A year of 
radical change

What once was cool faded to obscurity by end of decade

Travel: "What is the closest beach to the ocean? Travel agents share tales"

Books: Fiction writer Lorrie Moore publishes first novel in ten years

TH shovel
When the 1980s re-
ceived the excite-
ment of the last 10 years, the poten-
tially unemploy-
ed crowd swell

"There’s a shift in attitude," says Bonnie Fuller, editor-in-

chief of HollywoodLife.com. "There’s a total chick-fil-a in gen-

eral.

She thinks Hollywood execs will take notice of the success of Julianne Margulies, Jennifer Aniston, Kyras Sedgwick and their popular, developing movies and TV shows that give them roles that show evolving, desirable characters that don’t hide from their age.

"When women see other women achieving the same as beautiful

and sexy role models, I think it’s extremely empowering to regular women," she says. "It completely makes them think age is irrelevant as well."

Lady Gaga has also put her own mark on pop culture, ob-

serves trend analyst Julian: "She’s the next pop culture personality to take us into the next several decades."

As for all the reality TV? It may be time for the Reality Check Era, says Rita Institute, director of Promontory Americas, a trend forecasting agency.

"With the depressed economy, many people are turning

away from aspirations to live the glamorous life and stepping back to assess what’s important to them."

"There’s a push away from conspicuous material signs of wealth or excess," she said.

"There’s a movement against the glamorous lifestyles that people wanted to emulate towards a more pared down, balanced and authentic way of living."

The unemployed may find themselves working from home.

Home
Expect "recess" to become more of a buzzword now that the financial interests of homeowners became part of the equation.

Architect John Doyle says once oil prices sky-rocketed last year, energy ef-

ciency became a real priority.

New homes will be smaller, with better insulation and living that allows people to essentially shut off sections that aren’t being used — perhaps guest rooms or bedrooms for teenagers who go off to college, Doyle said.

And look for more emphasis on design and energy efficiency, such as orienting a home in a colder region to take advantage of southern sun.

"We’re making the moves they made back in the Yankee

high school student at the ballroom in the early part of 28.

The metate-

spelled outside, where one person was shot in the hip. Police have made no ar-

rests but say the investigation is ongoing.

Bruner, who wasn’t there at the time, responded by canceling all hip-hop

events. He’s now more selective about whom he writes to and more involved with events put on by outside groups. Attention-

dance at Saturday night dances hasn’t decreased since the shooting, Bruner said. Don’t think people feel unsafe coming to the ballroom.

"We’re bringing it all back together. After the shooting, I didn’t want anything like that to happen again," he said.

Bruner said he likes hip-hop but is being "very, very" careful to avoid attracting the wrong crowd.

"I have a lot of respect for that dance style. It’s really unfortunate that the trouble users are also into hip-hop," he said.

Fortunately, the swing crowd is a friendly bunch, Bruner said. It’s a tight-knit community, one he feels has been part of his life for decades.

High school graduate. Bruner began with shows and plays drum for several swing

bands, as well.

Music was his first entrance into swing. Songs from the 30s to the early 40s

have captivated him ever since he started playing trombone in Jazz band in

Admission to Vancouver’s Get Talent is $100 per act. Acts must register in advance by calling 800-766-
Ballroom:
From Page D1

the eighth grade.

"The style of music that made the most sense to me was always swing music. There is a certain feel to it that shows up in everything I do," he said.

That includes his style of dress. At a recent interview in the ballroom, Bruner was fresh off a performance in the Sin-ferno Cabaret at Dante's in Portland. He was still wearing his Sinferno attire: a gray, vintage-inspired Oxford baggie-style suit, wingtips and a bowler hat. A circus ringmaster's costume hung in the ballroom's concessions area.

The circus is a 180-degree turn from his previous career track. Bruner studied engineering at Clark College and worked as an electrical engineer before devoting himself full-time to entertaining.

That devotion led him to take over the Vancouver Ballroom after Peacock left. While he's taken hip-hop out of the mix, Bruner has made several additions to the ballroom. Some are aesthetic, and some go deeper.

Among them is a stage, part of his commitment to bringing more live music to the ballroom.

Live bands, everything from swing to rockabilly, elevate the ballroom to a new level, said Amber Dannals, Bruner's assistant.

"I just think that people love the live music," said Dannals, a 21-year-old Vancouver resident who teaches preschool and kindergarten at Clark College's child care center.

Other cosmetic changes include painting the columns and chairs black for a sleeker look. Bruner plans to replace the fluorescent lights with something less harsh.

VIVIAN JOHNSON for The Columbian

Russell Bruner has taken over ownership of the Vancouver Ballroom from Larry Peacock. Bruner added new programming and made some cosmetic changes.

"We want something that isn't cafeteria-style lighting, more ambient lighting," he said.

There have been programming changes, as well, including discontinuing ballroom dancing lessons. Instructor availability and competition from the nearby Arthur Murray Dance Studio led Bruner to focus solely on swing. He gives an advanced swing class Tuesday evenings "to boost the level of dancing" at the ballroom.

To help bring new dancers into the fold, he's instituted monthly "swingaroke." At swingaroke, people sing Sinatra covers and other swing songs during the Saturday dance. It falls on the second Saturday of every month and helps attract new patrons, Bruner said.

"We're always looking for little gateways to get people in and interested," he said.

Another gateway, he hopes, will be Vancouver's Got Talent. James Madison, a booking agent for Vancouver's Immortelle Modeling and Acting Agency and owner of the talent agency Madison Management, is putting on a competition next month similar to the reality television show "America's Got Talent." Acts ranging from singers to dance troupes to poets will compete each week, and the audience and a panel of judges will choose their favorites. After eight weeks, the finalists will compete for $500 and a free class from Immortelle.

"It will help us to discover talented acts and help kids in Vancouver get involved. And also make for a good show," Bruner said.

Bruner plans to be among the judges for Vancouver's Got Talent, part of his resolution to be present for outside events. Juggling his performance schedule with the ballroom's demands is challenging, but he does have help.

Peacock, who did not respond to interview requests for this story, gathered a group of committed volunteers when he first opened the ballroom. Called the Vancouver Six, these young Clark County swing fans helped him run the space and publicize events.

Though the formal group no longer exists, many of the same people still consistently volunteer to help at Saturday dances, Dannals said.

Those Saturday night dances give Vancouver youths something to do without having to go to Portland, a challenge Bruner remembers.

"I grew up in Vancouver. I certainly didn't have much to do when I was under 21. It's nice to be able to provide an all-ages venue," he said. "We're making changes to make it safer and to continue to provide these fun, positive events."

MARY ANN ALBRIGHT: maryann. albright@columbian.com, 360-735-4507.

Predictions:
From Page D1

day," says Doyle of Doyle Coffin Architecture in Ridgefield, Conn.

Technology has its place, too. Just like smart phones are managing people's lives, "smart houses" will allow people to remotely turn on and off lights and appliances and adjust heat.

That will just further challenge the personal computer to keep up with mobile devices, adds retail and branding consultant Tom Julian.


"We want to get away from the beige blah, the drab dray colors and get into feeling like things are more optimistic," adds Sally Morse, director of creative services for Hunter Douglas.

Living

Upcycling is the evolution of recycling, reusing materials to turn them into something more valuable or upscale than they were in their first life.

This movement started with crafters, but it's gone mainstream and is even becoming a profitable business for some, especially with consumer studies showing a willingness to pay more for green products. Think of those handbags made from old candy wrappers, sold for exponentially more money than a bag of M&Ms.

Modellina.com, a fashion-model Web site, just started a series of online videos called "P.S. I Made This" that teach viewers how to turn holiday