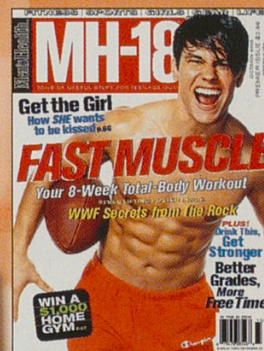




▲ A new Web site, Customatix.com, lets users design their own sneakers. Starting from scratch or selecting a prefab model, users can pick everything from the colors and styling to the fabric and personalized logo at a cost of \$80 to \$95 a pair.

✓ New prepaid credit cards and online credit lines are the latest high-tech means for parents to control their teens' spending. Depending on the account, parents determine the spending limit or the online stores where the money can be spent and receive monthly statements of purchases made.



▲ *MH-18*, billed as the first national lifestyle magazine for guys 13 to 18, hits newsstands in August. The *Men's Health* offshoot covers sports, fitness, school, relationships and issues teenage boys face growing up.



▲ American Heritage, among other publishers, releases new dictionaries, capturing the language of our computer-savvy culture. "Dot-com," "netiquette" and "cybersurfing" are among the new entries.



▲ Pleather, a synthetic fabric that looks like leather, comes in an array of colors and prints and is popularized by celebrities like singer Christina Aguilera.

✓ Techno pants, as functional as last year's cargoes but with cleaner lines and nylon fabric, are popular with teens. They come in a variety of colors and feature zippered legs and pockets, toggles and nylon drawstrings.



▲ Laser eye surgery becomes an increasingly accepted alternative to eyeglasses and contact lenses as the technology continues to improve.

FLASH >>>

For the first time, females outnumber males in Internet use in the United States, representing 50.4% of the online population in 2000. Teenage girls are the fastest growing user segment.

Designer faceplates become a popular way to personalize cell phones. The decorative attachments come in a variety of designs and colors to match the user's mood or outfit.

✎ The popularity of Apple Computer's translucent iMac sparks a wave of similarly colored cell phones, CD players, cameras, irons and other household appliances.



▲ Wordstretch bracelets become a trendy accessory in Hollywood and around the nation. The multi-colored elastic bands come inscribed with "Call me," "Money is overrated," "Snap out of it" and other simple messages designed to spark conversation.