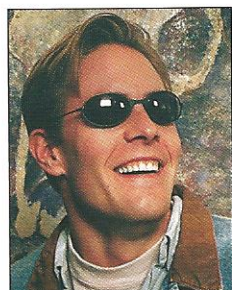




A hot new collectible derives from an old household item. Milk caps, known in some regions as pogs, originally capped the bottles left by the milkman but have now gone funky with colorful printed designs and variations that are traded and used in games.



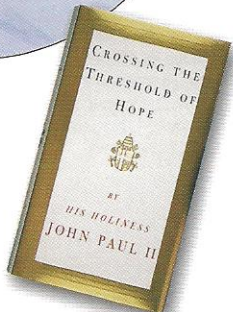
Although most are forced to settle for Oakley wrap-arounds, stylin' kids, like in-line skaters and urban youth, clamor for Arnet's \$80 Ravens with the silver-chrome frames.

Led by brash young skate and surf types, two million snowboarders nationwide discover the joy of swooping down slopes on one board instead of two. No hard boots, no poles, no crossed tips, make it easier than skiing. Since their giant frozen wave is a ski hill, snowboarders annoy old-style skiers who want their slopes left undisturbed by shredders.



Nathan Blouw/Allsport

The first generation to ignore colas in favor of fruit drinks, today's young people give Snapple popular cult status. The trend breeds juice wars as Snapple imitators like Fruitopia vie for youth market shares and inundate the airwaves with Generation X-type advertising.

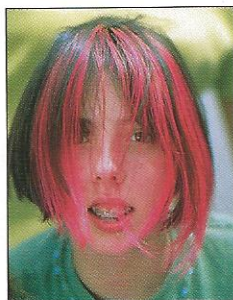


Pope John Paul II authors *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, a blend of theology, evangelizing and personal reminiscence. It becomes a best-seller in 35 countries.



Jacques Chienet, Gamma/Liaison

Remaining a virgin in the face of peer pressure finds new respect among teens who defend their freedom to forgo sex in a sex-crazy world. The movement is both a demand for real love and a reaction against unwanted pregnancy and health risks, since today one out of four kids are infected with sexually transmitted diseases by the age of 21.



Will and Dent McNirye/Photo Researchers

Kool-Aid makes a cheap hair-dye, an alternative to bleached hair with, say, Prizm Blue added for sheen. The "city fade" shaves the sides of your head and leaves the top longer, and the matted hair look is achieved by leaving the soap in and forgetting to comb.

It's called "the year of the cottage industry" as more Americans adopt different work arrangements in response to corporate downsizing, either by telecommuting or starting businesses out of their homes.



Reed Williams, Animals/Animals

The designer pets of the year are African pigmy hedgehogs, and some 3,000 find homes with humans. They are gentle, like to be petted, and need a once-a-day feeding of pet food or mealworms. They don't smell and will even eat your roaches.