

Weekend Styles

OCT. 27-29, 2006



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your fall look | **E7**

MICHELLE REPISSO/EXPRESS

➔ PLUS: The founders of Television Without Pity on throwing a tube-centric bash | **E8**

face QA time

■ **The horrors of apartheid** force Luke's character in "Catch a Fire" to transform from a regular guy into a South African freedom fighter. In real life, his metamorphosis has been much happier: from working in the Sony Pictures gift shop to starring in "Antwone Fisher." Now, he's settling into his role as an established leading man.

How long after "Antwone Fisher" did you realize you'd made it?
When I went from catching two or three buses to get to work — in California, there's not a lot of good public transportation — to driving a car. Our car had gotten repossessed, but they gave it back. I actually bought my wife a car first.

So you treated her before you treated yourself?
I was so happy to go home and say, "Baby, it's time to go shopping." I've gotten good points for that.

Do you like shopping, too?
I love fashion. To me, it's like acting. You can assume characters any day of the week. Clothes can be a weapon or a uniform, so I love creating a style of my own.

What's your style?
Comfortable, confident, and I let my wife say sexy. I like Gucci, Sean John, Dolce Gabbana, Jil Sander.

What are the other perks of an actor's life?
You get to travel to different places and see different things. In Cape Town, I loved Table Mountain. It's where the Atlantic and Pacific meet, and you have this rainforest town. Johannesburg was like New York, with cultures of so many different people.

Did you bring back any souvenirs from Africa?
Besides pictures I took, I have a couple of African art pieces. One is a carving of a mask. Another is from when I met my character, Patrick.



JIM COOPER/AP

Derek Luke

ACTOR, STAR OF "CATCH A FIRE" (OPENS FRIDAY)

He lives with all of these orphans that he's taken in. I got there and they began to sing to me and they made me this banner with my name on it. It's one of my most treasured possessions.

What was it like to meet Patrick?
It was my first time in South Africa, and my director took me on this four-hour trip to where he

lives. It's amazing to meet a real-life person you're portraying. And then the first thing he said was, "Do you know Beyonce? I'm coming to America and she's going to like me."

But you don't know Beyonce?
No. I had to hear about her through the whole shoot, though. He also thought he was much better look-

"I love fashion. It's like acting. You can assume characters any day of the week."

ing than me. He had wanted Cuba Gooding Jr. or Denzel Washington. But when he saw me he told me I would do.

How great were the clothes you got to wear in the movie?
In the '70s, clothes meant a lot to the movement and the culture. Africa in so many ways mirrored what was happening in the U.S. My character gets to have an Afro and bell-bottoms. Nobody would just wear a T-shirt. You came ready to boogie.

And you get to do that in the movie, too.
Whenever I get the chance, I'll be on the dance floor until I'm soaked.

VICKY HALLETT (EXPRESS)



WeekendPass makes the weekend perform.
Every Thursday in Express.



1 Chow on Craniums

DAY OF THE DEAD, with its Frida Kahlo cred and honor-the-departed rituals, always seemed hip-
per than Halloween. Now the Nov. 1 holiday is
sweeter, too, thanks to Vosges Haute Chocolat's
new candy skulls (\$8 each, vosgeschocolate
.com) in flavors such as Red Fire (chiles, cinna-
mon, dark chocolate) and Barcelona (almonds,
salt, milk chocolate). Also ghoulishly good:
Vosges' chocolate-covered tortilla chips.



Grab Bag

2

Project NPR

THE ULTIMATE FASHION SHOW is your boss' Halloween party, so the intellectu-
als at National Public Radio asked "Project
Runway" alums to channel their skills into
costume ideas (see npr.org for results).
Daniel Vosovic dreamed up this elegant
"Alice in Wonderland" ensemble (he'll
be the Mad Hatter). Kara Janx garbs the
whole family, with mom as Heidi Klum,
dad as Tim Gunn and child as neck-
tattooed Jeffrey Sebelia. Sanity-
challenged Vincent Libretti will
be clad as a house; his 7-year-
old son will be a termite.



Genius Not Guaranteed

5 YOU HAVE A BEST-SELLER in you somewhere.
Extract it with the "No Plot? No Problem!" kit by
Chris Baty, founder of National Novel Writing
Month, aka November. His system of threats and
rewards is meant to generate 1,667 words a day for 30 days.
"Onerosity coupons," for example, punish laziness. Those
who write 50,000 words win. See nanowrimo.org for info.



dear manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

I need suitably hot shoes for Halloween. I'm going as a sexy witch. —SABRINA

■ Manolo says, you may perhaps, like the Manolo, remember when the Halloween was the minor holiday celebrated only by the small children and the superheroes, and by the teen-aged hooligans who threw eggs at the homes of their algebra teachers.

Ayyyyy, but now the Halloween, it is the massive celebration of the adult



unbound, the holiday during which even the mildest and mousiest librarians and church ladies unleash their inner hoochies, strutting out into the night wearing the micro-miniskirts and the "Pretty Woman" boots. "Why Ms. Gildersleeves, the Manolo had no idea you had the Harley-Davidson tattoo in that particular place." However, far be it from the Manolo to dampen your enthusiasm for appearing in public as the sexy housewife "June Cleavage," wearing nothing but the garter belt and flowered apron. Thus the Manolo would recommend to his witchy friend the Butane by the Charles David (\$449, zappos.com) as the suitably eerie black boot, one that would undoubtedly help her place many men under her spell.

@ Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

ON THE COVER

Adam looks sharp in a Donegal tweed Band of Outsiders schoolboy blazer (\$1,155), slim silk tie (\$125, bandofoutsiders.com) and poplin shirt (\$145, Hugo Boss, 1517 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-625-2677). Photo by Michelle Repiso.

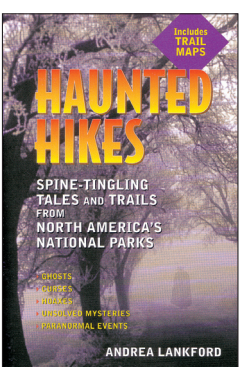


3 20th-Century Foxy

WIDE RIBBON TRIM. SUBTLE PIN TUCKS. Lettuce hems. Sweet, retro details make frocks and separates from Secrets of Charm look like what an especially fashion-forward 1940s chorine might sport after the show. Now on the marquee at Betsy Fisher (1224 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-785-1975), designs by sister act Estee and Sharon Elkayam include a flutter-sleeved wool jersey dress (\$340) and a silk-satin blouse (\$250) that would add "His Girl Friday" flash to a dark suit.

4 Following a Trail of Fears

FOOTSTEPS OF a spectral miner reportedly can be heard on a path at Great Falls. From trails above Harper's Ferry, hikers might see John Brown's ghost. Paranormal rumors from pretty places fill Andrea Lankford's lively, anecdote-loaded "Haunted Hikes" (\$17, Santa Monica Press). If you take its treks, pack gorp and ghost-busting spray.



Paint Fixes, Fabric Finds

Q I just bought a house in which there's lots of custom painting on the walls, faux finishing and even a mural that might be Venice. I can't find the original owner or artist. How do I go about matching the paint and the stroke techniques to touch up a damaged spot?

Decorative paint jobs, especially ones that were done by pros, should be fixed up by another faux finisher or decorative artist. There are lots of them in the area, many with Web sites that'll show their work and list references. If you call one, most times they'll come to your house, check out your walls and give you an estimate. They'll usually give you a sample of their work on a small piece of card stock.



A few good local pros include Billett Collins Studio (301-670-5550), Rising Tide (443-831-1758), Plaster & Faux (202-363-4332, plasterandfaux.com) and Valley Craftsman (410-366-7077). If you don't like the faux finishes in your place, you don't even have to keep them. You could paint over them, either with a new decorative technique or with a plain old color. Or, heck, paint a couple of "Lost" characters into that Venetian mural — just make the look yours. If you decide to try your hand at faux finishing, Behr (behr.com) and Ralph Lauren (rlhome.polo.com)



UP AGAINST THE WALL: A faux finish can add a sunny atmosphere to your pad.

make kits that'll let you do things such as create a mock suede surface or do a color wash — a technique that can give walls a "Year in Provence" country charm.

Q I want to make some pillows and maybe a swag for my bedroom window. Where can I find cool fabrics at moderate prices?

D.C. isn't textile heaven, like the Garment District and the Lower East Side in New York, but you can discover some good fabrics here. Start at one of the four area branches of G Street Fabric (gstreetfabrics.com), where the home sections feature bolts of damasks, velvets and cottons arranged by color. Calico Corners (calicocorners.com) is also good, especially if you have trad taste. The cheerful stores offer coordinated collections, which makes it easier to create a scheme. Both G Street and Calico Corners offer upholstery-, bedding- and curtain-making services; Calico Corners has its own line of furniture. Discount Fabrics USA (discountfabricsusa.com) boasts an easy-to-surf, online selection of remnants and yardages; you can also visit its store in Thurmont, Md. (108 N. Carroll St.; 301-271-2266).

@ Send home design dilemmas to Katie Z. Leavy, ASID, of Capital Design (capitaldesignDC.com) at decordiva@readexpress.com.



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What Would Randolph Wear?

Express meets Italian style face to face

The many statues of yesteryear around Europe are beautiful but do not offer much in terms of fashion advice. Loincloths and loose drapery are great, but only for toga parties or lounging around the house. If you want to Euro-ify your wardrobe, turn not to the art but to the people, who traverse the streets with a bounty of grace and style. "But wait," you holler. "How am I, a lowly resident of the D.C. metropolitan area, supposed to take style cues from the Old Country?" Option 1: A powerful telescope. Option 2: Former Express intern Maya Silver, who's studying abroad in Italy.

This week, ask yourself: What would Randolph wear (WWRW)? For his afternoon smoke, Randolph of Florence sports an off-white linen suit, a casual yellow shirt and a cigar — half hobby, half fashion accessory. He is a column of vanilla gelato with a splash of pineapple, personified.

Randolfo's age-softening, yet edgy, outfit is representative of the Italian aesthetic's key ingredient: "la vita bella" (the beautiful



MAYA SILVER

Randolfo had never heard of Express, and, more than likely, never will again.

life). Italians look comfortable in their skins and happy to be alive. But you need more than a smile to be chic (Randolfo doesn't even need the smile). To steal his look, snag mistershops.com's **BEACH WEDDING SUIT** (\$269), to be rocked on any semi-warm occasion with a brightly colored shirt. Women can attempt the Randolph with Juicy Couture's **SAFARI PANTS** (\$94), **SAFARI TIE BLAZER** (\$132, nordstrom.com) and a vibrant necklace or pair of earrings. Top it off with a smooth, sleek cigar. MAYA SILVER

Garb Around The Globe

My Space: MySpace.com had such promise. At least, it did before your boss saw your vacation photos and your mom shrieked, "Is that a tattoo?!" Why do they call it MySpace when anyone — we're looking at you, stalker high school boyfriend — can invade it? Claim an area that's truly yours. Visit the UPS Store (see ups.com for locations) to buy as much space as you want; we got the most they had for \$20.



Fast, Cheap, & Out of Control

Just because you're low on ideas and cash doesn't mean you should spend yet another Halloween dressed as a beer can or a naughty nurse. Also, everyone is going to be dressed as a slutty congressional page this year. The trick (and treat) to these costumes is wordplay. The best part? Each of them can be put together for less than \$30. JAMIE PAGE DEATON



Open Sores Code: Impress the Microsoft-hating IT people at your office with an ode to Linux. Nasty facial wounds and a few lines of Java is enough to make any techie smile, because together they make open sores code. Backstage Inc. has all your weeping wound supplies (\$20, 545 8th St. SE; 202-544-5744; backstagebooks.com), while a blank T-shirt from Target (\$5) and an iron-on kit from Michael's (\$5) compile (see what we did there?) into a bug-free costume for geeks and the nerds who love them.



Hairy Potter: Sure, you remove the jackets from your Harry Potter books when you read them on the Metro, but it's tough to pass up a chance to pay homage to Hogwarts' favorite son. Harry is a tough costume for adults to pull off without looking creepy, and no one wants to see you wearing a dish towel and claiming to be a house elf. Distinguish yourself from Harry's ankle-biting fans with this Hairy Potter ensemble. Wear a beard (\$7) and wig (\$18) from Backstage Inc., and carry the potted plant that's been languishing on your balcony.



An Inconvenient Truth: Now that Al Gore and friends have brought global warming to everyone's attention, it's time for you to own up. While you may not personally be melting the icecaps (who has time to stand around in the Arctic with a hair dryer?), there is something you do that hurts the planet and your fellow man. Own up and reveal your own Inconvenient Truth. All it takes is a blank T-shirt (\$4.48, Target) and an iron-on kit (\$5, Michael's) to issue a wake-up call to the planet. Our choice: "I stand to the left."

EVENT HORIZON GREEK TRESSES & POVERTY-FIGHTIN' STYLE

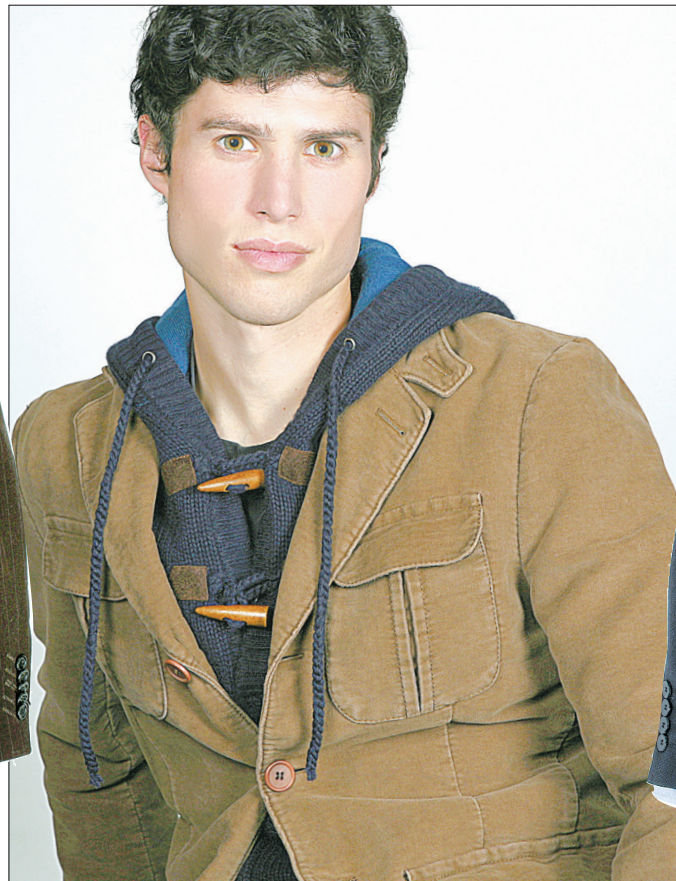
→ How did Socrates get those bitchin' wavy locks? Learn about ancient Greek hairstyles from cosmetologist Janet Stephens. Graham Auditorium, Walters Art Museum, 600 N. Charles St., Baltimore; Nov. 5, 2 p.m., \$5; 410-547-9000; thewalters.org

→ Gawk at the runway offspring of EDUN, Loomstate and other labels at Fashion Fights Poverty. The show benefits BeadforLife, which fights poverty in Uganda. Carnegie Library, 801 K St. NW; Fri., 6 p.m., \$145-\$215; buy tix at fashionfightspoverty.org



TWEED NOT ONLY summons visions of lovely, chilly spots (Cotswolds, the Moors), but it breaks the monotony of black or blue office wear. Barney's Co-Op's fine-gauge blazer plays well with khakis or jeans. Mix it with a striped shirt for a modern match. (\$295 AND \$150, BARNEY'S CO-OP)

A COUSIN OF THE SMOKING JACKET, a velvet blazer looks swanky for dinner out or a holiday bash. Avoid being mistaken for a lounge singer with an unusual texture or pattern, like 4You's tobacco-hued model with gray stripes. Pair it with Nicole Farhi's white shirt. (\$160 AND \$225, MULEH, 1831 14TH ST. NW; 202-667-3440)



HIPSTER MEETS PREPSTER with Chinook's rugged jacket in cozy cotton moleskin (so Steve McQueen!) over Trovata's wool and angora hoodie. (\$295 AND \$240, BARNEY'S CO-OP, 5471-C WISCONSIN AVE., CHEVY CHASE; 301-634-4061)

Jacket Required

Some males (schoolboys, professors) have always worn blazers. And for good reason: The staple keeps them warm and dresses up everything from tees to button-downs. "It's part of this Ivy League vernacular guys are comfortable with," said Band of Outsiders' designer Scott Sternberg. So, whether you choose tweed over a sweater or a Franz Ferdinand-skinny black coat with a T-shirt, remember it should fit snugly (yet still allow movement) and match many things in your closet. A bonus? Whether you wear it in the barroom or the boardroom, a blazer always makes you look smart. CORY OHLENDORF



WHO NEEDS A RATTY FLEECE? Sharpen a casual outfit with Ben Sherman's sand-colored cord topper and RVCA's Gothic crest thermal, a step up from those contrived concert tees. (\$179 AND \$49.50, SOUTH MOON UNDER, 2700 CLARENDON BLVD., ARLINGTON; 703-807-4083)

BLAZERS TRACE THEIR roots to 19th-century boating jackets. Hugo Boss reimagined the punter's fave in herringbone wool cut slim and short. (\$545, HUGO BOSS, 1517 WISCONSIN AVE. NW; 202-625-2677). Further twist the country-club aesthetic with a fitted oxford and knit tie. (\$205 AND \$125, BANDOFOUTSIDERS.COM)

Styles | entertaining

bash in a
flash

Daylight: Who Really Needs It?

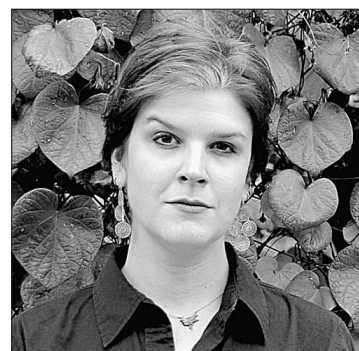
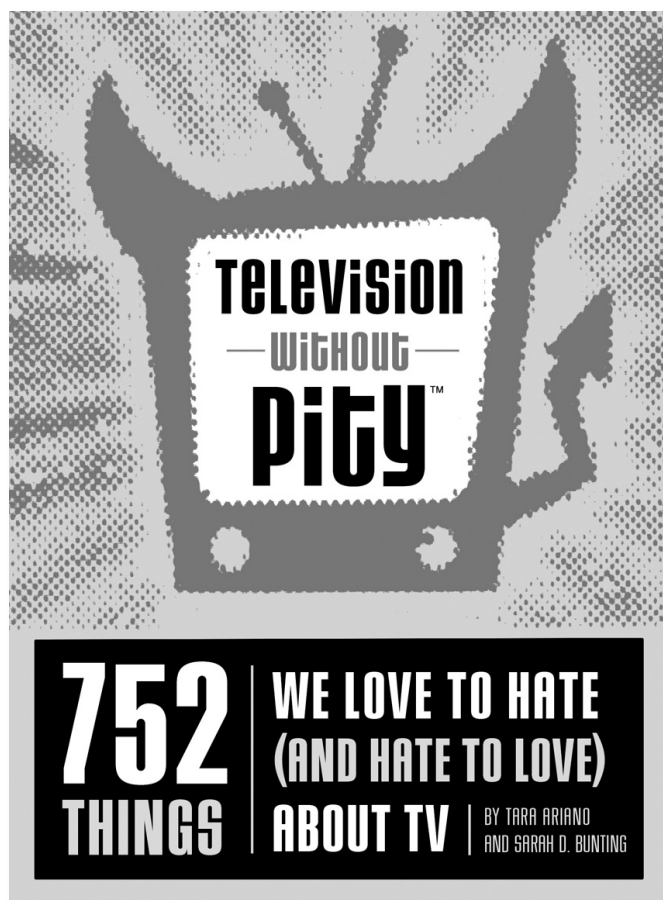
■ You've spent the week mumbling, "fall back in fall." Now all your co-workers think you're crazy, and no one will sit next to you on the Metro. Yes, daylight-saving time ends on Oct. 29, which means it's time to party in the dark.

Though it seems like just an excuse to create mnemonic devices, daylight-saving time is a critical part of the nation's energy-saving policy. It works so well that in March, Congress voted to extend it. According to a press release



from Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., who proposed the change with Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., "this new law means that Americans will be able to enjoy four more weeks of sunlight in the evenings. That translates into less electricity consumed, less crime, fewer traffic fatalities and more opportunities for outdoor recreation." Geez, it's almost like the congressman doesn't like the dark!

So plan your party around an activity that can only be enjoyed under the cover of night: a ghost tour. Steely your crew beforehand with autumnal foods, such as minestrone and potato-cheddar soups (\$4.25 a pound) from Balducci's (see suttongourmet.com for stores) or individual chicken pot pies (\$7). Alexandria Colonial Tours offers ghost walks in Old Town at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. nightly (\$8, alexcolonialtours.com). Because daylight-saving time may cut back on energy consumption, but it won't make your heart race like haunted darkness will. JAMIE PAGE DEATON



Sarah Bunting, top, writes at TWoP under the name "Sars," as well as at tomatonation.com. Tara Ariano's TWoP handle is "Wing Chun"; she can also be found at taraariano.com.

Viewing to Kill

Amuse a group with wit, a TV and a good (or very bad) show

Tara Ariano and Sarah Bunting have sucked up more work hours than any watercooler with televisionwithoutpity.com, the snarktastic recap site they launched in 1998 as Dawson's Wrap. The duo has expanded its media empire to print with "Television Without Pity" (\$16, Quirk), an encyclopedia of TV ephemera. They spoke to Express' Kristen Page-Kirby about entertaining around the tube.

What are the essential elements of a TV-viewing party?

BUNTING: You've got to pick a show that is or was universal, one that everyone is sufficiently familiar with and can enjoy. Like "90210" — even if you haven't seen every episode,

you know the basic plots.

ARIANO: Because they require less backstory, awards shows are really good. For the Oscars, you don't have to have seen any of the movies to comment on what people are wearing, or make fun of people who are drunk, or of people taking too long and thanking their entire entourage.

Plus, you can win an Oscar pool without seeing any of the movies, which my mom did once.

What kinds of foods work best?

B: Anything involving cheese is metaphorically important.

A: Nothing drippy. You don't want to deal with cutlery, or even a plate. Corn dogs are good.

What rules should one follow?

A: Certainly, there are a number of drinking games. This is a really popular topic on our boards. Every show has something. Like for "90210," sip whenever Brenda throws a s***fit, or Brandon judg-

es somebody, or Andrea looks like she's 8,000 years old.

Do you allow talking?

A: I prefer to not, unless people can wait for an appropriate moment. But my sister, brother-in-law and I watch "Lost" and "The Amazing Race," and I am definitely most guilty of talking, so thank God for the DVR.

B: I mean, if we're talking about shoes, that can wait. Show the proper reverence for the material!

Who should you not invite?

A: Your grandma. She won't shut up. I mean, maybe your grandma is hip, but if I invited mine for "Lost," there would be a lot of "Who is that?"

B: Don't invite people for whom watching TV is like listening to jazz. I mean, if you're watching "The Sopranos," don't invite the guy who is going to drone on about how one shot is like some Sergio Leone shot from a million years ago.

A: You don't want to invite the person who is going to pooh-pooh

everything they see and be all like, "Ewww, reality TV!"

B: The key is to keep the group small, especially if it's for a good show. But, like, "My Super Sweet Sixteen," which is deliriously bad and yet deliriously rad, you don't even have to know people. Everyone will get a kick out of it.

What are the best shows for TV parties?

A: "Project Runway" and "America's Next Top Model."

B: Well, "Runway" just ended. But you can still do it on DVD. "Amazing Race" is a good one. Any "Law & Order" is good. "Criminal Intent" is especially full of drinking-game fodder.

A: So is "SVU," just based on the guide. Look at the description, then bet on who is going to take it personal this week. Is it gonna be the pregnant lady? Is Jerry Lewis going to show up and be related to Munch for some reason? It's like they don't care about the case unless it's related to them.

How have TiVo and other DVRs changed the viewing experience?

B: When there's a debate, you can just pause it and let people get the nerdiness out of their system. The only downside to DVR culture is you don't have that same experience across your time zone.

A: People can get refills and go to the bathroom and you don't have to yell, "THE SHOW'S STARTING."

Are there any TV events that really demand a party?

A: Season finales are usually a solid bet.

B: Premieres, too.

A: If someone's gonna die.

B: But not on NBC. They claim someone's gonna die every week.

A: If they bring someone back. But not Noah Wyle, because they bring him back every week.

B: "Buffy"/"Angel" crossovers — when those happened, it was just sit on the couch, put on an adult diaper and maintain church silence.

How can people use your book at their TV soirees?

A: How CAN'T you?

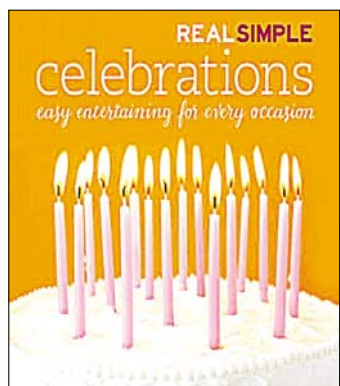
B: Make sure everyone has a copy.

A: Put it in your goody bag!

B: Have a copy on the table and in the bathroom for research.

A: Bet-settling, too.

B: Great for stocking stuffers!

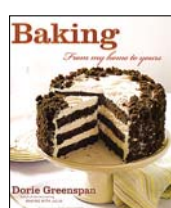
mixed
media

BOOKS

Bake Some Friends

■ Did half the office catch you taking the last cup of coffee without brewing a new batch? Bribe your way out of exile with Dorie Greenspan's **BAKING: FROM MY HOME TO YOURS** (\$40, Houghton Mifflin). Classics such as chocolate-chip cookies are suitable for minor faux pas; if you really put your foot in it, try the caramel pumpkin pie or chocolate amaretti torte. She includes variations for many of the recipes — you know, in case you keep screwing up. **PERRI KENNEDY**

BOOKS

Celebrate Simply

■ **REAL SIMPLE CELEBRATIONS** (\$28), a non-intimidating guide for the party-impaired, was designed for those out of whom Martha Stewart scares the crap. Ideas include using a red wagon as a beverage cart for a summer barbecue. Easy recipes pair with idiot-proof crafts to ensure your next birthday party, New Year's event or summer barbecue will be a low-stress success. **KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)**

BOOKS

Whistle Some Dixie

■ Mmm, pimento cheese. Southern hearts will sing with glee at the sight of **THE LEE BROS. SOUTHERN COOKBOOK** (\$35, Norton). There's some tinkering to appease Yankee obsessions with calories (it's not ambrosia without marshmallows, boys), but you'll find traditional recipes for burgoo (a Kentucky dish where you cook the hell out of lamb and other meat), gumbo and hushpuppies. **K.P.K.**

A Real Fashion 'Do'

Trade cast-offs for new-to-you treasures at a swapping soiree

She who shops too much shall often find her closet overfloweth with too-big Seven jeans, blouses that clash with her eyes and other fashion detritus. But one girl's trash is another girl's flash, so rather than auction extras on eBay — and before hauling anything to the thrift store — I recently hosted a clothing swap. Kind of like trolling a resale boutique for free, the bash cleaned out my wardrobe and netted me some new duds. And the best thing? It was a fab excuse to party with girlfriends, and it didn't involve buying Pampered Chef rubbish or watching reality TV.

The plan: Bring your tired dresses, your poorly fitting stilettos (good stuff, not pre-Isaac Mizrahi Target rejects), then trade and barter with a dozen other frugal fashionistas. All attendees were told to spotlight 10 fave items; other clothes were heaped



If the '80s are in, can '90s bodysuits be far behind? Kathy Speakman, center, demos perpetually tucked-in chic for Elizabeth Jackson, left, and Melissa Garcia, right.

Steal My Party

in the basement and guest room for people to rummage through, like Boston bargainistas at a Filene's Basement sale.

Then, gals stood up one by one — tongues loosened by pear saketinis — showing and telling why others might want her silver sequined sweater (worn one hot night in Vegas) or flowered Ann Taylor cocktail dress (looks

Southern sultry with peep-toes).

Tales of fashion faux pas — micro-short skirts on first dates, ugly bridesmaids dresses — spurred laughs and lively conversation. And party guests served as a built-in team of fashion judges (step aside, Heidi Klum and Nina Garcia) as my friend Patty tried on my old Tahari dress pants and sisters Anne and Page duked it out over a Banana Republic frock.

If you don't want your swap to descend into a "Dynasty"-style catfight over loot, I'd recommend using a dispute pile. If an item (like the hot-pink espadrilles one pal brought) incites a riot, put it in a stack. Then wait till the end of the party, so guests can model any objects of desire and have other partiers vote on who looks best in that vintage Lacoste shirt or the somber suit you wore to a mean ex's funeral.

For modest "shoppers," put up a folding screen, or do as I did, and send them to the powder, er, fitting room. Got a garment rack? Use it to hold clothing à la T.J. Maxx. Otherwise, pile apparel on furniture by item type (tops on the futon) or size (mediums on the bed). And be sure to invite people of different shapes — nobody wants to be the only size 12 in a room of Kate Moss skinnies, or vice versa.

In the end, I scored a cool argyle tunic top and a T-shirt with a sparkly red skull. My amis went away with mighty stylish castoffs. We divided unswapped clothes into garbage bags for charity, and everyone loaded a few into their car trunks.

Now if only I'd gotten rid of more of the party cheesecake. I ate so much, I might need to have another swap to get my lucky, loose Sevens back. **JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)**

POSSESSION OBSESSION ►► MARTIN G-16 GUITAR

Strung Along by a Rockin' Guitar

■ Tom Meyer spends his long workdays approving menu specials and dreaming up new restaurant concepts as an executive vice president for Clyde's Restaurant Group. But before heading to the office, he begins his mornings in a calm manner: strumming his Martin G-16 guitar.

The six-string baby has an Adirondack sprucetop and mahogany sides. He bought it two years ago, when he and his 12-year-old son William made a pilgrimage to the Martin factory in Nazareth, Pa. After touring the facility, Meyer got directions to a little shop that sold guitars. "There were a few elderly women there," he remembered. "It looked like a place where you'd rent a clarinet for the school band." But the tiny storefront

opened onto a barn filled with hundreds of guitars. There, a salesman had Meyer put on an apron, and he spent an hour and a half trying instruments before choosing his. "My son and I bought the guitar together, so it's a family heirloom," he said. "It'll get mellower as it ages."

In his a.m. sound garden, Meyer uses the jumbo acoustic to play "old stuff, Grateful Dead, Rolling Stones, a little bluegrass." Lessons over the years have made him an agile guitar slinger. "I have some musical friends, and we'll get together and have a hootenanny sometimes," said Meyer. "But, mostly, the guitar is a private thing for me. You've got to make a little music every day." **J.B.**



Apparel, Accessories, Home Décor

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B.I.O.

BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS



Kelly Casey, Chris Van Horn

Kelly, 28, is an elementary school teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools. Chris, 29, is in the Old Guard, stationed at Fort Myer. They will live in Arlington after they marry.

- **The Main Event:** A Catholic ceremony and reception for 250 guests on March 17 in Arlington.
- **How They Met:** On a blind date.
- **First Date:** Pizzeria Uno's for dinner and drinks.
- **How He Proposed:** Chris painted "Will You Marry Me" on his wall. Then he "told Kelly we were painting the room

that weekend."

■ **Most Hated Clothing Item:** "Green cargo pants that Chris wears," said Kelly.

■ **When She Knew:** "Laying on the beach after everyone had gone in for the day, just listening to his MP3 player," said Kelly. "We had become that annoying lovey-dovey couple on the beach."

■ **Celebrating Heritage:** The bridesmaids will be in green in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

■ **Wedding Jitters:** "People taking the St. Patrick's Day 'celebrating' a little too far," the couple said.

■ **The Dress:** "NOT STRAPLESS," said Kelly. "Every wedding we have been to in the past five years has had a bride in strapless. Not this bride."

■ **Mmm, Cake:** A Bailey's Irish Cream mousse in a chocolate shell with raspberry puree.

When Kelly met his family, she met the entire extended family.



Heat, Spouse Included

Usually, the best you can hope from a friend's roommate is that he's not creepy. But **JENNIFER COLAGUORI** and **ERIC WEXLER**, who was rooming with Jennifer's friend from college, found something more — although it took awhile. At first, "I had a crush, but she had a boyfriend," said Eric. "I didn't really think twice about him when we met," said Jennifer. "Although we always had fun together, I never could have pictured myself marrying him!" Five years after meeting, they started dating.

Eric proposed in the summer of 2005 on a vacation to Montauk, N.Y. While at a jazz bar on the beach, "Eric excused himself to the restroom, where he was secretly calling the florist," said Jennifer. "Then we took a walk on the beach," which is when Eric asked. "All the while, the florist was decorating the entire house with roses, rose petals and candles."

Jennifer, 29, is a visual arts coordinator for VSA arts. Eric, 31, is an attorney for McChesney & Dale. They live in Washington and will marry on Nov. 18.



Nicholas Johnson, Melissa Wallace

Nicholas, 27, and Melissa, 28, are both economists with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. They live in Silver Spring.

- **The Main Event:** A semiformal ceremony and reception on Long Island, N.Y., on March 10. They expect 100 guests.
- **How They Met:** Atwork. "She started a month before me," said Nicholas.
- **First Impressions:** "Quiet, tall guy, probably had no personality," said Melissa. "So much for not judging a book by its cover!"
- **Meeting the Parents:** "I was kind of shocked at how much her dad likes ketchup," said Nicholas.
- **How He Proposed:** Under the moonlight on a beach in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. "The tough

"Since I'm an Orioles fan, her Yankees Mike Mussina shirt drives me up the wall," he said.

part was waiting for the guy with the metal detector to pass because he was kind of killing the romance," said Nicholas.

■ **Stupidest Fight:** "How many items the dishwasher should have in it before we run it," said Melissa.

■ **Making It Unique:** "Since we've travelled all over the world, we're going to have a travel theme to the reception. Each table will represent a different country we've been to and we'll have our favorite beers from other countries as our 'signature drink,'" said Melissa.

Erica Lynch, Donfred Napoleon

Erica, 29, is a log editor for comcast sportsnet. Don, 33, is a producer for Gearshift TV and OCTT Channel 16. They live in Washington.

- **The Main Event:** A Baptist ceremony on Dec. 30 in the bride's hometown of Lynchburg. The same minister that baptized Erica will officiate.
- **How They Met:** They worked in the same building. "I spotted her for months, and when I had the guts to approach, I

couldn't get the words out," said Don.

■ **First Date:** Dinner at Kramer Books.

■ **Their Song:** "Stars" by Kindred. "The words fit our situation so well," said Erica.

■ **Pet Names:** Punks and Punx. "It's short for pumpkin," said Erica.

■ **How He Proposed:** At the workplace where they met. "Everybody in the building knew about it," said Erica.



"He had a runway of flower petals, a love seat (in case I fainted) and a big screen with a montage of our pictures as a backdrop."

■ **Celebrating Heritage:** Don is Haitian, so a song will be in French, plus a possible reading in French or Creole.

■ **Making It Unique:** "Don, being a TV producer, has documented all of our planning, so we have been creating our own reality show. We're going to share an edited version with our guests at the reception," said Erica.

■ **Wedding Jitters:** "Crying at the altar and my frat brothers laughing," said Don.

■ **Family Traditions:** "I am a man of Omega Psi Phi," said Don. "Our fraternity performs a team step and sings to the bride at the reception."

Getting Married?

If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but please don't send a formal engagement shot), plus your names and ceremony date to weddings@readexpress.com. Please contact us at least one month before your wedding. We'll get back to you with some questions as your big day approaches.

