by over 2.8 million votes, however Trump won by electoral vote, 304-227.

### 2017 *#MeToo Movement Begins*



After a New York Times article exposed long-rumored accusations of sexual harassment and assault against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein made by dozens of women, including many famous actresses, millions of people came forward to express solidarity with the accusers and shared their own experiences with sexual assault, harassment and sexism. Widespread media coverage of #MeToo led to the resignation or firing of numerous prominent figures.

**Covid-19**  
HITS A NEW PEAK EACH YEAR  
- FROM NEARLY 300,000 TO 1.2 MILLION PEAK CASES IN A DAY

NEW VARIANTS LIKE  
**Alpha Delta**  
- MORE CONTAGIOUS  
- UNVACCINATED PEOPLE ARE AT RISK.  
- STILL MORE TO LEARN

AND MORE RECENTLY  
**Omicron**  
- 30X MORE CONTAGIOUS THAN OTHER VARIANTS

1,000,000

500,000

Jan. 2021  
Jan. 2022



# GEN Z'S MENTAL HEALTH

90%

OF GEN ZERS REPORTED THAT THE PANDEMIC AND INFLATION HAD INFLUENCED THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD RETIREMENT SAVINGS.

91%

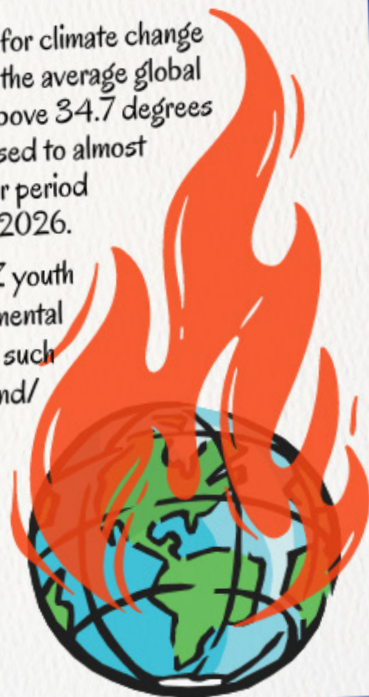
OF GEN ZERS SAID THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED AT LEAST ONE PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL SYMPTOM BECAUSE OF STRESS, SUCH AS FEELING DEPRESSED OR SAD

GENERATION Z REPORTED THE MOST MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS ACCORDING TO THE CHC

According to NOAA's Annual Climate Report, land and ocean temperature has increased at an average rate of 0.14 degrees Fahrenheit (0.08 degrees Celsius) every decade since 1880.

The worst projection for climate change is that the chance for the average global temperature to rise above 34.7 degrees Fahrenheit has increased to almost 50% for the five year period between 2022 and 2026.

Roughly 75% Gen Z youth have experienced a mental health-related issue, such as anxiety, stress, and/or feelings of being overwhelmed as a result of reading, seeing, or hearing news about climate change.



FOR A MAJORITY OF GEN Z YOUTH, GUN VIOLENCE, MASS SHOOTINGS AND SCHOOL SHOOTINGS ARE SIGNIFICANT SOURCES OF STRESS. 75% OF GEN Z REPORT MASS SHOOTINGS AS A LARGE SOURCE OF STRESS, AND NEARLY 72% SAY THE SAME ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SCHOOL SHOOTINGS OCCURRING.

Pt. 2

## WHAT HAS GENERATION Z EXPERIENCED?

1995-NOW

*There have been nearly 1,000 terrorist attacks in the past 20 years*



Terrorism in the U.S. has fluctuated annually, from 60 in 1995, to 17 in 2010, and jumped all the way up to 103 in 2020. The total U.S. fatalities from terrorist attacks have added up to 3,658.

1999-NOW

*More than 311,000 students have experienced gun violence in school.*



In the past two decades since the Columbine massacre, there have been 337 recorded incidents involving gun violence in schools. 185 children and educators have been killed and another 369 have been injured.

2000-NOW

*Increase in Death by Suicide*



The CDC gathered that over 12 million adults seriously consider suicide, and over 1 million of those people attempt suicide. In 2020, Suicide was the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14 and 25-34. Young people who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual have higher rates of suicidal thoughts and behavior compared to their peers who identify as heterosexual.

2016-2020

*Impeachment of Donald Trump*



Through Trump's many controversies, his presidency ended with 2 impeachment attempts for Abuse of power and Obstruction of Congress. More recently getting investigated by the FBI for numerous criminal acts during his presidency which involved mishandling of classified documents.



## DEATH OF HUSTLE CULTURE

By Ayah Alsheikha

Gen Z is known for many things, from unique fashion statements and bold opinions to social media empires and young success. Gen Z'ers have always cut their own path, especially evident in new trends in the workplace showing that "hustle culture" has become a thing of the past.

Prior generations have been known for their "hustle" attitude in the workplace. They prioritized "climbing up the corporate ladder," an ideology of extreme extra effort and dedication to work in return for extra compensation and promotions.

The rise of social media use is one of the numerous differences separating Gen Z from previous generations, and its influence on teenagers is apparent. Social media influencers are an example of an unconventional job sought after by Gen-Z due to the sudden craving for fame experienced by teenagers. This atypical job of living the internet dream life is idealized by Gen Z'ers, leading to an increase in social media usage and a decrease in people joining the workforce. Junior Luci Patel stated, "Being an influencer would be so cool. If I had the opportunity to live like a Tik Toker, I would totally take it."

Gen-Z is especially attracted by the quick, easy success and wealth associated with these alternate careers.

The rise of so many influencers at once due to modern social media platforms have made these careers more appetizing to Gen-Z than traditional jobs are.

Another reason for this so-called "death of hustle culture" is the ideology of working to live rather than living to work. This ideology is age-old, yet it seems to be more applicable recently. Social media posts of workers discussing their work limitations have gone viral, with employees mentioning their refusal to work overtime, attend extra meetings, or do anything extra without compensation.

The idea of putting in extra effort without extra pay is practically extinct, with young workers either rejecting "hustle culture" or finding alternative career choices, including influencing, artistry, performing arts, and immediate trade school. Sophomore Elodie Stroup stated, "I have always wanted to be a singer or anything in the entertainment industry." As more members of Gen-Z prioritize alternate career paths, workplace culture is sure to take a shift.

Motivational influencers have specifically helped Gen Z'ers find their voices, thus promoting Gen-Z's rejection of the typical "falling in line" attitude and intoler-

**“ This atypical job of living the internet dream life is idealized by Gen-Z'ers, leading to an increase in social media usage and a decrease in people joining the workforce.”**

ance of unfair working norms. The phenomenon of Gen Z'ers changing the workplace to eliminate unfair practices seems to benefit all workers; however, this may affect the

economy and productivity among companies. Modern working norms developed by Gen-Z could relieve workers.

Yet, the predicted productivity reduction may yield numerous poor side effects for companies, as they may be forced to hire more workers, thus costing more. Gen-Z must find a way to balance personal rights within the workplace, as well as efficiency and productivity for consumers.

## THE PATH LESS TRAVELED: EXPLORING POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

By Sumika Thapa

Education is designed to be an institution that promises a secure and opportunity-filled future for those who choose to pursue it.

tending college after high school was a standard expectation. It was the only option painted as a guarantee of a respectable career. But as years have passed, that mindset has changed.

While college is still a path that many people choose to follow, there are many negative effects unknown to the public, including severe mental health issues and an absurd cost. The pressure and lack of freedom at four-year universities make alternative-options enticing for Gen-Z.

Senior Regan Adkins is choosing trade school rather than a traditional four-year university. “You don’t have to go to college to be successful,” she stated. She described her love of cars and inner drive to succeed as the key factors in her choice of trade school. “I know myself. High school has taught me what my strengths and weaknesses are.

Trade school is the right path for me.” She explained that alternative-routes are a practical choice for many due to cost and lifestyle differences.

While Adkins found that trade school is the path for her, others lean towards a break before furthering their plans. PV alumni Ben Franks decided that immediately pursuing an education at a four-year university was not the right move for him. Through his own research, he stumbled upon a choice taken by a few: taking a gap year. “I didn’t know what I wanted to do and decided to take a gap year because I didn’t want to go to school without deciding on a major,” he said.

Franks did not want to invest in an education without a plan. “I realized the money I would be putting towards an education at U of I could be used on a gap year program.” Franks expressed that the general public does not have an accurate perception of what a gap year is. “Most gap-years are learning experiences. You aren’t just wasting your time. You are finding yourself. During my gap year I discovered what I wanted to do. I got to experience another culture and found love for Israeli food. I made a lot of friends,” he said. “There are many opportunities that a gap year provides

that a traditional education isn’t able to. Most gap year programs encourage students to get internships, get involved with the community around them and according to Franks, “It really pushes you to grow up- but in a good way.”

While on his gap year, Franks found love for film and is furthering his education in that area at The University of Iowa. Franks heavily encourages a gap year for those who want time to cultivate their true interests and find their passions in life.

Among students at Pleasant Valley, there has also been a rise in those taking up apprenticeships. Through the welding elective provided at school, senior James Morley found a set of skills that was of interest to him. The elective fostered his love for hands-on-work, which led to an apprenticeship search. “I learned about this apprenticeship through a past PV student, Nick Hammes, who underwent a similar program through North Scott High School.”

The apprenticeship provides Morley with an opportunity fit for his interests and provide a unique skill set which efficiently prepares him for every step of the manufacturing process. “The apprenticeship program gives me a hands-on element and unlimited knowledge that can’t be recreated in a classroom.” Morley gets to lead every step of the fabrication process, from the initial designs to the final product. He feels confident about his future. “I’m 50-50 on pursuing a bachelor’s degree at the moment. The deciding factor being who I want to work for. If I decide to become an entrepreneur or private contractor, I feel confident that the skills that I am learning in my apprenticeship will be sufficient. However, if at any time I would want to work for a larger firm or company, I feel like a bachelor’s degree would be helpful.” The apprenticeship has provided him with a foundation fit for many career paths.

In past years, higher education has been seen as the best path for a successful life, but members of Gen-Z are quickly breaking down that stereotype and paving the way for a future with no barriers for post-secondary plans.

More specifically, higher education is seen as the best pathway to a “successful life.”

Although success has an objective dictionary definition, many have their own ideas of what it means. As Gen-Z’ers begin their journey through adulthood, they are redefining the limits of the word. Prior to Gen-Z, the customary practice of at-



## EVER-CHANGING PACE OF FASHION CAPTIVATES GEN-Z

By Sumika Thapa

The past couple of years have presented Gen-Z with various clothing trends such as maximalist, cottage core, Y2k, etc. With all of these available options comes the burden of purchasing items unique to each trend in order to stay “in the know”. Within these trends lie microtrends, which create their own subcultures of clothing, jewelry and accessories. Individuals have been active participants of the growing sphere of fashion, purchasing trendy items which are coined as “essential”.

This cycle of consumerism creates an unsustainable life-style. It is a breeding ground for erasure of originality, preventing individuals from realizing the true intent of fashion - expressing oneself in the most genuine manner.

In recent years, the practice of individualism in fashion has become increas-

“Fashion is no longer a cohesive quilt-work with little variation. It has shifted to embrace non-conformity.”

ingly popular especially among Gen-Z. Fashion is no longer a cohesive quilt-work with little variation. It has shifted to embrace non-conformity. There is no identity-

able aesthetic that can be minted as “the most trendy one” because the fashion market has become a melting pot of different perspectives.

Although the exact time of this shift cannot be articulated, Gen-Z can be credited for its emergence. The effect of practicing this lifestyle can be seen in both social-media and real life.

In real life most people have adopted the “less is more” mindset. Instead of purchasing items that will diminish in value as time goes on, they lean towards more timeless, staple pieces. Though these staple pieces are rising in popularity, they still look different for everyone. Junior Lexi Zaehring expressed, “My closet mainly has zip-ups, solid color tank-tops, shorts and leggings. My jewelry is a pair of dainty gold hoops. This is different from three years ago when my closet only had brand-names like Nike and Pink and the ‘vsco girl t-shirts.’”

Zaehring represents many teenage girls following the “clean girl aesthetic,” characterized by a sense of simplicity and effortlessness.

In comparison Senior Sarah Chen described, “In my wardrobe are mainly jean shorts, denim jeans, button ups, knitted tops, and sweater vests. This is different from three years ago when I mainly just had oversized t-shirts to fit the ‘vsco girl’ aesthetic.”

Both Chen and Zaehring shared they feel as though there is a variety in the way people dress. They both add that how they dress is reflected on social media platforms such as Tiktok, which

houses content creators with niche fashion senses. Instead of seeing the same type of style, the population is able to witness the reflection of an individual's personality in the way they dress.

The sudden shift to various aesthetics seemed to happen in an instant, but for Zaehring and Chen, the timing of their switch in wardrobe started around the time of quarantine. At its prime, COVID-19 caused uncertainty and mental health issues for many. To cope, people began to find comfort in music, movies and fashion. The period of required self-isolation is often described as a period of self-discovery.

Senior Sami Swihard stated her experience of self discovery through fashion “I feel like with so much uncertainty around this time I began to find comfort in certain articles of clothing even though they were not what was seen as trendy at this time and I think many others can relate to me.” She continued to add that she feels COVID-19 can be credited for the shift seen in fashion. “After everyone came back to school, I noticed that some were more dressed up than before and others were less dressed. The way they dressed usually related back to how they were as people.”

The boundaries of conventional fashion have been broken as adolescents shy away from participation in routine trends. The shift towards fashion individualism is not necessarily a conscious choice, but more of a reflection of many factors such as uncertainty, growth, social media and economics influencing young minds of Gen-Z to a new form of self-expression.





## SHORT STAFFED: LOW EMPLOYMENT AMONG ADOLESCENT WORKERS

By Jake Wilsted

As Gen Z enters adulthood, they face a fresh labor market full of possible career paths and opportunities. But unlike Gen X, Gen Z is not ready to make do with less-than-par labor conditions set in place by many corporations. Teenagers are unwilling to work unless their requests are met, exacerbating the post-pandemic labor market conditions.

Businesses and organizations throughout the country are struggling to return to a fully staffed team after COVID-19. A significant contributor to the labor shortage is the diminishing number of teens and students willing to work.

With the gradual transition back to complete in-person schooling, from what most students thought was a more laid-back hybrid or online learning, many high school students are experiencing a rigorous 5-day learning schedule for the first time. A part-time job's added stress can be too much for some high school students.

Even before the pandemic, teenage labor was significantly decreasing. CNBC reported a 17

percent decrease in students with part-time jobs from 2000 to 2018. A number that dropped even further post-pandemic.

Mary Johnson from the Pleasant Valley High School Career Center concurred that students are less likely to seek out employment now than before COVID-19. "I think the pandemic magnified what was already happening because I think that students and their parents have felt that the jobs aren't something that they need to get. There is not that push," she said.

The shortage in teen labor has negatively impacted many businesses and organizations. The food service industry, an industry that primarily serves as employment for teenagers, is one of the most significant sectors affected by this labor shortage.

Franchise owner of Chick-fil-A Davenport, Jeremy Tatman, detailed what he noticed in the trends of teenage workers. "There are less students looking to work. Culturally, work used to be a part of growing up, a rite of passage. Now, it is viewed as optional. I would compare it to students learning how to drive. A decreasing percentage of students are learning to drive at 14-16 years of age; instead, choosing to rely on parents or friends," he said.

When his franchise became challenged with this issue, Tatman had to brainstorm new ideas to attract the de-

creasing percentage of teenage workers. The best way he accomplishes this is through increasing adolescent benefits.

"We have continued to increase wages—they have increased every year we have been

“More importantly, we continue to work on our culture so that our new hires realize we are different and want to stay through the stresses of the job.”  
-Jeremy Tatman

in business- 15 years. They definitely increased at a higher rate the last couple of years. More importantly, we continue to work on our culture so that our new hires realize we are different and want to stay through the stresses of the job," he stated.

Tatman also stressed the importance of educational benefits to attract student workers, "About five years ago we decided to help our team pursue higher education through an accumulating grant that our team is eligible for every year they work for us. This continues and this year we have now added free college to our team," he said.

Now more than ever, students willing to take on a job while in school will receive higher wages and increased benefits. In a declining labor market, especially for adolescent workers, only time will tell if the amplification of benefits and wages will attract our generation of workers.





95% of teens have smartphones -- and therefore access to global news



1 In 5 kids have a smartphone by age 8



## NOVEMBER 2016

Donald Trump Is elected as president, sparking high political tensions and creating a polarized society.



## FEBRUARY 2018

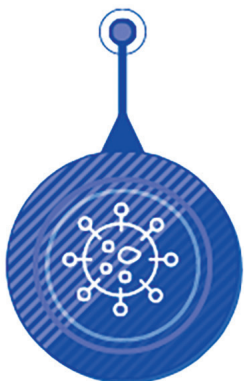
The Parkland high school shooting in Florida sparks fear of school shootings



50% of Gen Z consumers get their news from social media



79% of Gen Z report that they can't live without their smartphones



## MARCH 2020

All public schools close due to COVID-19



## MAY 2020

George Floyd is killed, sparking Black Lives Matter protests