

Today's teens' pick of decades? '60s

In music, fashion, politics, those 10 years had it going on

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Some people say history repeats itself. Take the 1960s. Look around any high school campus today and you'll see signs that the '60s are back: the fashion, the music, the green movement and — to a certain extent — teens' consciousness of the war in Iraq.

So what is it about the '60s that fascinates teens today?

"It was about being unique," said Dallas Green, a high school sophomore. "Everyone was feeling the freedom of breaking free from stereotypes of society for the first time."

"Most people think that just means hippies and drugs," she continued, "but it could mean anything, as long as you were being who you wanted to be."

So, what are the similarities between the two eras? Let's start with clothes.

Embroidered jeans, rugby shirts and Converse are back with a vengeance.

Music, too, is reappearing. The Who, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd and The

Rolling Stones can be heard on the radio every day. While not the most popular genre, '60s rock definitely has a presence in the teen soundtrack of today.

Bob Dylan



"The draft was a real wakeup call (for teens of the '60s); it involved brothers, sisters, friends and husbands. It had a much more profound personal effect."

— Bonnie Baker, high school English teacher

"Well, the music of the era definitely continues to have a big effect, as a lot of people continue to listen to it," said David Hodson, a student at the University of California at Berkeley. "It's not going away."

Then there are The Beatles. The group's songs are still going strong after more than 40 years. To get a handle on this phenomenon, ask your parents. Beatles' songs are still everywhere.

And the war? You've seen it on the news. The war in Iraq is highly controversial, with two very opposite viewpoints on what should be done. Similar to Vietnam, there are people who want to pull out, and there are those who want to fight it until the end.

But what do teens have to do with this? According to

Bonnie Baker, a high school

English teacher, not very much.

"I see very little political action by teenagers," she said. "It's just not personal for them, because they aren't affected by it. The draft was a real wakeup call; it involved brothers, sisters, friends and husbands. It had a much more profound personal effect."

"The '60s were a very unique time in that we all believed we were in it together," she said. "I remember going to a concert when I was younger. I was so overwhelmed by the feeling of camaraderie. It was a lot of fun."

However, we can't say teens today are not involved in the world around them.

"I'm encouraged to see students actively involved in the community," Baker said. "You see them working at hospitals for community service or convalescent homes. It's a very neat thing."

Teens also are becoming increasingly interested in global issues. The

idea of "save our planet" has endured. With more concern about our effect on the environment, teens are seeing the need to be a part of the environmental movement.

"I believe that the environmental concerns that appeared in the '60s and through the '70s are coming back," said Kevin Suos, a college freshman, "and they will play a big role in our society."

— Tyler Robertson is a high school sophomore.



Martin Luther King



Ringo Starr