

THE  AGE

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CULTURE AND LIFE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2007

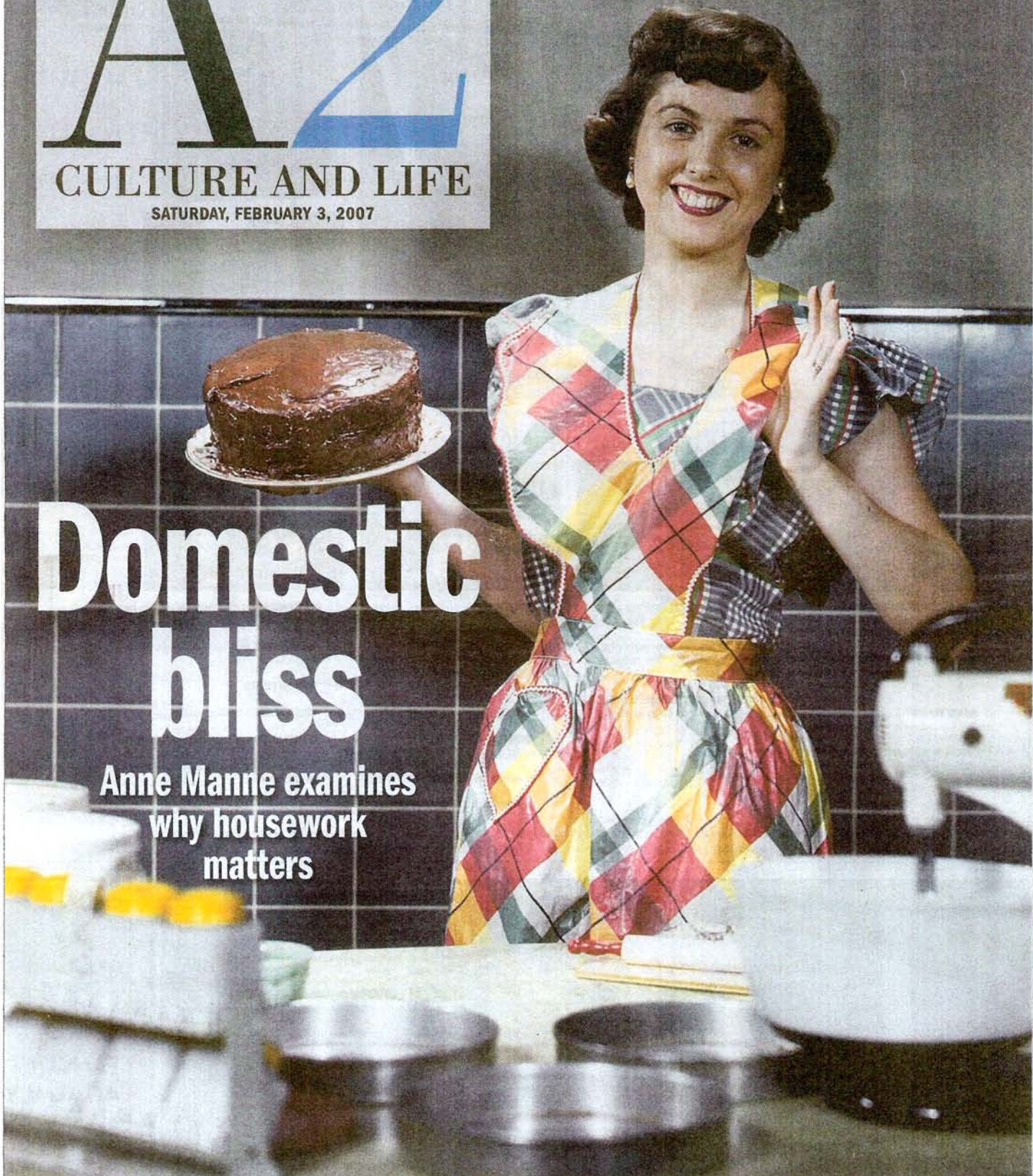
**BEST READING**

**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  
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**drive**

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**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) 9699 3055 [gingerandsmart.com](http://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](http://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](http://kikki.k) 9650 3151 or [kikki.k.com.au](http://kikki.k.com.au)



Pen cups, \$9.95 each from [Smiggle](http://Smiggle) 9639 4425 [smiggle.com.au](http://smiggle.com.au)

Visual diary, \$34.95 and everyday notebooks, \$7.95 each from [kikki.k](http://kikki.k) 9650 3151 or [kikki.k.com.au](http://kikki.k.com.au)



Bubble calculator, \$19.95 from [Smiggle](http://Smiggle) 9639 4425 or [smiggle.com.au](http://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.



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Friday 9th February 9am-7pm  
Saturday 10th February 9am-  
**must end 5pm!**