

Signals in the Static: **John Malkovich, George Clooney, Tilda Swinton, Frances McDormand** and **Brad Pitt** will star in the **Joel and Ethan Coen** comedy *Burn after Reading*, set for a September release. **Ridley Scott** will direct a film about the 1986 Reagan-Gorbachev summit. **Brad Bird** will make his live-action directorial debut with *1906*, a movie about the SF earthquake. The **vacuum cleaner** turns 100. **Warren Beatty** turns 71. The **peace symbol** ☸ turns 50. Disneyland's **Tiki Room** turns 45. *2001: A Space Odyssey* turns 40. **Joss Stone** turns 21. **Viagra** turns 10. Died: **Abby Mann**, 80, Oscar-winning writer of 1961's *Judgment at Nuremberg*; **Herb Peterson**, 89, inventor of the Egg McMuffin; **Hal Riney**, 75, adman for [Saturn](#), [Bartles and Jaymes](#), and [Reagan](#).

One of the candidates running for disgraced Idaho Senator [Larry Craig's](#) seat has legally changed his name to "[Pro-Life](#)" to appear on the ballot as a position, rather than as a candidate. **Toyota's Scion** has signed on as the exclusive sponsor of [Assy McGee](#), an animated show on Cartoon Network, about a cop who is literally an exposed posterior on legs.

New Products: **Gallo** introduces citrus-flavored New Amsterdam Straight Gin (\$13/bottle). **Amazon** launches [TextBuyIt](#), a service that lets shoppers make price comparisons and online purchases via text message. Chicago's **Hush-a-Bye Baby Nanny Service** sends nannies to stay cribside with a child until she falls asleep. **Wells Fargo vSafe** is a secure online location where customers can upload and store copies of financial and personal documents (1G/\$4.95/mo.). Upon request, NYC-based [MethodIzaz](#) will send an anonymous photographer to surreptitiously photograph select moments in a consumer's life. The FAA approves in-flight WiFi for **American Airlines** flights. **Blackbird Tees** sells t-shirts with your resume printed on the back.

Portland's vegan **Nutshell** restaurant offers a tasting menu of various *table salts*. **Iron Chef America: Supreme Cuisine** for the Wii and Nintendo DS will be launched this summer.

Gold Rush: The [rising price of gold](#) has encouraged recreational prospecting and an increase in mining activity, especially along California's Highway 49 and the Sierra Nevada mountains. The **Charleston Place** spa in South Carolina offers a 24-carat gold facial (\$360).

Pot U: Oakland's [Oaskerdam University](#) trains people for jobs in California's state-sanctioned medical marijuana industry. The two-day weekend course costs \$200, plus textbooks. Trained "budtenders" can earn over \$50K/year.

B-Segment Autos Rule: While new-car sales slumped 12% last month, B-Segment cars (compact budget brands like the Toyota Yaris and Hyundai Accent) jumped 23.7%, outperforming small economy cars like the Ford Focus and Honda Fit. Men now represent more than half the buyers of all small cars, the first time this has happened since 1985. *Automotive News*.



The Handler (\$10.95) is a keychain with a deployable gripping arm made from antimicrobial material that allows users to open restroom doors or push elevator buttons to reduce their exposure to germs.