

Signals in the Static: *Jerry Springer*—*The Opera*, which has received rave reviews in Britain, will have its U.S. premiere in San Francisco in early spring, 2005. The profanity laden show features the confessions of a diaper fetishist and a dance routine by Ku Klux Klan characters. The **Ford Mustang** turns 40. **Sharon Stone** turns 46. **Jack Nicholson** turns 67. Died: **Col. Aaron Bank**, 101, who established the Army's Green Berets special forces.

Cadillac, Acura, Nissan, Porsche, Chrysler, and Buick have all run targeted ads to **TiVo's** 1.3 million U.S. subscribers. Hotelier **Andre Balazs** is opening a discount hotel in NYC that will offer bunk beds starting at \$50/night. **Maxwell's**, a small rock club in Hoboken, N.J., is selling downloads of each night's concert (\$10) on reusable, keychain flash drives (\$20). **Momints** are small gel beads filled with liquid minty breath fresheners. Other new entries in this category include Ice Breakers' **Liquid Ice** and **Binaca**.

On the Street—Summer Fashions: In NYC, beaded moccasins, brightly colored string bikini tops worn under clothing, beat-up denim cut-offs, slouchy leather bags, dime store flip-flops. In LA, clogs, cuffed jeans, rainbows, flat shoes, gauzy fabrics, plastic jewelry, leotards, and layered tank tops.

Krumping: Combining hip-hop, African tribal rituals, pantomime and martial arts, krumping is a frenetic, hyper fast-paced dancing style that is creating its own subculture among teens in inner-city Los Angeles. Dancers gather in school grounds, parking lots, and yards to perform and "battle dance" each other. Theatrical face paint is also worn by the dancers, which gives krumping its other name, "clowning." *Trendcentral*.

On the Street—New American Slang:
DRO POPS: Lollipops laced with THC and/or PCP, priced at about \$10.
HIVING: Making one's home the focus for both work and social activities.
PODDIES: Any of the growing number of obsessed iPod-toting loyalists.
HELICOPTER: A significant other who finds it necessary to hover around his or her mate at all times.
BLAMESTORMING: A meeting whose sole purpose is to discuss why a project failed and who was responsible.
BLACK-COLLAR WORKERS: Once a term for miners and oil workers, today it more often refers to creative types (artists, graphic designers, video producers) who've made black attire a kind of unofficial uniform.

Viewpoint—U.S. Political Division:
 "More and more Americans in a highly mobile society are choosing to live among like-minded people. University of Maryland political demographer James Gimpel calls this a "patchwork nation," in which political like attracts like, and ideologically diverse communities are giving way to same-thinking islands. Comparing the photo-finish elections of 1976 and 2000, the nationwide results were extremely close. However, nearly twice as many voters now live in counties where one candidate or the other won by a landslide. Person by person, family by family, America is engaging in voluntary political segregation. This split is nurtured by the marketing efforts of the major parties, which increasingly aim pinpoint messages to certain demographic groups, rather than seeking broadly appealing new themes. It is reinforced by technology, geography and strategy. Now it is driving the presidential campaign, and explains why many experts anticipate a bitter and divisive election." *Washington Post*.