

A Moving Generation

By Darren Gallagher

I remember when I was a robust little boy, I used to love cartoons, sneaking out of bed at 5 am on a Saturday morning to watch them. *Transformers, He-man, and The Centurions*, though the list is endless.

Apart from the male, utilitarian, hero Vs villain and action figure over merchandising qualities that they all share, they were all part of the 'Moral at the end' era of cartoons. The hero would take time at the end to explain, that although the villain was the bad guy, that doesn't mean that he shouldn't be saved when in danger or something like that.

Generation X is a term used in the social sciences, demographics and broadly in popular culture. It generally refers to persons born in the 1960s and 1970s, although the dates of birth defining the age demographic are debated. It has also been described as a generation consisting of those people whose 'teen years touched the 1980s', born after baby boomers.

Where have these kinds of cartoons gone?

I turned on the TV not too long ago and I was watching *'Poker Man'* or *'Pokie Mum'* or something. I think in Jamaica they call it *'Pokemon'*. Now, it may be because I'm older, but all I could see that was happening in this cartoon was that young children were catching and training animals to fight each other. Where in heck is the good old 'Moral' message there? How many of those kids are going to grow up thinking, *'Yeah, thinking about a career in Cockfighting'*

And before you start thinking how out of touch I am, let me be the first to acknowledge that I'm a red hot

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candidate to become an annoying old guy in a tweed jacket who sits around whinging about how 'it never used to be like that' - I am that guy. But you can bet your bottom dollar that there will be a He-Manesque moral tucked in there at the end of the rant. I could hide behind the 'Oh, it's just because I'm part of Generation X' but I won't - though, let's be honest, there is probably a little 'tweed jacket' in all of us.

Generation Y, sometimes referred to as Millennial Generation, is a term used in demographics to describe a particular generational cohort in Western societies comprising those born in the 1980s and 1990s.

It is easy to write things off as a Baby Boomer, Generation X or Y difference, but the reality is, Defence culture pushes that 'remain flexible' idea so much that these demographic labels tend not to stick.

Point of interest: Have you noticed that just how *'in touch'* you tend to stay in Defence? As your peers range from 17 to 55, so does the level of conversations. The maturity of one will balance out the immaturity of another and in most close knit working environments, everyone tends to find a bit of a level playing field. From a technological stand point, you stay up to date with computers and equipment. Plus families learn to move around (sometimes with ease), they learn not to horde possessions (a trait that often bogs people down) - Sometimes the problem is, more you are able to dig your heels in, the less accepting of change you become. Have you noticed just how much 'Stuff' you have accumulated this posting already? Hands up who has an old car body in their yard? - Ok, that was a loaded question that I was brave enough to ask as I have just had mine towed away.

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It's this level of freedom that Defence provides though, that allows me to partake in all levels of activity because the next adventure is only a posting away. So next time you're watching burly removalists treating your stuff badly, and you have to rent out your home that has great gardens (hoping against hope they will be cared for by the occupants) - do it with the knowledge that, unlike many other Australians, you aren't the one stuck in a rut. That, ladies and gents is what some of my friends jokingly call 'Generation D(efence)' and while I'm sure I can work a 'D Generation' gag in there somewhere, I'm working toward a deadline so you will have to forgive me.

'So come on Darren! Where's the moral to this cartoon?'

Well here's the thing, I just can't decide. I have out my book of token everyday cliché morals and I just can't pick one I like....

'You win some, you lose some'

'If you can't beat em, join em'

'Oh It's just Murphy's Law' (incidentally, I really dislike that one, give me Murphy Brown any day) or;

'You know what they say...' (to which most people don't)

So I will go with something else that's a bit newer, and might actually generate a smile or two (Because that's what I'm about).

'Life may not always be the party you expected, but while you are here you may as well get up and dance.'



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Defence Relocations and Housing Manager Sydney Central

- **Remember** - DRHM's are **Defence** employees located in all regions and are available to assist you and your family during your relocation and during your time in locality.

Defence welcomes all feedback regarding your relocation and housing experience. At anytime you can log your feedback or matters that require action via the national Housing and Relocations Database (HARD). Action items will be addressed by your local DRHM within three working days. This forum is available to personnel with Defence Restricted Network access and can be found at:

Forum: <http://csi-sc.ear.defence.gov.au/Housing/housingcomplaints.asp>

(Note this website requires a Defence computer)

On behalf of the DRHM network we hope your next relocation meets your expectations and that your transition into your new posting location is a positive experience.



Relocations

DID YOU KNOW - Defence Support Group (DSG) has a dedicated Defence Relocations & Housing Manager based in each DSG Regional Office. At the local level the Defence Relocations & Housing Manager is the primary Defence representative with Defence Housing Authority (DHA) and Toll Transitions. Defence Relocations & Housing Managers are employed to assist military members and their families and to liaise with DHA, Toll Transitions and the Defence Community Organisations in each region to make relocations easier for members and their families.

The ultimate aim of the Defence Relocations & Housing Manager is to ensure that members and their families experience high-quality customer service as they undergo a removal or change to their housing situation. The Defence Relocations & Housing Manager also contributes by ensuring Defence receives the appropriate standard of relocation services by being aware of what is expected of our contractors and what the members and their families are experiencing.

The Defence Relocations & Housing Manager network is very proactive and actively seeks feedback from members on the full relocation service. This feedback is used to provide Defence management and service providers with information on how members feel about their removal experience and more importantly to make their removal and future removals as stress free as possible. A Defence Relocations & Housing Manager may visit a customer during an uplift or delivery to discuss and assess the standard of service being provided. In some instances they will contact members after a relocation to discuss whether the relocation met their expectations. In the past, these discussions have revealed region-wide trends or issues that have been addressed with contractors.

For further information visit our website:
<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/dsg/>