

# Generation X - Crossroads of Change in a New Era

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Contributing Writer

Those of us born between 1961 and 1981 are known as Generation X, the "me" generation, twentysomethings, slackers, baby-busters, the invisible generation or the 13th generation. These are some of the various titles labeling this generation. We are described as the first generation of latchkey children, products of dual-career households, and in some 50% of cases, products of divorced or separated parents.

In one respect, we are lucky to not have been through a major war or any pivotal experience, but the war we are facing is the job market, which is at its worst since World War II. Our generation is more likely than previous generations to be unemployed, underemployed, and living at home with Mom and

Dad (how about that thought!).

Generation X is more ethnically diverse and more comfortable with diversity than any previous generation. We are 70% white, 13% black, 12% Hispanic, 4% Asian and 1% Native American. We have been described as having no values and being "me" centered. In fact, we have been the generation taking an interest in protecting the environment, and improving our communities. This has led to 48% of us between the ages of 18 and 24 engaging in volunteer work.

We have been accused of being self-centered, slackers, constantly angry, devoid of values and morals, unknowns, hopeless users and disrespectful, which we all know are myths. But where do these myths come from? In the '50s they were the Beats, in the '60s it was the hippies, in the '70s, the disco baby-boomers, in

the '80s, the yuppies and the buppies, and in the '90s it's us, and now the media has simply redefined the new generation: GENERATION X. Each generation is defined and labeled by the times and events surrounding it. Every generation has had its difficult issues to face. What, if anything, makes this generation different from previous generations?

Do you hold your own opinion about the myths and label of Generation X? If you are concerned, angered, or frustrated about Generation X issues, come and voice those opinions, at the open forum on February 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall. Students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to come to learn more and gain a better understanding about this generation, its wants, its needs, and its thoughts!

## Weather Update

Today

Partly Cloudy; high between 30 - 35.



Friday

Partly Cloudy; high between 40 - 45.

Partly Cloudy

Weekend

Partly Sunny; high on the low 40's.

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