

**INSIDE:** Local Bands  
Dan Crump  
bathes in lyrics

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

Music  
Emo  
grows up

Baking beyond the ordinary.  
DINKIE GUIDE

# Preview

July 13, 2006

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## The future is now

RICHARD LINKLATER'S  
INNOVATIVE NEW MOVIE  
A SCANNER DARKLY  
BRINGS A PARANOID SCI-FI  
MASTERPIECE BACK TO LIFE

## Shop Girl

### Boutiques sprout up around town

By Heather Stable | FOR THE CHRONICLE

**H**ouston's shopping landscape is a bit like the local club and restaurant scene: There is always something new and something changing.

In the "something new" department is the cozy, speak-easy of a boutique, Tres Chic. It's owned by the mother and daughter duo of Susan and Elizabeth Hancock, who act and look more like sisters and exude fun the minute you step through the door. The shop is in an office building between Richmond and West Alabama, but brightly-colored purses peeking out from the windows on the side of the building clue you in that something is just a bit different.

The Hancocks focus on affordable fashions and have filled the store with jewelry, shoes, purses and clothing to fit that bill. They comb the New York, Dallas and Las Vegas markets for versatile



Daily shopping tips:  
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pieces that work well on many bodies and budgets.

Structured, classic capri pants in black, khaki and white mix well with melon-colored ruffled tops or simple cotton tops.

Want to complete your outfit with just the right accessories? Tres Chic's jewelry runs the gamut from sterling silver to semi-precious stones. A modern geometric bronze ring was \$28, while beautiful floral print oversized wraps were a steal at \$32. With the exception of a few jewelry and purse lines, very

few items in the store cost more than \$100. Tops are \$40 or less. Clothing sizes range from two through 14 in pants; small to large in tops. The 50 percent-off table just outside the dressing rooms is worth a look, too.

Susan Hancock has worked with non-profit organizations for years, and the store donates 15 percent of each month's sales to local charities. Money made during the month of July will benefit "I Have a Dream," which provides long-term mentoring and dropout prevention programs and promotes higher education for inner-city youth. Tres Chic is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. And like other boutiques around town, it can be rented for charity events or personal parties.

#### Shops on the move

Although it isn't new on the shopping front, be-jewel bou-

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BRETT COOMER | CHRONICLE

**IN THE DARK:** Susan and Elizabeth Hancock fill their boutique, Tres Chic, with affordable and trendy sunglasses, jewelry, shoes, purses and clothing.

## Shop

### SHOP CONTINUED FROM F13

tique does have a new, larger home in Rice Village after relocating from its River Oaks location. Now owner Terry Webre has more room for her fashion finds from American and European designers; and shoppers have better parking. Be-jewel's clothing and jewelry is ideal for style-savvy women who are looking for something out of the ordinary.

J. Hampton's recent move to Sugar Land shows there is actually fabulous shopping to be had outside of the loop. The upscale boutique caters to both men and women, with designer labels such as Mandalay, Donald J. Pliner and Shirt Passion and denim lines Seven for All Mankind, Habitual and Rock & Republic.

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