The students in my composition classes at Ball State University help lessen the verbal generation gap between their generation and mine by updating my vocabulary. Below are some words and expressions which have been assigned new meanings and vice-versa. Match the meanings (few of which are recorded in a dictionary -- even a dictionary of slang) to the expressions and see how wide the gap is between your generation and theirs. Answers are given in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

1. ralph, barf
2. head
3. plastic
4. boss
5. p-i-ched-out
6. hang-up
7. bipped off
8. jams
9. soul
10. space-head
11. flake off
12. rug
13. slab
14. rap
15. mother swinger
16. zit
17. out-of-sight
18. turkey
19. jet
20. split the scene

a. (1) nice looking; (2) cool; (3) exciting
b. soul music
c. (1) unrealistic; (2) narrow-minded
d. someone who thinks he is too good for everyone else
e. (1) change a pattern of life; (2) leave the place
f. (1) good; (2) sharp; (3) cool
g. hair
h. high from smoking grass or from other drugs
i. (1) one who knows where the action is; (2) a person hooked on dope
j. to converse with another person
k. (1) asleep (adj.); (2) figured something (a test) out in advance (v.)
l. problem
m. vomit
n. (1) a quality that arouses emotion or sentiment; (2) stimulating essence in a personality
o. one whose ideas seem goofy or childish
p. leave alone
q. record
r. (1) gangster; (2) gunslinger; (3) hood
s. (1) an acne pimple; (2) blemish
t. to cut down someone