

BUZZ

Style | Au Courant

[MANNERS]

Social Study

With modern extras, **etiquette classes** are making a comeback

In an age when teenage manners amount to a "TTFN" typed at the end of a text message, classes in waltzing or making toasts seem quaint. But they endure, with some additions. **BEVERLY HILLS MANNERS** (310-276-9078 or beverlyhillsmanners.com) has partnered with the docent company Quick Culture to add behavior instruction to a museum-visit program. "Parents are sick of the way their children have been bombarded by media," says Lisa Gaché, co-owner of Beverly Hills Manners. "The Internet has taken them away from interpersonal relationships." Following a tour of LACMA, Gaché guides 7- to 12-year-olds through a



five-course meal complete with tactful table conversation and toasts (the cost is \$150). Students at Carver Elementary School in Compton learn deportment at **YOUNG LADIES OF UNITY**, a new counterpart to the **GENTLEMEN SCHOLARS CLUB**, which is also run by the school. Students apply their savoir faire at Westside restaurants. "We're teaching them life skills," says Jacqueline Sanderlin, who considers tea at the Beverly Hills Country Club one such capability. Long Beach's Golden Sails Hotel fills up with fox-trotting kids once a month at the **BURGESS COTILLION** (562-505-1807 or burgesscotillion.com), headed by former Mouseketeer Bobby Burgess. The children may not have many formal dances in their future, but they're on cell phones and the Internet constantly, which is why the eight-class series (\$210) includes tips on "netiquette." Burgess focuses on how to write clear e-mails and why you shouldn't talk on a cell phone while walking. "Kids spend so much time watching TV and hunched over video games that they need to be taught how to sit correctly, for instance, when they go on job interviews," says Burgess. "As far as the dances go, we tell the kids, 'if nothing else, you want to be able to waltz at your own wedding.'" // **MENGLY TAING**