

8-30-1999

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Recommended Citation

"Y2K, Then 2001, Then What? University of Dayton Faculty Weigh in with Nicknames for Coming Decade" (1999). *News Releases*. 8528.

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UNIVERSITY of



DAYTON

1850-2000

Aug. 30, 1999
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NEWS RELEASE

Y2K, THEN 2001, THEN WHAT? UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON FACULTY WEIGH IN WITH NICKNAMES FOR COMING DECADE

DAYTON, Ohio — With just four months to go, there's been no consensus, no emergence of a common nickname for the coming years. Given the potential computer meltdown and its accompanying publicity, "Y2K" may stick for the first year. The following year "two-thousand-and-one" may be the moniker of choice, due to the enduring popularity of Stanley Kubrick's classic 1968 film.

After that, we could be facing the Goose Egg Decade or the Green Age or the Initial Decade, if suggestions made by faculty members at the University of Dayton catch on.

"Assuming that there will be life after midnight Dec. 31, Y2K or 'two thousand' will probably prevail as a marker for the first year," says Jim Farrelly, English professor who teaches a class at UD about literature and the millennium and who has weighed the predictions of an apocalyptic end to the current century. "After that, 'two-thousand-and-one' will kick in. The decade probably won't get a name until after that."

The "aughts" and "zeros" shouldn't surface, Farrelly says, as "both lack imagination. Options could be the 'Survival Decade,' if anyone survives; the 'Virtual Decade,' since it might not have a reality of its own; and the 'Decadent Decade,' particularly if the forces of evil prevail against the forces of good at Armageddon," says Farrelly, who treats lightly this subject that others pursue with serious vigor.

"It may be the 'IT' Decade since 'me' and 'we' have already been used in this century and computers will be spreading their demon seed all over the Earth," he says.

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Kevin Hallinan, associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, casts a more benign eye toward the future. "The decade itself might be called the 'Green Age,' the 'Green Revolution,' the 'Green Dream' or the 'Green Transformation,'" he says. "My rationale? The way increasing global awareness is transforming society. If one overlooks the proliferation of sport utility vehicles, one need only go to the grocery store, the Internet, etc., to see the burgeoning green movement."

Hallinan, a self-described "extreme idealist," prefers his optimistic stance: "This age will be one where perspectives shift from that of self interest and greed to social responsibility. I am convinced the next decade will give rise to Generation Green."

As for the numbers, the "twenty-ohs" are being used by Molly Schaller, a lecturer in the counselor education and human services department, and others on the faculty.

"I have a hunch the 'ohs' will catch on," says Una Cadegan, associate professor of history. "It seems the least 'cute' of the alternatives I've heard suggested. In class, I find myself saying 'the first decade of the century' — not very felicitous."

She too rejects the "aughts," noting that people from the beginning of the current century who are portrayed as using the expression are generally "old fuddy-duddies."

The Rev. Jim Fitz, S.M., director of campus ministry at UD, is willing to accept whatever name for the next 10 years gains the general consensus, but he sees trouble ahead.

"I think we will have more difficulty with the next decade. What do you call it, the 'teens of the 21st century'? After that it gets easier — the twenties, the thirties, the forties, ..."

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