

Signals in the Static: Meryl Streep will portray **Julia Child** in the new **Nora Ephron** movie, *Julie and Julia*. In his new "**Blue Magic**" video, rapper **Jay-Z** flashes stacks of 500 euro bills instead of US dollars. **Paul Newman** will put his label on a \$16 chardonnay and carbernet sauvignon. All profits will be donated to charity. **Grace Slick** turns 68. The **iPod** turns six. Died: **Vincent de Dominco**, 92, inventor of Rice-a-Roni; **Thomas Dawes**, 64, composer of the "Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz" jingle for Alka-Seltzer.

Japanese watch maker **Citizen** buys iconic U.S. brand **Bulova** (est. 1875) for \$247 million. **Chrysler** dumps the PT Cruiser, Crossfire, Dodge Magnum, and Pacifica—and 12,000 employees. **John Varvatos**, a high-end men's clothing brand, will open a NYC boutique in the space once occupied by the punk nightclub **CBGB**. **Borders** is installing 37" flat-screen TVs in their bookstores to show original programming, news—and ads. The **Benjamin Hotel** in NYC employs a "sleep concierge" and offers guests a pillow menu. **Disneyland's** "Small World" ride, built in 1963, will close in January to be modified to accommodate today's much-heavier adults. The **Trinity Baptist Church** in Raleigh, N.C. now presents Sunday services in Arabic.

Food News: **Wegmans Food Markets**, which operates 71 grocery stores on the East Coast, sells foods grown on its own 50-acre organic farm. **Hardee's** rolls out its new **Country Breakfast Burrito**—two egg omelets filled with bacon, sausage, diced ham, cheddar cheese, hash browns and sausage gravy, all wrapped inside a flour tortilla. The burrito contains 920 calories and 60 grams of fat. **7UP** introduces a pomegranate-flavored version for the holidays. Frozen yogurt chain (32 stores in LA and NYC) **Pinkberry** receives a \$27.5 million investment from Starbucks founder **Howard Schultz**. The upscale chain (large w/3 toppings/\$10)

features décor with \$350 Philippe Stark chairs and \$250 LeKlint lamps. **Subway** opens kosher restaurants in Cleveland, NYC, and LA. **Jones Soda** is selling holiday-themed packs of soda. The Christmas pack will feature Egg Nog and Christmas Ham flavors. The Hanukkah pack has Jelly Doughnut, Chocolate Coins and Latkes sodas.

Just What I Wanted: Pittsburg health insurer **Highmark** is selling a Healthcare Visa Gift Card (\$25-\$5,000) that can be used to cover prescription co-payments, elective surgery, contact lenses, and gym memberships. Each card costs \$4.95 plus shipping and handling. *Wall St. Journal*.

Green Gas Station: **BP** opens a "**Green Gas Station**" in Los Angeles at Olympic and Robertson, constructed with recycled and recyclable materials and partially powered by 90 solar panels on the roof. Lights in the restrooms have motion sensor switches to automatically turn on and off. Toilet seats are 60% post-industrial aluminum scrap. They also recycle old cell phones.

Tech Appeal: The results of the **Consumer Electronics Association's** annual holiday wish list survey: 1. Computers; 2. Peace and happiness; 3. Big-screen TV; 4. Clothes; 5. Money.



The first "**energy potato chip**" with caffeine and b-vitamins, now available at convenience stores across the Southeast.