# Advertising in the 20th

Century

### Advertising in the 1930's



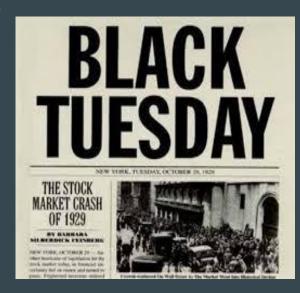






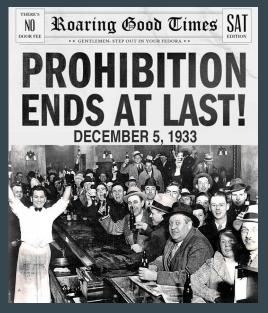
#### What was Happening Historically in the 1930s?

- The Stock Market crashed in Oct. 1929 triggering the start of a 10+ year long economic depression
  - Due to the Great Depression, companies had to make massive budget cuts as well as lay off most of their workers.
  - Unemployment rates reached 25% nationwide but rose as high as nearly 40% in some cities like Detroit.
  - President Roosevelt launched a series of programs known as "The New Deal" with the purpose of saving the country from its economic crisis. These programs created jobs, pumped money into the nation's economy and establish reform programs designed to prevent future economic crisis.



### What was Happening Historically in the 1930s?

- The 21st Amendment repealed the 18th Amendment's prohibition of alcohol
- The first commercially licensed radio station was established in 1930
  - Radios made advertising easier than ever before in the
     1930s
  - Public radio was free
  - $\circ$  Radio stations were accessible from most anywhere in the country
  - Radio also gave people with literacy issues the same information that people would receive by reading a newspaper



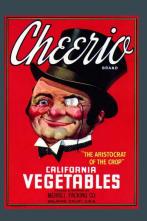


#### Changes in Advertising in the 1930s

- Due to the popularity of radio and the decline in newspaper/magazine sales, companies spent less on print advertising and opted to spend more of their ad dollars on radio
  - Jingles became popular easier for the consumer to remember than a lengthy print ad.
- Ads were less flashy and text-heavy than in the 1920s.









#### Trends in 1930s Advertising

- Some ads ignored the Depression, depicting a much more financially stable America
- Many ads attempted to guilt consumers into buying a product
  - Companies tried to convince consumers
     that they would in some way fail without
     it (preying upon people's struggles of
     getting a job)
- In some cases, ads highlighted the products' appearance, while others focused on efficiency and practicality.











With very tight budgets, consumers became more skeptical of products, as well as the advertisements they were being shown.

Advertisers needed to convince potential buyers of the product's worth.

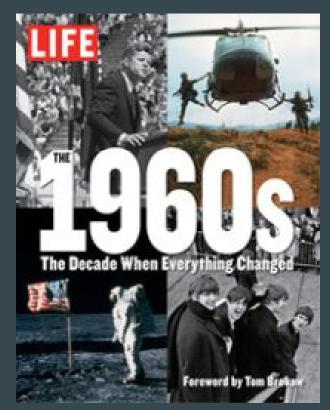
#### Trends in 1930s Advertising

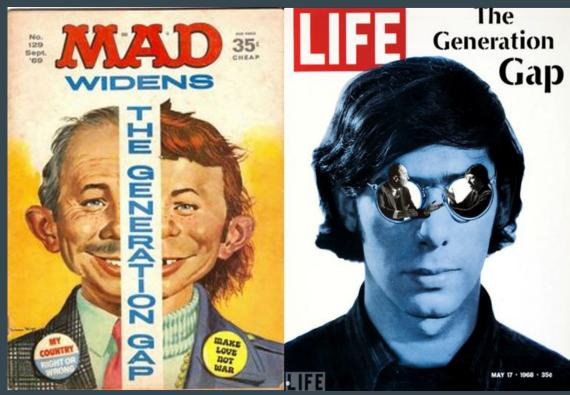
- Advertising became more of a luxury (many smaller businesses couldn't afford them)
- Advertising revenue hit the decade's lowest point in the decade in 1933 at \$1.3 billion (down nearly <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> from the 1920s)
- The Federal Trade Commission, Securities
  Exchange Commission, Post Office, and the IRS all
  became much more regulatory of advertisers,
  demanding greater truth in advertising.





### Advertising in the 1960's





# What was Happening Historically in the 1960s?



- The modern Civil Rights movement was underway
  - Lunch counter sit-ins, March on Washington
  - In 1964, LBJ pushed for the Civil Rights Act and in 1965 for the Voting Rights Act
- A number of prominent leaders were assassinated including President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Robert Kennedy
- The modern women's liberation movement was underway by the end of the 1960s.
- Rise of the hippies & the counterculture

#### What was Happening Historically?

- The Vietnam War raged on and divided the nation. By 1968, the U.S. had over 530,000 troops stationed in Vietnam
  - Youth began to protest against war or move to Canada to avoid it.
    - Draft resistance
    - Teach-ins
    - Woodstock (3 days of peace and music)
  - Many parents and older people formed a "silent majority" because of their lack of support or defiance.
  - This led to a growing age gap between America's youth and its older generations.







#### Advertising Trends in the 1960s

"The concepts "young," "counterculture," & "creative" became virtually synonymous within advertising agencies in the 1960s"

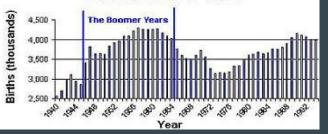
• As almost ½ of Americans were 25 or younger, advertisers realized they had to start targeting a younger market. They began to shift their lens from the stingy generation that grew up during the times of the Great Depression to those in "The Now Generation."

• Major focus in advertising on producing creative and interesting advertisements that reflected the ideas and attitudes of the younger generation.

#### **Baby Boom**

- US population grew by 29 million in 1950's
- · Why?
  - Returning soldiers marrying & having kids
  - Lower infant mortality

U.S Births: 1940 - 1994





#### Techniques Designed to Sell to Youth

#### The Counterculture

A culture of young people with values that ran counter to those of the established culture

Generation Gap: the differences in attitudes between people of different age groups



Companies drew on popular trends such as fashion, references to the sexual revolution, and new entertainment ideas to advertise their products.

• Companies offered products that were pitched as anti-consumer, anti-establishment, and anti-conformity.



#### Advertising to the "Counterculture"

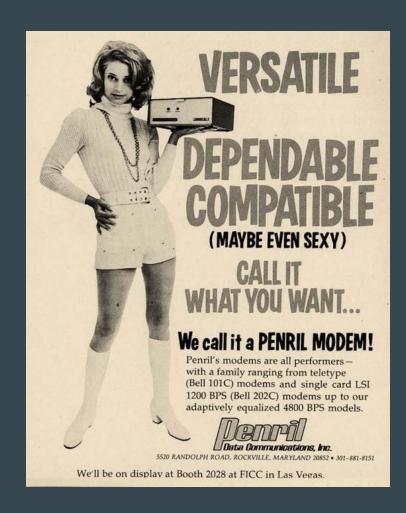
- Advertisers introduced psychedelic graphics, hired more racially diverse actors, featured long-haired models in hip clothing, and used sounds such as heavy guitar music to attract youth and appear hip.
- Ads were featured in underground magazines and newspapers
- Contained slogans that matched the attitudes of popular culture
  - "Wet and Wild"
  - $\circ$  "Youngmobile"





#### Advertising Liberates Women

- •The women's liberation movement didn't become an important aspect of marketing strategies until the end of the 1960s
- Agencies began to target the "new woman" while also keeping tradition in tact (ex. Pond's changed their lotion color from the typical white to pink, ad showed nontraditional activities for women such as working on a motorcycle)







#### It's nice to have a girl around the house.

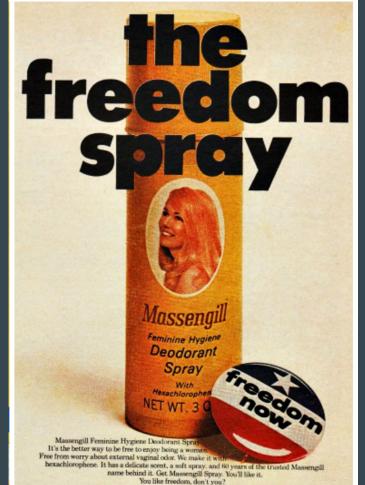
Though she was a tiger lady, our hero didn't have to fire a shot to floor her. After one look at his Mr. Leggs slacks, the was ready to have him walk all over her. That notife styling sure soothes the savage heart if you'd like your own doll-to-

doll carpeting, hunt up a pair of these he man Mr. Leggs slacks. Such as our new automatic wash wear triend of 65%. "Dacres" and 35% rayon—incomparably winkle resistant. About \$12.95 at planh carpeted stores.

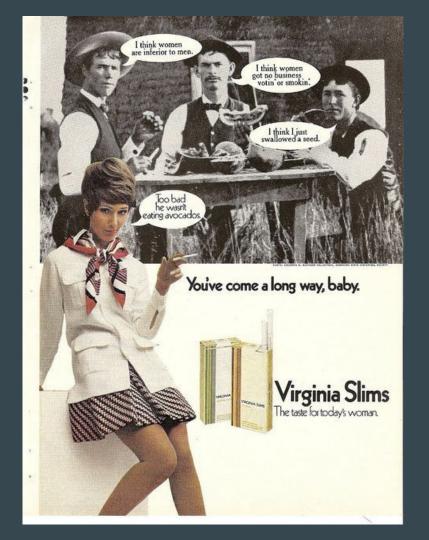
ou pourse a rea par is Legg

Dacron ...

THOMSON COMPANY, 1290 Avenue of the American, New York 19, N. Y.



MASCO Division of The S. E. Hamming !! Company, Great, Property 27620







#### Advertising to African Americans

"In the 1960s, African Americans began to be recognized as important consumers."

- The book the \$30 Billion Negro, written by African American author, D. Parke Gibson, convinced advertisers of the benefits of advertising to non-white consumers.
  - At first, advertising to African American consumers only occurred in black-oriented publications such as *Ebony* magazine and *Negro Digest*.
  - Eventually other companies, like Greyhound busses, a major symbol of segregation in the South, learned the importance of advertising to all of the population and embarked on a minority hiring plan.



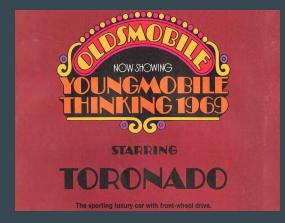


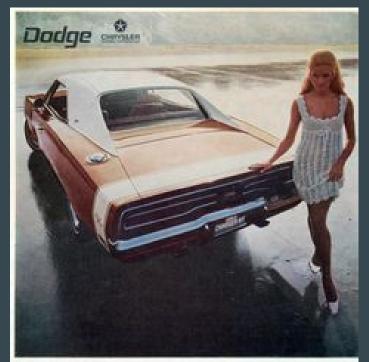
#### Techniques Designed to Sell to the Older Generation

- By the mid 1960s, advertisers began to aim the youthful image at older generations, enticing them with the idea that those who were old could look young by buying the right products
  - Car advertisements made certain vehicles seem cool and suggested that cars would allow older people to feel young again



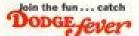
Oldsmobile commercials integrated popular music and offered people an opportunity to "escape from the ordinary." Oldsmobile was billed as the "Youngmobile" due to its vibrant advertisements through commercials, which attracted older generations as well as young.





#### Mother warned me...

that there would be men like you driving can like that. Do you really think you can get to me with that long, low, that if you think a girl with real values is impressed by your air conditioning and stores... a 440 Magnum, whatever that is ... well—II takes more than cushly bucket souts to enake me Rip. Charger R/T SC. Sounds like alphabet soup. Frankly, I'm attracted to you because you have a very intelligent face. My name's Julia.

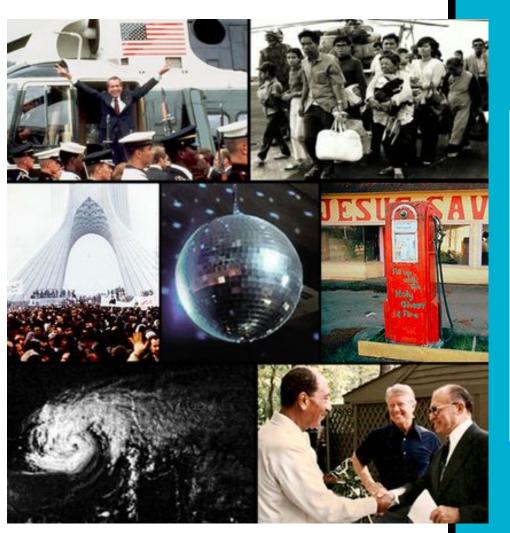




#### now it's Pepsi-for those who think young

Sunshine brings more people out today—and more people bring out Pepsi! Light, bracing Pepsi matches your modern activities with a sparkling-clean taste that's never too sugary or too sweet. And nothing drenches your thirst like a cold, inviting Pepsi-Cola. So think young—say "Pepsi, please!"





Advertising in the 1970s

#### What Was Happening Historically in the 70s?

- ☐ THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT
- □ WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT
  - Roughly 50% of women held jobs by the mid-70s
- ☐ THE WATERGATE SCANDAL
- □ ECONOMIC RECESSION
  - Stagflation stagnant economy and growing inflation
- ☐ ENERGY CRISIS
- □ LEGALIZED ABORTION
- ☐ US PULLED OUT OF VIETNAM

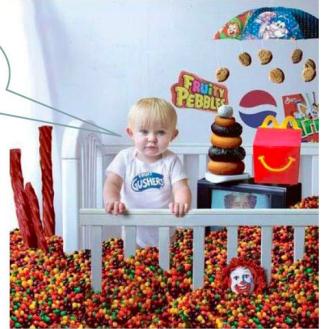




#### The Federal Govt. Role in Advertising

"So who's doing something about this advertising stuff?"

- By the '70s, the public was disillusioned towards advertisements
  - Advertising executives were rated last in a poll of the honesty of various professions
- The government began to increase its regulation of advertising claims, especially those targeted toward children.
  - O The Federal Trade Commission banned unclear, exaggerated, or false advertising claims
  - During the early 1970s, the FTC forced companies to do "corrective advertising" in cases
    where their ads were false. (The FTC ordered Listerine to spend \$10 million to run ads that
    said Listerine did not prevent colds or sore throats, as it had previously stated.)
  - Government regulation of advertising dropped off after the 1976 Supreme Court decision that "commercial speech" was a form of free speech



#### What Changes Took Place in the Advertising Industry in the 1970s?



- Advertising targeting children was regulated:

  By the mid 1970s, 43% of the commercials on Saturday mornings were for breakfast cereal, followed by candy ads (SUGAR!)
  - Commercials aired during children's programming were decreased from 16 minutes per hour to 10 min.
  - Restrictions were passed on mentioning specific commercial products in a program.
  - Use of cartoon characters or other recognizable show hosts to sell products which were harmful to children were banned.

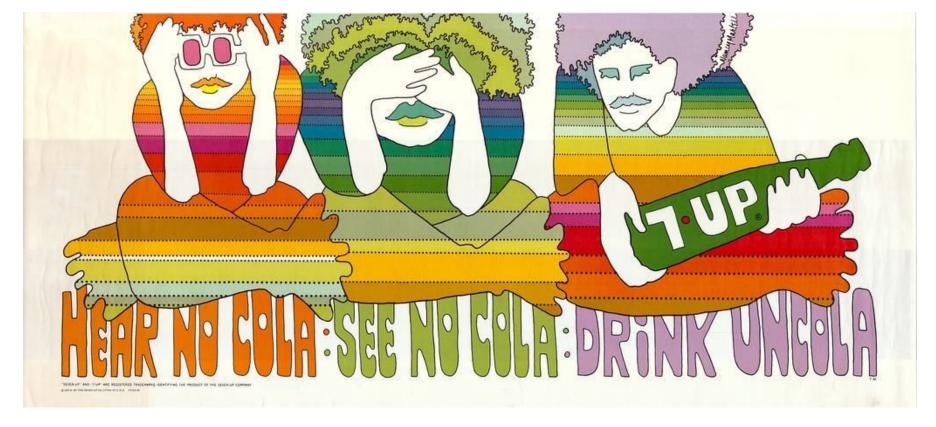


# What Style of Advertisements Were Most Common in this Decade?

- Advertising agencies began using computers to analyze consumer data and make projections based on certain marketing strategies
- More catchy slogans were being put in place
- ☐ Greater racial and economic diversity in ads/scenarios to be more relatable...
- Ads during the 1970s shifted towards "comparative advertising", in which the product is compared to the competition (i.e. a commercial for Dictaphone (a typewriter company) says "Bad news for IBM" (who also manufactured typewriters).)







7-UP ran its "Uncola" ad campaign in the 1970s, doubling its sales. This is a form of comparative advertising (7-UP is described as different than the traditional cola drink.)

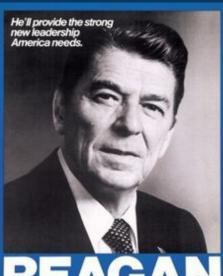


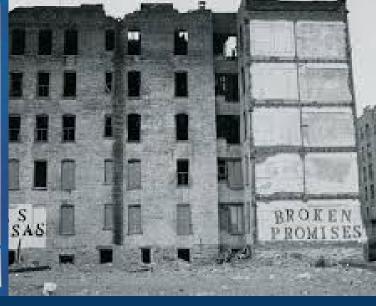
- Companies like McDonald's and Miller Lite beer created ad campaigns in the 1970s which gave mothers, many of whom were trying to juggle parenthood and a career and facing criticism because of it, permission to take their children to fast-food restaurants without feeling guilty
  - Successfully created ads for things that were frowned upon such as taking children to fast food restaurants such as the McDonald's ad with the slogan "You deserve a break today." This ad was created for working single mothers who had to juggle working and raising children.



### Advertising in the 1980s







# What was happening historically in the 1980s?



- Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980
  - Introduced an economic plan designed to stimulate the nation's economy through aid to the rich/businesses
  - Massive budget cuts to poverty, infrastructure, social services and increase in defense spending.
- "Just Say No" drug campaign launched by First Lady Nancy Reagan.
- The Cold War was still in progress but relations with the Soviets improved. The Berlin Wall was taken down.

#### What was happening historically in the 1980's?

- The nation's inner cities were physically crumbling
- Crime/drugs became a national focus.
- Movies like ET, The Breakfast Club, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, and Pretty in Pink were being released.
- MTV was debuted and helped Michael Jackson's Thriller reach 600,000 album sales in 5 days.





## Advertising Trends in the 1980s





- Portrayed a path to a better life played on consumers' aspiration
- Featured celebrities (celebrity endorsement)
- Infomercials, 30-minute commercials often centered around product promotion by celebrities, became popular.

#### Style of advertisement

#### Style over over substance

- The 1980s were dominated by television.
- Commercials made products appear to better the lives of the consumers.
- People didn't care about the function of the product, but more so of who had it and how popular it was.



- Commercials used catchy slogans.
- Used famous songs sung by characters or different celebrities.



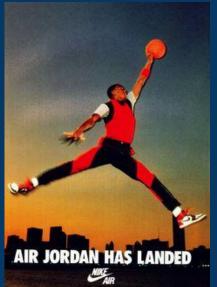
Wendy's "Where's the Beef?" ad campaign struck gold and became so successful, there were t-shirts and underwear that used the iconic slogan. It was even used by the Democratic candidate of the time, addressing Ronald Reagan, during the presidential election. This campaign showed the power of advertising, it can turn anybody into a celebrity.

- Companies used the promise of the American Dream to sell their products
  - Ads told Americans the only
    way to be successful or cool
    was to wear the right clothes,
    drink the right drinks, and
    drive the right cars.
  - Ads that targeted poorer
    demographics often promised
    better lifestyles, for example
    Miller Brewing Company had
    a slogan "High Life."

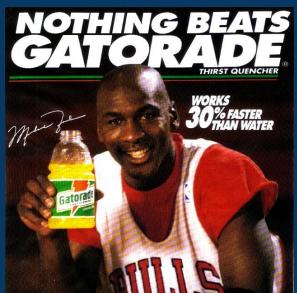


#### Celebrity Endorsements

• Advertising began to rely on celebrity endorsements and faces of their brands; products are not simply products, they are a way of life









Bill Cosby played a major part in the "Coke is it" campaign and said that he made almost a third of his income from advertising at the time.