

On January 20th, 2009, students across the United States watched history take place. They listened as their new President addressed the nation, inspiring a call to action, a call for change. As these young people drank in the excitement of an inauguration and tried to grasp the magnitude of what they were witnessing, they were inexplicably drawn to the hopeful ambiance of the day. Readily, they embraced the energy and soaked in the motivating words of their leader. And regardless of whether or not Mr. Obama delivers, the irrepressible spirit within young Americans was stirred, activating one of the most dynamic tools this nation has: the power of youth.

The power of youth is not a force frequently recognized by adults. They tend to assume it a potential capacity, a vitality in the making. What they fail to realize is the potency of a fresh, unbroken mindset and untainted enthusiasm. All too often these grown-ups identify the feeling of invincibility in adolescents as dangerous and uncouth, missing the raw capability it holds. Unlike adults, youth have not been dulled by slowly ingrained conformity nor have they tasted the bitterness of countless failures; instead, they are eager and spirited individuals, capable of far more than anyone expects of them. They are raring for a chance to prove themselves, thirsty for an opportunity to make a difference. Discovering their gifts and talents, they are anxious to test them out; restless of book and classroom learning, they desire to use their knowledge.

Numerous organizations have perceived the power of youth and harnessed it to bring about global awareness or domestic improvement. Many students have created projects using their skills to promote change, help others, or elicit fresh ideas. Simply the sheer volume of youth-based groups and clubs is proof of the effectiveness of young puissance. Given the right guidance and the proper means, young people are nearly unstoppable. In the words of Mahatma Ghandi, "A small body of determined spirits, fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission, can alter the course of history." If every adolescent was armed with encouragement and a cause, what could this generation accomplish? For

when the power of youth is unleashed, it is a dauntless intensity bound to shake established mediocrity and revolutionize the world as it is known.

On a day certain to be recorded in history books for years to come, President Obama summoned citizens across the nation to become the change that they wish to see; "It is ultimately the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies", he declared. Within the students of today, there is an unmistakable answer to his challenge, a burning aspiration to achieve an idealized future of the United States. Within these young people, there is a power so magnificent and relentless that it will create the destination of tomorrow.