

Signals in the Static: **Martin Scorsese** will direct a biopic of **Frank Sinatra**. "Godfather of Punk" **Iggy Pop** is the new spokesman for Swiftcover Insurance. Singer **Judy Collins** turns 70. Nintendo's **Game Boy** turns 20. **Hubble Telescope** turns 19. Died: Microsoft's **Encarta Encyclopedia**, 16; actor **Mickey Carroll**, 89, who played the Munchkin Town Crier in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Closed since 9/11/01, the **Statue of Liberty** will reopen for visitors. **Babcock Ranch** is a 17,000 acre solar-powered city near Ft. Myers, Fl. The community will run entirely on a 75 megawatt, \$300 million solar-powered generator, and will also use smart grid technology to let residents monitor their energy consumption. Cane fighting classes, known as **Cane Fu**, teach seniors a martial arts-based form of self-defense involving canes. It's promoted by **Cane Masters**, which sells wooden canes made to fit around an attacker's neck.

The **Montgomery Ward catalog**, first published in 1872 and closed in 1985, will return this summer. **Baskin-Robbins** will sell soft-serve ice cream for the first time in its 62-year history. **Le Whif** is chocolate candy that is consumed by inhaling a fine chocolate powder which enters your mouth and remains there, supplying the taste of chocolate without calories (\$12.85/6). **Virgin America** will offer **absinthe** on flights and is expanding the number of planes offering in-flight WiFi. Legendary NYC restaurant **Le Cirque** offers a bargain \$39 three-course lunch and a \$74 seven-course tasting menu while NYC's Cuban café **Casa Havana** sells a 20 cent breakfast that includes eggs, ham or bacon, fries, toast and coffee.

More than six decades after the Nazi dictator killed himself in his Berlin bunker, a character parodying **Adolph Hitler** will feature in the first production in Germany of the Broadway musical

comedy by **Mel Brooks**, *The Producers*. **Universal Pictures** will integrate **Twitter** into summer movie Web banner ads where people can read tweets written by other fans directly from the Web page.

Current.tv uses the **first Twitter RFP** to find a new ad agency. Toymaker **Hasbro** and cable TV's **Discovery Network** form a joint venture to create kids' programming based on *Trivial Pursuit*, *Scrabble*, *Cranium*, *My Little Pony*, *G.I. Joe*, *Tonka*, and *Transformers*. The **Food Network** introduces **Food2.com**, a site aimed at users in their 20s and 30s.

New Search Tools: Google Labs launches **Similar Images**, which allows users to search for images using other images instead of words. **WolframAlpha** does not search Web pages. Instead it computes answers to questions based on its enormous collection of data.

Fewer Immigrants: The percentage of Latino immigrants employed or seeking work in the U.S. fell for the first time since 2003, declining from 72.4% in 2007's last quarter to 71.3% in the last quarter of 2008.—*Pew Hispanic Center*.



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