

A decade in the making

By: Rachael David
Feature Reporter

Each decade has some distinctive characteristic or event that people use to define the decade; for the 1940s it's WWII, and for the 70s it's the rapid change in what were considered to be the social "norms." Each decade is unique.

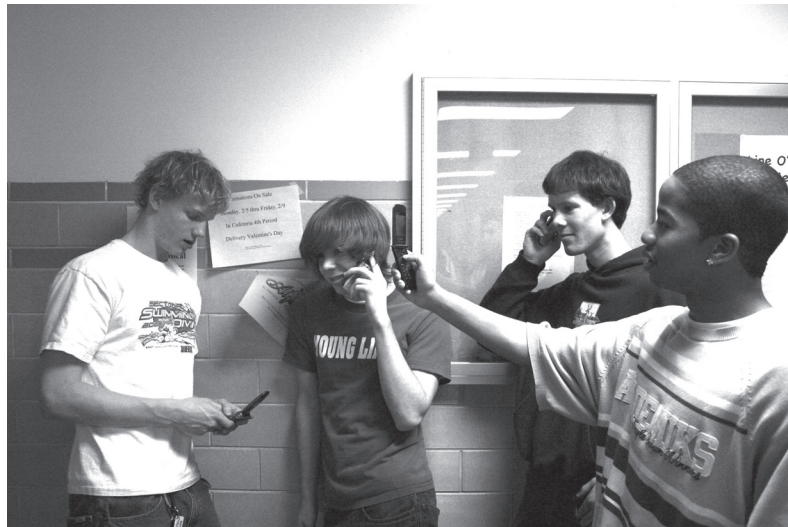
Our current decade, the first decade of the new millennium, has already seen a lot of wear and tear, with Y2K, the election fiasco of 2000, 9/11, the War on Terrorism; we still have three years to go before the end of this decade.

What makes our decade so unique, however, is not the tragedy we have faced because generations before us have faced similar circumstances. What no generation previous to ours has had is the world at their finger tips.

We are the first generation that is able to experience the new and expanding world of technology so early in life. The generations before us didn't have the benefit of hundreds of online encyclopedias for when a school assignment is due, or the ability to have entire conversations with friends in England so easily.

For those of us in this decade, the world is much smaller than it was before. Almost anything is now available to us with the click of a button. Not only do we have the internet, we have cell phones, MP3 players, laptop computers, and much more. This is uniquely ours to experience first as teenagers.

Ten years ago, almost no one had a cell phone because they were so big



Cory Randolph, Andy Gibb Clark, Curtis Meier and John Allan display some of the technology features today's teenagers have come to love. (Photo by: Yada)

and bulky. What was the point? These days, almost no one is without them and people have begun to rely on them more and more. The use of cell phones can now help save lives and keep people from harm, which is an impressive feat for something so small.

The first computer was so big that it filled an entire room, probably more than one. These days you see people slinging computer bags over their shoulders, and taking their computer with them all the time. Go to Starbucks

and you'll see at least three people sipping coffee while working on the computer on their lap. Having to stay at home to access the internet is a thing of the past with laptop computers and the ever improving wireless internet.

When portable CD players first became available, everyone thought they were so impressive and everyone wanted one. The onset of the MP3 player has dimmed the want for portable CD players though. While the portable CD player can only play one CD at a time and can't fit in

a pocket, the new MP3 player can store thousands of songs at a time, as well as photos and videos.

Let's face it, our parents are right, sort of. We do have it easier than they did when they were kids (at least in some areas), seeing as they had to do it the hard way. We have so much technology to help us out it's ridiculous, and more is becoming available seemingly every day.

With all this technology comes many new and exciting opportunities. Want to stay home and still go to college? That's easy; get your degree online. Want to work from home? Also a synch, just get a fax machine and internet connection and you're almost done.

People are always saying that we kids (excuse me, *teenagers*) are the future of our country, of our world even. With all of this cool, new technology to back us up now, that shouldn't be too much of a problem. We just need to learn how to use it and take advantage of the opportunities it gives us. It shouldn't be too hard. I mean, come on, aren't we always having to show our parents and/or grandparents how to use the computer? We're already half way there. Our decade will be known as one of many technological advances and numerous progressions in the future.

Scarves, sweaters and snow

By: Jessica Welsh
Feature Reporter

What could be more exciting about a new season other than NEW CLOTHES? It's that time of year again, when temperatures are plummeting and we lucky kids get to wake up early to scrape the ice off our windshields. Since global warming hasn't completely taken over yet, it's time to dress warm. This entails bundling up on cold nights. If not anything else, fashion can be the one

positive thing about the unruly weather. Here are some winter fashion Do's and Don'ts.

DO: Stay warm. Try putting a hooded vest over a striped sweater. Also, keep the snow off your feet by wearing a pair of warm boots. Scarves are also a nice touch to any outfit, and keep you warm too! As far as outerwear goes, cardigans are very popular for girls. To the many guys who are out of their minds and opt not

to wear a coat, coats are not bad looking. You are not fooling anyone: we know you're cold! Just put on a coat!

DON'T: I do believe the abundance of people wearing flip-flops may be a little confused, seeing how it is about 10 degrees outside. Trade in your sandals for something a little warmer, like, oh, say, actual shoes! Also, the amount of girls wearing tank tops is also a little baffling. Not only is it probably unhealthy

of sorts to be wearing barely anything in this weather, but it just looks tacky.

Stay warm by following the tips previously mentioned, and maybe even keep up with the styles too!

DISCLAIMER: The opinions above do not reflect anyone's particular opinions other than the current trends. Please resist from forming an angry mob of teens dead set on wearing flip-flops 365 days a year. Thank you.