

Signals in the Static: **Julia Child's** *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* hits #1 on the *NY Times* bestseller list—48 years after publication. The [Andy Griffith Museum](#) opens in North Carolina. The [Cluetrain Manifesto](#) turns 10. **Axl Rose** turns 48. **Mark Spitz** turns 60. The **Hostess Cupcake squiggle** turns 60. **Fabian** turns 67. Died: Songwriter ("Walkin' to New Orleans") [Bobby Charles](#), 71; **Barry Blitzer**, 80, Emmy-winning TV writer for *The Phil Silvers Show*, *The Flintstones*, and *Get Smart*; **Donald Goerke**, 83, creator of [SpaghettiOs](#); **Glen W. Bell, Jr.**, 86, founder of Taco Bell.

This spring **Texas Stadium**, former home of the Dallas Cowboys, will be blown to bits. The demolition is being sponsored by **Kraft Macaroni & Cheese's** new flavor, "[Cheddar Explosion](#)." NYC's [Fraunces Tavern](#) closes. Opened in the 1760's, it was the site where George Washington bid farewell to his officers after the Revolutionary War. [Unwilling to raise taxes](#), **Colorado Springs** turns off one-third of their streetlights, closes museums and recreation centers, removes trash cans from parks, sells their police helicopters online, and eliminates many firefighting and police positions.

Heinz redesigns its [fast food ketchup pack](#) to allow for either dipping or squeezing. It holds three times as much ketchup as its traditional packet. **Target** shoppers can now access their gift-card accounts by having the barcode scanned on their smartphones at checkout. [Upliv.com](#) is an online stress management program for women created by **Johnson & Johnson**. Its business model consists of a monthly subscription fee and regular shipments of toiletries with names like "Field of Happiness," "Ocean of Clarity," and "Canopy of Tranquility." **Chanel** will sell temporary logo tattoos (\$75/55 tattoos.) Procter & Gamble will launch "[eStore](#)," its own retail Web site.

Fancy Food Trends: Coconut, exotic citrus, Indian sauces, gluten-free foods, hibiscus, waffle sandwiches (with sweet or savory fillings), chocolate with spices, Parisian [macarons](#), Vietnamese sandwiches, and bacon in unexpected places. Single-serving luxury products (like paté and cheeses). Teas with functional names (like "Relax").

Restaurant trends: High-end street food (like the BBQ Taco Truck in LA by chef **Roy Choi**, formerly of NYC's Le Bernadin), fried chicken (2009's hottest chef, **David Chang**, serves the dish in a high/low style at his [Momofuku Noodle Bar](#)), cozy and comfortable décor, wines from Argentina, and "slow food" (sustainable and local).

Homicides Decline: Overall, homicides in the U.S. fell 10% in 2009 compared with 2008. Last year they declined by 19% in NYC (to the lowest number since 1963), in LA by 29.8%, in Atlanta by 14%, in Chicago by 11.8%, and in Philadelphia by 11.2%. However homicides increased in Detroit by 11.6%, in Baltimore by 9.5% and in New Orleans by 3.2%. *NY Times*

Ranking National Happiness: The [World Database of Happiness](#), compiled by a Dutch sociologist, lists Costa Rica as #1 out of 148 nations. Costa Ricans, asked to rate their own happiness on a 10-point scale, average 8.5. Denmark is next at 8.3, the United States ranks 20th at 7.4, and Togo and Tanzania bring up the rear at 2.6. *NY Times.com*



MTV changes its logo for the first time in nearly 30 years, also dropping its "Music Television" tagline.