

A hot new collectible derives from an old household item. Milk caps, known in some regions as pogs, originally capped the bottles left by the milkman but have now gone funky with colorful printed designs and variations that are traded and used in games.



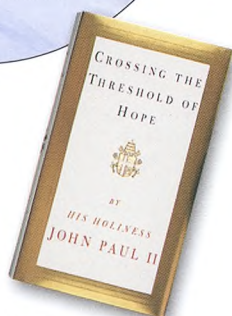
Although most are forced to settle for Oakley wrap-arounds, stylin' kids, like in-line skaters and urban youth, clamor for Arnet's \$80 Ravens with the silver-chrome frames.

led by brash young skate and surf types, two million snowboarders nationwide discover the joy of swooping down slopes on one board instead of two. No hard boots, no poles, no crossed tips, make it easier than skiing. Since their giant frozen wave is a ski hill, snowboarders annoy old-style skiers who want their slopes left undisturbed by shredders.



Nathan Blow/Allsport

The first generation to ignore colas in favor of fruit drinks, today's young people give Snapple popular cult status. The trend breeds juice wars as Snapple imitators like Fruitopia vie for youth market shares and inundate the airwaves with Generation X-type advertising.



Pope John Paul II authors *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, a blend of theology, evangelizing and personal reminiscence. It becomes a best-seller in 35 countries.



Jacques Chenet/Gamma/Liaison

Remaining a virgin in the face of peer pressure finds new respect among teens who defend their freedom to forgo sex in a sex-crazy world. The movement is both a demand for real love and a reaction against unwanted pregnancy and health risks, since today one out of four kids are infected with sexually transmitted diseases by the age of 21.



Will and Deni McNihy/Photo Researchers

Kool-Aid makes a cheap hair-dye, an alternative to bleached hair with, say, Prizm Blue added for sheen. The "city fade" shaves the sides of your head and leaves the top longer, and the matted hair look is achieved by leaving the soap in and forgetting to comb.



Reed Williams, Animals/Animals

The designer pets of the year are African pigmy hedgehogs, and some 3,000 find homes with humans. They are gentle, like to be petted, and need a once-a-day feeding of pet food or mealworms. They don't smell and will even eat your roaches.

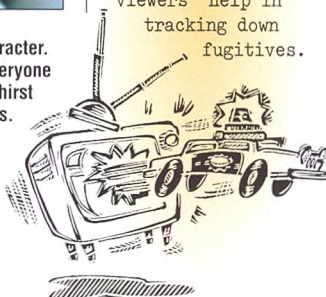
John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson star in *Pulp Fiction*, an "extravagantly demented low-life lalaloopa with outlandish twists." The film's plot revolves around a watch, a briefcase, and a large syringe in a darkly humorous scene which reportedly causes a few audience members with needle-phobia to fall out of their seats in revulsion.

John Candy, the large and lovable star of films *Splash*, *Cool Runnings*, *Home Alone*, and many other family favorites, dies at the age of 43. Whether Candy played jerks, slobbers or loonies, his natural goodness came shining through.



Gamma Liaison

"Life is like a box of chocolates," says its title character. *Forrest Gump*, starring Tom Hanks, surprises everyone with its popularity, attributed to the audiences' thirst for the film's theme of simple values and good intentions. Fascinating special effects place Gump into real news footage with U.S. presidents.



Reality-based television programs rule the tube with "Cops," "American Detective," "FBI: The Untold Stories," "Top Cops," and "Rescue 911." "America's Most Wanted" and "Unsolved Mysteries" enlist viewers' help in tracking down fugitives.



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Every Tuesday night 20 million homes tune in to "Home Improvement," television's No. 1 show, starring comedian Tim Allen as Tim Taylor, the how-to host of "Tool Time," with his wife Jill and three kids. Fans love this funny real-life reflection of middle-class family life.



©Sigma

Comedian Jim Carrey's career is s-s-smokin'. In *The Mask*, Carrey plays shy Stanley Ipkiss, who discovers that a mythical mask can turn him into a very cool green-faced cartoon-like dude. While waiting for sequels to *The Mask* and *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, Carrey fans enjoy current hit *Dumb and Dumber*.

With a tried-but-true storyline, the TV show "Me and the Boys," becomes an immediate family favorite, with stand-up comic Steve Harvey playing a widower who's left to raise three lively sons singlehandedly.



ABC from Shooting Star



Diego Unikel, Shooting Star

Shameless prime-time soap opera "Melrose Place," co-starring Heather Locklear and Grant Show, attracts legions of fans with its silly-sensational plotlines and shallow-but-beautiful characters. Fans even buy the TV show's soundtrack and "MP" clothing.



Geffen Pictures from Shooting Star

Tom Cruise bites as the elegantly evil vampire Lestat in the film based on Anne Rice's novel *Interview With the Vampire*. Brad Pitt costars in the story that's been a favorite with millions of readers for twenty years.



Steve Granitz, Retna

Comic Margaret Cho stars in the first All-Asian sitcom "All-American Girl," about a college girl who's not making enough money to move away from home and has to live with her rigidly traditional Korean immigrant parents.