

A Frame of Reference

Just in case you weren't feeling too old today, this will certainly change things.

Each year the staff at Beloit College in Wisconsin puts together a list to try to give the faculty a sense of the mindset of that years incoming freshmen. Here is this year's list:

The people who are starting college this fall across the nation were born in **1984**.

They have no meaningful recollection of the Reagan Era and probably didn't know he had ever been shot.

Black Monday 1987 is as significant to them as the Great Depression.

They were 9 when the Soviet Union broke apart and do not remember the Cold War

They have never feared a nuclear war.

Tinamen Square means nothing to them.

Their lifetime has always included AIDS.

Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic.

Atari predates them, as do vinyl albums. The expression "you sound like a broken record" means nothing to them.

They have never owned a record player. They have likely never played Pac Man and have never heard of the Pong video game.

They may have never heard of an 8 track. The Compact Disc was introduced 2 years AFTER they were born

They have always had an answering machine.

They can even imagine a that "getting the long telephone cord" for your wall hung phone was both a huge technological leap and increase in social status.

Most have never seen a TV set with only 3 channels, nor have they seen a black-and-white TV.

They have always had cable.

They can't grasp that movies were only played on TV one time a week on "Saturday Night at the Movies."

There has always been VCRs, but they have no idea what BETA is.

They cannot fathom not having a remote control.

Roller-skating has always meant inline for them.

Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show.

They have no idea when or why Jordache jeans were cool.

Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave.

They have never seen Larry Bird play.

The Vietnam War is as ancient history to them as WWI, WWII and the Civil War.

They don't know who Mork was or where he was from.

They never heard: "Where's the beef?" "I'd walked a mile for a Camel", or "de plane, de plane."

They do not care who shot J.R. and have no idea who J.R. is.

The Titanic was found? They thought we always knew where it was.

Kansas, Chicago, Boston, America, and Alabama are places, not groups.

McDonalds never came in Styrofoam containers.

There has always been MTV. They don't have a clue about how to use a typewriter.

They would never survive in the era where there was only a "Family car."

Do you feel old yet?

I think I'll go have a nap now.