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STYLE

A place for men to hover; be safe and stylish; get your hands on high-end sunglasses

By Jean Scheidnes, Melanie Spencer Thursday, April 20, 2006



Hovercraft on South Congress Avenue.



Pepperface.com Edition Palm Defenders pepper spray dispenser.



Magpie Outfit iPod Nano holder.



Marc Jacobs glasses at Solstice Sunglass Boutique.

A place for men to hover

The owners of Creatures Boutique, Cory White and Laura Maxwell, have mulled over an idea for a second store for years, and it is now a reality. Hovercraft is almost directly across the street from Creatures on South Congress Avenue, attached to Therapy, Goodie Two Shoes and Wet Salon. The biggest distinction is that Hovercraft offers a lot more for men, including jackets, ties, tees, shorts and polos. And its women's clothes are sporty and refined, a bit less cheeky and frilly than what Creatures will continue to carry. Hovercraft, 1115 S. Congress Ave., 707-1355, closed Mondays.

Something cute for your Nano to wear

Austinite Maggie Stephens created the Magpie Outfit, a protective case for the Apple iPod Nano, when she couldn't find a case that was both cute and sweatproof with a good belt clip. The Outfit's strong belt clip is oriented so the wearer can look down and read the screen and work the wheel, and the removable key chain allows it to be attached to a backpack or shoulder bag. As for cuteness, it has an unmistakable homespun, crafty look and feel. It comes in six cheerful oilcloth fabrics, with clear plastic to protect the screen and wheel. Because of the way the fabric is cut, no two Outfits are exactly the same. The Magpie Outfit for iPod Nano is \$25 plus \$5.50 for shipping at Magpieoutfits.com.

Get your hands on high-end sunglasses

Solstice Sunglass Boutique opens Friday in the Barton Creek Square mall.

Even though Solstice carries high-end designer shades from the likes of Christian Dior and Marc Jacobs, they don't keep them behind glass or make you ask permission to touch them. Customers are free to grab and try on all the pairs that tickle their fancy. According to the folks at Solstice, the hot trends in sunglasses are as follows: cut-out designs at the temple, cursive lettering, crystals and trinkets, white frames, bold metal accents. Aviators and oversized "Jackie O" shapes are still popular, too.

Be safe and stylish

Safety and self-defense have become a lot more stylish. The Pepperface.com Edition Palm Defenders pepper spray dispenser is chic and sleek and fits nicely in your back pocket or that fabulous Gucci clutch. The pen-shaped 1.8 ounce spray is \$35 at www.pepperface.com and available in silver, purple and purple-and-silver aluminum. For each model sold, Pepperface.com contributes \$1 to support the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

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