

THE TIMES

The Times (London) **It's a High Oh Silver Lining**

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By: Michele Kirsch

With the wisdom of hindsight, we can now see it was overly optimistic to think that George Bush's New Freedom Commission programme, called TeenScreen, was a federal initiative to subsidise kids' cinema tickets and make a dent in the popcorn mountain. TeenScreen, we now know, is either a caring sharing suicide-prevention diagnostic screening tool to assess the mental health of all US high school kids, or an insidious drug company-fuelled plan to label every hormonally charged, misunderstood misfit with a disorder and ply them with prescription mood-altering drugs.

One critic calls it "a nefarious effort to recruit our children into the quagmire of biological psychiatry". While that might be partially correct, if a tad cynical, it seems to us that US high school kids have never needed much persuasion to enter quagmires of biological psychiatry through either prescription drugs nicked from parents' medicine cabinets, or by buying recreational drugs from those suffering from DDD: Drug Dealer Disorder. Still, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services has granted nearly \$10 million (£ 5.3 million) for TeenScreen, presumably to help teens stop abusing the wrong kind of drugs and start more beneficial dependencies on the right kind of drugs. Might have been better to send them to the movies.