

Yesterday and Tomorrow

In 1971 the department chairman of a mid-western high school spoke to the members of his department. “Today we need to consider what we want to do with the little bit of money that is left in the mathematics budget. If we don’t spend it, it will be put back in the general fund. In the past I have used the money to build up our math library. Do we want to do that again this year or do we want to buy one or two calculators with the money. At \$200 a piece that’s all we can buy. That won’t be enough for classroom activities but if we buy two or three every year we should be able to have a classroom set within ten years...” It never came to that. The supplier had a fire and the order was never filled. Within a few years local banks were giving away much better calculators. You see the \$200 calculators we were examining only added, subtracted, multiplied and divided!

Now lets use our imagination and consider **Breakfast conversation in the year 2010.**

“Jimmy, you forgot to put your slickpack battery in the solarium again. You’ll have to ask the teacher if you can sit at one of the plug in stations with your computer.”

“Oh no, Mom! I don’t want to do that! Can’t I take the spare. I hate having to sit at those tables!”

“You know I have a holograph presentation and I have to have the extra battery.”

“Ah, Mom. Please.”

“No!. You have to remember to keep it charged. And Susie, don’t forget to put your make-up away. I plan to put the bathroom on auto-clean when I leave for work.”

“Do you have to do it today, Mom? I’m late for school now.”

“Hurry up! Put the things away. I ‘m not going to pay all that money for a self-cleaning bathroom and not use it!”