ers and patients simplified sites and connect them to a wireless system. \$186 \$8-\$10

\$8-\$10

\$16-\$18

\$10-\$12

\$10-\$12

\$16-\$19

\$6.50-\$8.50

\$16-\$18

griculture

\$12-\$14

\$8-\$10

\$15-\$17

d midsize markets

ductor testing firm

eployment by CLECs

Week's change

Week's change

Percent

5.2%

4.3%

4.2%

-1.6%

4.0%

-4.8%

Percent

6.6%

10.0%

9.9%

7.6%

16.4%

0.7%

4.7%

9.9%

0.4%

3.0%

2000

4.5%

5.6%

5.8%

2.0%

12.3%

2000

-5.6%

5.9%

-10.8%

-1.7%

-1.6%

0.0%

2000

69.2%

ted through Jan. 20

oints

26.38

12.85

71.13

23.79

40.14

oints

10.07

18.85

17.20

18.27

48.29

0.75

3.68

7.22

0.78

3.49

Total return

Total return

Total return¹

1%

direct marketing

ications

\$492

\$5,639

\$245

\$162

\$1,883

\$232

\$405

\$1,216

\$116

\$515

d & corrugated packaging

The travel industry is angling for

ter. Travelers also can register personal preferences and send instant

Diminies users of its 10 models of phones with Web browsers get information for major

The Palm VII can retrieve flight information for 700 airlines on OAG .com and Travelocity.com.

Aluminum vs. steel: Which is better?

Industries clash as carmakers lighten up

By Earle Eldridge USA TODAY

Automakers are using more aluminum as a weight-saving alternative to steel, sparking debate over which metal is best.

The aluminum industry says its metal is light, strong and less corrosive than steel.

The steel industry says its metal is cheap, more flexible and easier to process.

Aluminum is the fastest-growing major component in new cars and trucks. In 1999, the average vehicle contained 236 pounds of aluminum, up from 112 pounds in 1978, according to American Metal Market, an industry newspaper.

During the same period, regular sheet steel de-

clined to 1,399 pounds from 1,915 pounds.

'Aluminum is replacing steel in certain models where automakers want to meet weight and fuel economy targets," says Al Wrigley, an editor at American Metal Market. "But aluminum has to get its cost down to really compete against steel

Steel typically costs between 20 cents and 30 cents a pound while aluminum sells for more than \$1 a pound. Aluminum companies argue that pound of aluminum replaces two

pounds of steel, and wide use of lighterweight aluminum allows automakers to use other lighter, cheaper parts. such as brakes and tires, which fur ther cuts costs.

Using aluminum components, in fact, can reduce the weight of parts by up to 50%. "We use aluminum be cause it is a lightweight material that improves the overall efficiency of the vehicle," says Jeff Kuhlman, a Gener al Motors spokesman

Some parts, such as aluminum at loy wheels, have been around for years. More recently, components

such as engine blocks, hoods, body panels, frames and suspension parts are made of aluminum

Some vehicles with aluminum parts

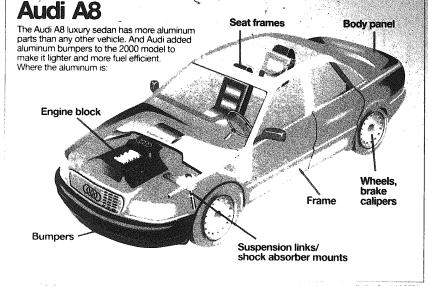
▶ The Audi A8 uses an aluminum frame, body panels and other components

▶ The 2000 Lincoln LS sedan has an aluminum hood, trunk lid, suspension parts and V8 engine

► GM's redesigned Suburban, Tahoe and Yukon sport-utility vehicles have aluminum liftgates

To counter aluminum's growing influence, steel companies have banded together to create ultralight steel, sometimes called high-strength steel It's 34% lighter than conventional steel but stronger. It's also more expensive than regular steel but still cheaper than aluminum.

Use of high-strength steel has grown to 328



By Quin Tian, USA TODAY



Lightweight: The 2000 Audi A8 has an aluminum frame

pounds in the average vehicle in 1999 from 112 pounds in 1978. And the steel industry brags that Ford Motor replaced the aluminum trunk lid of the Faurus with a steel lid for the 2000 model

Because of design problems, Jaguar uses a steel hood on its SType instead of an aluminum hood like its platform cousin the Lincoln LS

The new Saturn I Series midsize sedan has a roof, hood and fenders made of steel instead of plastic body components found on the smaller Sat

Darryl Martin, a spokesman for the American Iron and Steel Institute, says most vehicles today have between 20% and 40% high-strength steel But he predicts use of it will grow

Even so, automakers are banking a good part of

Weighing in

The average automobile in 1999 weighed 3,274 pounds, down from 3,570 pounds in 1978. The use of lighter materials, including aluminum, has contributed to the shift. Percentage of vehicle weight

Regular steel 43% High strength/medium steel 10%

Aluminum 3% 7%

uur e. American Metal Market from Industry Heports, March 1999

the future on aluminum.

In March, GM signed a 13-year, \$1 billion deal to buy recycled aluminum from IMCO Recycling.

GM showed a concept car at the Detroit auto show that has aluminum body parts and other components and gets 80 miles to the gallon. Ford showed a concept car called Prodigy in Detroit that also uses aluminum parts and gets more than

Money best sellers

Books are shown by proportion of sales. Example: For every 10 copies of Who Moved My Cheese? sold, Rich Dad, Poor

D	ad sold 2.4 cop		ortion
_	Title/author	Pub., price	of sales
ī	Who Moved My Cheese?/ Spencer John- son (H)	Putnam, \$19.95	10
2	Rich Dad, Poor Dad/Robert Ki- yosaki, Sharon Lechter (P)	Tech- Press, \$15.95	2.4
3	The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People/Ste- phen Covey (P)	Fireside/ S&S, \$14	2.1

custom for women. 24 Essential McGraw-Lessons for Investment Suc-\$10.95 cess/William O'Neil (P)

Many women invest in nest eggs

Author gives tips on how to scrimp

How to Hide Money From Your Husband and Other Time-Honored Ways to Build a Nest Egg

By Heidi Evans Simon & Schuster, 208 pages, \$20

By Juliette Fairley Special for USA TODAY

Stashing money, writes Heidi Evans in How to Hide Money From Your Husband, is a time-honored

The practice of having a nest egg of one's own, she writes, exists across cultures. After interviewing women around the country from all walks of life, Evans was "amazed by how many of them, including the highly



says. Also contributing to the need for financial self-protection: the drop in income that typically accompanies divorce and separation. Even before you marry, Evans

their children and their mates, Evans

says a woman should learn her boyfriend's money personality.

Columnist Ann Landers weighs in with this advice: "Always put a little something away for a rainy day - no matter how bright the sun is shining, it won't last.

And now for the nitty-gritty. Here are some ways to build your nest egg: Rifle through your husband's pockets while doing the laundry and stash any cash you find. Take a part-time job that he doesn't know about. Open a secret joint account with a sibling, parent or trusted friend. And serve burger instead of steak and pocket the difference.

Evans also writes about how and

only stashing a dollar a day in a jar.