

# In the beginning,

there was the Dairy Bar, a local malt shop, 10 cent bags of fries, hot dogs, scarves around girls' necks, v-necks for guys, rock and roll music, Chuck Berry, trips to the theaters and drive-ins and, of course the famous poodle skirts.

These were the sights, sounds, and tastes of the 1950's. As Rocky Mount reached the level of a city, it's inhabitants were caught up in the fads and crazes that swept the nation. This was the beginning of the long road that took being a teenager from "teenybopping down the lane" to "surfing the mainstream" of today.

Four major elements take an effect on the evolution of teenage culture. Clothing, music, food, and dating have long been the major concerns of most teens as

proven by countless surveys. These elements have changed in drastic measures however from the swinging '50s to the turning point '60s, to the polyester disco '70s, to the fashion-driven '80s to now, the diversified '90s.

As all of us approach the 21st Century, it helps to take a look back at where we've been as teenagers, so that we can better understand where our children, and our freshmen, are going.

As Bob Dylan said so long ago...



# 'The tim



## Then and Now

### Music

1970- Motown movement spawns disco, and a sweeping fad with bands such as *Chic* and *The Village People*

1996- Music reaches new highs with talents of artists such as Bonethugs and Harmony, and Stone Temple Pilots

### Clothes

1980- British Knights hit the market as the hot shoes and blue jean jackets with "hot pants" colorize the streets.

1996- Levis and Guess jeans rule the pants of today while a mixture of high-fashion shirts and retro styles characterize the upper half.

### Dating

1950- The ideal date involves a drive to the Center or Cameo Theaters in downtown Rocky Mount, or the Tower Drive-in. "Cruising the Dairy Bar" is also popular.

1996- Dating spreads out into many forms or fashions. Sporting events are big, as are the movies and the mall.

### Food

1960- Moonpies are the big craze along with hamburgers.

1996- Health foods and bottled water hit big, with junk food in a close second.

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