

**Signals in the Static:** **LeBron James** and **Yao Ming** will appear together in an Olympics-themed Coke commercial. **Timbaland** produces songs to be sold exclusively through Verizon's cellular service. In July, **Boy George** will tour the US for the first time in ten years. **Joey Fatone** will become the co-host of cable's TLC reality show, *The Singing Office*, to discover hidden musical talent in, well, offices. A film of libertarian writer **Ayn Rand's** novel, *Atlas Shrugged*, is planned to be released next year starring **Brad Pitt** and **Angelina Jolie**. CNN turns 28. CNN host **Anderson Cooper** turns 41. NASA turns 50. Actor **Jerry Mathers** turns 60. The ballpoint pen turns 65. **Tommy Chong** turns 70. Playwright **Edward Albee** turns 80. The typewriter turns 140. Died: **Earl Hagen**, 88, composer (and whistler) of the theme song for *The Andy Griffith Show*.

NYC hipsters are throwing "1992" [theme parties](#). The [New York Reality TV School](#) trains people how to appear on Reality TV. **K-Mart** offers young women's [sweatpants](#) adorned with the abstinence slogan, "True Love Waits." **Sears** sells the world's first [man's suit made from recycled plastic bottles](#) (\$200).

A new skyscraper, **Chicago Spire**, to be completed in 2010, will have [an amazing view from its top floor](#). South Carolina approves [license plates](#) emblazoned with the phrase, "I Believe" and an image of a Christian cross over a stained glass window. **Chrysler** and **Sirius** launch an in-car video network called [Backseat TV](#), carrying programming from Nickelodeon, Disney, and Cartoon Network. **Apple** plans to build a 7,700 sq. ft., two-level store underneath the Louvre's pyramid in Paris. **Apple** will install an iMac in every one of the 3,889 rooms of the \$2.9 billion [Fountainbleau Resort](#) when it opens in Las Vegas next fall. NYC raises the tax on cigarettes by \$1.25. A single pack now costs \$8-\$12.

**Christian Teen Entertainment:** [The Bridge](#) in Joplin, Missouri, is a massive entertainment complex and outreach ministry for teenagers that includes a state-of-the-art concert hall, gymnasiums, a skatepark and an Internet café.

**Word Watch:** **tweetup**, *n.* A real world meeting between people who know each other through the online Twitter service. **cowpooling**, *pp.* Purchasing a whole cow or side of beef from a local farmer and sharing the cost among multiple families. **trill**, *adj.* In hip-hop culture, someone who is considered to be well respected, combining the words, "true" and "real."

**Viewpoint—"A New Depression Classic":** "*Sex & the City: The Movie* joins *My Man Godfrey*, *The Women*, and other Depression era classics, by providing weary audiences with high-style fantasy relief. Why think about recession, global warming or Iraq when you can spend some time with Carrie and friends? Look for Americans to embrace (and buy) pre 9/11 nostalgia as a way of weathering these tough times."—[Faith Popcorn](#)



The drive-in movie theater turns 75. At their peak in the late 1950s and early 1960s, there were about 4,000 of them across the U.S. Today's underground version is [MobMoy](#). Photo: Apache Drive-In, the last outdoor single-screen in Arizona. Photo credit: R. Svirskas.