

TIP SHEET

This requires spreadsheets, a couple of hours of comparing items, three to five shopping trips a week, and the discipline not to stock up on stuff you don't want just because you have a coupon. Mary Webber of frugalfamilykitchen.com goes the other way, advocating a less-shopping-is-better approach. She goes to the grocery once every other week and steers clear of packaged and processed foods.

Cut your restaurant budget. It's one of the biggest money pits. The average household spends almost half its \$6,000 annual food budget eating out. Put prepared meals in the freezer and skip the stop for rotisserie chicken. When you do eat out, use coupons from sites like entertainment.com and restaurant.com. And, you've heard it before, but here's one more try: brew your own coffee. You can buy a nice travel cup for the cost of two overpriced lattes. By the end of your first week, you'll have \$15 extra that you can take to the bank.

HOME

Gadgets for The Gourmand

Whether you love to cook or hate it, there's no denying that having the right appliance makes the process more enjoyable. In some cases, a well-made kitchen helper is a steal and, sometimes, you'll have to shell out a few clams to get the best performer. TIP SHEET tested many products in all price ranges and found a few favorites:



JURA CAPRESSO IMPRESSA J5: Make coffee or espresso with this high-tech 'coffee center' (\$1,999; capresso.com)



PANINI GRILL: Heats quickly and grills sandwiches perfectly (\$99.99; brevilleusa.com)



ELECTRIC PRESSURE COOKER: Holds six quarts—and won't blow its lid (\$149; cuisinart.com)



PRO LINE WAFFLE BAKER: For restaurant quality waffles (\$199.95; kitchenaid.com)

ROAD TEST | VOLVO XC70



Stylish With Added Safety

This all-wheel-drive workhorse looks more rugged, purposeful and daring than previous models. Volvo's vigor improves in nearly every way, except acceleration. But then Volvo aficionados tend to favor practicality and a little luxury over speed racing.

Mileage: 15mpg city, 22 highway

Engine: 3.2-liter, 235-horsepower

Price: \$36,775



Cargo Area: There's an added two cubic feet of room over the outgoing model and a power liftgate, bag hooks, cargo nets and dividers.

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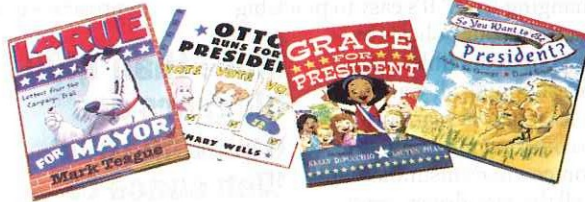
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FAMILY

Ma, What's a Superdelegate?

IF YOU'VE BEEN DEBATING politics with your spouse, chances are your kids have listened in. Here are some election books just for them. **"Otto Runs for President,"** by Rosemary Wells (ages 4 to 8; \$15.99). A young dog defeats two popular, self-centered classmates in a school election. In the end, he learns how tough it is to be president. **"LaRue for Mayor,"** by Mark Teague (5 to 8; \$16.99). In this slapstick tale, a dog runs for mayor after a crackdown on canine civil liberties. Finally, a real "change agent."

"So You Want to Be President," by Judith St. George (7 to 12; \$17.99). This Caldecott Medal winner is filled with fun details about past leaders. Sample: William Howard Taft weighed more than 300 pounds and bathed in a custom-built tub. **"Grace for President,"** by Kelly DiPucchio (5 to 9; \$15.99). Grace, who wants to be the first female president, learns what it's like to run for office when her teacher organizes an election, complete with an electoral system. Superdelegates not included. —KAREN SPRINGEN



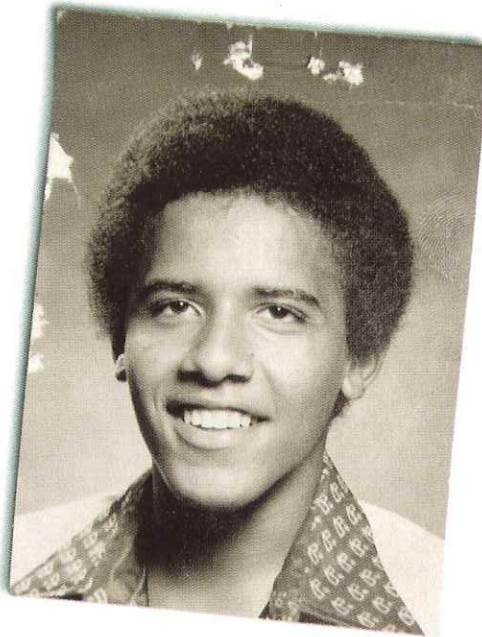
VOTER CONFIDENCE: Help your kids learn the ins and outs of politics

Newsweek
March 31, 2008
3.1 million circ.

THE ECONOMY: GROSS, SAMUELSON, RUBIN & FIORINA

Newsweek

When 'Barry' Became Barack



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE

Obama's 1979 Occidental College application photo