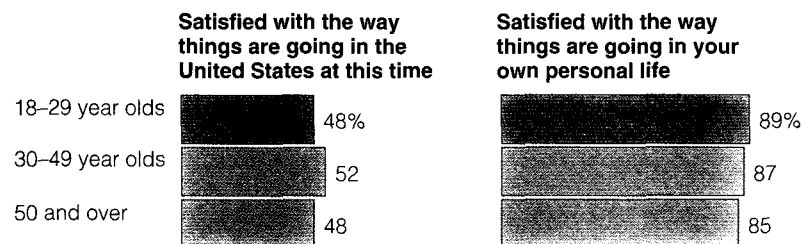


THE BELIEFS OF GENERATION X

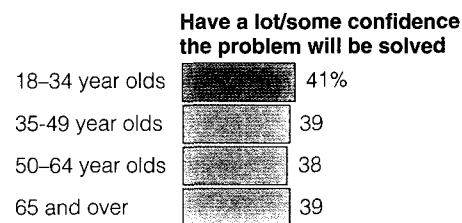
The impression of Gen Xers as sullen slackers isn't borne out by survey data. Young people today are just about as satisfied with the way things are going as older Americans. They share their elders' views about the federal government's performance and about obligations of citizenship such as volunteering or reporting a crime. Because they are just starting out at work and generally at the low end of the pay scale, they are, unsurprisingly, a little less satisfied with the work they are doing than those who are older.

Question: **In general, are you...**



Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, August 22-25, 1997 (left) and March 10, 1996 (right).

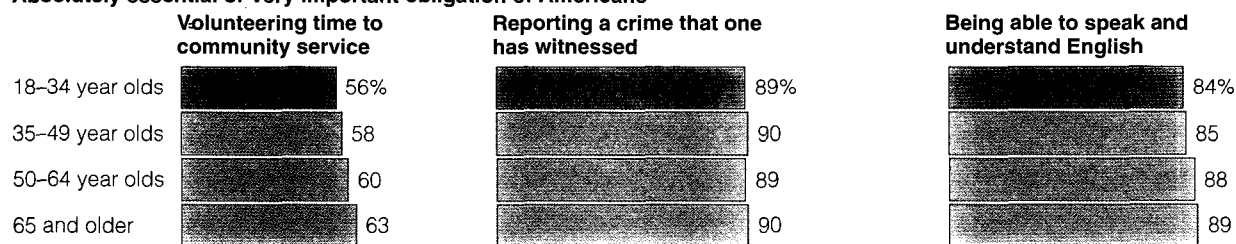
Question: **When the government in Washington decides to solve a problem...**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for the Post-Modernity Project of the University of Virginia, January-April, 1996.

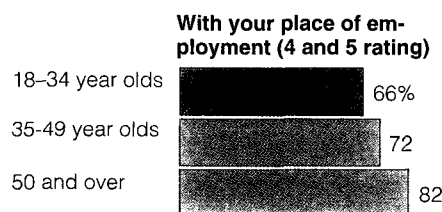
Question: **We all know that Americans have certain rights, such as the right to free speech and to a free public education. Now I'd like you to consider what obligations or responsibilities, if any, we have towards others. For each of the following, do you feel...?**

Absolutely essential or very important obligation of Americans

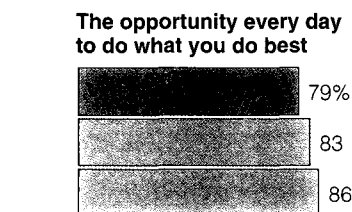


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for the Post-Modernity Project of the University of Virginia, January-April, 1996.

Question: **On a 5-point scale, where 1 is extremely dissatisfied and 5 is extremely satisfied, how satisfied are you...?**

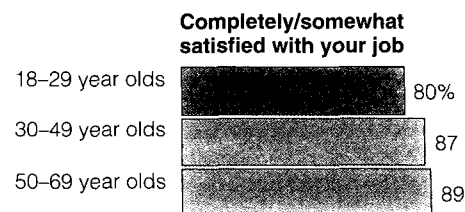


Question: **At work, do you have...?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Inc., January 1997.

Question: **How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your job? Would you say you are...?**

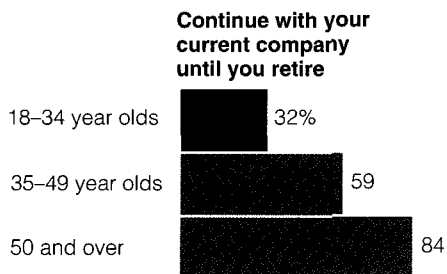


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, August 22-25, 1997.

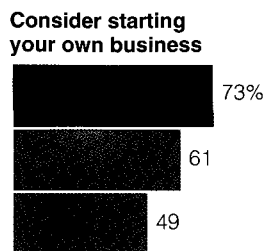
Gen X on Work and Politics

While Gen X members may be a little less satisfied with their current jobs than other age groups, they foresee changes ahead. Far from shunning work, they are enthusiastic about entrepreneurial pursuits. Over 60 percent say they could become rich. A near majority of Gen Xers, 46 percent, call themselves political independents. As is common with the young, they are slightly more likely to say they are liberal than conservative, and progressive than traditional.

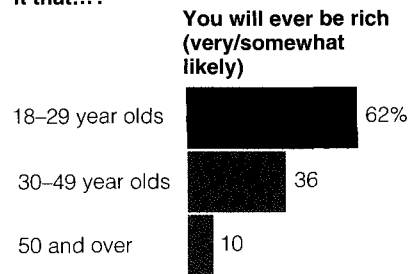
Question: **Do you believe you will...?**



Question: **Would you ever...?**



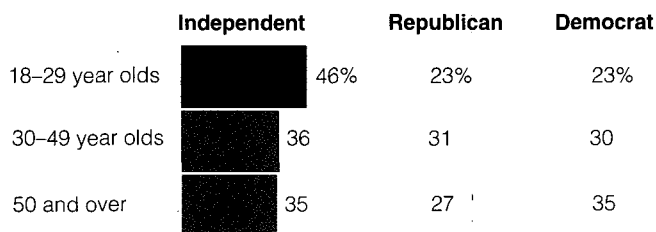
Question: **Looking ahead, how likely is it that...?**



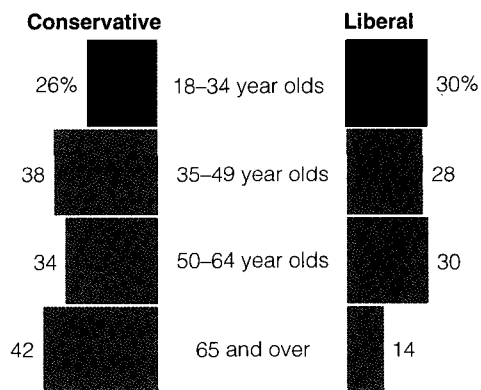
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Inc., January 1997.

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, May 1990.

Question: **In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself...?**

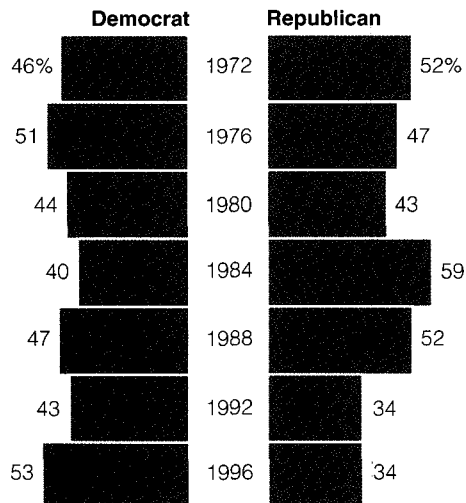


Question: **Which one of the following best describes your overall political beliefs?**



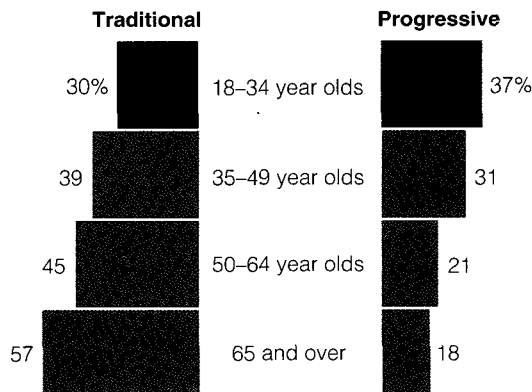
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, October 3-5, 1997.

18-29 year olds vote for President



Source: Postelection and national exit polls for the years shown.

Question: **If you were to describe yourself to someone you had never met, how would you describe yourself...?**

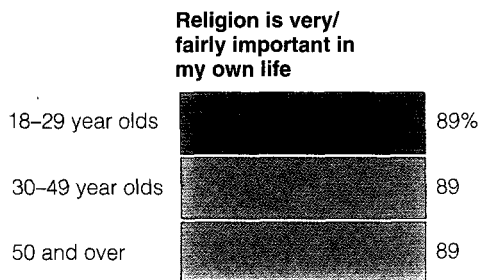


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for the Post-Modernity Project of the University of Virginia, January-April 1996.

Gen X on the Social Side

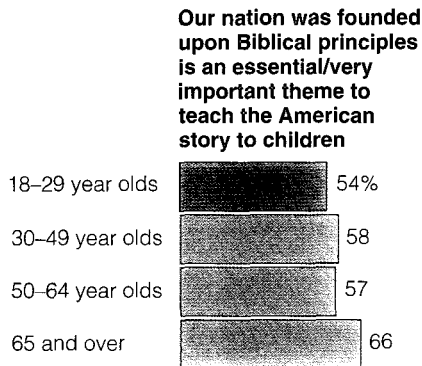
Like their elders, Gen X members say religion is important in their lives. They are less likely to go to church each week, a practice that often comes with age and children. In some important ways this generation is distinct. They are much more likely than other age groups to have had a mother who worked full-time outside the home. Nearly three in ten in the group are products of divorce, a fact that may be influencing their views about its easy availability. Regular newspaper readership is low among Gen Xers, and computer use is higher.

Question: **How important would you say religion is in your own life...?**



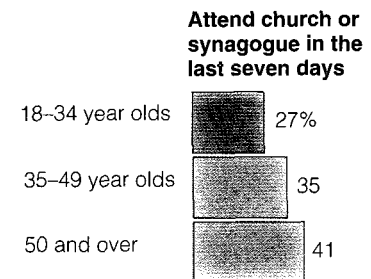
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, August 12-13, 1997.

Question: **In teaching the American story to children, how important is the following theme...?**



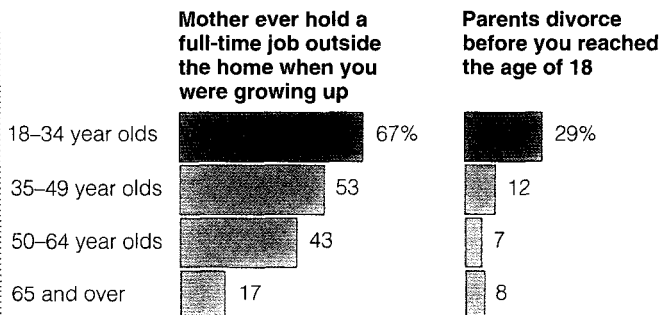
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for the Post-Modernity Project of the University of Virginia, January-April, 1996.

Question: **Did you, yourself...?**



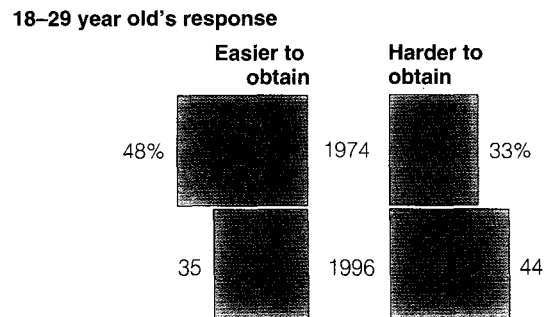
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, August 12-13, 1997.

Question: **Did your...?**



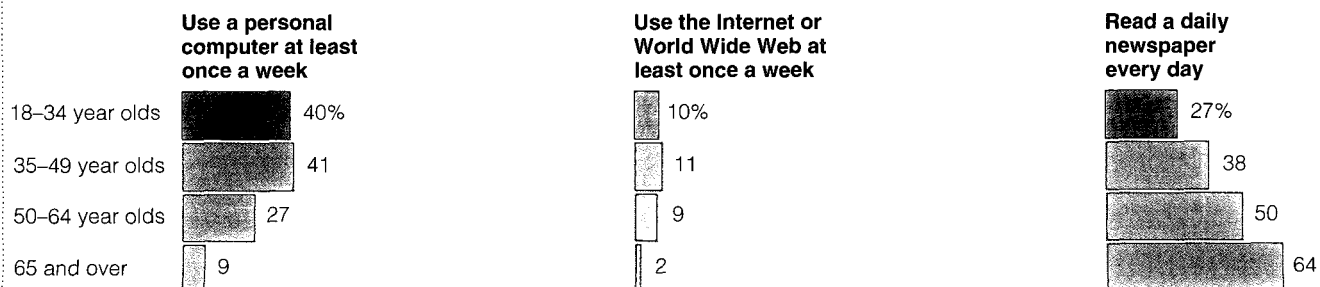
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for the Post-Modernity Project of the University of Virginia, January-April, 1996.

Question: **Should divorce in this country be...?**



Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, latest that of 1996.

Question: **Do you...?**

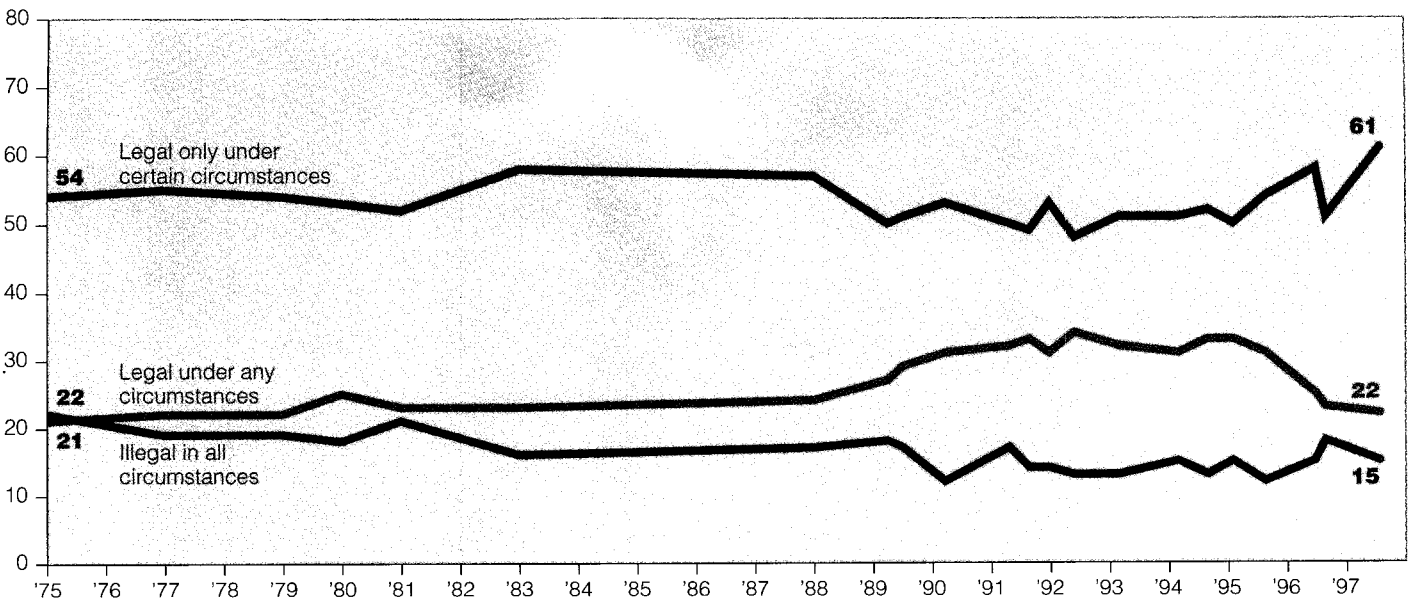


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for the Post-Modernity Project of the University of Virginia, January-April, 1996.

ABORTION: 25 YEARS AFTER ROE V. WADE

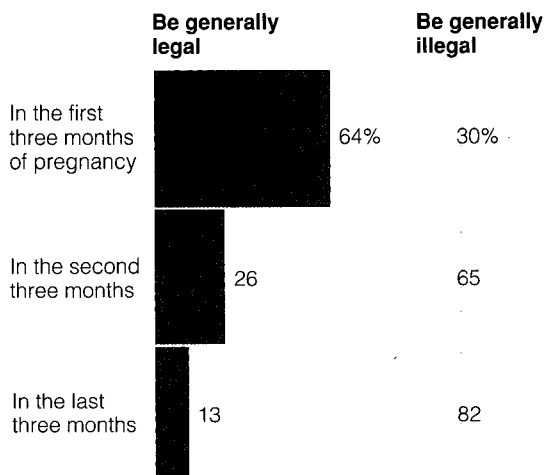
Despite 25 years of contentious debate, general public opinion on abortion is about where it was when *Roe v. Wade* was decided in January 1973. Since polls were first taken on abortion, majorities or near majorities have consistently said that abortion should be legal only in certain circumstances. Americans favor laws providing for waiting periods, parental consent, spousal notification, and information about alternatives before the procedure is undertaken.

Question: **Do you think abortion should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?**



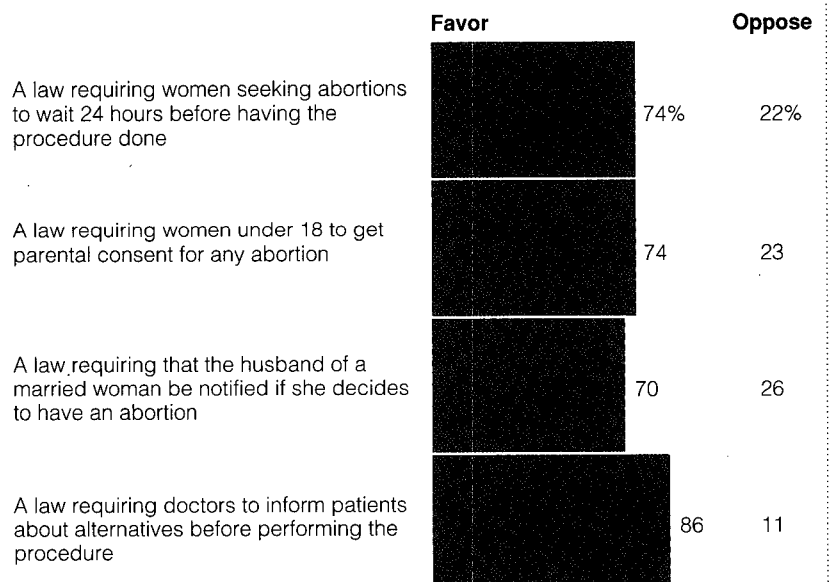
Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization for CNN/USA Today, latest that of August 1997.

Question: **Thinking more generally, do you think abortion should...?**

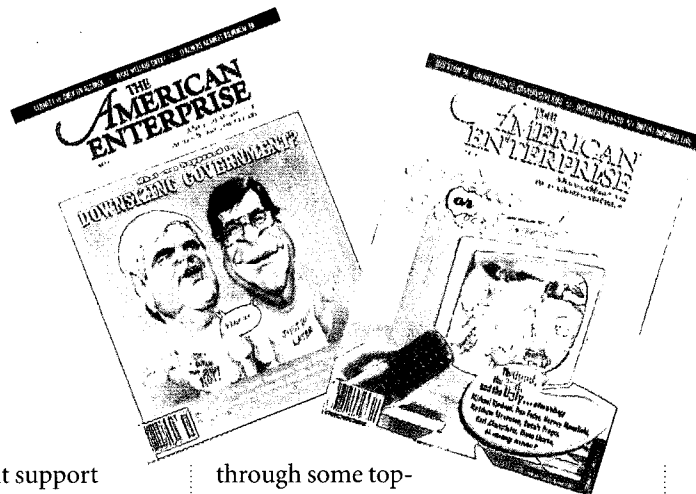


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for CNN/USA Today, August 1996.

Question: **Do you favor or oppose...?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for CNN/USA Today, July 1996.



Ronald Bailey (ENTERPRISING, May/June) says he saw a "true free-market success story" when he visited the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). But while gross economic activity numbers are climbing in the CNMI, these apparent indicators of "success" have come at a terrible cost to U.S. citizens on the islands and on the mainland.

CNMI's economy has been supported handsomely by U.S. taxpayers who have invested \$1 billion in the islands over the last 20 years. CNMI residents pay no U.S. income taxes. The islands' local immigration policy, meanwhile, has allowed a flood of nearly indentured foreign workers, helping to sextuple the population in the last 27 years, jostling local citizens out of jobs and increasing criminal activity. As a result, the local infrastructure (streets, electric power, water, and sanitation) has been severely challenged.

Success in the CNMI economy has been allocated to the few, not the many, and there is a remarkable flow of funds (remittances and profits) from the CNMI to off-island interests. A sensible set of immigration, minimum-wage, and law enforcement policies, such as those suggested by President Clinton, is long overdue.

Allen P. Stayman
Director, Office of Insular Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

I was pleased to see Phil Langdon's fair-minded review of my book *The Reluctant Metropolis* ("California Schemin," Nov./Dec.). But he criticizes me for being descriptive about metropolitan Los Angeles's current woes, rather than prescriptive about how to solve them. He especially points to my criticism of Propo-

sition 13 and my apparent support for "some institutional arrangement" to govern the region more effectively.

I hope nobody thought from Langdon's review that I had called for a repeal of Prop. 13. My criticism of this initiative is based not on the reduction in overall tax revenue it created—a reduction that has actually led to constructive change—but rather to its unfortunate side effects.

By making the property tax less important to Californian municipalities, Prop. 13 inadvertently made the sales tax more important, thus touching off the "retailing wars" among neighboring cities I describe in my book. And by awarding control over allocation of property tax to the state government, Prop. 13 inadvertently shifted a lot of political power away from localities to Sacramento, where it remains stuck to this day.

These problems can and should be solved by requiring sales-tax sharing among local jurisdictions, and by returning the power to allocate property taxes to local officials. I have publicly said so over the past decade, but nothing has happened because no one seems to care, except "inside-the-beltway" lobbyists in Sacramento who are wedded to the status quo.

As a trained urban planner, I believe that by somehow rearranging political power and political institutions a metropolis like Los Angeles could overcome its incapacity to govern itself effectively. But such changes are unlikely so long as individual citizens lack the political will to undertake them. This attitude is one reason why L.A., like so many other American cities, remains such a "reluctant" metropolis.

Constructive change will come not

through some top-down rearrangement of governmental deck chairs, but as the result of more thoughtful and responsible citizenship on the part of the voters. The most powerful agent of change is an active and concerned citizenry armed with useful information about how politics and economics in their communities really work. Rather than presume to know "the answer," I set out to provide this information to citizens of Southern California—indeed, of all metropolises—in an understandable way.

"Draw your own conclusions," Langdon laments. Yes, please do. That's precisely the point.

William Fulton
Ventura, California

Suzy Ryan's article about taking a firm moral stand on abortion was fantastic (IN REAL LIFE, Nov./Dec.). The fact that a five-year-old boy knows that abortion is wrong is proof enough, but the lack of moral courage in our society is pervasive. I have to admit that I also had a period when I lacked moral courage on abortion. At the Fairfax Fair a couple of years back I signed a pro-choice petition but kept thinking to myself that I really didn't believe that. Pro-choice is no choice. Death is not an option. Adoption should be the option. The lack of respect for human life is also pervasive in our society. Witness babies being thrown into dumpsters and the high abortion rate.

Mary DeVito
Sterling, Virginia

I second Karl Zinsmeister's call for true conservative leadership (BIRD'S EYE, Nov./Dec.). It has been too long since we have seen principled politicians who