1970’s In America
• The 1970s is a decade that is very difficult to define as a whole
• Peter Carroll said “It seemed like nothing happened.”
Culture Wars

• Moral Majority and the return of Christian Fundamentalism – led by Jerry Falwell
  – Falwell led an organization called “The Moral Majority”
  – They said Christian evangelicals need to take more political action
    • Oppose abortion
    • Outlaw pornography
    • Allow prayer in school
    • Want creationism taught
• Feminism
  – Women fight for their rights
Figure 1. Median Weekly Earnings of Females Relative to Males

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (top line) and March Current Population Survey (bottom line).
• NOW (National Organization for Women) led by **Betty Friedan**
  – Main focus is to pass the **Equal Rights Amendment** (ERA)
  • passed in congress and states reject it
• Phyllis Schafley, on the other hand, agreed with **moral majority** and return to traditional family
• Environmental Movement
  – Live closer with **nature** and not **abuse** resources
  – Environmental protection act

http://www.epa.gov/history/timeline/70.htm
Pollution Ad
• Legacy of Counterculture carries into the 70’s
  – Self expression and self exploration
  – “Me decade”
  – Decade of pulling back (like 20’s and 50’s) after war
  – “New Age” philosophy
  – Interest in Eastern religion as opposed to western religion
Where do you go when the record is over... Saturday Night Fever

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS A ROBERT STIGWOOD PRODUCTION
JOHN TRAVOLTA, KAREN GORNEY "SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER"
Screenplay by NORMAN WEXLER Directed by JOHN BADHAM
Executive Producer KEVIN MCCORMICK Produced by ROBERT STIGWOOD

Original music written and performed by the Bee Gees. Soundtrack album available on RSO Records. Read the Bantam Paperback.
Oil/ Energy Crisis

Sold Out To-Day
In the 1960s Oil producing countries (mainly in the Middle East) banded together to form OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries)
• What does OPEC do?
  – Control Oil **prices**
  – Keep them high by **limiting** production of oil
• In 1973 OPEC nations stopped exporting oil to the United States to punish them for their support of Israel.

• On Yom Kippur, 1973 the holiest Jewish holiday, Arab forces backed by Soviet technology attacked Israel.

• Saudi Arabia's King Faisal swayed other oil supporting countries into placing an embargo on crude oil to Western nations, in late October.
• Arab oil-producing countries wished to pressure the Western countries, specifically **America**, into demanding that Israel withdraw their troops from the Arab territories that they had occupied since 1967.

• Once they had placed the embargo on the U.S., the world's largest consumer of oil, the Arabs realized the power that they had over the **world** through oil.
• The immediate results of the Oil Crisis were dramatic. Prices of gasoline quadrupled, rising from just 25 cents to over a dollar in just a few months.
The American Automobile Association recorded that up to 20% of the country’s gas stations had **no fuel** one week during the crisis. In some places drivers were forced to wait in line for two to three **hours** to get gas.
• Nixon formed the **Energy Department** and it became a cabinet office. It developed the national energy policy. They made plans to make the U.S. energy **independent**

• Congress issued a **55mph** speed limit on highways.
People helped however they could to conserve energy

- Development of smaller cars
– Turning thermostats **down**
– Not as many houses were built that used gas heat
• Although the embargo ended only a year after it began in 1973, the OPEC nations had quadrupled the price of oil in the West.

• The embargo opened a new era in international relations. It was a political and economical achievement for the **Middle East**

• Third World states discovered that their **natural resources**, on which they depended, specifically **oil**, could be used as a **weapon** in both political and economical situations.

• There is a second Oil Crisis that occurs when the U.S. failed to rescue the hostages in Iran, causing oil prices to skyrocket (1979)