

THE  AGE

A 2

CULTURE AND LIFE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2007

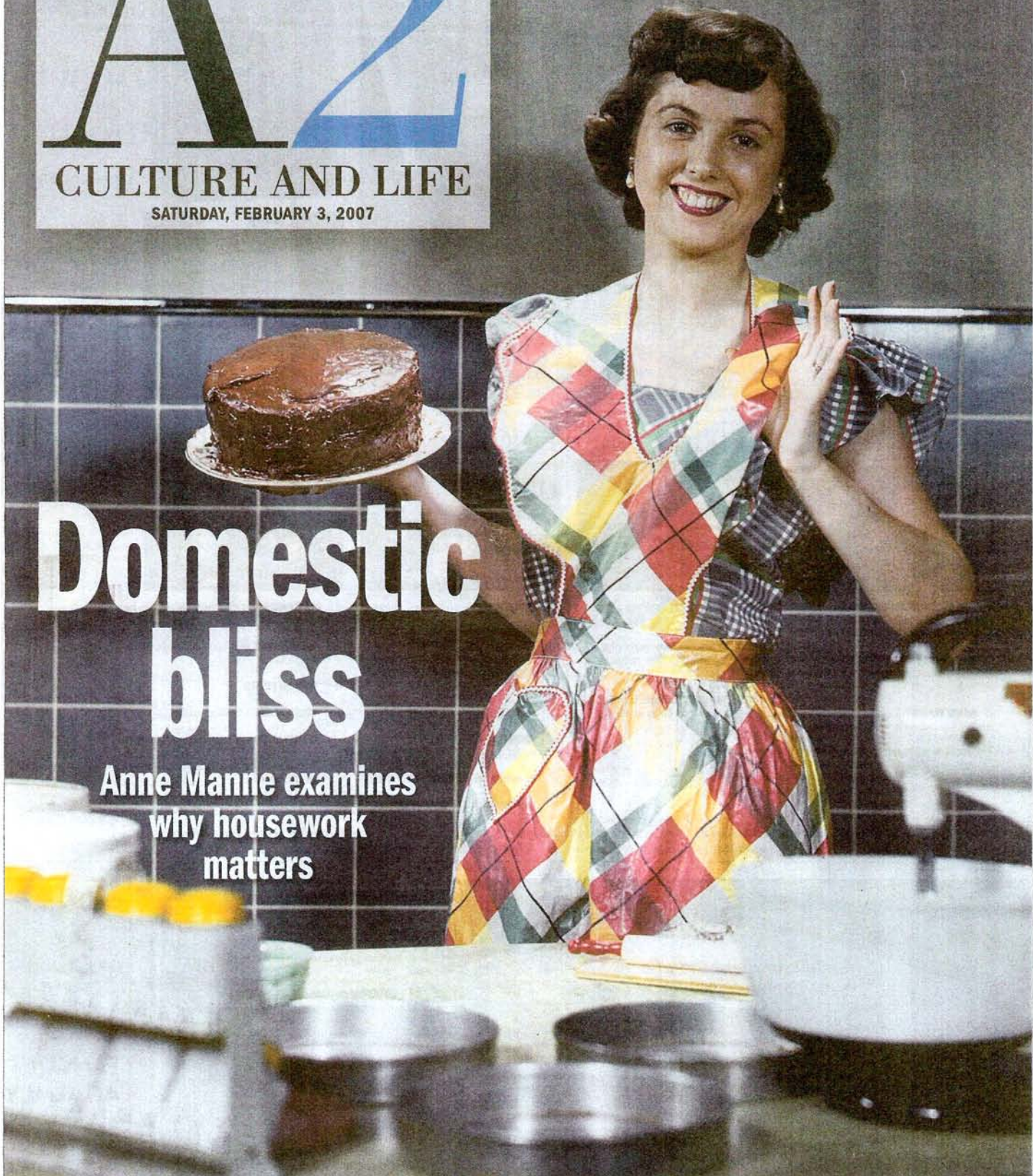
BEST READING

Robert Drewe The germinator

Leonard Cohen We're your fan

Philippa Hawker Gilmore gold

Marina Lewycka Tractors and me



Domestic bliss

Anne Manne examines why housework matters

THE AGE NO.1 FOR
CARS · HOMES · JOBS
☎ 13 22 43

drive

domain

my career

48 hours the personal shopper

GET THE LOOK

WHO Ginger and Smart Summer 06/07

WHAT Tarmac Ribbon Knit Dress, \$260 Available in Tarmac, Lipstick, White

STOCKISTS: (02) 96993055 gingerandsmart.com

Basic Instinct's second instalment would have been barely watchable if Sharon Stone's spider woman hadn't been so exquisitely clad. With not a hair out of place, the author slunk around in fabrics and dresses that seemed to say as much about her character as did the script. Which was lucky, because the script was terrible. One of her key items was an off-the-shoulder top that doubled as a dress, first seen in the original. The off-the-shoulder look has always held that paradoxical mix of vulnerability and seduction, the leaking of emotions, a definite display of the feminine instinct. Think *Natassja Kinski in Paris, Texas*, *Brooke Shields in Pretty Baby* and, for the ultimate in female impulse, *Susan Sarandon in Thelma and Louise*. There's something soft and vulnerable about seeing a woman's shoulders, which is why this isn't a look for the office. But with the sweater dress making its way on to the haute couture collection racks, soft comfort has become high fashion.

In Melbourne, cashmere comfort is even more appreciated when the weather can change in a snap. Ginger and Smart's Ribbon Knit Dress is the first of many similar looks to make their way into our wardrobes. The intrinsic vulnerability of an off-the-shoulder knit says you've got other things on your mind, you needed some comfort, you grabbed it like *Linus* would have grabbed his blanket — a soft reminder that although the world outside may be harsh, you can nurture yourself with the fabrics that touch your body. It's a look best avoided on days when you're trying to come across as emotion-free. Save the suit for that.

LOUISA DEASEY



IN SHOPS



Ines Botanical Pure Soy Wax Candles: Moroccan Chamomile, African Myrrh, Indian Lemongrass and Bulgarian Rose
COST \$59.95

As a stylist I am always buying props for shoots and was amazed at how many candles were made out of synthetic fragrances. I could never find a truly natural candle with no synthetics, no lead wicks and no paraffin. I became interested in soy candles because it's derived from a sustainable and renewable resource (soy beans) and is kinder to our environment and to the user. Soy is temperamental — it needs to be melted at a specific temperature, oils need to be added at a lower temperature and the pouring temp needs to differ again to avoid uneven surfaces, rippling and separating of the oil and wax. Once the candle has solidified, leave it for five days to cure correctly. Each candle blend can take up to a month to get the formula spot-on — once this is done, I can do larger runs and have candles ready to go in about six days. Providing a natural product is the most satisfying aspect of creating the candles. Soy allows for a slower, cooler-burning candle, which produces an excellent hot and cold scent throw. The candles burn clean, last 30 to 50 per cent longer, produce less soot and leave your air free of the harsh chemicals found in paraffin.

Stockists: inesbotanica.com and **Atkinson and Graham Flowers**, 219 Barkly Street, St Kilda, 9537 2699.

VICKI VALSAMIS

HOME

Back to school

By Holly Evans.
Photographs by Marina Oliphant.

Animal rubber bands, \$12.95 from kikki.k 9650 3151 or kikki.k.com.au



Pen cups, \$9.95 each from Smiggle 9639 4425 smiggle.com.au

Visual diary, \$34.95 and everyday notebooks, \$7.95 each from kikki.k 9650 3151 or kikki.k.com.au



Bubble calculator, \$19.95 from Smiggle 9639 4425 or smiggle.com.au



MICHI'S WEEKEND

Blow me down

The way movies spawn fashion trends is something that has never quite made sense to me. I can kind of understand the way we all cuffed our jeans and wore flats when Cameron Diaz did it in *There's Something About Mary*. Who wouldn't want to look like that? I can also understand getting a bit more "luxe" after seeing *Marie Antoinette*. But pirates? Please, give me a break. Sure Johnny Depp has a face from heaven, but can this explain the skull scarf bandwagon? Seems a bit daft to me to expect to come out looking as utterly desirable as Johnny

by trying to dress like Captain Jack. Yet celebrities and fashion slaves the world over are going along for the ride. If you want to emulate the good Captain, why not just get a great tan, grow your hair and go on a three-day bender? Oh hang on, Lindsay and Nicole did that too.

Skull and crossbone scarf, \$15 from Jay Jays. For stockists call 1800 630 122.



For daily fashion and weather forecasts: michigirl.com.au

first in,
best dressed!

Once a Year Summer Sale!

50% up to off

Hurry!
Extraordinary
reductions on the
most extraordinary
menswear!

Henry Buck's

ESTABLISHED 1900 AUSTRALIA

Starts tomorrow for 1 week only!
320 Collins Street only

Sunday 4th February 10am-5pm
Mon 5th-Thurs 8th Feb 9am-5.30pm
Friday 9th February 9am-7pm
Saturday 10th February 9am-
must end 5pm!