

Stop Screaming YOLO

“Hey y’all! Let’s all get turnt-up this weekend!” shout the youth in the hallways of Carroll High School on a Friday afternoon. The students leave the building and expect to have one hell of a weekend, for the fourth time in a row. Mind you all, they also expect to have zero consequences, minus the head splitting hangover with a side of puke.

After a long week of school, teenagers simply just want to rely on alcohol to have a good time and relax a bit. This thought process has been around for a while. In fact, my father and his buddies all recall the “good-old days” where binge drinking was no big deal and blacking out was something of a regular occurrence.

However, underage drinking now has a larger label that has spread across the country. People know it as, “Y.O.L.O.” The famous acronym created in about 2009 stands for, “You Only Live Once.” This popular word phrase has not only been added into vocabulary for this generation, but it embodies the mentality of the modern youth in America.

Now, I’m not one of those people frustrated with punks in high school because I’m a responsible adult with children at home to provide for. I’m actually a high school student just trying to enjoy the time she has left in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Although Fort Wayne isn’t like Chicago, LA or even Indianapolis, it still has SOME things to offer. Things such as good restaurants, malls, movie theatres etc. are all here to enjoy. But only being 18 and limited to what you can and cannot do, things can get pretty boring. However, I’m not the girl that gets so bored who is willing to get drunk, take her shirt off, and

scream, “YOLO!!” And then be continually called, “Drunk Amanda” even when she’s sober (IDS).

I want to go out and have some fun, but I’m not about THAT kind of scene. When I try to decide what I want to do, there’s either drinking...or drinking. We’ve all done the movie thing in middle school, plus who wants to pay ten bucks for a movie seat? We are too poor to afford decent restaurants and don’t even bother mentioning the mall. There’s not another alternative. It just depends what group you want to drink with. But that’s not all.

There are the parents who think it is okay for teens to drink too. The other week, cops got a call complaining about noise level, and the police went to check it out. Turns out, there was a party going on, but the parents reassured them that the party was under control. The parents had taken the keys of the underage drinkers. Police decided that wasn’t good enough and took it into their own hands (WANE). When parents allow their children to have a party and take away their keys as a precaution, it sets the tone that this type of behavior is okay.

What is it about our lives that make us want to escape reality so badly? You look around and you can see that everyone is doing it even if they don’t like it. They hide their problems and pretend its not who they are even though they know you know, and they avoid eye contact with you at all costs. Is their life really that bad that they do things they aren’t proud of?

I think it’s time for teenagers to step up and claim their responsibilities; finish high school, maybe go to college, and get a job. Stop screaming YOLO, save drinking and making a fool of yourself for your twenties, when drinking IS legal.