

Third Rail

The Award-Winning Political Arts Magazine of the College of Staten Island/CUNY

Winter 2010

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CSI's INEFFECTUAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT: AN OPEN LETTER



Your Student Government In Action!

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A Toast to Third Rail



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2010**

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Comparative Health Care

Michael Gualtieri explores America's failed health care policies



Profile of a CSI Student

Nikki Saint Bautista interviews an Iraqi War Veteran

CSI's *only*
award-winning
student publication

Third Rail



Third Rail

THE COLLECTIVE
(in revolving order)

- ALI SHAH**
Student Government Liaison
- NIKKI SAINT BAUTISTA**
Ponderer of All Things
- ANTHONY VIVIRITO**
Armed Security Detail
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awards



2008
**GOLD
MEDALIST**

The Nation.
Ten Papers
We Like



online



Third Rail

The Award-Winning Political Arts Magazine of the College of Staten Island/CUNY

THIRD RAIL MAGAZINE has always encouraged students to be expressive of their ideals regardless of what they may entail. This allows the campus community to create forums in order to exchange ideas and to cultivate and nurture the collective ideals and needs of the student body.

Without fear of censorship, we publish thought-provoking moral and ethical issues for the college community to contemplate, to rally for or against, but more importantly to be informed.

THIRD RAIL is always looking for passionate people who are not afraid to express their opinions whether it be in the form of poetry, letters, fiction, photography, criticism, or complaints. We are always on the look out for new talent and to show how much we appreciate the student body, we are hosting a little contest.



Submissions we receive and publish in the next issue will net the contributor a \$25 Gift Card to Barnes and Noble. Of course there are certain rules & criteria.

- *If it is a written piece, we'd prefer if it is written with proper grammar and spelling*
 - We do not care if it is clean
 - Unless it is poetry, we would prefer if submissions were a minimum of 500 words
- *If it is a digital photo, we'd prefer if it is a minimum of 5 megapixels*
- *If it is a scanned image, please make sure it is 300dpi*
- *If it is a drawing, please either take a photo of it or scan it.*
 - If that is not possible, come to our office and we will see about digitizing it for you
- *Submissions must be **received by March 5, 2010** and must have name and contact information.*



Submissions can be dropped off in Third Rail's office: 1C-231 or e-mailed to mail@ThirdRailMag.com. Submissions can also be left in Third Rail's mail box in the Student Government office in 1C-207.

A SPECIAL
Third Rail
EDITORIAL

An Open Letter To
CSI's Ineffectual
Student Government



An Open Letter To CSI's Ineffectual Student Government

So, as we're sure many of you don't know, we had a CSI Student Government election last spring. To clear the air; several members of *Third Rail* and other students ran together for SG on a slate with a common political platform. Sadly, most of us did not win. We mention this out of one of the saddest, most disgusting moments of the election. After the election results had been announced, Washeika Torres, one of our opponents who had barely eeked out a victory, thought it was an appropriate time to come into the *Third Rail* office to gloat about her victory. At the time, we were busy doing the various magaziney things that we do from time to time, but our award-winning work was interrupted when Student Government Senator Washeika Torres barged into our office and started flashing on and off our lights and shouted, "**This is what victory**

willing to raise all sorts of hell for the students. If you are not prepared to go to bat for the Students, then why did you run for STUDENT GOVERNMENT?

Student Government (SG) must also take the lead on student activism. A former Student Government President had this idea, but he failed to take the initiative. He wanted to partner up with NYPIRG, but he waited around for NYPIRG instead of taking charge himself. If you want to engage the student body, take the lead! Carpe diem! Grab the student body by the scruff of the neck; stand them up on their feet and once more, good fellows, into the breach!

It will be hard, very hard indeed! The College of Staten Island, being a commuter school, lets the national problem

great concern to us. Even if it is just one speaker, that would show your willingness to engage us. It would show good faith that you are looking out for us; not just joining Student Government for the stipend check because you don't have the time (or the desire) to look for a job.

We call on Student Government to **cut their stipends, and cancel their yearly trips.** Last year, **SG spent in excess of \$50,000 of OUR student money on themselves!** Using our student money to take luxurious trips, buying yourselves clothes, and then on top of everything else, paying yourselves a salary are only things that an ACTIVE Student Government deserves. How do you think it makes us students feel when you spend more than \$50,000 of our student money on yourselves and virtually nothing on fight-



SG Senator Washeika Torres

looks like!"

She then took the time to brag about winning by a mere **two votes**. What kind of Student Government Senator does this to her constituents?

We begin our editorial by mentioning this story for a very important reason: to show our fellow students and the faculty, exactly the types of people that have been elected to our CSI Student Government: childish, bratty children.

Now, we make a call to those members of Student Government who can overcome childishness, and who are in it for more than just the sizable stipend that they receive. **Stand up for the students! Do not make requests. Make demands!** Many of you may think that there is not much you can do. But we have two members here at *Third Rail* who have served quite effectively on Student Governments in the past, and those Student Governments were activist, effective and competent governments which accomplished far more in one month than last year's or this year's Student Governments have accomplished in totality. Look to the Student Governments of other colleges and universities to see how you can affect change. **Stand up to the CSI Administration!** Show them that you care about us and are

of student apathy increase tenfold. Coupled with the reactive ideology of Staten Island itself, gaining student support will be hard. But, this is something you must do! The option not to do this does not exist! It is your duty to stand up for the students and help to rally them; to fight for better prices on the required textbooks sold at our corporate, for-profit bookstore; to push for reasonable prices in the cafeteria so every student can afford a hot meal; to insist on a library that is open 24/7 (like other colleges have), or to demand 24 hour access to campus, like our sister CUNY school, Brooklyn College has.

Another failing of our Student Government, as of late, has been a lack of intellectual speakers on campus. SG loves to bring in frivolous, albeit, fun activities. When we consider that we have had such notable people as the famed Howard Zinn and Manning Marable come to speak at CSI, and then I look at the 'carnivals' that are thrown by our current SG -- I can't help but to wonder--could that money have been better spent by bringing someone to further invigorate discourse on campus? This would tie in well with increasing student activism and overcoming student apathy.

Invite speakers to talk about issues that matter to students—healthcare, education and a myriad of other topics are of

ing tuition increases and budget cuts to CSI and CUNY? To the average student, it looks like corruption. We have a severely dysfunctional Student Government when the SG President admits that, "we haven't done anything to fight against CSI tuition increases or budget cuts."

In these hard economic times, is it really fair for you to enjoy a vacation paid for by our Student Activity Fee? Is it fair for you to do this in light of the fact that both the CUNY Chancellor and CSI President Morales have taken pay raises, while our tuition has increased by six hundred dollars? Are you any better than they are? You would not suffer by forfeiting some minor luxury that you enjoy at our expense. At minimum, these luxury retreats should be open to ALL students; afterall, we are the one's who are paying for these trips! Progressive Student Governments of the past have done this, so why haven't you? And why are these retreats controlled by the Office of Student Life? Why have progressive Student Governments of the past controlled, managed and planned these retreats--but you, in your laziness, roll over and enable the CSI Administration to control these potentially productive trips?

Please, heed our words! Take at least some of our advice. You would if you truly cared about the students.

Don't just sit in those meetings, eating the pizza and drinking the soda - things that, once again, were bought at our expense - just to fill a seat for some God-forsaken stipend! Stand up for the students, and do it loudly! What we are saying is not impossible; other CSI Student Governments in the past have done this.

If we are wrong in thinking you have not been standing up for us, it is because you have not communicated with us. Do not be mere stooges of the CSI Administration. Do not alienate the true power of students on campus. The power on campus doesn't come from the CUNY Chancellor or CSI President Morales, or any administration bureaucrats or any of the professors. It comes from us; the Students! We are the real power on campus. Without us the College of Staten Island is merely a collection of aging buildings. We give it purpose and we keep everyone employed. Without us there is no college.

Students of CSI and CUNY unite! As it was written, the only thing we have to loose is our chains. Will you, Student Government, cast off your shackles and help free us too? Or will you condemn us to slavery and oppression?

Signed--Michael I. Miley, Neil Schuldiner, Anonymous Staff Members Who Are Afraid of Retribution & Countless CSI Students

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Profile of a C.S.I Student- Iraq War Veteran from Texas

Interview by Nikki Saint Bautista

We met Erica Cano, a soft-spoken student with the eloquence and style of Jackie O, in a political science and philosophy course taught by Professor Falkin. After speaking with her about photography and political philosophy, she surprised us with the fact that she is an army veteran. Cano, who is in her 20s, didn't tell us the specifics of her duty or what her political views are, but she did share her sense of aesthetics and her general philosophy on life.

What is your full name?

- My name is Erica Cano



Where are you from?

- I'm from Alpine, Texas

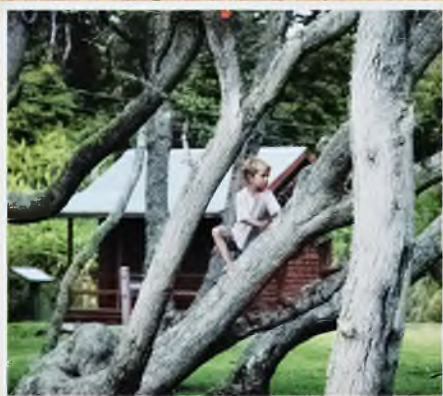
What are you studying at C.S.I? What is your major?

- My major is political science, but my interest would be in sociology and international relations and a minor in Spanish.



What brought you to C.S.I.?

At the time, I had just separated from active duty and I really didn't do any research as to what colleges I would be applying to, and was in oscillation as to where I would be living, in Texas or New York. But honestly, my true intensions were to transfer after a year from this institution but much to my dismay, here I am. I am firm believer that your bachelor degree can be earned at any establishment; one will succeed either way because it is the student that creates their own standard and destiny. Moreover, if a student has a foundation, with the right professors and staff, one will feel to have a collegiate expectation to fulfill. Over the years, I have seen much improvement in CSI and look forward to seeing much more.

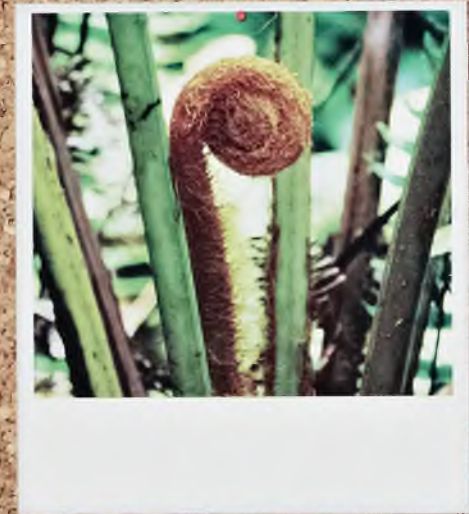


What are some of your favorite experiences at C.S.I.?

- My favorite experiences at CSI, I would have to say- my first semester of college, my "lower junior" status year, my trip to Hawaii, becoming a member of the veterans club, and the library during the weekends.

How would you like to spend your life?

- Well, that's a tough question because life is filled with surprises but one thing I have learned is to take advice from those whom are older. And from those elder individuals that I esteem very much, I have learned that I would like to spend my life seeking improvement in myself every day, being as physically active as possible, finding that one thing I am most passionate about and becoming it, being self sufficient in every aspect and living everyday with love, laughter, and friendship, and most importantly to try to do the right thing every day, whether it be doing a good deed, that is small or large, and of course with no expectation of gratitude for it.



What are you passionate about?

- Justice, Photography, Music, and Knowledge.



How did you get into photography?

- I suppose that I have lived my entire life surrounded by photography however it didn't develop into a passion until I was in high school, when I was advised not to become a photographer. I have always been one that creates their own path and has never fit into one typical mold. I like to test boundaries and limits. But when it comes to photography, I find that I am not an artist but a mere admirer of beauty, who happens to capture it. And as for my aesthetic, I would have to say I have none because there aren't any principles that I believe label or categorize beauty or the sensitivity to judge it. At times, I find perfection to be mundane and not to be a work of art and not beautiful; beauty can be found in the ordinary if one looks beyond the surface. I find that nature gives beauty to us, every day of

our lives; whether we take a second to recognize it or not, that's another thing. Beauty to me is when it stirs the senses and evokes feeling. So when I snap a picture, it is because of that definition. To try and capture that one moment that stirred emotion within; I hope to continue to capture such moments. And I suppose I would label myself as an amateur photographer for now, I still have much to learn and attain.

What are some of your worst experiences at C.S.I?

- I expressed those experiences to the student government comment box and hopefully they will be addressed and fixed accordingly.

What was your experience in the Army? Why did you join? What's it like to be a veteran?

After high school graduation, it was set that I would attend an institute in New York to receive my photography degree but for some reason I enlisted in the army instead, I'm still not positive why; I believe, at the time, I was rebelling. Everyone, that knew me, found the concept, of Erica in the army, hard to grasp but eventually they accepted it. My family would joke around and call me Private Benjamin. I do, at times, think that I should have reevaluated my life and the risks I would be taking, before I acted so capriciously. However, the army has been a wonderful experience and if I had the chance of omitting it, I wouldn't do a thing. Needless to say, I find that my experience in the army was a fast



CONT'D -->



track to becoming an adult and a detour on my college degree and my photography. I learned so much there; selfless service, sacrifice, duty, obligation, loyalty, discipline and most importantly, the value of friendship. And as for being a veteran, well, it's a great honor but unfortunately that honor isn't esteemed by others in the same manner.

Being a veteran has also led me to acquire a great deal of tolerance because I would like to think that I live in society where soldiers are thanked and respected but at times I have seen the exact opposite take place. It has also created a deeper understanding to the transitional phase of a soldier from military to civilian life. For us, the veterans in school, it's from boots to books and it's challenging; it's one challenge that should be

embraced because it can be exciting, intimidating, frustrating, and enlightening all at once.



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for details!

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COMPARATIVE HEALTH CARE

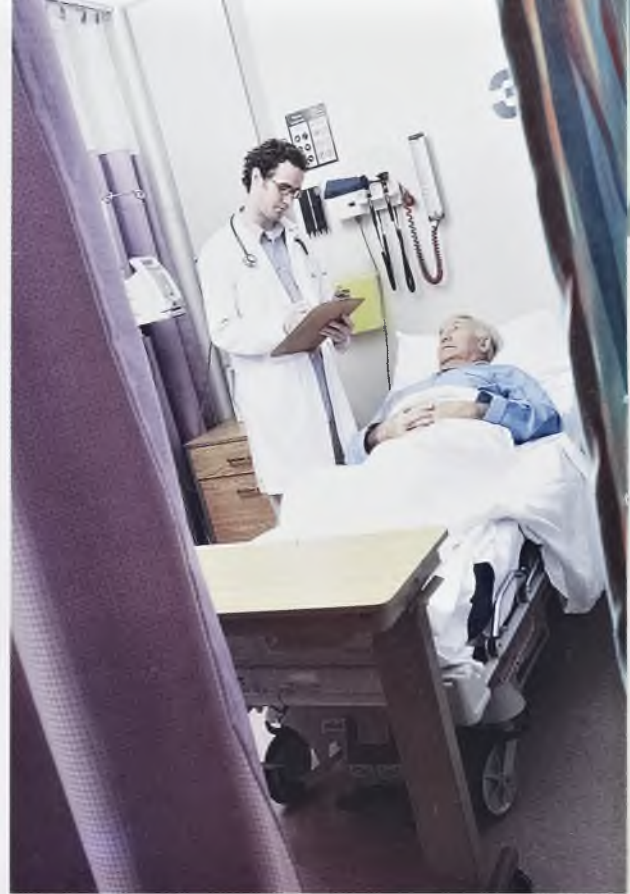


BY
MICHAEL
GUALTIERI

There is a lot of debate about health care in the United States. This is a big issue for any country because everyone gets sick and needs treatment. While we certainly need to think carefully about how to proceed, one thing is clear, the United States needs to drastically alter its health care system. There are different models for health care around the world. We can evaluate these and model ourselves after what works best. We do not need to reinvent the wheel. Someone might think that because our health care system costs the most, that we would have the very best health care in the world.

We don't, and it's time to fix it.

Recently I got a very bad toothache. I have no health insurance because I am too old to be covered by my parents' plans, so I was hesitant to go to the dentist. I tried over the counter remedies such as flossing and mouthwash but they didn't work. The pain was bad enough that I had difficulty focusing on tasks and had trouble sleeping. I didn't want to let the problem get worse. It





WHAT WOULD
SEN KENNEDY DO?
PUBLIC OPTION
NOW

HEALTH
INSURANCE
REFORM
NOW

RIGHT
PROVIDER

HEALTH CARE
FOR ALL

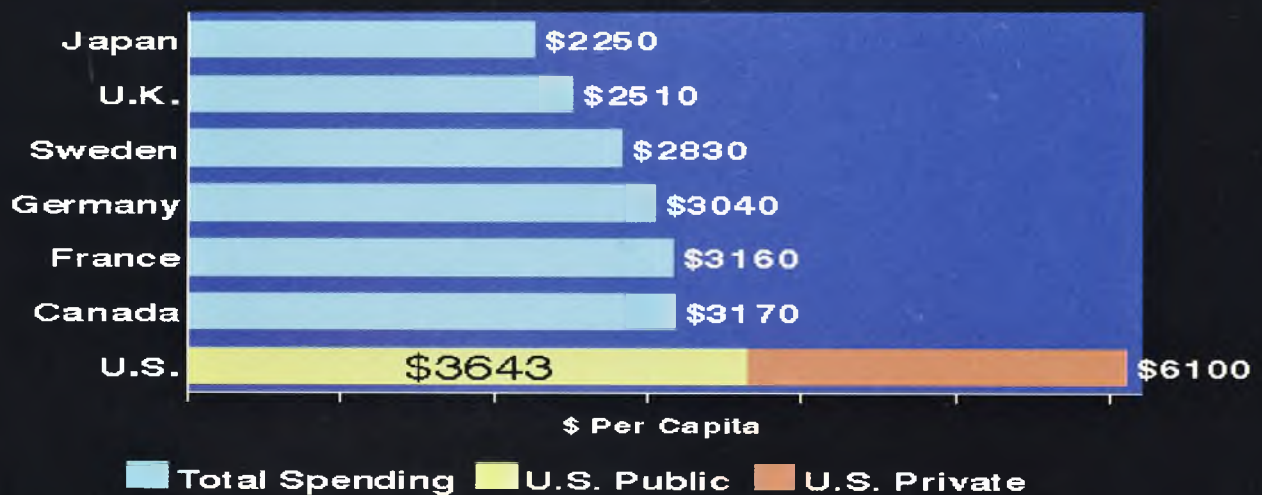
HEALTH CARE
FOR ALL

INCLUDE
PROFIT
BAD FOR
MY HEALTH

SPENDING TOO MUCH

- ▶ We spend two times more and cover less; fewer benefits and fewer people

U.S. PUBLIC Spending Per Capita for Health is Greater than TOTAL Spending in Other Nations



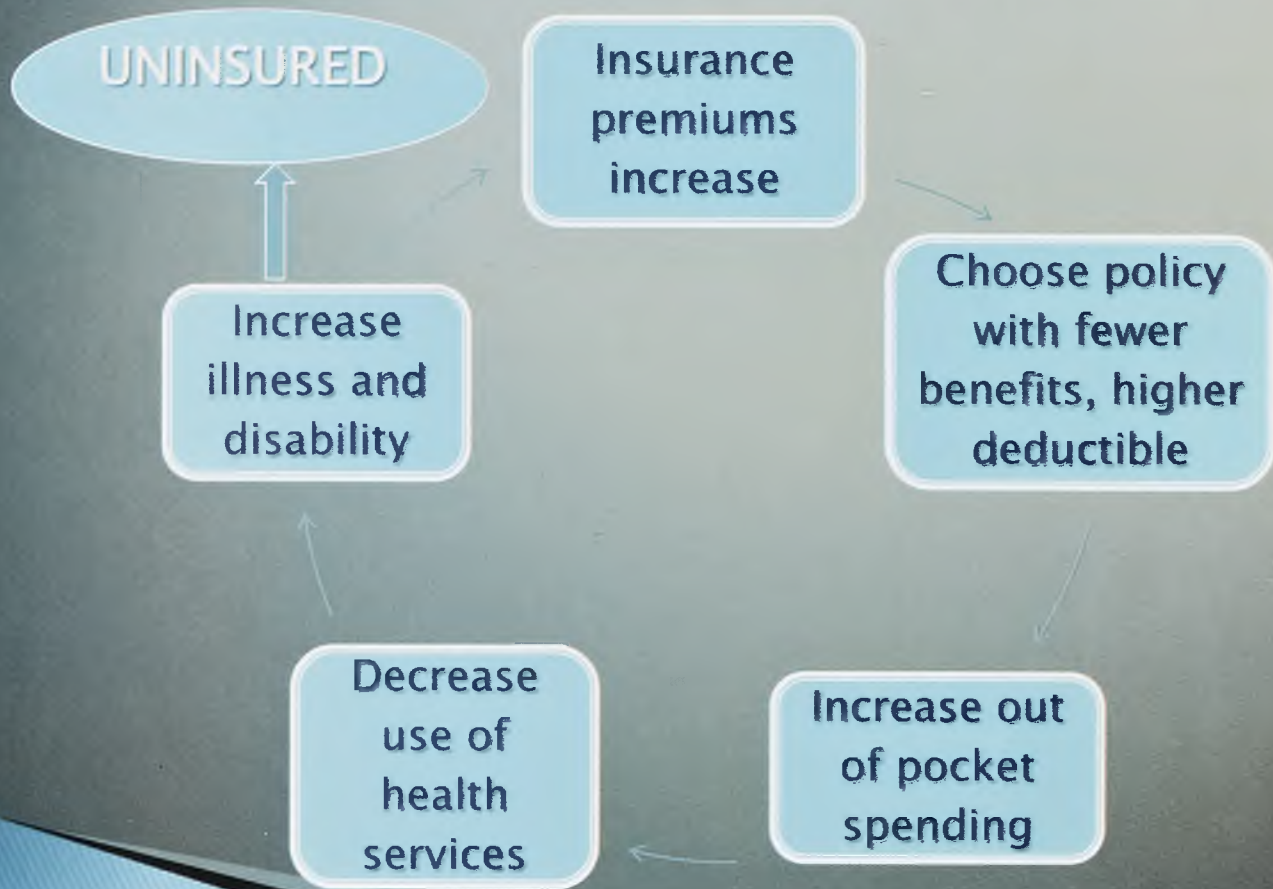
Note: Public includes benefit costs for govt. employees & tax subsidy for private insurance
Source: OECD 2006; Health Aff 2002; 21(4):88 - Data are for 2004

GETTING TOO LITTLE

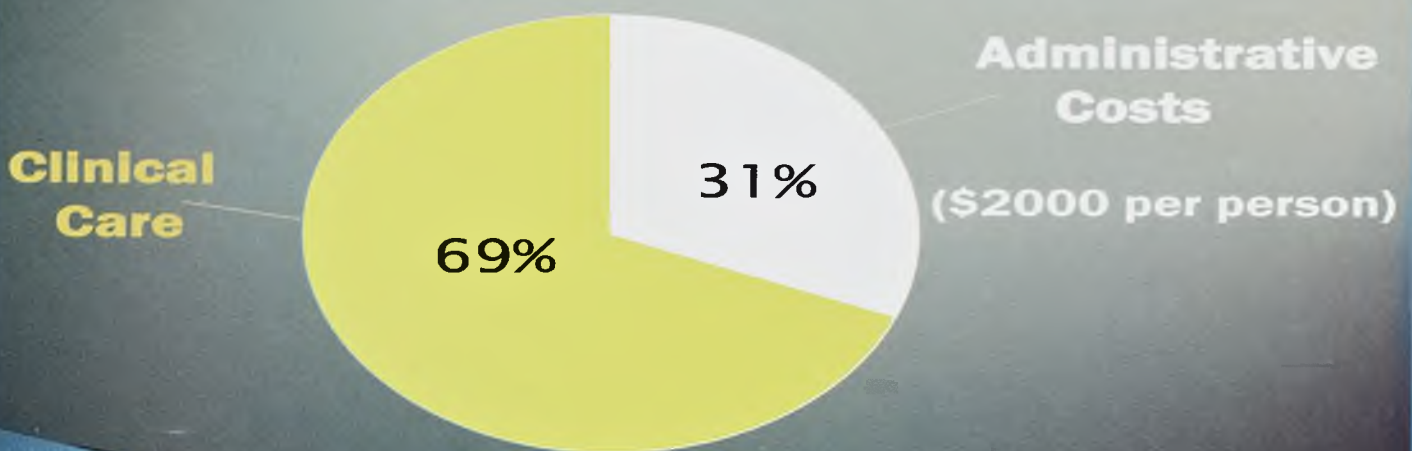
AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS
THE U.S. HAS:

- ▶ The lowest ranking in health care
- ▶ The highest infant mortality
- ▶ The highest maternal mortality
- ▶ The lowest life expectancy

THE CYCLE CONTINUES UNTIL ...



1 / 3 OF HEALTH SPENDING IS SPENT ON ADMINISTRATION



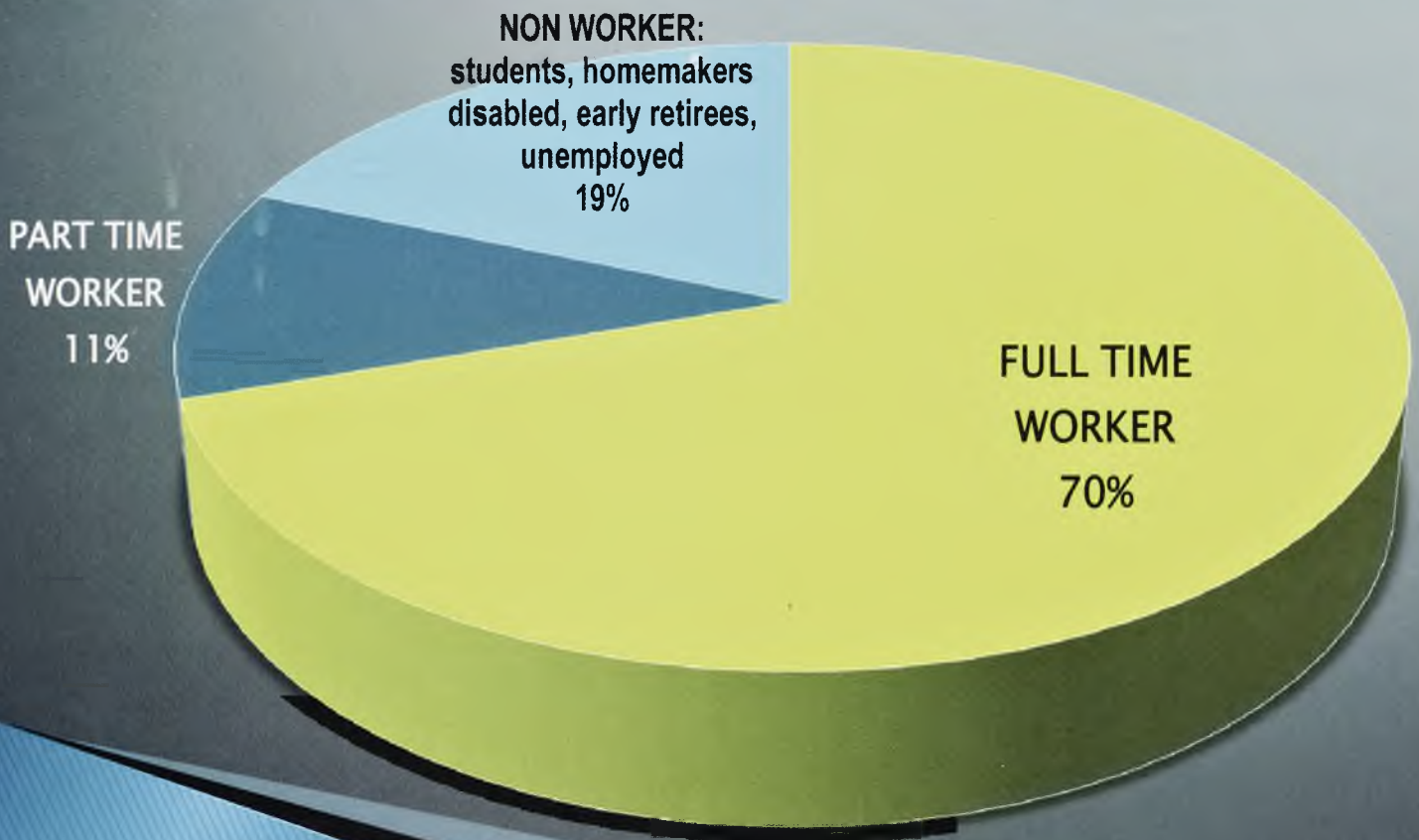
Source: Woolhandler, et al. New England Journal of Medicine, August 2003 & Int. Jnl. Of Hlth. Services, 2004

would be terrible if I ignored a bad infection or something, suffering for months only to have greater damage done to myself and have far more expensive treatment.

I decided to go to a dentist. The dentist looked in my mouth, gave me a quick cleaning, took an X-ray “just to be sure” and told me that my wisdom teeth hadn’t fully grown out when I was younger. The pain I felt was my wisdom teeth coming out a bit more. I was stuck with a bill for \$300! I was charged three hundred dollars to have a guy brush my teeth and tell me I’m teething. I didn’t even get a lollipop! In many other developed democracies this visit would have cost me little or nothing.

The United States spends 16% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on

Breakdown of the 47 Million Uninsured



health care while leaving 47 million of our citizens with no insurance. Those who are insured can still be denied care or dropped by their insurance companies! Countries like Britain or Taiwan, with **single-payer systems**, pay around 8-10% of their GDP while guaranteeing health care to every single citizen without denying claims.

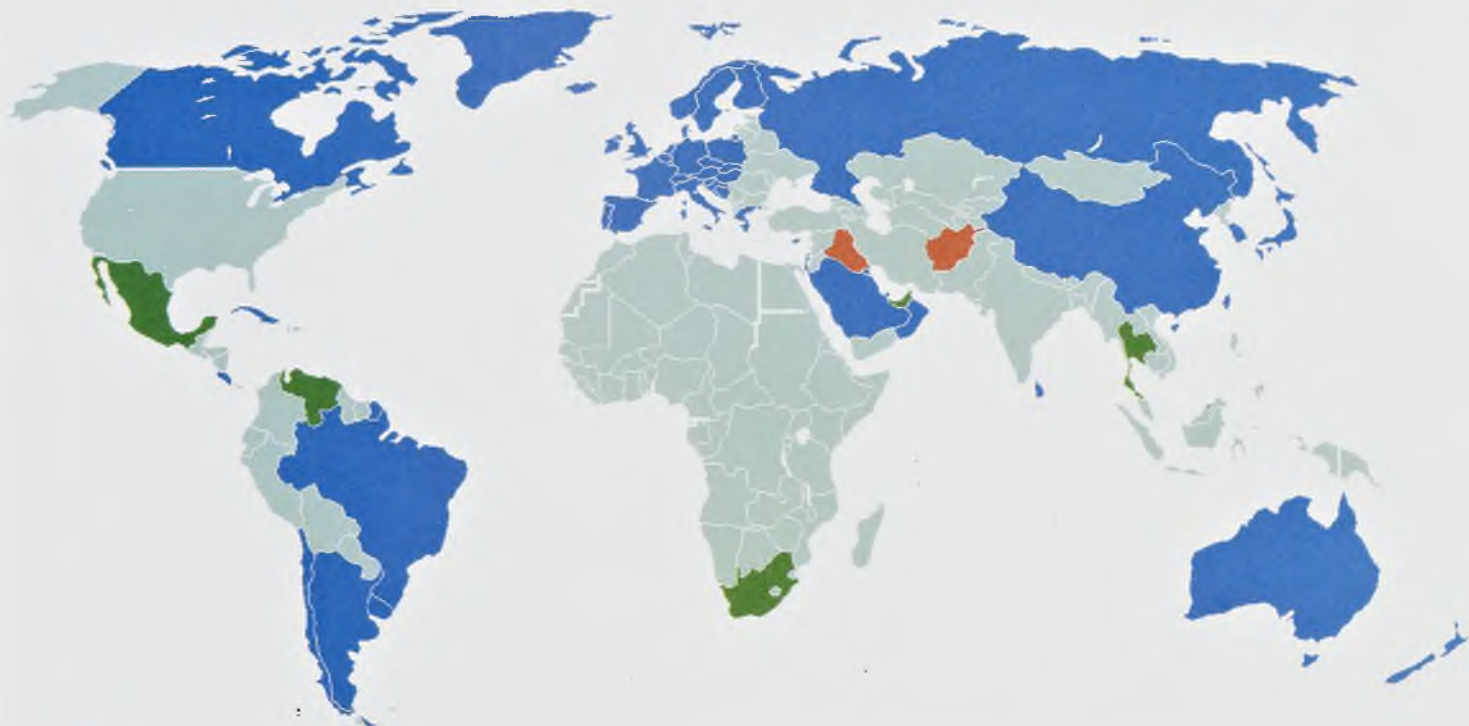
There are also countries like Japan or Switzerland where health care companies are required to be non-profit organizations. **Their governments regulate what prices doctors and hospitals can charge, and pay for the health insurance of the poor.** These countries also have universal health coverage, and at the same time, it costs significantly less than the current American system.

Now I want to tell a family story that I believe illustrates the quality of health care in the United States then and now. When my mother was young she had to support herself by bagging groceries. She married young and got pregnant. She had no health insurance and could barely afford her living expenses and so did not receive prenatal care. Even when she went into labor she had a long waiting time and received little attention from a doctor who was just too busy. I haven't gotten all the details because this is a touchy subject that we don't often talk about. What I do know is that today my mom is a nurse who works in the Newborn Nursery department of Staten Island University Hospital and she blames her inadequate health care for the death of a newborn little girl who would have been my older sister if she had survived. The baby girl's name is Noel Gualtieri.



Had my mother lived in Canada or Britain or France or Taiwan at the time, her low income would have been completely irrelevant to her health care. I checked statistics from both the Population Reference Bureau and the CIA World Factbook and found that every country with a **single payer system** that I could think of had **lower infant mortality rates than we do**. Both of these sources showed that there were a lot of countries with lower infant mortality rates than ours.

People have argued that socialized health care would mean communism. However, of those that I have debated with, none were willing to say that Britain, Canada, or France (all of which have socialized medicine) are communist nations. My brother-in-law had even been told that the Democrats want to reform health care so that they can kill off the older generation, which is statistically more likely to vote Republican!



- Iraq and Afghanistan universal health coverage provided by United States war funding. The U.S. provides universal coverage to Iraqis and Afghans, but not to its own citizens!**
- Countries with no universal health care system**
- Countries with some type of universal health care system**
- Countries attempting to implement universal health care**

When is this sort of nonsense going to end?

Yes, the elderly are a large and powerful voting bloc in the United States and they would punish politicians who tried to exterminate them. Nobody would tolerate the systematic extermination of their parents and grandparents! Did America suddenly become Logan's Run? Almost everyone I know, from the most conservative to the most liberal, support Medicare. Killing old people is politically unsustainable. It is true that the elderly were killed in Nazi Germany, but Nazi Germany was not a democracy. Things like that don't happen in any of the democratic governments that have nationalized health care.

One thing is clear; the United States needs to drastically alter its health care system. We need a calm (and more importantly; rational) discussion about what we will do about our health care system. People screaming over each other at town hall meetings and on sound bites are not part of a good decision making process. Decisions should be made based on facts and evidence, not on paranoid delusions and divisive rhetoric. The health care system in the United States is by far the most expensive in nowhere near being the best. There are lots of decisions to be made while working to create the perfect system, but what we have now is, by far, too inefficient for a nation as great as ours. What will we do now?



In This Place

Nadia Kader

In this place, the children play on broken glass
and itchy cacti

In this place, the soldiers stand on our sand and
watch your every move

In this place, the olive people smile and wave as
their homes come crashing down

In this place, we breathe sand and blood

In this place, singing prayers compete with
blaring TVs and gun shots

In this place, the sweet tastes of kunafeh, baklava
and qataieyf never leave your mouth

In this place, we used to have a home.





Changing the Stereotype: The Myth of the Apathetic Twenty-something

THOUGH THIS FEELING DID NOT ORIGINATE IN THAT MOMENT IT WAS CERTAINLY INTENSIFIED BY IT, AND I'VE COME TO SEE THE IDEA THAT "MY OPINION DOESN'T MATTER" AS AN UNFORTUNATE TRADEMARK OF OUR GENERATION.

By Caitlin Militello

While channel surfing, PBS's *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly* caught my eye with a feature on a woman named Dalia Ziada. Ziada is a human rights activist and the director of the Egypt office of the American Islamic Congress, a civil rights organization that seeks to bolster tolerance and facilitate dialogue. Her photo appears on the AIC page titled "Leadership," and BBC radio has also called her a woman on Egypt's forefront. The best part is she's only 27.

I've often found myself feeling discouraged with my own generation, and I know that I am not the only twenty-something that shares that sentiment. We are part of a generation known as the Millennials, people who came of age around the dawn of the new millennia and represent a new era. And yet a lack of active assertiveness, when it comes to expression of opinions and individual voice, has come to be a well-founded stereotype of the college student and person in his or her twenties.

Millennials are said to have swayed key states such as Virginia during the 2008 election, and it's about time. It seems to me, however, that our problems are more deeply rooted than a mere reluctance to show up at the polls in the past. Why has an American generation, as deeply embedded in the expression-loving internet as JavaScript, been so reluctant to assert itself?

I remember the wake of the 2004 election, with disappointed students wandering zombie-like through a campus café and murmuring about moving to Canada. There was a real sense of powerlessness behind it all—many people felt as though the system had failed them, that they were insignificant and their voices had gone unheard. Though this feeling did not originate in that moment it was certainly intensified by it, and I've come to see the idea that "my opinion doesn't matter" as an unfortunate trademark of our generation.

Opinion doesn't just mean participation in politics, either. One of the boldest ways to make a statement about what you believe is to do something about it, and that often means community involvement; even those statistics, unfortunately, aren't in our favor. The 2008 data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that twenty-somethings are the "least likely" to volunteer, with a rate of less than 20% volunteerism among 20-24-year-olds.

So what's going on here? Anybody who's seen the number of "Causes" on Facebook knows that Millennials haven't discarded their communities—the Causes Application alone has almost 32,000 fans, and a huge portion of them are in their twenties. We college students and graduates should be all over the non-profit scene; the Bureau of Labor Statistics has even found a correlation between higher education and higher rates of volunteerism.

Table A. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2004 through September 2008

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	September 2004		September 2005		September 2006		September 2007		September 2008	
	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population
Sex										
Total, both sexes	64,542	28.8	65,357	28.8	61,199	26.7	60,838	26.2	61,803	26.4
Men	27,011	25.0	27,370	25.0	25,546	23.0	25,724	22.9	26,268	23.2
Women	37,530	32.4	37,987	32.4	35,653	30.1	35,114	29.3	35,535	29.4
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	64,542	28.8	65,357	28.8	61,199	26.7	60,838	26.2	61,803	26.4
16 to 24 years	8,821	24.2	8,955	24.4	8,044	21.7	7,798	20.8	8,239	21.9
25 to 34 years	10,046	25.8	9,881	25.3	9,096	23.1	9,019	22.6	9,154	22.8
35 to 44 years	14,783	34.2	14,809	34.5	13,308	31.2	12,902	30.5	13,016	31.3
45 to 54 years	13,584	32.8	13,826	32.7	13,415	31.2	13,136	30.1	13,189	29.9
55 to 64 years	8,784	30.1	9,173	30.2	8,819	27.9	9,316	28.4	9,456	28.1
65 years and over	8,524	24.6	8,712	24.8	8,518	23.8	8,667	23.8	8,749	23.5
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	55,892	30.5	56,170	30.4	52,850	28.3	52,586	27.9	53,078	27.9
Black or African American	5,435	20.8	5,879	22.1	5,211	19.2	5,010	18.2	5,325	19.1
Asian	1,832	19.3	2,055	20.7	1,881	18.5	1,887	17.7	2,022	18.7
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,102	14.5	4,511	15.4	4,212	13.9	4,279	13.5	4,662	14.4
Educational attainment ¹										
Less than a high school diploma	2,718	9.6	2,837	10.0	2,615	9.3	2,394	9.0	2,427	9.4
High school graduates, no college ²	12,709	21.6	12,594	21.2	11,537	19.2	11,379	18.6	10,998	19.1
Some college or associate degree	16,414	34.2	16,452	33.7	15,196	30.9	15,468	30.7	15,519	30.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	23,880	45.7	24,517	45.8	23,808	43.3	23,799	41.8	24,620	42.2
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	45,896	30.9	46,872	31.1	43,579	28.5	43,405	28.1	44,313	28.5
Employed	43,886	31.2	44,894	31.3	41,861	28.7	41,708	28.3	42,131	28.9
Full time ⁴	34,237	29.6	35,225	29.8	32,951	27.3	32,714	26.9	33,344	27.8
Part time ⁵	9,649	38.5	9,669	38.2	8,910	35.5	8,994	35.4	8,788	34.2
Unemployed	2,010	25.6	1,978	26.4	1,718	23.8	1,697	23.2	2,181	22.3
Not in the labor force	18,646	24.7	18,485	24.4	17,621	23.1	17,433	22.3	17,491	22.2

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.
² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.
³ Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.
⁴ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.
⁵ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.



My search for answers landed me on an essay by Penelope Eckert and Peter Henschel in *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education* (ed. Thomas Ehrlich, 2000). In their chapter of the book, Eckert and Henschel suggest that “young adults” are not less civically responsible than in previous generations but that their definition of what constitutes civic responsibility has simply changed.

Though they concede that statistics do back the apathetic-Millennials stereotype, Eckert and Henschel also site a 1999 National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) study: according to NASS, Millennials are more oriented towards community involvement methods that have a “personal connection, engaging directly with those in need of their services,” such as homeless shelters and soup kitchens, instead of joining organizations or political campaigns. They are less involved in traditional, big-group organizations, but more likely to volunteer at a hospital or school.

This paints a picture of Millennials as people who crave strong individuality and personal empowerment, not a bunch of apathetic and lazy bums. Honestly, which one of us wants to be just another number, just another member of a sprawling

Table 4. Volunteers by type of main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2008

Characteristics in September 2008	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of volunteers by type of main organization ¹										
		Total	Civic, political, professional, or international	Educational or youth service	Environmental or animal care	Hospital or other health	Public safety	Religious	Social or community service	Sport, hobby, cultural, or arts	Other	Not determined
Sex												
Total, both sexes	61 803	100.0	5.5	26.0	2.0	8.2	1.3	35.1	13.5	3.3	3.3	1.9
Men	26 268	100.0	6.8	24.8	2.0	6.4	2.1	34.6	13.7	3.8	3.7	1.9
Women	35 535	100.0	4.4	27.0	2.0	9.5	.6	35.5	13.4	2.8	3.0	1.8
Age												
Total, 16 years and over	61 803	100.0	5.5	26.0	2.0	8.2	1.3	35.1	13.5	3.3	3.3	1.9
16 to 24 years	8 239	100.0	4.7	27.7	3.0	8.8	1.6	30.8	13.9	3.2	3.6	2.7
16 to 19 years	4 437	100.0	4.1	31.3	3.1	7.0	1.6	30.8	13.6	3.2	3.4	1.9
20 to 24 years	3 802	100.0	5.3	23.5	2.8	10.9	1.7	30.8	14.2	3.2	3.9	3.6
25 years and over	53 564	100.0	5.6	25.8	1.8	8.1	1.2	35.8	13.5	3.3	3.2	1.7
25 to 34 years	9 154	100.0	5.0	32.4	2.1	8.1	1.4	28.9	13.1	3.3	3.1	2.6
35 to 44 years	13 016	100.0	4.3	41.3	1.4	5.7	1.4	28.7	10.5	2.7	2.6	1.4
45 to 54 years	13 189	100.0	5.0	26.8	1.9	7.8	1.0	36.6	13.2	3.1	3.0	1.7
55 to 64 years	9 456	100.0	7.6	13.7	2.3	9.7	1.2	41.2	15.2	3.7	3.6	1.7
65 years and over	8 749	100.0	6.8	7.4	1.5	10.3	1.0	46.7	16.7	3.9	4.3	1.4
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity												
White	53 078	100.0	5.6	26.1	2.2	8.5	1.4	33.9	13.8	3.4	3.4	1.7
Black or African American	5 325	100.0	4.3	22.9	.3	6.3	2	46.5	12.7	1.5	2.6	2.7
Asian	2 022	100.0	4.5	31.6	.6	6.4	.3	37.0	9.1	4.0	3.0	3.6
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4 662	100.0	3.1	34.5	1.1	5.2	.6	38.5	9.6	2.4	2.5	2.5
Educational attainment²												
Less than a high school diploma	2 427	100.0	3.4	21.9	.6	6.0	1.5	47.0	12.5	1.2	4.5	1.5
High school graduates, no college ³	10 998	100.0	4.6	23.2	1.1	8.7	1.8	40.6	12.6	3.0	2.9	1.4
Some college or associate degree	15 519	100.0	5.5	25.1	2.1	8.0	1.3	36.4	13.7	3.2	2.8	1.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	24 620	100.0	6.3	27.8	2.1	8.0	.8	32.1	13.8	3.6	3.5	1.9
Marital status												
Single, never married	13 475	100.0	5.6	25.9	2.8	10.3	1.3	28.0	15.5	3.6	4.0	3.0
Married, spouse present	38 827	100.0	5.3	27.7	1.6	6.8	1.3	38.0	11.9	3.1	2.9	1.5
Other marital status ⁵	9 502	100.0	6.1	19.7	2.3	10.8	1.1	33.8	17.4	3.5	3.7	1.7
Presence of own children under 18 years⁶												
Men:												
No own children under 18 years old	17 377	100.0	7.7	16.7	2.5	7.7	2.3	35.9	16.6	3.9	4.5	2.2
With own children under 18 years old	8 891	100.0	5.2	40.6	.9	3.8	1.8	32.2	8.1	3.8	2.2	1.4
Women:												
No own children under 18 years old	22 108	100.0	5.4	15.5	2.7	12.3	.7	38.2	16.2	3.4	3.6	2.1
With own children under 18 years old	13 427	100.0	2.9	45.8	.7	4.9	.5	31.1	8.8	2.0	1.9	1.3
Employment status												
Civilian labor force	44 313	100.0	5.6	27.9	2.0	7.9	1.4	33.9	13.0	3.1	3.1	2.0
Employed	42 131	100.0	5.6	27.6	2.0	8.0	1.4	34.0	13.1	3.1	3.1	2.0
Full time ⁷	33 344	100.0	5.7	27.5	2.1	8.2	1.6	32.9	13.5	3.2	3.2	2.2
Part time ⁸	8 788	100.0	5.0	28.1	1.9	7.2	.8	37.9	11.7	2.9	3.0	1.5
Unemployed	2 181	100.0	5.6	32.2	2.2	5.9	1.0	32.1	11.7	3.5	3.7	2.1
Not in the labor force	17 491	100.0	5.2	21.4	1.7	8.9	.9	38.4	14.8	3.6	3.6	1.4

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2007, through the survey period in September 2008. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

business or organization? I think our collective reluctance to melt into a crowd, even a crowd of do-gooders or political activists, is from a real need for self-assertion that people in our generation have developed. Society uses the word “young” like a slur, and often dismisses people of our age-range as naïve, so is it any surprise that this covert ageism has given our generation some kind of a complex?



Just look at the success of sites like Facebook, of blogs, MySpace and Twitter. These sites give people a chance to express themselves, to carve out a tangible space of their own in the virtual world. The Millennials and younger generations have all embraced these opportunities that the internet provides: in some sphere of the internet, and therefore the world, you can draw attention to yourself, you can really matter. It is not all self-exploitation; rather, a lot of it is self-assertion.

Unfortunately for the Millennials, self-assertion and coming-of-age are often contradictory terms. The entrance to adulthood is a desert, a harsh place where your main focus has to be survival while simultaneously establishing a path to success; it is not a place conducive to the “personal connections” that make a Millennial feel like they can make a difference or that they matter. Instead, it can suck the individualism right out of a person, especially in poor economic times like these. I don’t think social sites would be nearly as successful if our generation wasn’t so thirsty for self-expression and self-empowerment.

INNOVATION
TATION
TAT
PERS

So how do I rebel against this idea of youth-equals-insignificance? I started a blogzine aimed at twenty-somethings in November of 2008 expressly for that purpose, to create a forum where my peers and I could express ourselves in an intelligent, organized manner. It’s become a Holy Grail quest for me, to prove that twenty-somethings have valid viewpoints they care about, and that their views matter just as much as everybody else’s.

As the editor of the blogzine, the biggest challenge I’ve faced so far is encouraging all the people who tell me, “I want to write something, but I don’t know what to write.” My response is always, “You have opinions, don’t you? You can write about that.” It’s not a political campaign or a poverty relief organization, but for now it will do.

Who really believes that actions and opinions don’t become significant until the person reaches the age of 30? It looks silly to even see that in print. And yet this is how many people in our generation think, deep down. We have not just had a stereotype of youthful ignorance and insignificance forced upon us. We have stereotyped ourselves.

People like Dalia Ziada have proven that a person in their twenties can make a hell of a lot of difference. While most of us will never have opportunity to do something as major as she has, it is vital for the standing of our generation in this country, as well as in the world, that we learn more, think more, and express ourselves more. It’s time for us all to figure out where we can find that “personal connection” we need in order to make a difference in our communities, and it’s time to leave that old, boring stereotype behind.

Sources:

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Civic Responsibility and Higher Education
Thomas Ehrlich
Greenwood Publishing Group, 2000

DE


INTI

ACI


M-OF-OR



Your through bub!!!




THIS IS THE END!!!




HULK SMASH BUG!!!

Illustrators Wanted




Thumbs up!!!



I am glad Marie Jane isn't here to see this.

Join Third Rail and have your illustrations published.



The *Virtue* of Slave Labor

“Greed, for lack of a better word, is good”

-Gordon Gekko, Wall Street

“Greed is all right, by the way. I want you to know that. I think greed is healthy. You can be greedy and still feel good about yourself”

-Ivan Boesky [speech to UC Berkeley School of Business Administration, May 18, 1986
(later convicted on charges of insider trading)]

A fascist meditation
by Michael Miley

We hear a lot about how the American work force can't compete with foreign workers. How workers overseas make pennies an hour, if not a day. So, I ask everyone: how are we, as an industrialized nation, supposed to beat that? Why should the average American consumer pay more for something made here, when he can save money and buy something that was made in Asia? It's just common sense when you think about it. What will people buy; something that is cheaper or more expensive? Nine times out of ten they will buy the cheaper product. Why is something that is made in Vietnam, loaded onto a ship, and hauled 12,000 miles across the ocean cheaper than something that is made inside our own country?



The answer is simple; **evil, evil unions.**

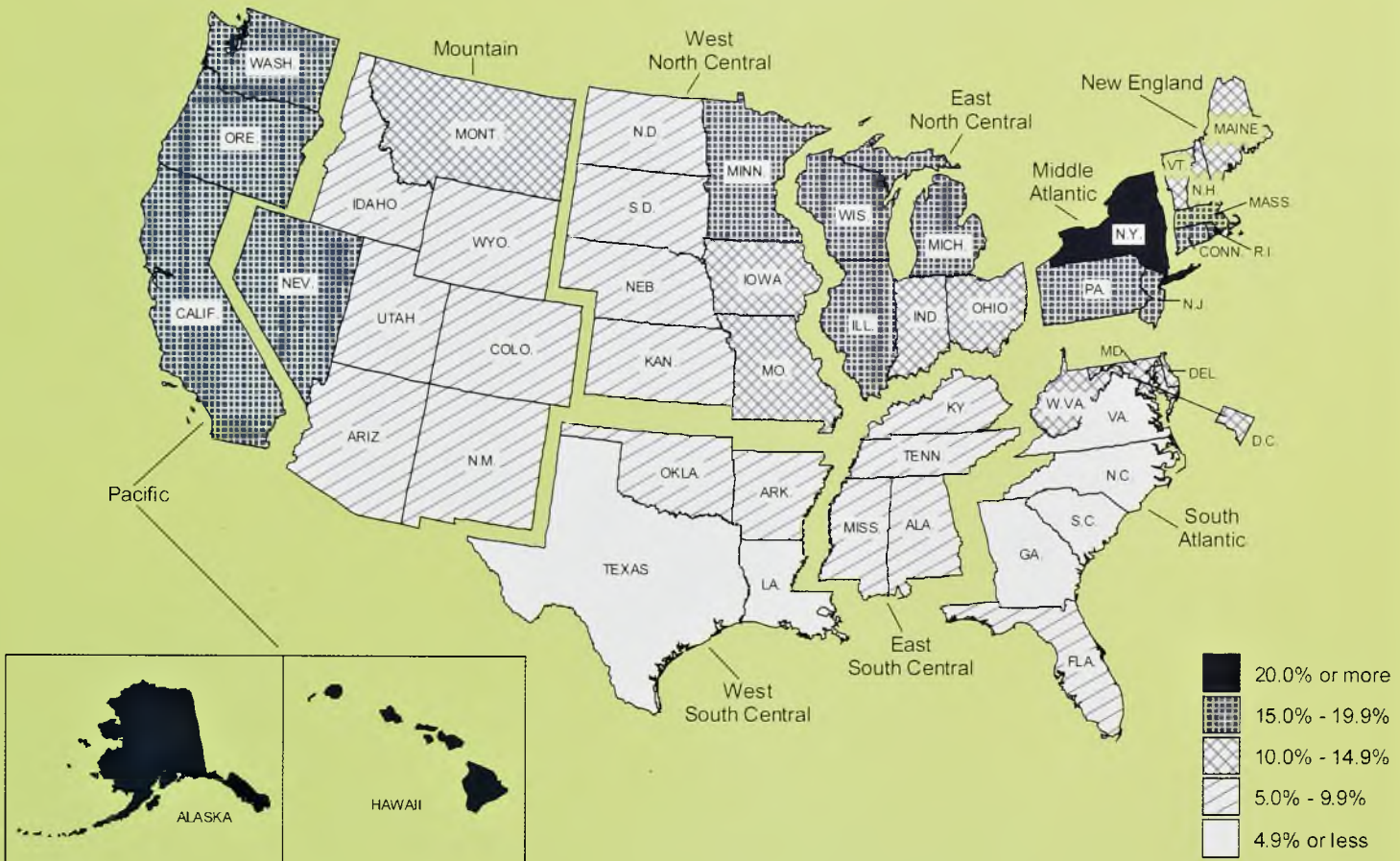
(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2007					2008				
	Total employed	Members of unions ¹		Represented by unions ²		Total employed	Members of unions ¹		Represented by unions ²	
		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed
AGE AND SEX										
Total, 16 years and over	129,767	15,670	12.1	17,243	13.3	129,377	16,098	12.4	17,761	13.7
16 to 24 years	19,395	939	4.8	1,068	5.5	18,705	930	5.0	1,062	5.7
25 years and over	110,372	14,731	13.3	16,176	14.7	110,672	15,168	13.7	16,699	15.1
25 to 34 years	29,409	3,050	10.4	3,358	11.4	29,276	3,120	10.7	3,443	11.8
35 to 44 years	30,296	3,972	13.1	4,362	14.4	29,708	3,993	13.4	4,365	14.7
45 to 54 years	29,731	4,664	15.7	5,087	17.1	29,787	4,767	16.0	5,228	17.6
55 to 64 years	16,752	2,691	16.1	2,967	17.7	17,430	2,887	16.6	3,209	18.4
65 years and over	4,183	355	8.5	402	9.6	4,471	401	9.0	454	10.2
Men, 16 years and over	67,468	8,767	13.0	9,494	14.1	66,846	8,938	13.4	9,724	14.5
16 to 24 years	9,959	551	5.5	627	6.3	9,537	555	5.8	617	6.5
25 years and over	57,509	8,217	14.3	8,867	15.4	57,309	8,383	14.6	9,107	15.9
25 to 34 years	15,994	1,736	10.9	1,884	11.8	15,780	1,750	11.1	1,909	12.1
35 to 44 years	16,070	2,318	14.4	2,501	15.6	15,653	2,307	14.7	2,491	15.9
45 to 54 years	15,040	2,578	17.1	2,745	18.3	14,988	2,608	17.4	2,812	18.8
55 to 64 years	8,286	1,403	16.9	1,532	18.5	8,657	1,525	17.6	1,682	19.4
65 years and over	2,119	181	8.5	205	9.7	2,230	193	8.7	213	9.6
Women, 16 years and over	62,299	6,903	11.1	7,749	12.4	62,532	7,160	11.4	8,036	12.9
16 to 24 years	9,436	388	4.1	441	4.7	9,168	374	4.1	445	4.8
25 years and over	52,863	6,514	12.3	7,308	13.8	53,364	6,785	12.7	7,592	14.2
25 to 34 years	13,416	1,313	9.8	1,474	11.0	13,496	1,370	10.1	1,534	11.4
35 to 44 years	14,226	1,653	11.6	1,861	13.1	14,055	1,685	12.0	1,874	13.3
45 to 54 years	14,691	2,086	14.2	2,341	15.9	14,799	2,159	14.6	2,416	16.3
55 to 64 years	8,466	1,288	15.2	1,435	17.0	8,773	1,363	15.5	1,527	17.4
65 years and over	2,065	174	8.4	197	9.5	2,241	208	9.3	241	10.7

Yes, it is the unions who demand such trivial things as health care, sick leave, vacation time, pensions and - worst of all - fair pay! It is the monolithic unions (about 12.4% of the American workforce is unionized) who are ruining this nation with their horde of lazy, overpaid workers. Why are these unions demanding these costly detriments to the economy? Don't they care what they

Chart 1. Union membership rates by state, 2008 annual averages

(U.S. rate = 12.4 percent)



are doing to the coffers of big business? It's not because they care about their members! They don't care about their members having jobs, or fair and safe working conditions! No! All these union's care about is increasing their membership - which shot up an astounding 0.3% over the last year! These skyrocketing numbers can't continue without destroying America. So, what is my solution (maybe even my final solution) to the labour problem?

It's simple; destroy the unions! It's the only thing we can do if we want our industry to have a fighting chance against the workers in India and Vietnam. If they're going to work for fifty cents a day, then we must make the American worker work for ten cents a day! We'll get rid of the unions, OSHA, the FDA, the minimum wage, the SEC, child labour laws, public education, and all of the other evil governmental regulations! It is high time that we divorce ourselves from the childish, lazy, socialistic tendencies of the Statists in our evil Central Government! These things must be done for us to live in

Table 4. Median weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by union affiliation, occupation, and industry

Occupation and industry	2007				2008			
	Total	Members of unions ¹	Repre- sented by unions ²	Non- union ³	Total	Members of unions ¹	Repre- sented by unions ²	Non- union ³
OCCUPATION								
Management, professional, and related occupations	\$996	\$996	\$992	\$996	\$1,025	\$1,028	\$1,017	\$1,028
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,080	1,066	1,072	1,081	1,128	1,113	1,120	1,129
Management occupations	1,161	1,172	1,165	1,160	1,204	1,235	1,236	1,199
Business and financial operations occupations	941	934	950	940	974	925	943	978
Professional and related occupations	951	987	980	942	980	1,018	1,004	973
Computer and mathematical occupations	1,229	1,188	1,204	1,231	1,242	1,149	1,139	1,248
Architecture and engineering occupations	1,213	1,179	1,178	1,221	1,244	1,223	1,243	1,244
Life, physical, and social science occupations	1,053	1,147	1,144	1,036	1,035	1,169	1,144	1,018
Community and social services occupations	755	920	909	732	788	983	978	743
Legal occupations	1,148	1,180	1,151	1,148	1,174	1,186	1,265	1,169
Education, training, and library occupations	841	959	947	742	866	974	957	765
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	829	1,000	1,009	807	882	1,110	1,098	858
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	920	1,005	1,019	906	962	1,070	1,061	943
Service occupations	454	666	654	421	475	691	679	440
Healthcare support occupations	454	502	502	446	465	526	526	457
Protective service occupations	719	954	946	610	748	990	983	620
Food preparation and serving related occupations	385	502	495	379	402	502	496	398
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	422	551	543	407	431	596	593	412
Personal care and service occupations	434	585	585	420	475	580	570	463
Sales and office occupations	598	717	715	587	614	741	736	603
Sales and related occupations	643	648	648	643	656	679	683	655
Office and administrative support occupations	581	726	724	560	601	749	744	585
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	670	973	961	617	702	990	984	647
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	372	(⁴)	(⁴)	369	420	(⁴)	(⁴)	418
Construction and extraction occupations	646	976	968	597	688	992	989	621
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	749	975	962	709	774	1,002	994	729
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	577	759	753	540	594	777	770	560
Production occupations	581	761	755	552	595	765	759	567
Transportation and material moving occupations	570	757	750	523	593	789	779	550

See footnotes at end of table.

the pure capitalist society that we want to live in, and that we need to live in so that we may be free!

But, you might say, doing these things would reduce us to working in sweatshops! To that I say; so what? The people in Vietnam work in sweatshops. Have we forgotten that the entire Garment District in Manhattan was once nothing but sweatshops? So what if it costs a few lives? There is an

entire army of unemployed people looking for work! People are replaceable! But, your Statist propagandized minds might say, can't we just raise tariffs and thereby make American made products competitive? We could, but only if you wanted to destroy America, you communist! The only solution is the Free Market; the Free Market must govern our lives, for it's the only way to be free. Just don't expect it to be free.

"Business! Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

-Jacob Marley, A Christmas Carol.



CSI's MOST WANTED



Joseph Brush



Jeff McGraham



Nikki S. Bautista



Mike Miley



Mike Gualtieri



TJ Riley



Tony Vivirito



Chun Hom



Neil & Lenin

If you see any of these outlaws, please report to the nearest CSI Administrator

THIRD RAIL ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW

NEW YORK ANIME FESTIVAL COVERAGE
BY ANTHONY ACEVEDO

Memories Neglected, But Never Forgotten; Memory Lane

I remember a warm, crisp summer morning. It was a Saturday. As I slowly peeled the blankets off my eight-year-old body, I peered out the window. The air was very light, and the sky was clear. I woke up with a feeling of rejuvenation, but still felt a bit fizzled being that I just woke up. I climb out of bed, and go to the bathroom to wash my face. When I noticed the time on the wall and remembered what day it was, I ran back to my room. I realized how lucky I'd be to catch some favorite Saturday morning cartoons on time, and not miss one new episode. I charged back in, not immediately locating the remote, I anxiously pressed buttons on my lunch box for a TV. Eventually I tuned in to my favorite station on a Saturday morning. I sit there, awe struck by another line up of my favorite cartoon shows that I never get sick of watching. Even if some of them are re-runs.

I think a lot of us had mornings like this as kids. After all, there were no D.V.R.s, televised shows on the web, pod casts, or so much of this broadcasting on demand and at you finger tips during the 90's. One such show I remember watching on mornings like that one described was the original "Pokémon." In it were stories that not only made us feel attached to the characters, but also kept us interested in the journey each went on. One of those Characters was Ash Ketchum; one of the beloved favorite characters and an adored protagonist by many who enjoyed the show. This character was indeed a positive role model for young kids, teaching teamwork, tolerance, respect, love, and determination, as well as the strength of will to protect all of those ideas and bring peace to the lives of others.

Indeed, this show when it started out was very different from shows like "Ani-maniacs" or all those "Marvel" and "D.C." superhero based shows. For starters, none of those other shows had characters like Pikachu or Charmander. They could be either in serious or comical situations and you would still believe it. The "Pokémon" could feel; they could be hurt or broken in spirit and could be joyful or clownish. This really made them come alive to me as an eight-year-old, and at the Anime Fest I saw a lot of people reminisce about such ideas. From my experience I recall caring about not just the human characters, but the "humane" characters like Pikachu and Charmander.

Charmander being abandoned in the rain; still loyal and waiting for his neglectful owner's return was a serious episode. While it held a lot of emotion, you still could look at the "Pokémon", and think of how loyal they were to their owners. Thinking back now, the loyalty of the Pokémon reminds me of the loyalty my dog has for me.

Then there's Pikachu who would become a big main character. No other show had relationships between such interesting characters at that time. The only other thing I can compare Ash and Pikachu's relationship to (beside that of the owner and their pet) is between Han Solo and Chewbacca. Both pairs seem to personify, in a fictitious context, of how that type of relationship is in reality. My dog and I, many other pet owners and pets, also share some sort of comradely with each other.

Most of the superhero shows, while they did push virtuous behavior like compassion, and a sense of honor; they were mostly about the conflict between cliché super villains and costumed heroes. (Don't get me wrong though, those shows had their own entertainment value too, but "Pokémon" had some things they didn't have.) This made "Pokémon" a very unique show on T.V. when it first came out. Not many stories made for the media had these kinds of adventures or relationships. Especially when compared to more "cartoony" shows like "Animaniacs", because it wasn't about being just silly.

Pokémon always had an interesting motif that was both original and contemporary. It had characters like Ash, Misty, Brock, and Pikachu with interesting and engaging personalities. For a show based on a video game, it was unlike the formula for many other children's shows we grew up with during the 90s. Not only was it just about "catchin' 'em all" but it was about the main characters' journey together. With an outstanding early run; compelling story developments and plot twists, it seemed like an instant hit. Originally premiering in North America in 1996, this show along with the children of this time, would go on to represent a whole generation.

The Panel; What Went Into Making a Dream Alive; Anime fest

With my unkempt head of hair and deeply neglected bearded face, I marched into the Anime Fest. In the Javits and among others with similar looks; I felt kind of odd being asked who I was supposed to be, being that I wasn't in a costume and my hair wasn't dyed. It was a new experience; I had never been to a convention of any sort. As a nerd, yes I admit it; it was interesting and not regrettable. I did manage to get a glimpse of some aspects of the Anime culture. Looking at some of the memorabilia and artwork for sale in vending booths was a bit intimidating. A person could very well get lost in all the big aisles of booths displaying vibrant and intense Anime glory. Then there were the various different costumed characters walking around the floor. Most of these I couldn't recognize for my lack of familiarity with Anime. There were no sightings of Goku, of "Dragonball Z"; or Yusuke, of "Yu-Yu-Hakusho" (some of the only Anime shows I know of); but there was a sighting of Katara of "Avatar" that I did recognize.



It was all strange and new to me, but I couldn't look around and explore I had panels to listen in on. It was still a very good time, no matter how different or unfamiliar from what I was used to it was.



Sitting in on a few panel groups was nice. One that uplifted my interest was "Voice Acting: 101". There, much was learned about the specifics of voice acting. The first major lesson learned and misconception cleared up was, it's just acting. That's right, doing voice work isn't much different than acting on stage or in cinema. This panel featured: Tom Wayland, Jamie McGonnigal, Rachel Lillis, and Veronica Taylor. Tom, formally involved with performing in live shows of "Hamlet", has contributed his voice talent for storm shadow on "GI Joe: Sigma Six"; Jammerhead of the 2003 "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles"; and other cartoons.

He's now a voice director for the new episodes of "Pokémon". Jamie McGonnigal has done voice work on shows like "Yu-Gi-Oh! 5Ds" as Blitz, and newer episodes of Pokémon as Barry. However he has also produced and directed various theatre shows such as "Pippin" and has been actively involved with charity work for AIDS relief efforts. Rachel Lillis is best known for her outstanding voice career as a voice actress. Her work includes Misty, Jessie, and over 30 monsters of "Pokémon"; voice over work for "Nova", "Sesame Street", and "American Masters"; and loop work for "Law and Order" and "Sex and The City". Veronica Taylor is another very popular and well-acclaimed voice actress who was there that day. She is well known for her roles as Ash Ketchum and his mother Delia of "Pokémon"; playing Amelia Wil Tesla of "Slayers"; Max Taylor and Aki Taylor of "Dinosaur King", Ancient Fairy Dragon, Carly Carmine, and Martha of "Yu-Gi-Oh!5Ds"; Scarlett of "G.I. Joe: Sigma Six"; and April O'Neil of the 2003 "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles". All of these talented and experienced individuals have not only known and worked with each other for several years, but have been openly welcome to lend their time to fans. This day was no different, and it certainly would end miles away from disappointment.

About Acting; Actor's survival guide; 411 on Acting

Community and Involvement

Being a professional artist is hard work, but it also has its rewards. Acting in particular isn't as glamorous as it seems. I mean from what was discussed, it seems to be a very gradual thing to get used to. Not only have a lot of these voice actors had prior experiences in acting, they've all mentioned how important it is for a voice actor to have some experience. No matter how small, even a production for school or church, anything that counts as acting experience will help you. Not just for improv-

ing and honing in on particular knack for it, but also to establish yourself as an actor. To point and say, "Yeah, I did that," even



if you can't stomach the finished result looking back on it, you just have to push through it all. Tom Wayland mentioned that an actor has to really be involved in the acting community. He couldn't help but bring up how often actors are chosen for a job, because another actor who worked with them in the past actually recommended them to their directors and producers. So, don't be afraid to meet new people who act, and just be an actor.

Getting a Part: Before or After

Jamie McGonnigal did add that an actor should try to take advantage of any help offered. A big jump-start is just putting yourself there at an actual audition. An actor looking for work really ought to keep themselves alert to such opportunities. Once you do get a role your passion-

ate about, you may like it. You may even grow attached if it's a gig that lasts. Just keep in mind that there's the audience, but before them are the writers, directors, and producers. It may prove a challenge to give the directors a desired thing too. Still, don't be discouraged. Directors can be tough on their needs, just hang tough. A lot of it has to do with being patient, and investigating just who this character you're playing is. Get some information on the character from the director, as much as you can, just to find out who they are.

Now let's say you have a reputation for playing certain parts from the community of actors and what not. Now you may feel, "Oh great now I am stuck" as a villain or a character with a strong presence or whatever the type cast could be. This isn't a bad thing however. Actors get type cast all the time because they happen to be considered good at a particular role. After a while some actors, especially voice actors, don't get too picky about there new roles anymore. That's also something that seems to happen from experience.

A really good question was exactly "how" an actor advertises their past work and active abilities. Well a written resume isn't actually good; it's o.k. as a means to provide past references to check up on, nothing more. This is because they are too prone to passing off an actor's exaggerated talents. It's meaning is it's just too damn easy to lie. So, to effectively do this, a demo tape should be made. However, there are professional courtesies an aspiring actor must consider in a demo tape. Many people did ask about fan dubs or videos that imitate other actors' work. Don't do this, for several reasons. If the

producers and directors are looking for an impersonator, they'll mention that. Do not submit impersonations on a demo tape, lest the part demand it.

Instead come up with some new material, in a "...nice one minute video of what you can do," which was mentioned by Veronica Taylor and others with comments in conjunction. Also, if you use anything copy written, like music, in the demo just don't sell it, and you'll be o.k. What's most important about demos is just knowing your range, and playing character(s) that you can do, don't force anything.

Adding updates on what current developments have occurred in your career are good to put in a demo tape. Posting a succession of these demos showing your progress on a networking site like youtube.com is even better. It really adds depth to your career, especially if you add references, but also it's important to make new demos because our voices all change with age.

Doing Voice Work

Most important in voice work, particularly, keep in mind the characters' interactions. Characters tend to have distinct sounds, but if they sound too much alike, then their scenes can get awkward. An example used was on "Family Guy" when Mr. Pewterschmit goes to see the Doctor. They both used the same exact voice; it was awkward, but for "Family Guy" it worked to get a laugh. Also, Rachel Lillis did mention at one time she did the voices for Beautifly and Horsey. She mentioned to the director they sounded the same, and he said don't worry about it. The next day, guess which two Poke'mon were having a Poke' battle?

So, it's very important for voice actors to know their range of voices and roles to avoid these awkward occurrences,

because they might not always work. An actor has to contend with this to play multiple roles and such. Both Veronica and Rachel did comment on the fun and the challenge of playing multiple roles. To play a role that's closely true to an actor's naturally born with voice, are easier to play as. To play a role that's for example of the opposite sex is trickier. Veronica did mention that while it's easier for her to do female voices, it's a likeable challenge for her to play a male role. "It's also easier to play some roles after having the flu," a comment by Rachel, met with laughter throughout the room.

Directors and Actors work together a lot more than the voice actors actually do. Most interactions will be between them, or the script, so actors entering voice acting should also keep this in mind. "It's really broken down between your voice and physical being," Veronica would later comment. She then basically described some kind of energy an actor harnesses within; from our body, soul, and experience that we then funnel into a role. Jamie also added that acting really does "boil down" to being "consistent to character" using different or a variety of tools to keep people guessing. I suppose he meant using many vocal techniques, like using different tones or moods based on subtle or obvious variations in how several characters can be played, sometimes in the same scene.

What is also interesting to note is the comparison made by several in attendance between pre-lays and dubbing. Dubbing is definitely the most restrictive of voice acting, because an actor has to match their voice to lip movements. While in pre-lay the animation is done to the actor's voice. Rachel also made a good point that voice work is "physically restricting" to perform without using the body to act. So, actors using the body in live action performances would also have to cope with this adjustment.

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