

'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...

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

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