

'BOOK' FAD CREATES 'GENERATION OF LONERS'

Sociologists and school counselors are increasingly worried by the new 'book reading' craze which has infected schools across the nation in recent months, the Daily Parallel has learned.

With many young people now choosing to spend their free time sitting silently on their own reading 'books', it is thought that the effects of this isolation on society will only really be felt in ten to twenty years as this new generation matures and enters the workplace

Traditionally our children have matured engaging in social networked gaming environments involving high levels of communication and interaction with other kids and other cultures, and exercising their decision-making and organisational skills.

"books are turning our youth into passive consumers of other peoples' lives."

The new 'book', however, takes all choice from our youth, presenting them with a fixed, linear set of events over which they have no control. "In other words," says psychologist Margot Simms, "books are turning our youth into passive consumers of other peoples' lives. The message is clear: you have no choices, no say in your life. Essentially 'books' lead to passive citizens who believe they are powerless to change their circumstances."

Simms is not alone in her fears for the next generation of young adults. Youth support worker Jack Tyne campaigns tirelessly for the abolition of the spate of

'libraries' sweeping across the nation.

"It's like some kind of zombie film," he says, "you go into one of these new 'libraries' and all you see are kids everywhere. Kids... Sitting silently on chairs, passively consuming these linear 'book' stories. And in each of these buildings there's someone making sure they don't make any noise."

Tyne is visibly emotional as he describes these venues. "When I was young the emphasis was on interaction, social relationships, shared knowledge, constructing your own narrative, group work—all that kind of thing. Now I look at today's young kids and I just feel like weeping."

Indeed, as more and more kids turn their backs on the traditional vivid, three-dimensional social worlds with their challenges and enormous learning potential, and embrace 'books' with their barren strings of words on white pages, we can only imagine what will happen to these developing minds, once engaged across the full spectrum of sensory and motor cortices, yet now limited to a small portion of the brain devoted to processing written language.

And it is for this reason that today, we at the Daily Parallel launch our latest campaign: **Ban The Book!**

Like us, we know you will want to ensure that your kids don't fall prey to this insidious passivity and creative void, so why not get involved?

Reading books chronically under stimulates the senses and teaches our kids that life is what's given to you.



A child reads a 'book' in a 'library'

As Simms puts it, "Reading is not an active, participatory process; it's a submissive one. The 'book' readers of the younger generation are learning to "follow the plot" instead of learning to lead."

"It's like some kind of zombie film."

And we say it's time that stopped! Help our kids break free of the tyranny of 'books' today - join our campaign and free our youth. Let's act now, before it's too late...

INSIDE YOUR DAILY PARALLEL...

Rise of the chalkboard	p. 2
New 'parchment' all the rage	p. 3
'Gas' lighting debuts	p. 4
Carrier pigeons return	p. 5
'Pens'—a beginner guide	p. 6
The corded phone revolution	p. 7

Also your chance to try a 'book' - find out the dangers first-hand...

Bibliography

[all publication dates are for latest editions available on the Amazon website]

Buckingham, D.

Beyond Technology: Children's Learning in the Age of Digital Culture
Polity Press, 2007

Csikszentmihalyi, M.

Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience (P.S.)
Harper Perennial , 2008

Gee, JP.

Good Video Games + Good Learning: Collected Essays on Video Games, Learning and Literacy (New Literacies and Digital Epistemologies)
Peter Lang Pub Inc., 2007

Gee, JP.

What Video Games Have to Teach Us About Learning and Literacy
Palgrave Macmillan, 2004

Johnson, S.

Everything Bad is Good for You: How Popular Culture is Making Us Smarter
Penguin, 2006

Johnson, S.

Emergence: The Connected Lives of Ants, Brains, Cities and Software
Penguin, 2002

Prensky, M.

Don't Bother Me Mom -- I'm Learning!
Paragon House Publishers, 2006

Shaffer, D.

How Computer Games Help Children Learn
Palgrave Macmillan, 2008

Shirky, C.

Here Comes Everybody: How Change Happens When People Come Together
Penguin, 2009





<http://news.yahoo.com/odd> - GROUP A

Man's love runs deep in search for ring

WELLINGTON (Reuters) - A New Zealand man has been dubbed the Lord of the Ring after he searched and found his wedding ring more than a year after it slipped off his finger and sank to the sea floor.

The ring was lost for 16 months in the harbor of the country's capital city, Wellington, before Aleki Taumoepeau found it shining on the sea floor, the DominionPost newspaper reported Thursday. "The whole top surface of the ring was glowing," Taumoepeau, an ecologist, said.

Taumoepeau had been married for just three months when he lost the wedding ring while conducting an environmental sweep of the harbor.

He roughly marked the spot where the ring had flown from his finger, but was unable to find it despite returning to the area many times.

Taumoepeau's wife offered to buy another ring, but he refused, pledging to find the ring.

But, equipped with new global satellite based coordinates and offering up a quick prayer, he found the ring after an hour's search.

"I couldn't believe that I could see the ring so perfectly," Taumoepeau said.

He said those with him on the boat at the time the ring flew off his finger had likened it to a similar, slow motion shot from The Lord of the Rings, much of which was filmed in Wellington by local director Peter Jackson.

(Reporting by Michael Dickison; Editing by Sanjeev Miglani)



<http://news.yahoo.com/odd> - GROUP B

Police say man fell asleep in the wrong home

STRATFORD, Conn. - Police charged a man with burglary and disorderly conduct after he allegedly wandered into a neighbor's home, stripped off his clothes and fell asleep in a 6-year-old's bed. A man, 26, was arrested early Sunday after a child in a house woke his parents to tell them a man was asleep in his bed. When officers arrived, the residents were screaming for help from a second-floor window.

Officers said the man's clothes, which smelled of urine and alcohol, had been dropped on the floor. They said the man admitted drinking at a New Haven club but denied he was in the wrong house.

The suspect was released on bond and is scheduled to appear in court Sept. 1.

Information from: Connecticut Post, <http://www.connpost.com>



<http://news.yahoo.com/odd> - GROUP C

Man accused of stealing car, piggy bank cash

BRONSON, Fla. - Authorities believe a man stole his 28-year-old son's car and took money from his grandson's piggy bank. According to a Levy County Sheriff's Office news release, Ronald Joyner was arrested Monday and charged with grand theft auto and petty theft. Jail records indicate that Joyner was being held on \$6,000 bond Tuesday.

Joyner's son told a deputy that his 2002 silver Kia and his 46-year-old father were both gone when he woke up early Monday morning. The man's son also said that \$50 in change was taken from a piggy bank that belonged to Joyner's grandson.

It wasn't immediately clear if Joyner had an attorney.

Information from: The Gainesville Sun, <http://www.gainesvillesun.com>



<http://news.yahoo.com/odd> - GROUP D

Police: Man used cab as getaway after robbing bank

ROSELLE, N.J. - Police said a New Jersey man who told a cab driver to stop at a bank so he could take out some money failed to mention that he was going to rob it. Michael Restaino Jr. was arrested shortly afterward Monday when a police officer stopped the cab he was riding in several blocks from the Roselle Savings Bank. Police say the taxi driver was apparently unaware of what his passenger had done.

Police said they found more than \$2,400 in cash and a holdup note in Restaino's pockets. They said he was not armed.

He has been charged with second-degree robbery and was being held in the Union County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail. Police did not know whether he had retained a lawyer.