

## “ A Nation of Victims? ”

We the people (all of whom are the makeup of this society) seem to go about our lives in "happy faced" denial as we *pretend* that each next tragedy didn't happen.

High School kids get gunned down by their peers; the administrators redecorate the interior of the building (where the events occurred), the community reopens the doors and the school holds a Pep Rally - yet the speakers at that hyped-up rededication made *no mention* of those who died! The message, *the values...* we seem to transmit to those children is "don't acknowledge losses, don't grieve the victims". (Weren't the survivors victims too?) No, no, "Get past it"... get on to shooting three-point hoops instead: the College Degree, a cash-cow Job, and your first BMW". They already know the priorities: team sports, a fast car, beer parties, dating, sex, and maybe a passing grade or two. Should we really be shocked by the questions, "What's in it for me?", and "Where's the money?". What's the difference between a 3D shoot-em-up video game and the attack system aboard and F-16 slinging missiles in the Far East? On average, life is made out to be cheap (and so is *such talk*).

As a people, we simply want *closure* on everything so badly that we turn ourselves into "emotional deserts" to do so. Even the word "closure" has become trendy and plastic (along with a number of others popularized by the *X-Generation*). Words like, "proactive". That one is so over-used, it's to the point of becoming just so much knee-jerk "blah-blah-blah". It's one that once meant *active involvement*. Those who over-use it are often quite adept at neatly (and quietly) sidestepping their responsibilities (active involvement) - as they return to the comfort zone of pre-approved, low APR, "creditcard" superficiality. Aren't we becoming like *automata* who are increasingly preprogrammed to "love like we've never been hurt", "dance like nobody's watching" - but who cry "bio-engineered" tears of *superficial sincerity* ?

The truth is, we have become a nation of victims (who have forgotten how to grieve).