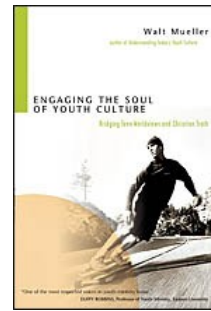


CPYU President Walt Mueller's new book, *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture: Bridging Teen Worldviews and Christian Truth*, is available! Check out the book's description, along with a growing list of supplemental resources. Order your copy directly from CPYU for \$17, which includes shipping & handling!  
<http://www.cpyu.org/page.aspx?id=135743>



The Center for Parent/Youth Understanding's  
Youth Culture e-Update  
Edition #87: March 16, 2006

# YOUTH CULTURE CPYU eupdate

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## *Youth Culture Stats and Trends:*

### 1) Spring Break Risk

The American Medical Association commissioned a survey of 644, 17-35 year-old college women regarding their beliefs about increased alcohol consumption and sexual activity during spring break.

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/16083.html>

**See also:** Volunteering is alternative spring-break

[http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/life/20060316/bl\\_springbreakvolunteerism.art.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/life/20060316/bl_springbreakvolunteerism.art.htm)

**See also:** Girls drinking like the boys

<http://www.abcnews.go.com/2020/story?id=1710316&page=1>

**See also:** Beer-free broadcast proposed for NCAA basketball tourney

<http://cspinet.org/new/200603151.html>

**See also:** Underage drinking

[http://www.healthallianceonalcohol.com/peer\\_pressure/](http://www.healthallianceonalcohol.com/peer_pressure/) (access to 18 page pdf file brochure)

### 2) Cigarette Sales

The National Association of Attorneys General reports that 378.6 billion cigarettes were sold in 2005 (down 4.2% from 2004).

<http://www.naag.org/news/pr-20060308-cig-decrease.php> and

<http://www.naag.org/news/pdf/pr-20060308-cig-decrease.pdf> (5 page pdf file)

**See also:** Teen smoking gender gap narrows (10.5% and 6.7% of 13-15 year old boys and girls smoke)

<http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/global/GYTS/globaluse01.htm> or

<http://www.webmd.com/content/article/118/113135.htm>

**See also:** Hollywood movies with smoking light up \$4.1 billion in lifetime sales

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/03-14-2006/0004319732&EDATE=>

### 3) Meth Treatment

Methamphetamine/amphetamine treatment admissions rose to 136,000 in 2003 (7% of the 1.8 million admissions) from 28,000 in 1993 (2% of the 1.6 million admissions).

[http://www.samhsa.gov/news/newsreleases/060302\\_meth.htm](http://www.samhsa.gov/news/newsreleases/060302_meth.htm)

[http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/teds03/teds\\_2003\\_rpt.pdf](http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/teds03/teds_2003_rpt.pdf) (see p. 56 of 207 page pdf file)

**See also:** CPYU article about teen meth use

<http://www.cpyu.org/Page.aspx?id=88844>

### 4) Broadband Population

Nielsen NetRating reports that 68% (95.5 million) of active Internet users have broadband access (up from 55% a year ago) with the average per person online time rising to just over 30 hours per month.

[http://www.nielsen-netratings.com/pr/pr\\_060314.pdf](http://www.nielsen-netratings.com/pr/pr_060314.pdf) (3 page pdf file)

**See also:** 5.7 billion online searches in January 2006 (up 39% from Jan 2005)

[http://www.nielsen-netratings.com/pr/pr\\_060302.pdf](http://www.nielsen-netratings.com/pr/pr_060302.pdf) (2 page pdf file)

**See also:** Online gambling survey results

[http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris\\_poll/index.asp?PID=641](http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/index.asp?PID=641)

**See also:** More online gambling data

<http://www.emarketer.com/Article.aspx?1003842>

### 5) TV Violence

The Parents Television Council released a report titled, "Wolves in Sheep's Clothing: A Content Analysis of Children's Television." Researchers analyzed 443.5 hours of TV over a 3-week period during the summer of 2005 and discovered high levels of violence (7.86 instances per hour), verbal aggression (1.93), sexual content (0.62) and offensive language (0.56) in children's TV programming.

<http://www.parentstv.org/PTC/publications/release/2006/0302.asp>

<http://www.parentstv.org/ptc/publications/reports/childrensstudy/childrensstudy.pdf> (28 page pdf file)

**See also:** TV and ADHD

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/117/3/665>

**See also:** Proposed fines for TV indecency

[http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/money/20060316/2b\\_decency16.art.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/money/20060316/2b_decency16.art.htm)

## **6) Oscar® Winners**

Check out the winner's list of movies from the 78<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards, which aired March 5, 2006.

<http://www.oscar.com/>

**See also:** Beliefnet's first annual Spiritual Film Award winners.

<http://www.beliefnet.org/bfa/>

**See also:** Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards scheduled for Sat. April 1, 2006

<http://www.nick.com/kca/>

## **7) Cosmetic Surgery**

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons reports there were 10.2 million cosmetic procedures in 2005 (up 11% from 2004). The top 5 surgical procedures—accounting for 1.8 million of the total—were liposuction (324,000), nose reshaping (298,000), breast augmentation (291,000), eyelid surgery (231,000) and tummy tuck (135,000).

[http://www.plasticsurgery.org/news\\_room/press\\_releases/2005-procedural-stats.cfm](http://www.plasticsurgery.org/news_room/press_releases/2005-procedural-stats.cfm)

**See also:** Cosmetic surgery survey results from Wall Street Journal Online and Harris Interactive

<http://www.harrisinteractive.com/news/allnewsbydate.asp?NewsID=1019>

**See also:** Anorexia and genetics

[http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/life/20060316/d\\_anorexia16.art.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/life/20060316/d_anorexia16.art.htm)

## **8) Sex Survey**

ElleGirl.com conducted an online survey about attitudes and behaviors regarding sexual activity. The results appear in the April 2006 issue of *Elle Girl*, pp. 114-116. Overall, 79% of respondents said they have kissed someone (20% kissed only one person; 44% kissed 2-6 people; 14% kissed 7-10 people; 22% kissed more than 10 people); 57% have done more than just kiss; and 30% have had sex (13% before age 13; 44% between age 13-15; 31% between 16-18; 12% after age 18).

**See also:** Adolescent girl sexual activity and time of day.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2005.02.006>

**See also:** Teen girl depression and dating physical abuse

<http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/short/160/3/270>

**See also:** Body image perception and sexual activity

<http://live.psu.edu/story/16597>

## **9) Teens and Gay "Marriage"**

A Gallup Youth survey of 546, 13-17 year-old Americans was conducted between Dec 2005 and Jan 2006 in regards to attitudes regarding homosexuality and gay "marriage". Overall, 51% approve of marriage between gay couples (50% male and 52% female); 59% said being gay is the result of upbringing and environment, while 41% said it is something people are born with.

<http://poll.gallup.com/content/default.aspx?ci=21829> (fee to access)

## **10) Family Households**

The March 2006 edition of Harris Interactive's "Trends & Tudes" publication reports on the composition of the family home from the results of a survey of 1,204 8-18 year-old youth conducted in May 2005. Overall, 89% said they live with their mothers, 65% live with their fathers, 47% with brothers, 45% with sisters, 11 with grandmothers, 10% with step-father, 6% with grandfathers, etc.

[http://www.harrisinteractive.com/news/newsletters/k12news/Hi\\_Trends&TudesNews2006\\_v5\\_iss03.pdf](http://www.harrisinteractive.com/news/newsletters/k12news/Hi_Trends&TudesNews2006_v5_iss03.pdf)

## **11) Top Priorities**

The Barna Group reports that family (51%) is the top priority from the results of a January 2006 survey of 1,003 U.S. adults; faith was second (16%).

<http://www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=BarnaUpdateNarrow&BarnaUpdateID=226>

**See also:** "Home churches" article from the March 6, 2006 issue of *Time*, pp. 46-47.

<http://www.time.com/time/archive/preview/0,10987,1167737,00.html>

## CPYU Resources:

To order resources from CPYU visit our **"Resource Center"** at <https://www.cpyu.org/page.aspx?id=76885> or call **800-807-CPYU (2798)**.  
All suggested donations include shipping and handling.



**Newsletter:** "YouthCulture @ Today" is the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding's 24-page, ad-free, quarterly newsletter that is full of up-to-date information and in-depth analysis on today's youth culture. The **just-released Spring 2006** edition features analysis of hip-hop artist **Chris Brown** and much more. "YouthCulture @ Today" is available for a suggested donation of **\$20** for one year (4 issues).

Please read the **important announcement to all current subscribers** of "YouthCulture @ Today":  
<http://www.cpyu.org/Page.aspx?id=110383>

**Seminars:** Walt Mueller is available to speak at your church, school or organization. Walt's "Understanding Today's Youth Culture" seminars are designed for parents, youth workers, teachers and others dealing with the specific challenges associated with understanding the world of pre-teens and adolescents. To book a seminar, go to <https://www.cpyu.org/page.aspx?id=76594> and/or contact CPYU at 800-807-CPYU (2798).

## Pop Culture Quotes

"If people look into it, they'll realize I'm not a promoter of using substances. At the same time, I recognize that those things helped me to mature spiritually, to see the world in a different place."

- Hasidic Jew and reggae singer Matisyahu (born Matthew Miller), *Spin*, March 2006, p. 64.

"Marijuana is not mentioned in the Torah, but there is a law that you're not supposed to do anything that can damage yourself. So I abstain."

- Matisyahu, *Blender*, March 2006, p. 38.

"I smoke weed all the time. If I'm playing, I gotta have the spliff in my mouth while I sit there in my holey shorts. The ash from the spliff falls onto my shorts when I'm trying to complete a mission in Grand Theft Auto. All my shorts are holey now."

- Dancehall artist Sean Paul talking about his videogame drug of choice, *Blender*, March 2006, p. 135.

"Smoke a joint, but crystal meth is bad news, kids."

- Rock artist Kid Rock, *Blender*, April 2006, p. 132.

"Once you get into the drug world, you don't realize how far you're getting until you're that far gone."

- Black Eyed Peas' Stacy "Fergie" Ferguson speaking about her crystal meth habit, *Blender*, March 2006, p. 86.

"I was never a cigarette smoker. I used to smoke weed, but doing cocaine, you need something to calm you down, so you have a drink and a cigarette."

- R&B Singer Mary J. Blige, *Rolling Stone*, March 23, 2006, p. 58.

"Seeing yourself, a recovering drug addict and alcoholic, on the cover of *Teen Beat* . . . it doesn't make any sense."

- My Chemical Romance frontman Gerard Way, *Spin*, March 2006, p. 84.

"It meant being completely, utterly, horribly promiscuous at all times, seven days a week. Drugs were rampant. I don't even know how I'm alive."

- Actor Ian Somerhalder (TV's *Lost*) talking about his life prior to acting as a print model, *Spin*, March 2006, p. 54.

"Even writing a melody, it's a release. And I really need to express myself."

- Singer Mariah Carey, *Rolling Stone*, February 23, 2006, p. 40.

“I started looking at the people I was selling drugs to, and I noticed that they started being close to me. Some were relatives getting caught up. I was, like, I’m killing people. Good people. They just had a weakness. I didn’t like the way it felt.”

- Soul singer Anthony Hamilton, *Vibe*, March 2006, p. 134.

“To this day, I haven’t felt that kind of love and camaraderie. The thing about a gang, all you had to be was down. In AA, if you get drunk, we’re gonna leave your a-- alone. But in a gang, they don’t care if you’re drunk, loaded, crippled, blind. But, yes, it’s an unhealthy kind of camaraderie.”

- Memoir author Cupcake Brown, *A Piece of Cake*, describing her experience as a Crip while living in Los Angeles, *Entertainment Weekly*, March 3, 2006, p. 74.

“I don’t like danger, but the other option is just as horrible. No great work came out of living in total safety.”

- The Kinks songwriter Ray Davies, *Rolling Stone*, February 23, 2006, p. 26.

“My child is not perfect. I am not perfect. And if you tell me *you’re* perfect, you’re a liar. I *want* Lindsay to fail—kids *need* failure to have success.”

- Lindsay Lohan’s mother, Dina, *Seventeen*, April 2006, p. 140.

“It’s unrealistic to be that thin. The only girls who have admitted to using drugs or to having an eating disorder. I’m so against it. People should strive to be happy with who they are and not be obsessed with how they look. Beauty if nothing.”

- Actress Amanda Bynes, *Elle Girl*, April 2006, p. 126.

“We still think like kids. Once you have kids, you think like a parent. You get a lot more protective . . . We still believe that all people are born bad and are made good by society, rather than the opposite.”

- *South Park* co-creator Trey Parker answering how he stays in touch with how young boys think, *Time*, March 13, 2006, p. 8.

“I guess you’d love for me to say that it was difficult, that I wanted to vomit. But the straight fact is, it was just another person. Now, by no means do I wanna f--- him, we’re both very straight and sensible . . . I was kissing a human being with a soul. And part of the magic of acting is, you harness the infinite power of belief.”

- Actor Heath Ledger talking about his homosexual sex scenes in the movie *Brokeback Mountain*, *Rolling Stone*, March 23, 2006, p. 49.

“I grew up Catholic, and I was always a believer in ‘Do unto others.’ Being wild through my work, it’s a way of rebelling a bit.”

“They all make me uncomfortable. All sex scenes, all kissing, all anything. Being intimate with people that you don’t want to be with is very awkward. Some movies that I’ve done, I felt it was necessary, but I’d rather not do them.”

- Actress Chloe Sevigny (HBO’s *Big Love*), *Rolling Stone*, March 9, 2006, p. 40.

“In my mind, I thought fifteen was *old*. When I was that age, most of my friends were having sex. But even if I had boyfriends, it was like, ‘I’m going on to bigger and better things, and I’m not going to potentially screw my life up.’”

- Singer Mariah Carey, *Rolling Stone*, February 23, 2006, p. 42.

“There’s this little traditional midget inside me that’s screaming and clawing her way out. As soon as I proposed to Carey [Hart] and he said yes, I turned into this old-fashioned girl. I told him, ‘I’m wearing white, so we’re not having sex until the wedding.’”

- Pop singer Pink (born Alecia Moore), *Blender*, April 2006, p. 60.

“He wasn’t raised as a Christian, and he had never found any kind of religion to settle down with. He thought he’d found something that worked for him. It’s not worshipping the devil. It’s nothing ritualistic. It’s about the pursuit of knowledge. He explained to me that there can be Satanic Christians. It gave him the peacefulness and serenity of Buddhism. It was a real peaceful thing.”

- Jeremy Burgess speaking about his college roommate and Alabama church arson suspect Russell DeBusk, *USA Today*, March 10, 2006, 3A.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-03-10-arson-suspects\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-03-10-arson-suspects_x.htm)

“On a personal level, I go to church a lot and even lead a youth fellowship group. There’s a time for profanity and a time for spirituality.”

- Belle & Sebastian singer/songwriter Stuart Murdoch, *Relevant*, March/April 2006, p. 82.

“I’m not a judging type of guy. It’s all God’s backyard. If he wanted to shut down weed and homosexuality, he could do it. So I’m not taking a stance against profanity, I’m not taking a stance against drugs, I’m into hip-hop. I’m just her doing what I can to promote good values, like be on a TV show as a happy guy raising a family.”

- Reverend Run (born Joseph Simmons, formerly part of Run-D.M.C., and now part of MTV’s *Run ’s House*) answering if he thinks hip-hop promotes un-Christian values, *Blender*, March 2006, p. 74.

“You think I don’t get down on my knees and thank God for every single thing that I have? I could have been somewhere in a gutter the way my life was going, *at twelve . . .* and it’s only by the grace of God that I survived.”

- Singer Mariah Carey, *Rolling Stone*, February 23, 2006, p. 79.

“I had a conversation with God, basically. I don’t know how to interpret this, but he said, ‘I’ve given you this beautiful gift and you’re throwing it away.’”

- Black Eyed Peas’ “Fergie” speaking about her road to recovery, *Blender*, March 2006, p. 86.

“I drew the devil on my shoulder because every time I make a decision he’s always there.”

- Rock artist Kid Rock explaining his self-portrait drawing, *Blender*, April 2006, p. 132.

“I believe we are put here for a reason, not a season. I was given a talent by somebody. I believe that talent was given to me by God. I was put here to be just what I am.”

- Veteran blues guitarist George “Buddy” Guy, *Rolling Stone*, February 23, 2006, p. 58.

“In any Bob Marley song, you hear lots of powerful quotes from the Torah.”

- Hasidic Jew and reggae singer Matisyahu (born Matthew Miller) explaining how Judaism and reggae go together, *Rolling Stone*, March 9, 2006, p. 27.

“I’m a big believer in Karma.”

- Pop singer Pink (born Alecia Moore) speaking about her favorite tattoo on her wrist that reads, “What goes around comes around”, *Blender*, April 2006, p. 60.

“This whole record is about losing faith. In your country. In your culture. In yourself. I need something that makes me feel more camaraderie with my fellow humans. And don’t give me Christianity—I need something real.”

- Musician Neko Case speaking about her new album, *Spin*, March 2006, p. 34.

“Lyrics these days are more a reflection of what is really going on.”

- Songwriter/producer Sean Garrett, USA Weekend, February 26, 2006.

[http://usaweekend.com/06\\_issues/060226/060226cover\\_lyrics.html](http://usaweekend.com/06_issues/060226/060226cover_lyrics.html)

## *Lyrical Expressions*

Who has to know the way she feels inside (inside)

Those thoughts I can't deny (deny), These sleeping dogs won't lie (won't lie)

And all I've tried to hide, It's eating me apart, Trace this line back

I'll keep you my dirty little secret (Dirty little secret)

Don't tell anyone or you'll be just another regret (Just another regret)

- **Dirty Little Secret** by the All American Rejects from the *Move Along* album. The song is currently #18 after 32 weeks (peaked at #9) on the Billboard Hot 100™ chart and #17 after 34 weeks on the Hot Digital Songs chart (peaked at #1), both dated March 18, 2006.

<http://www.plyrics.com/lyrics/allamericanrejects/dirtylittlesecret.html>

**Song video:** Check out the **Dirty Little Secret** song video which features many postcard secrets

[http://www.mtv.com/music/#/music/artist/all\\_american\\_rejects/videos.jhtml](http://www.mtv.com/music/#/music/artist/all_american_rejects/videos.jhtml)

**See also:** *USA Today* article about PostSecrets.com, the inspiration for the video

[http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2006-03-14-postsecrets\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2006-03-14-postsecrets_x.htm)

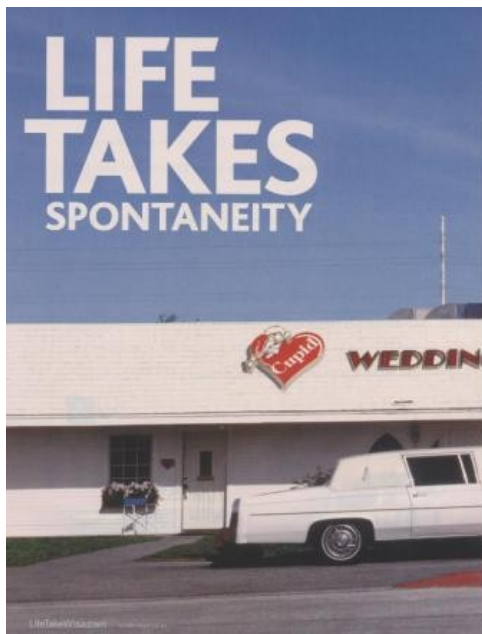
My life is brilliant, My love is pure,  
I saw an angel of that I'm sure, She smiled at me on the subway.  
She was with another man, but I won't lose no sleep on that, 'Cause I've got a plan.  
You're beautiful. You're beautiful, You're beautiful, it's true.  
I saw your face in a crowded place, And I don't know what to do, 'Cause I'll never be with you . . .  
You're beautiful. You're beautiful, You're beautiful, it's true.  
There must be an angel with a smile on her face,  
When she thought up that I should be with you.  
But it's time to face the truth, I will never be with you.

- **You're Beautiful** by James Blunt from the *Back To Bedlam* album. The song peaked at #1 after 18 weeks on the Billboard Hot 100™ and Hot Digital Songs charts, dated March 11, 2006.

<http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/jamesblunt/yourebeautiful.html>

**Song video:** Watch the video for **You're Beautiful**

[http://www.mtv.com/music/#/music/artist/blunt\\_james/videos.jhtml](http://www.mtv.com/music/#/music/artist/blunt_james/videos.jhtml)



## *Current Culture Image*

This Visa ad (one of a 2-page layout) appeared in the February 20, 2006 issue of *Time*, pp. 2-3. The ad shows a limo parked outside of “Cupid’s Wedding Chapel” with the tag line that reads, “Life takes spontaneity . . . Life takes Visa.” This ad is reflective of the easy-in, easy-out attitude toward marriage in today’s youth culture. It could be used to discuss issues related to marriage and divorce. Youth leaders could focus on the importance of being deliberate, and not spontaneous, toward the biblically defined institution of marriage.

Another 2-page ad in the series (not shown here) shows a boy dressed in winter clothing and sticking out his tongue toward what appears to be a frozen flag pole, with the tag line that reads, “Life takes curiosity . . . Life takes Visa.” This ad appeared in the March 6, 2006 issue of *Time* (inside front cover and p. 1) and the March 17, 2006 issue of *Entertainment Weekly* (pp. 28-29). This ad could be used to discuss choices and consequences as it relates to topics of sexuality, among others.

Check out the accompanying Visa website that highlights numerous video vignettes about what “Life takes”.

<http://lifetakesvisa.com/visa.aspx?>

## *Culture Links*

A select few websites get a repeat mention. Ypulse.com (last mentioned back in CPYU e-Update #65, Sep 2004) is worthy of such recognition given its consistent and comprehensive coverage of anything youth related (stories, studies, etc.). Sign up for the free daily e-mail newsletter.

<http://ypulse.com/>

The PostSecrets.com website describes itself as “an ongoing community art project where people mail in their secrets anonymously on one side of a homemade postcard.”

<http://postsecret.blogspot.com/> (discretion advised!)

**See also:** *USA Today* article about PostSecrets.com

[http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2006-03-14-postsecrets\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2006-03-14-postsecrets_x.htm)

