

2007 **B**EST OF THE **B**EST

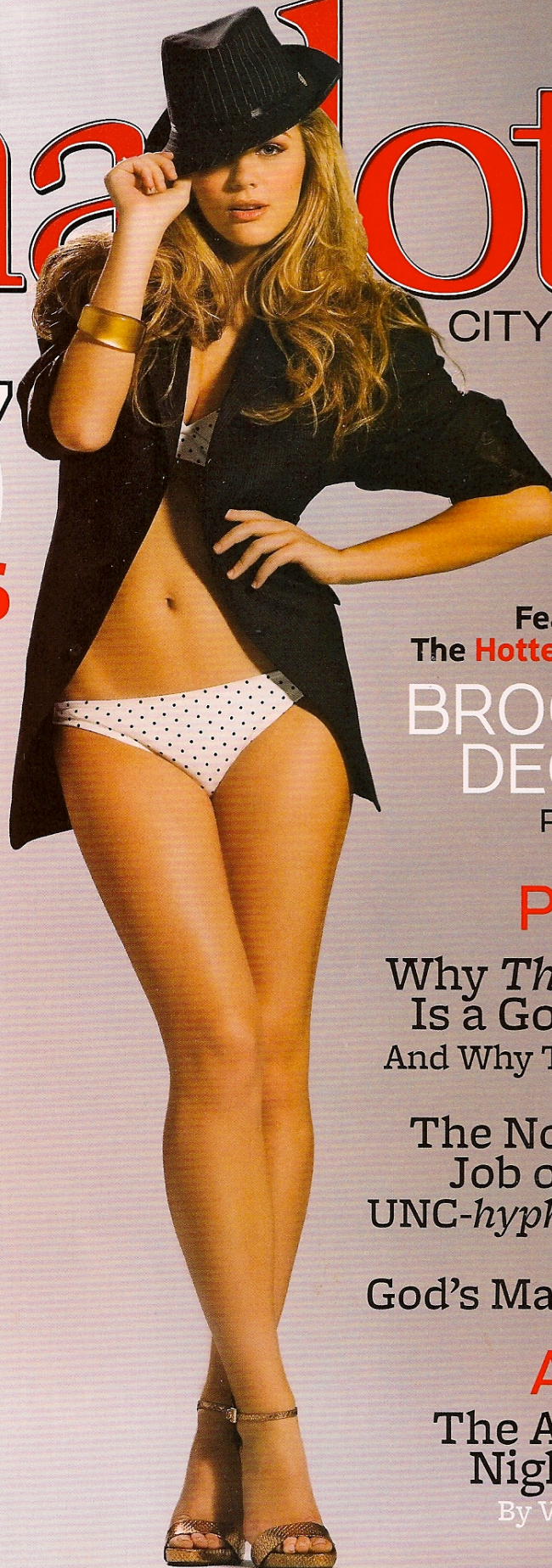
# Charlotte<sup>®</sup>

CITY MAGAZINE

**247**  
**WINNERS**

guilty pleasure  
comfort food  
girls' night out  
vintage clothing  
blowhard  
rugged gear  
gala gown  
no-frills burger  
daycare  
outdoor dining  
AND MORE!

**Our Biggest  
List Ever!**



Featuring  
The **Hottest** B.O.B. Ever

**BROOKLYN  
DECKER**

P. 103

**PLUS**

Why *The Observer*  
Is a Good Paper  
And Why That Can't Last

The Not-So-Easy  
Job of Selling  
UNC-*hyphen*-Charlotte

God's Marketing Plan

**AND**

The American  
Nightmare

By Van Miller

May 2007

www.charlottemagazine.com \$3.95



0 74470 88141 4



by Goldenbleu and Anne Valerie Hash, and jewelry by local designer Elsa Lee and Geo Art. 8145 Ardrey Kell Road, Suite 102 704-321-2626

### Custom furniture and accessories roost

In this custom furniture gallery in downtown Waxhaw (yes, Waxhaw) you'll find leather couches and chairs by JJ Hyde Co. out of Newton in addition to handmade wood furniture by roost's owner, Josh Burch, who also makes custom guitars. Commissions are welcome, and the store also carries original art by Laura Campbell, Chris Hood, Matlock, and Dorothy Myers. 101 East North Main Street Waxhaw, 704-243-0530

### Place for a unique gift basket Calloway's Baskets & Blossoms

Looking for a little something to cheer up an under-the-weather friend? A Dr. Feelgood basket—tea, honey, treats, and puzzle books tucked into a doctor's black bag—is sure to make her smile. And who couldn't use a pretty pink Anti-Stress basket brimming with bath-time goodies and chocolate truffles? For something truly unexpected, order a pet basket for a friend of the furry variety. 601 S. Kings Drive, Kingspointe Shopping Center, 704-372-8892

### Place to buy a gala gown Capitol

The ladies who lunch, the city's highest-profile female philanthropists, and all the socialites in between flock to Capitol when it's time for the Black & White Gala or any other fancy soirée. With exquisite designs by Lanvin, Peter Som, Brian Reyes, and Valentino, who can blame them? In addition, owner

Laura Vinroot Poole has assembled a sharp floor staff that'll make sure you won't discover your gown on someone else at the big dance. 6815-C Phillips Place Court Phillips Place, 704-552-8987

### Place to get home goods for your kiddies Lucy and Company

Nurseries are much more than mobiles and plush animals these days, and kids' rooms are much more than Matchbox cars and Barbies. If you don't believe it, pay a visit to Lucy and Company, a full-service design firm that focuses on wee ones. Here you'll find cribs by Relics Furniture (these can be painted in any Benjamin Moore color) and Angel Line (those cool round cribs), in addition to colorful accessories and rugs. The store also offers custom painting services for furniture or walls. 1009 East Boulevard 704-342-6655

### Place to spend half your wedding budget Crayton Heritage

If you really want to set the bar high for your wedding, shower or Christmas party, start with the invitation. We're not talking about embossed. We're talking about the art of letterpress printing. At Crayton Heritage you can have your declaration of love or your invite to party printed on rich Italian paper for all to see and feel. So luxurious—and well worth the money—is Crayton's work that one bride spent \$20,000 on her order. 2321 Distribution Street 704-333-5413

### Baby goods Looby Loo

After being on East Boulevard for five years, Looby Loo made

the big move to Blakeney Village in Ballantyne this spring. Not to worry, the store managed to transfer its intoxicating whimsy without a glitch as it still carries precious baby ensembles by Catimini and colorful swing top jumpers by Zutano Baby Basics. As for infant toys, well, let's just say that Santa should close down his workshop and stop by here instead. 9852 Rea Road, Blakeney Village 704-544-3110

### Consignment shop Consign by Design

Beverly Sokol has created a destination where blouses with Laundry and Blumarine tags hang on racks next to Seven jeans from last season and across from St. John suits—all at discount consignment prices. She also carries jewelry and handbags, but the real Coaches and Fendis are hung from a shelf above her desk, away from the designer knock-offs. Consign by Design is the perfect place to earn some extra cash for those Theory slacks that will never fit, and also a great way to find a Nicole Miller top for about half the price. 739 Providence Road 704-348-2506

### Place for rugged gear REI

Outdoor enthusiasts chimed in for a collective "Hallelujah" when REI (Recreational Equipment Inc.) opened in Pineville last year. Divided into specialty areas such as camping, cycling, hiking, etc., the 26,500-square-foot store offers everything you need to enjoy the great outdoors: hiking boots, water bottles, and even Lexan wine glasses for the romantic hiker. The store also has sandbags and weights available to fill backpacks so you can decipher

## Proper Arrangement

Where to get the flowers that'll make you flourish

### Place to buy flowers for your wife Flower Hut

Admit it, it doesn't take much to make the wife happy, does it? Flowers delivered to her office can instantly transform you into her shining knight. Order online from Flower Hut and get exactly what you see on the Web site, fresh from the grower, delivered for free. And owner Bill Miller bumps off 20 percent for local online orders. So now you're thoughtful and thrifty. You might just get lucky tonight, knight. 5208 E. Independence Boulevard 704-535-1041

### Place to buy flowers for a first date Gallery of Flowers

Make a great first impression without wearing your heart on your sleeve. Mosey on over to this pretty little shop and choose from as many as sixteen different types and colors of roses so you can save romantic red for a later date. Show up with Pink Lemonade or Butterscotch blossoms and a sheepish grin, and watch her love bloom. 9009-5 J.M. Keynes Drive, Shops at University Place, 800-553-9469

### Place to buy flowers at the last minute Studio Flowers

Okay, so you're not the plan-ahead type. Don't let that stop you from picking up a stunning floral centerpiece to wow your mother-in-law tonight. Studio Flowers has what it claims is the largest display case in Charlotte. And although we haven't conducted a scientific study, we're tempted to believe them. You will, too, when you check out the enormous case brimming with everything from lilies to live hydrangeas. 8129 Ardrey Kell Road, The Fountains, 704-321-1806

