

August 26 – September 1, 2005

Portfolio watch

*The latest scoop from
Wall Street and the region*

■ The **Vioxx verdict** hurt more companies than Merck. Lance Helfert, president of West Coast Asset Management in Ventura, which oversees \$350 million in assets, said the ruling suggests pharmaceutical “blue-chip” stocks are not as safe as they appear. Punitive damages, Helfert said, have stripped them of that title, and that should be considered going forward.

