

I was talking with some younger people the other night. As we were busy solving all the problems of the world, I mentioned that what we really need is another '60s.

One young man challenged me on this. He took the position that in the '60s, we had real human issues that my generation could get passionate about where as today's issues don't have that. "You could make a good argument about why anyone should have to sit in the back of the bus, or why women should get the same pay for doing the same job. Our issues don't have that human element that is going to stir things up like that."

I'm not a very intellectual person and I'm guessing I was short about two sea breezes before my genius really kicked in, so I didn't really challenge the challenge, but it did get me thinking.

There are many areas of today's world that are problematic but I see four specific areas that could trigger another '60s. They are in no particular order as each area could certainly stand on its own.

Politics: Every election we hear of election reform, education priorities and anti-Washington sentiment, yet after every election we have the same problems: token election reform at best, no commitment to our children and education and everybody owned and operated by rich lobbyists (PACs) instead of 'Joe plumber' whom they talked so much about before. There is so much about politics that we can scream about and it amazes me how complacent the youth are that elections are won by people who are owned and operated by PACs with deep pockets that freely give us campaign media FULL of untruths about the opposition. Truth in advertising use to be sacred in our country and young people need to get pissed off that our elections ignore that.

Economy: We live in an instant gratification world and it's becoming more disheartening how we are moving more and more into a world divided between the haves and have-nots. This is the scariest scenario in that we are all at fault, so to get this cause going, we have to first admit we are wrong. Don't just blame the banks and wealthy – how many people signed loans for homes their income could not afford? And then we expect the government to bail us out? And then we complain because our taxes are too

high? There is a real issue here, but the problem is that there are few people who are willing to simply live within their means.

Science: There are many wonderful developments in the world of science, but like so many other things, there is a clear dark side to these developments that people better pay attention to. We have the capability to genetically alter genes that could lead to the elimination of many diseases and physical problems. That's a good thing. But we are also capable of genetically altering genes and creating superior humans. That's a really bad thing. Although it's not likely to happen here in the USA, you can bet some of these power-hungry countries with money can and will start abusing this science to their benefit. Somebody needs to stand up and start screaming before it's too late.

Religion: Since the beginning of time, religion has been the number one cause for war, and today is no different. Terrorists in the name of God are creating so much influence in today's landscape that it no longer affects us emotionally – and it NEEDS to. I'm not a theologian but I know enough to say that any religious teaching from any religious following will begin by saying 'God is love'. From this basic principal, religion breaks off into many other teachings which, unfortunately, creates all the wars in the name of 'God'. The '60s ended with the Jesus Movement, but young people today could certainly go a step further with a 'GOD is LOVE' movement that is inclusive of all religions that believe in God.

Fortunately for the '60s, we had Martin Luther King jr, Mother Theresa, Billy Graham, Gandhi and even John Lennon and the Beatles who were willing to peacefully stand up and speak for what is right. I have no doubt that there are many in todays youth that are capable of creating the same revolution for good. They just need to pick their fight and stand up!

Just A Thought