

## INCONTINENCE IN THE ME GENERATION HE DONUM

One of the characteristics of the so-called Me Generation, which flourished in the 1970s, is that it sought and expected instant gratification — or, to put it negatively, it abhorred continence or self-discipline. Its slogans were "Right is what I want", and "Enjoy now, pay later — or never".

A number of factors seem to have contributed to this attitude: (a) loss of respect for the previous generation, which was held responsible for countless errors and crimes; (b) an increase in affluence, which gave young people more pocket money ~~if~~ and allowed them to enjoy a protracted adolescence; (c) the popularity of psychoanalysis, with its obsession with the ego and neglect of <sup>social</sup> responsibility; (d) the greater sexual freedom made possible by new and more efficient contraceptive methods, as well as by the massive incorporation of women into the labor force; (e) the habit of buying on installments, which makes it unnecessary to save years in advance (Ossowski 1970 p. 17); (f) the permissive school favored by John Dewey;

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