



QUESTION?

Who is Spoiling Younger Generation Today?

Hal Boyle



Socrates, reputed the wisest man of antiquity, was given a hemlock cup for corrupting the youth of Athens. Yet all he did was ask them questions designed to help them think for themselves.

In every period of history someone is accused of leading the young folks astray by giving them false ideas. Who today should be handed the lethal cup of hemlock?

Who is spoiling the present younger generation? That is, if we go along with the always popular generalization that the current crop of youngsters is the brattiest, the most irresponsible bunch of smart alecs ever to sorrow and sully a hopeful time. Is the postwar letdown in morality to blame? Is Hollywood? Is television?

We doubt that it is any of these things. The blame lies closer to home. In fact it lies in the home. If anything is spoiling the younger generation today it is the generation that preceded it-- If anything is setting them a bad example, it is the older generation. If they are lax, it is because parents have been lax with them.

The biggest culprits are probably middle-class parents, by far the largest class in America. The poor don't have the money to spoil their young; the rich, by and large, can afford to--but usually don't. Children born to wealth generally learn its value young

It's the self-made man who started from nothing and struggled his way up to a \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year salary who sometimes seem most adept at spoiling his own children. Isn't the biggest sin most middle-class parents are visiting on their children today the sin of trying to make life too easy for them?

Our fathers, if we remember correctly, always assured us with melancholy conviction that we were "going to hell in a handwagon." If we did, we at least built the wagon ourselves. Aren't too many of the young people going to hell today riding there in comfort in a 200-horsepower motor car bought by their own parents?

Ed note: This is the second in a series of articles we are publishing on Juvenile Delinquency. This article is written by a member of the older generation so his views may differ from those of this generation or the parents of tomorrow.

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PROVERB? Man should sleep eight hours and man should work eight hours but man should not do both in the same eight hours.