

INSIDE: L.A.'S BEST & BIGGEST ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

L.A. WEEKLY FREE

Movies, Music, Art, Theater, Airwaves

VERIFIED

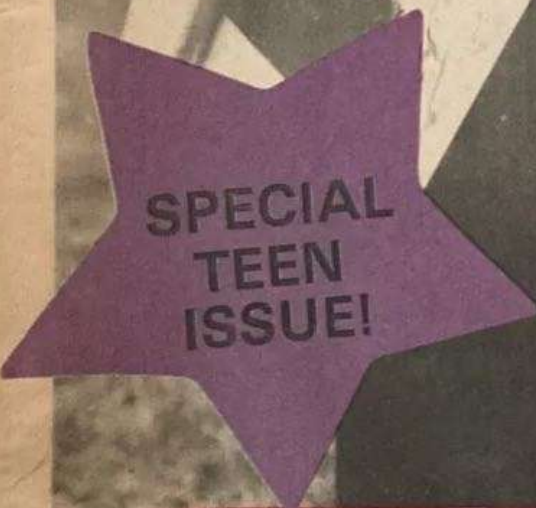
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*Byrne
for President!*



*Diz
Remembers!*



**SPECIAL
TEEN
ISSUE!**

BACK TO COOL!

... WHY THAT MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD



Howard Rosenberg

The freedom to be young: attitude and campus fashion.

by Robert Lloyd

Youth is wasted on the young when the young won't be young. When I was in my late teenhood — roughly the age of this kid who calls himself Shredder, and who I deign to talk to even if he is a precocious little wise-ass who comes in and messes up my desk even worse than it usually is — youth was in a bad way. What it meant to be young in the early '70s was to be *more serious* than everybody over the age of, say, 24, who obviously weren't serious enough or else, hey, there'd have been no Vietnam, right? It was not cool to be a kid, to act like a kid, to look like a kid. They grew old men and women in my high school, bearded sages and overripe earth mothers, and sensitive, wilting types for whom the world was just too, oh gosh, cruel and harsh. They were still kids, of course, as much as they tried by dress (styleless, formless, utilitarian) and deed (rapping, marching, having transcendent mystical experiences) to deny it — many of their most high-minded pursuits can in fact be attributed to the same old hormonal and peer-im-

pressing influences that gave us panty raids and the senior prom. They thought about God and the universe, and they tried to have visions, and the boys told the girls about their revelations, and the girls told the boys about their revelations, and then they'd go off together and protest the dress code or just find some nice spot to worry. Nobody danced very well, if they danced at all, and Lord knows, we all dressed atrociously.

Today's teens may be, as my junior colleague attests, shallow and superficial, but that may not be entirely a bad thing. My generation could've used a little of that — they might not have been so boring, so willing to prematurely surrender the one thing they'd never get again: the space to be a kid. They might not have had to spend their young adulthood, their twenties, in unseemly pursuit of what had been abandoned when it should have been embraced. A good part of a generation can't get over their childhood because they never had it to get over. Today's teenagers at least seem to be aware of their teenhood, their special status, and to participate in it, make the most of it. They'll have had that moment; they'll be able to move on. It may look bad now, but in the long run, you never know, it might work out for the best. ■

WHAT'S TEENAGE AND WHAT'S NOT

Compiled by the Group Representing
Oldster Obliteration and Value in Youth
(G.R.O.O.V.Y.)

Edited by Shredder

'TIS

Skateboarding
Surfing
Mad magazine
Thrasher
Flipside
Bazooka bubblegum
Root beer
Car sex
Durable, destructible VW bugs
Olde English Malt Liquor
Dodger Dogs
Fast Times at Ridgemont High
Steven Spielberg
Iron Butterfly
Devo on video
Marilyn Chambers
John DeLorean
I Love Lucy
Deodorant commercials
Monopoly board game
Loth Partridge
Sneaking into the Greek Theater
Ripping off the government
The Dickies
The Monkees
Disneyland
Joan Rivers
22 dead in Joust video game
Hollywood
Loud old wines
Motorcycle gangs
Pink Panther
Pop Tarts
Madonna
Tritia Toyota
Jimmy and Kristy McNichol
James Dean
Sean Penn
Heckle and Jeckle
Lewis Carroll
Fishnet stockings
Telephones
Rumbles
Bowling shirts
Break dancing
Converse hightops
Peanut butter and jelly
Morticians
Abbie Hoffman
James Brown
The Harmonicats
Passing notes in class
Angela Davis
Computer dating
Edge of Night
Afros
MeisterBräu
Vivarin
Public urination
Mighty Mouse
Henry Rollins
Cramps (the band)
Oral sex
Club magazine
Clint Eastwood
Post Raisin Bran

'TAIN'T

RTD buses
Yachting
Los Angeles Times
Better Homes and Gardens
Rolling Stone
Trident
Lipton iced tea
Jacuzzi sex
Dainty \$35,000 BMWs
Art school
Official Olympic nachos
On Golden Pond
Franco Zeffirelli
Three O'Clock
Duran Duran videos
Nancy Reagan
Lee Iacocca
"I Love New York"
Aspirin commercials
Group Therapy board game
Ruben Cincade
Sneaking into the County Museum of Art
Ripping off car stereos
Emerson, Lake and Palmer
Paul McCartney and Wings
Pasadena
Melody Rogers
22 dead at McDonald's
Westwood
Delicious rapists
Motorcycle accidents
Lassie
Chicken pate on biscuits
Dionne Warwick
Ethel Merman
Captain and Tennille
Scott Baio
Jane Fonda
Starsky and Hutch
Norman Mailer
Leggs panty hose
Electric toothbrushes
World wars
Vertebral disease
The Polka
Birkenstock sandals
Moving to Fresno
Beauticians
Henry Kissinger
Prince
Spyro Gyra
Passing out in class
Geraldine Ferraro
Club Lingerie
Ryan's Hope
Supercuts
Heroin
B-complex
Public service announcements
Pavarotti
Joe Strummer
Cramps (the feeling)
Oral Roberts
The 700 Club
Fred MacMurray
Post-nasal drip