

SEE

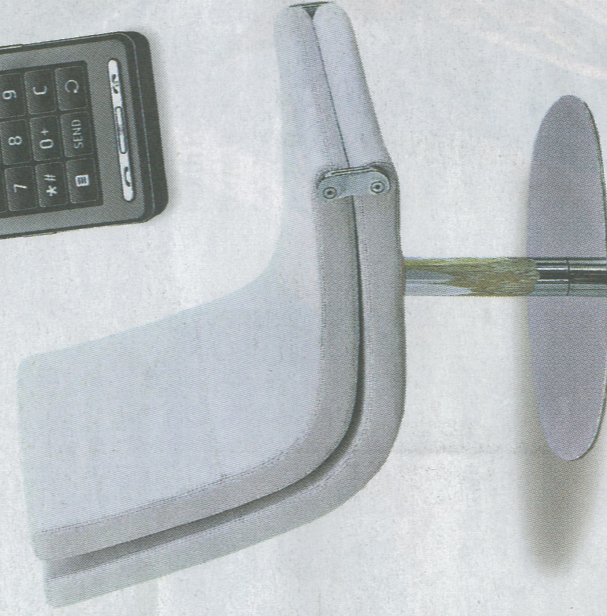
American Gangster
Last year lawyers for retired drug enforcement agent Gregory Kormiloff threatened to sue the producers of *American Gangster* for the way it portrays narcotics detectives involved in the case. They claimed statements made in the film and several key facts were misleading. Such problems are meat and grist for the publicity mill, whatever the merits of the allegations. The film has gone on to a box office in excess of \$US100 million (\$114 million) in America. The response of black writers and their perception that the film lifted 'low-life to the heights for a generation that doesn't remember or even care who they really were' has been more problematic. Denzel Washington, pictured, who plays Frank Lucas, gives him qualities he just didn't have, they claim. Washington plays a literate man but the real Lucas was illiterate, and so violent that he put out a contract on his own brother.

RELAX

Karim Rashid Dragonfly chair, \$4495, in leather and chrome, converts to a chaise lounge; also available in fabric. Fanuli Furniture (02) 9908 2660

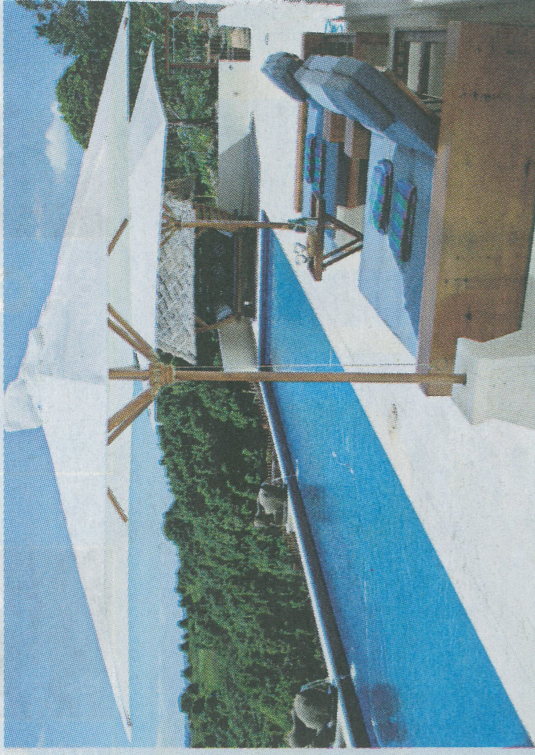
**GEAR**

LG's Prada Phone, \$999, Stockist 1800 725 375

**EAT**

SERVING INNOVATIVE ITALIAN FOOD, BECCO IS A SOPHISTICATED BUT COSY BISTRO ON CROSSLEY STREET IN MELBOURNE. START OFF WITH PAN-FRIED CALVES' LIVERS WITH PANCETTA, GREEN BEANS AND TOASTED POLENTA BREAD FOR \$16.50 AND THEN MOVE ON TO ROASTED JURASSIC QUAIL WITH WHITE POLENTA, BRAISED ONIONS AND QUAIL JUS FOR \$38. FINISH WITH MASCARPONE AND DRIED BLUEBERRY SEMIFREDDO WITH PISTACHIO FILO AND LIME JELLY FOR \$16.50. WWW.BECCO.COM.AU OR PHONE (03) 9663 3000.

The Emerald Valley Villa is set among 32 hectares, a 25-minute drive west of Byron Bay in NSW. Breathe in the fresh air and take a walk to the private waterfall and river pavilion. Spend a day in landscape that has been terraced into four levels and planted with fragrant flora, including gardenias and jasmine, and is open to an abundance of rare wildlife. Guests can swim in the oxygenated spring water pool, complete with carved Balinese fountains and poolside lounges. The Villa sleeps eight and prices range from \$1000 to \$2000 a night for winter. In the high season and school holidays it is \$10,000 to \$15,000 a week. See www.emeraldvalleyvilla.com or phone (02) 6684 9398.

**WASTE TIME****WEAR**

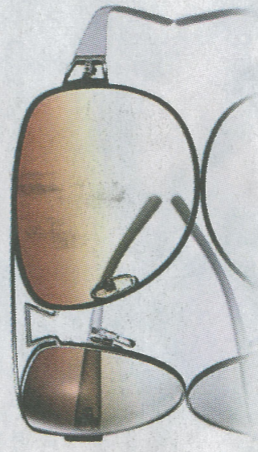
TAG Heuer Calibre S Lewis Hamilton limited edition chronograph, \$3200; available February. Stockist 1800 809 915

SPARKLE

Canturi Metropolis Jet ring with black sapphire, \$45,000. Inquiries (02) 9231 1799.

WEAR

Odyssey 20/20 Hendrix eyewear collection, \$250. Stockists (08) 9335 7716.

**DRIVE****WEAR**

Morrissey silk charmeuse orange dress, \$379 and paparazzi sunglasses, \$129. Stockist 1800 722 390

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR REDUCED FUEL COSTS TO AMORTISE THE HIGHER PRICE OF A HYBRID VEHICLE? CNN MONEY RECENTLY CRUNCHED THE NUMBERS FOR 13 HYBRIDS ON THE US MARKET AGAINST SIMILAR NON-HYBRID MODELS, AND TOYOTA'S PRIUS HAD THE SHORTEST PAYBACK TIME OF 4.2 YEARS. BUT AT THE LUXURY END, THE LEXUS LS600hL, WHICH IN AMERICA HAS A PRICING PREMIUM OF \$US15,458 (\$17,585) OVER THE EQUIVALENT CONVENTIONAL MODEL (BUT HERE THE PREMIUM IS \$46,800), TAKES 3771 YEARS.