

# Future nostalgia



by Laura Goldman

■ **What will today's teens reminisce about in sixty years? Take this quiz, and find out!**

Who was Ramon Novarro?

Since stars and trends fade quickly, chances are you don't know that Novarro was a popular Latin lover in silent movies of the 1920's. Could this mean that our grandchildren will someday respond with a blank stare when asked, Who was John Travolta?

Yes, it's possible that our children's children will peek at electronic cheat sheets when programmed robot teachers give a pop-history quiz and ask such challenging questions as these:

**1. Define Bee Gees.**

- a. The abbreviation for the terrible plague (*Badius gastritus*) that devastated teen-age girls in the 1970's.
- b. A cry heard often during the killer-bee invasion, circa 1986.
- c. A trio that sang radio jingles, often appearing on the *Lawrence Welk, Jr., Show*.

**2. What major entertainment event occurred in 1983?**

- a. *The Quinn Cummings Superstar Revue* opened to ecstatic crowds in Las Vegas.
- b. Kristy McNichol was elected to the U.S. Senate.
- c. Studio 54, the once-popular New York discotheque, became a museum.

**3. What was the fate of digital clocks and watches?**

- a. They were replaced by an antique clock, featuring moving hands.
- b. They became extinct, except for the most famous digital of all: Big Ben, in London, renovated in 1982.
- c. They became obsolete: The ability to know the correct time is now part of our genetic code.

**4. Today, retired actor Henry Winkler is:**

- a. Writing his doctor-



al thesis at the Yale drama school: "The Fall of Fonzie: A Character Study."

b. Manufacturing "Remember the Fonz" buttons and leather garments in Peoria, Illinois.

c. Making a cameo appearance in the film *Space-Port 2011*.

**5. What were automobiles?**

- a. Vehicles manufactured for the promotion of drive-ins, movie theaters of the twentieth century.
- b. Giant enclosed roller skates in which people used to ride.
- c. Automobiles, Inc.: the multinational corporation that makes Traffic Jams and Jellies.

**6. When was life discovered on the planet Saturn?**

- a. When the cast of *Star Wars XIV* was there on location in 1993.
- b. After confirmation was received from Mars in 1985.
- c. Everyone knows life exists only on Jupiter.

**7. What was a discotheque?**

- a. An inflamed liver.
- b. Disco-Tech: an educational institution where students learned an ancient musical form.
- c. "I'm sorry. I do not speak Russian."

**8. What was punk rock?**

- a. A novelty gift, advertised as "Pet Rock's little brother."
- b. The nickname of the 1985 boxing champion, men's lightweight division.
- c. An affectionate nickname for the Rock of Gibraltar.

And so, while our descendants rack their brains to complete this quiz, we'll be contentedly sitting in our solar-powered rocking chairs, reflecting on the "good ol' days"—when Travolta was more than just a name to remember!