

The Era of Unsociables

Darnel Young

My name is Darnel Young and I am a Communication Studies major at California State University Northridge. I was born and raised in Belize. I moved to California in pursuit of my first passion track and field, but everything changed when I discovered the poem, "Penny for Your Thoughts" by Spoken word poet, Gemineye. My passion for performing and understanding people in the world is what drives my poetry. With acknowledgement to my influences Sara Kay, Miles Hodges and Shane Koyczan, the fact that a bunch of random words can come together and provoke enlightenment within someone still baffles me, but at the same time will forever motivate me. Poetry helps me to organize my thoughts and turn them into something constructive, rather than obstructive, and with thanks to Jason Brain and The Soapbox Sessions as my outlet, I found somewhere to express them. My poetry was created from the idea of having people look at the world through my binoculars because I believe that in the pursuit of happiness, it all comes down to perspective. Facebook: Darnel D Young.

As a generation we are becoming more and more unsociable.

As we woke up this morning,

We're all hoping for that one miracle to happen, that just won't quite happen

We drag our feet walking into the bathroom as if the day had already ended; we're unhopeful

We look at ourselves in the mirror wondering where the time went from yesterday and when we can get it back;

It's not fair we say, I feel robbed. Robbed of the time where I should have done this, but did that instead.

As we shower we think about life's deepest depths, like am I on the right path? Am I being true to myself and who I want to be? Am I making the necessary changes that need to be made?

Will today be one of those days? One of those days where everything seems to be going right and no one couldn't tell you this isn't a perfect day,

But the real reason I stand before you today is to tell you,

We're all different. There is someone out there wishing that they weren't invisible.

That one person we walk by that shape shifts from male to female each day, that person who is not getting the attention they deserve, thanks to technology and social conditioning.

As we walk with our iPhones and iPods and other gadgets and gadgets, we're oblivious to our environment, and we miss people's attempts at befriending us.

We miss out on what could have been a friendship that would have lasted a lifetime,

Fellas you missed out on that fine, beautiful, intelligent woman that had enough ambition and independence to make you slobber;

Ladies, you might have missed out on that Mr. Right you were always searching for just because Becky was texting you exclaiming that she found a strand of blonde hair on her boyfriend's coat that wasn't hers, and now you're caught up in her hype instead of trying to create your own.

We're all guilty of such offenses, but we indulge because deep down we have nothing going on for ourselves and so we search for these quick fixes, these quick gossips, that we pick up and drop as quickly as Kim Kardashian switches black men.

But really, I'm talking about the fact that we're conditioned to ignore and be afraid of the unknown,
And by the unknown, I mean people we don't know.

We walk like drones programmed to only think for ourselves, and walk shoulder to shoulder past a fellow human being without acknowledging their existence.

A fellow depressed human being whose day might be made, and life might be saved with just a simple, "hey, how are you?"

We duck and dodge conversations that have no substance with people we consider to be weird or uncool just because they might dress differently, or not be on the same fitness level as we are.

We're unsociable.

And so I leave you to think about one thing and one thing only, what if that one person you didn't talk to today held the wisdom or kind words that you needed to change your whole perspective on the world?

