

Tekst 1

Teenage dreaming?

Sir: I am delighted to read that a survey has backed up what I hoped about my generation (“Optimistic, responsible and political: the face of today’s teens”, 31 March) – that one day we might be the ones to reverse the tides of inequality, conflict, exploitative economics and destruction that have engulfed this world. However, your editorial’s tongue-in-cheek ending – “let’s hope it’s not just a phase they’re going through” – voices my own real concerns. We may not be the useless, solipsistic, grumpy stereotypes of yore (were we ever?) but we’re still clearly honouring a time-honoured adolescent tradition – challenging the status quo.

There is a fine, but deeply important, line between this mental attitude towards global

issues (“I wouldn’t call myself political but I care about things that matter”) and active involvement which will bring about real change – being political and being proud of it, reclaiming “politics” as a positive thing. We can talk to think tanks about ethical clothing all we like, but if we’re not prepared to vote, to write letters, to keep our beliefs alive and take them into the systems that govern the world, our words against Blair, Bush and multinationals will be useless. I wonder, 10 years down the line, how many of the “Sunshine generation” will still be committed to changing the world, and how many will hold their youthful liberalism as only a fond memory?

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Let op: beantwoord een open vraag altijd in het Nederlands, behalve als het anders is aangegeven. Als je in het Engels antwoordt, levert dat 0 punten op.

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- 1p 1 What is the main point made by Gloria Dawson?
- A Politicians do not do enough to stimulate young people to take up politics.
 - B Today's young people are more realistic than those of previous generations.
 - C Today's young people can be relied on to revive the ideals of the older generation.
 - D Youthful idealism often disappears with the passing of time.
- 1p 2 Which of these dictionary definitions of "liberalism" agrees with the sense in which it is used in the last sentence of the text?
- A Adhering to a political theory founded on the autonomy of the individual.
 - B Showing a political orientation that favours progress and reform.
 - C Supporting the principles and policies of the Liberal party.