

**Society**

# Skinhead stereotypes overlook truth

By Jason.Arment@iowastatedaily.com

*Seek education, learn about other cultures*

There was a time I thought all skinheads were racists. Because of popular media, and no one telling me otherwise, I associated the white power movement and neo-Nazis with skinheads. I have since started educating myself about the truth — after being clued-in by some friends.

I delved into literature, read what I could find about skinhead culture and quickly discovered that my thoughts differed from reality. While the white power movement definitely does exist, and their hatred permeates everything they touch, there also was a separate, documented tradition that I found in the book “The Spirit of 69” that had nothing to do with white power, and everything to do with being a skinhead.

“The Spirit of 69” opened my eyes to a culture entrenched in the working class, with a strong sense of community and that listened to Oil, reggae, ska and soul music. There was aggression to be sure, but getting rowdy with friends is something I understand. I realized there was something going on I previously had no idea about, and I needed to talk to skinheads to learn more.

I was afforded the opportunity to talk to an individual who has been a traditional skinhead for two decades. He asked to be referred to as “Jimmy P.”



The image many people have about skinheads frequently coincides with images of white-power, neo-Nazis and other generally frowned upon hate-groups. The truth is far different from these ideas. Courtesy photo: Justin Ian Cunningham

I pressed the issue of racism in our talk, I needed my previous ideas associating skinheads with racism to be obliterated in order for new ideas to replace the old.

Jimmy P. has invested a lot emotionally in what it means to be a traditional skinhead. I was surprised when he articulated his thoughts on those that claim skinhead yet are part of the white power movement with grace and poignancy.

“To embrace and to truly love traditional skinhead and publicly be white

power? That’s like telling your birth mother you’re adopted — you can’t. I don’t know how you’d reconcile it.

“I don’t have a problem with people until they impose their values on mine. If white power people want to express themselves and openly parade and do whatever, that’s OK,” he said. “But they can’t hijack our title. They can’t hijack our image. I don’t give them the courtesy or the respect of calling them skinheads.”

The most important aspect of being a skinhead is the tight-knit com-

munity. In fact, the brother/sisterhood formed among skinheads is one I find close to the ties found among military personal that have served together. They’re part of a group that is vastly misunderstood, and being part of a group like that requires sacrifice of the self. Whether it’s adhering to community standards or dealing with how the media misconstrues what it means to be a skinhead, being a skinhead is a serious decision that requires members to constantly be conscientious of their affiliation.

That’s not to say all skinheads get along. Jimmy P. said something that explained it aptly, “One of our brothers said it best, he said: ‘You’ll find brothers where ever you go, they just aren’t your brothers.’”

When I asked another traditional skinhead local to Des Moines — who wishes to remain anonymous — what being a skinhead meant, they said, “When you boil it down, it’s a working class subculture that has a higher level of pride and loyalty than most groups or subcultures do.”

I think that pairs with Jimmy P.’s idea that being a skinhead is, in a large part, “Fun, fashion, dancing and friends.” That phrase paints a pretty good picture of what it means to be a skinhead.

The evolution of my opinion on skinheads is pretty remarkable. I went from the status quo of buying into what media was selling, “All skinheads are violent racists,” to understanding that the opposite is true. Are there racists that claim skinhead? Yes, and they allow blind hatred to overwhelm the strong tradition that is completely opposite of what they are doing.

What really troubles me though, is how I ever started out at ignorance from square one. I thought I was smarter than that, better than that. I thought I didn’t need to just believe what I was told. I let myself down. This is your chance to, better than believing what media shoves down your throat, reject a monolithic view that has no basis in reality.

**Reflection**

# Our generation sets path for next decade

By Rick.Hanton@iowastatedaily.com

This week we all are going back to some new classes for a new year and a new decade. 2011 begins the 202nd decade of the Common Era, and I know that you and I will help to make this new decade just as amazing as the last.

Let’s stop for a second to examine what has happened in the last decade to give us a feel for how far we might go by the year 2020:

Ten years ago, the World Trade Center in New York was attacked and much of the complex collapsed, killing 2,752 people buried in the rubble. Today, after two wars tied to the attacks and much work to battle terrorism at home and abroad, the structure of One World Trade Center, the successor to the twin towers is half-finished.

Back in 2001, Facebook — a website many students now use every day — was little more than a twinkle in Mark Zuckerberg’s eye. Today it is one of the most-visited websites on the internet, the place where 600 million users share their lives online.

In 2001, cell phones were larger, clunkier, and only the most advanced phones had limited internet access. The first BlackBerry devices able to easily send and receive e-mail on the go, had only just been created and had simple green and black screens. Today, millions of people can access the entire Internet on their phone and a billion dollar industry has developed just to sell web-connected phone applications or “apps.” Five billion apps were sold in 2010

alone, compared to only 300 million in 2009; 3G phone service that was in its infancy in 2001 is now available worldwide, even at the top of Mount Everest.

Back in 2001, the International Space Station was little more than a tiny three-person apartment floating around the Earth with the early inhabitants living in a small 40-foot tube. But in 2010, 10 years and nearly 1,000 hours of careful spacewalks later, the station is the size of a football field that hosts a crew of six and is resupplied by a half-dozen spacecraft from around the world.

2001 was the year that Wikipedia was founded by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger as a new type of

encyclopedia. Wikipedia ended the year with around 20,000 new articles added by users. Today, just the English version of Wikipedia has more than 3.5 million articles — there are more than 250 international language versions — and has spawned hundreds of other wiki-based websites.

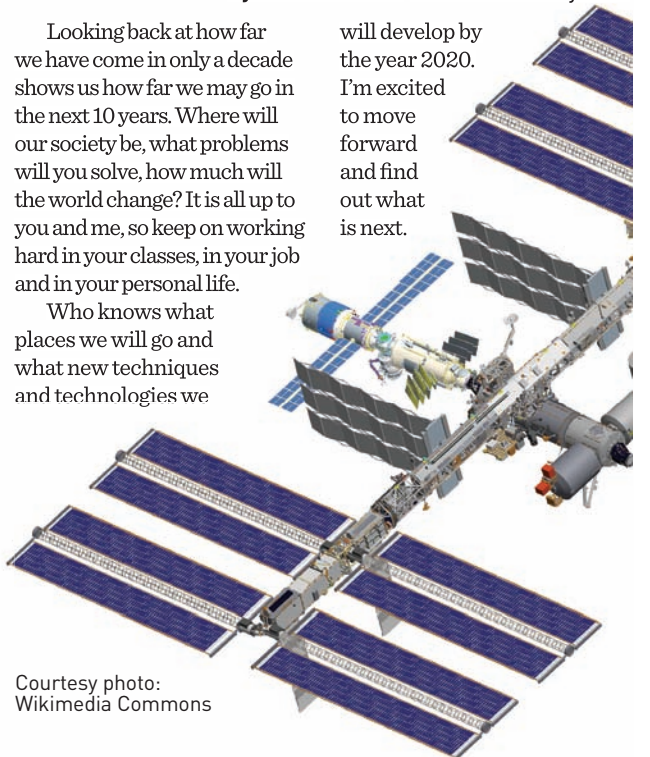
2001 could be said to be the year that MP3s went mainstream as Apple unveiled its first iPod digital music player, holding about 1,000 songs and costing \$400.

Today, more than 275 million iPods have been sold; and for the same \$400, you can get an iPod with 10 times more storage, a touchscreen display, two cameras and the ability to play back high definition video.

Looking back at how far we have come in only a decade shows us how far we may go in the next 10 years. Where will our society be, what problems will you solve, how much will the world change? It is all up to you and me, so keep on working hard in your classes, in your job and in your personal life.

Who knows what places we will go and what new techniques and technologies we

will develop by the year 2020. I’m excited to move forward and find out what is next.



Courtesy photo: Wikimedia Commons

**Self-Improvement**

# New Year’s resolutions should reflect whole life

By Curtis.Powers@iowastatedaily.com

Happy New Year! It’s 2011. That is so weird, to me anyway. It’s a reminder that I just keep getting older and older.

As I’ve gotten older, I’ve thought some about New Year resolutions; some years I do them, some years I don’t.

Generally speaking, I break my resolutions fairly shortly after making them. I think I do that because I’m not that serious about it. They’re usually just something I thought the night of the New Year.

“Yeah, I should lose some weight, so I’m not going to eat ice cream this year. I’m not going to drink soda either.”

Occasionally good things

happen, but it’s pretty rare it happened as a result of a New Year resolution.

But maybe that could change if we took our resolutions seriously like Jonathan Edwards. Many of you probably only know him for his sermon entitled, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” That is unfortunate, considering he is considered one of America’s greatest intellectuals and perhaps it’s greatest theologian.

He died as the president of Princeton from a small pox inoculation. He got it to encourage others to do so as well.

Anyway, a major reason he became so prominent was his

resolutions. He made a list of 70 during the course of two years when he was around the age of 19 and 20. Look at how serious some of them were.

5. Resolved, never to lose one moment of time; but improve it the most profitable way I possibly can.

6. Resolved, to live with all my might, while I do live.

9. Resolved, to think much on all occasions of my own dying, and of the common

circumstances which attend death.

10. Resolved, when I feel pain, to think of the pains of martyrdom, and of hell.

20. Resolved, to maintain the strictest temperance, in eating and drinking.

51. Resolved, that I will act so, in every respect, as I think I shall wish I had done, if I should at last be damned.

52. I frequently hear persons in old age, say how

they would live, if they were to live their lives over again: Resolved, that I will live just so as I can think I shall wish I had done, supposing I live to old age.

At the beginning of his resolutions, he resolved to read his list at least once a week.

Think about that for a moment. That would have forced him to think about his obituary once a week. How would

people remember him? What would they say when he died?

That’s not something many of us would like to think about very much. It’s kind of morbid, but we all know it will happen at some point — some sooner than others.

So think about that when considering your New Year resolutions. Also consider meditating on and making some lifelong resolutions. It might be a good use of your time.

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**Cyclone Hockey**  
Player of the Week

**#1 Erik Hudson**

Cyclone Hockey is pleased to announce goalie Erik Hudson as Player of the Week for the second time in the 2010-11 season. Not only did Erik deliver a shut-out game against Robert Morris but he also stopped 59 of 61 shots on goal during the series giving him a weekend save percentage of 96.7. Erik has played in just over 20 games for the Cyclones this season and is leading the Central States Collegiate Hockey League in minutes played with 660. With two shut-outs and averaging only 2.87 goals per game, Erik is carrying that over for the Cyclones.

Erik is a season save percentage of 90.3. Erik is not only a goaltender for Iowa State but also the starting goal tender for Team USA of the World University Games, which takes place in Erzurum, Turkey, Jan. 27 - Feb. 6, 2011. Hudson spent his winter break preparing for the games, and Head Coach, Al Murdoch, knows his hard work is worth it. “His training over break is proving to pay off as he performed very strong in three exhibition games against NCAA competition and is carrying that over for the Cyclones.”