

EU needs bigger rescue bid: IMF

The International Monetary Fund will urge European governments today to boost the size of their rescue fund and buy more bonds to prevent the derailment of the global economic recovery. The turmoil constitutes a "severe downside risk," and more action from member states is needed, according to the IMF. (REUTERS)

Markets strong amid debt crisis

Europe's debt crisis will still be hanging over global markets this week, but on Wall Street, investors aren't afraid. Wall Street showed its ability to hold on to gains or quickly recover from losses last week despite Europe's debt woes, suggesting that investors are confident of a sustained rally. (REUTERS)

Hobby shop stays in the game

BY LANA BORTOLOTT
Special to amNewYork

Before Xbox, PlayStation and Nintendo, there was Rudy's Hobby Shop at 35-16 30th Avenue in Astoria, a place of low-tech thrills for kids: train sets, car tracks and model kits.

Nowadays, owner Marvin "Rudy" Cochran said, most customers are men who never gave up modeling and spend hours sourcing train trestles or action figures.

"Kids today are all about technology," said the 73-year-old Cochran. "When you tell them they have to glue and paint, they're out of here."

Cochran has been located here for about 50 years, first as

proprietor of a fountain shop, which he and his wife operated. After 25 years, he traded egg creams and sundaes for planes, trains and automobiles.

It's a set-up Luddites would love: cash only and no website or digital displays. Model planes dangle from the ceiling. Price tags are still clicked out with a hand-held sticker gun.

Maspeth resident Fred Matthews, 64, picked up a set of military action figures for \$15. He estimates he's been coming to Rudy's shop for 30 years.

"It's hard to find certain things. Hobby shops are not what they used to be," Matthews said.

Modeling may be a dying art for some, but for others, it helps



Marvin "Rudy" Cochran's hobby shop in Astoria was an ice cream parlor before becoming a haven for old-school toys. (CELIA TALBOT TOBIN)

with the art of living.

Customer Brenda Bennett, 45, a therapist from Brooklyn, paid \$70 for items that she said illustrate "good citizenship and family values": a church,

a school, a house and a police precinct.

"This will help teach [my clients] patience and rules for cooperation and orderly living — even in a city."

By the numbers

1,200

Square feet occupied by Rudy's Hobby Shop

\$6.29

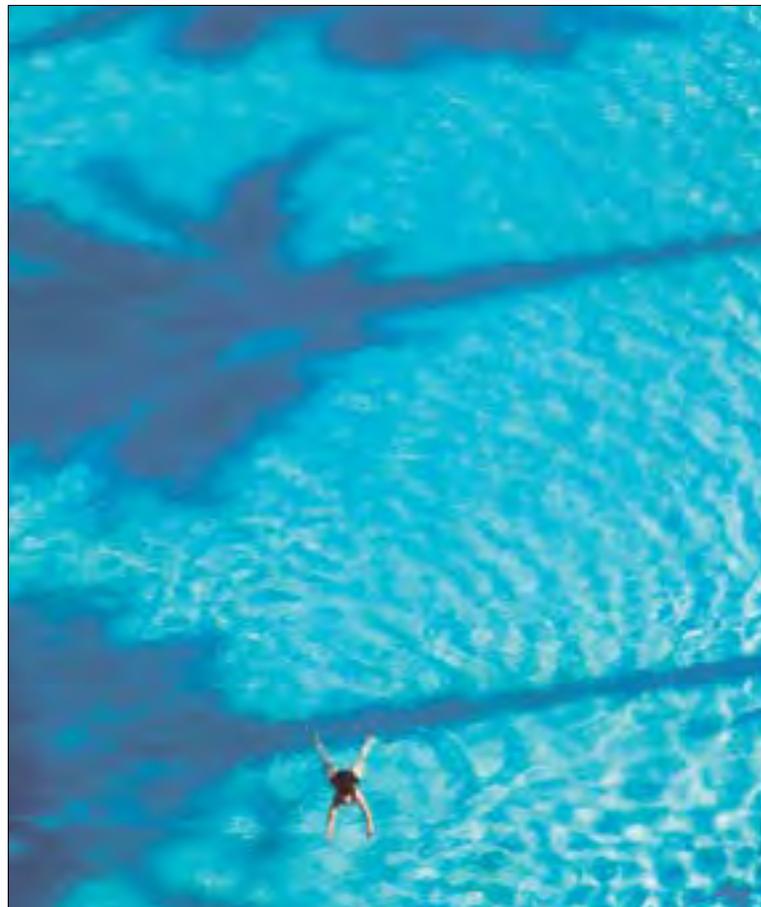
Price of a balsa wood glider

\$215

Price of a Santa Maria ship model

\$350

Highest-priced item in the store



FONTAINEBLEAU®
MIAMI BEACH
OUR GIFT TO YOU
PRE-HOLIDAY GETAWAY

RATES FROM

\$199*

DECEMBER 10-18

\$249*

DECEMBER 19-25

ENTER OR ASK FOR PROMO CODE **GIFTAM**

TO BOOK CALL 877-854-2028
VISIT FONTAINEBLEAU.COM/AM
OR CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL

*Promotional rates based on double occupancy in Standard room category. Additional room categories and suites may be available, at higher rates. Published rate is subject to availability and subject to change without notice. Blackout dates may apply. Offers may be discontinued at any time without notice. Offers cannot be combined with any other discount, and is not applicable to groups. Taxes and gratuities not included in "from" rate. A Hotel Fee of \$17.95 per day, per room (inclusive of tax) will apply to your booking. This fee includes: unlimited wired and wireless internet access; Gym access and beach chairs for all registered guests in party; local dialing and toll-free calls; and newspaper daily.