

LARGEST WEEKLY CIRCULATION IN THE HAMPTONS PLUS SPECIAL

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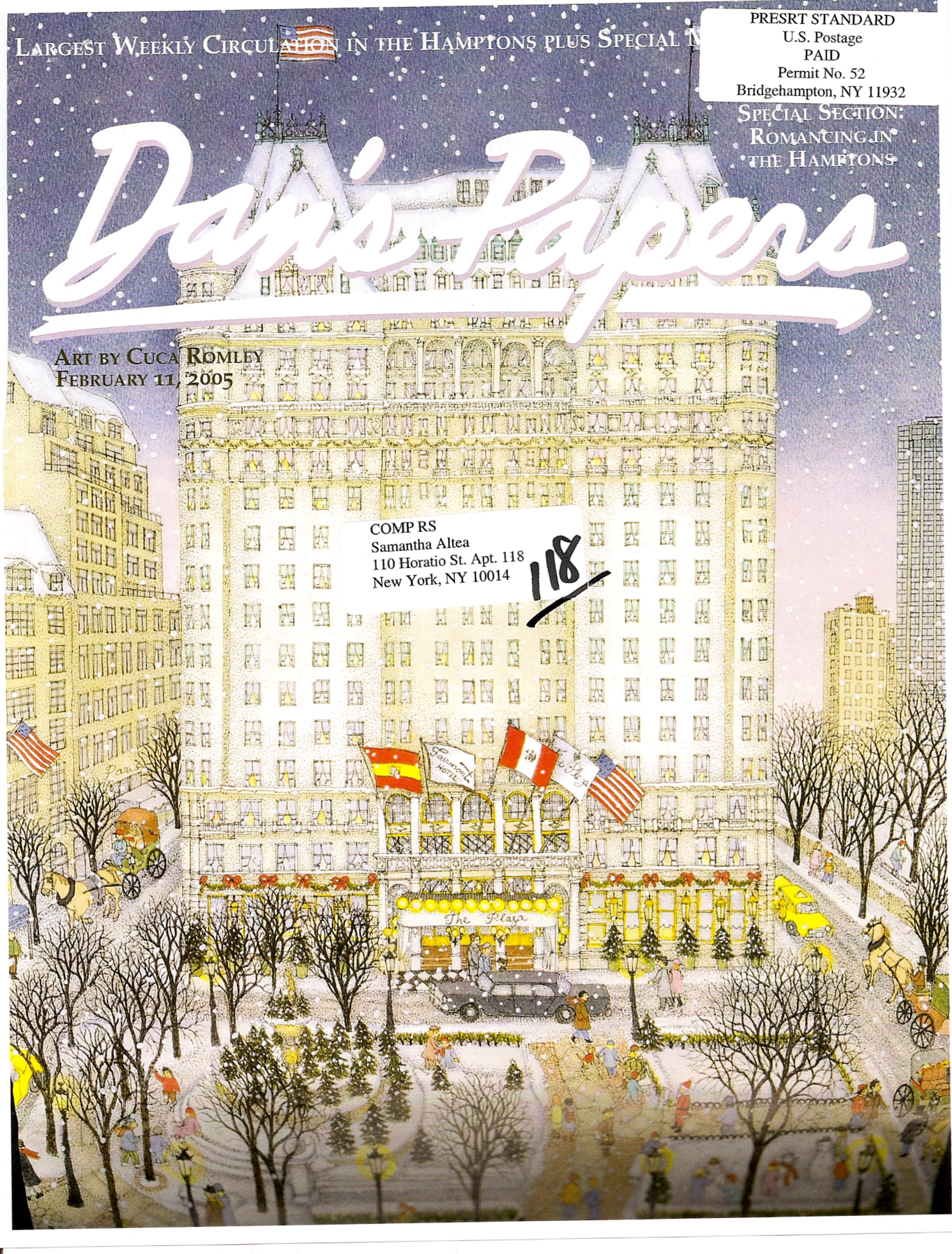
SPECIAL SECTION:
ROMANCING IN
THE HAMPTONS

Dani's Papers

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FEBRUARY 11, 2005

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HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS

Skin deep with Samantha Altea

Give Winter The Boot

It was two winters ago when I first fell in love...with Ugg boots, that is. I was visiting Australia with my Australian husband and noticed many of his friends wearing the fluffy, friendly footwear around the house and so I commented about how comfortable and cozy they looked. Peter, my hubby, just kind of sniffed, "Yeah, I guess they're comfortable, everyone wears them here in winter. I had some when I was a kid, but they're pretty ugly if you ask me." We then saw several, very reasonably priced, pairs of said boots in stores during our travels and the more I saw them, the more I liked what I saw. I quite fancied the pink ones and perhaps the beige...but as I drooled Pete scoffed, asking where I thought I would wear them and wasn't I wasting my money on this already expensive trip? "Well, out and about, around town," I answered. "I could wear them around the neighborhood." His scoff quickly turned into a giggle, as he put his arms around me and fondly said, in a patient and informative tone, "honey, no one wears them out...they're like slippers, to wear around the house. People would laugh at you if you wore them out!" The last thing I wanted was to become a laughing stock, so I left the boots on the shelf.

Three weeks later, we returned to the US and Ugg mania exploded. Who was laughing now!? Not me. I wailed about the price of the scorching hot boots found

on every foot, on every street (just to taunt me) compared to the ones I'd seen down under. Plus, to add insult to injury, there was a shortage of the darn things! I couldn't get my hands, or rather feet, on a pair of Uggs in the U.S., even if I was willing to pay the inflated price. Needless to say, Peter felt so guilty that he hunted down and bought me a pair of my very own UGGS and I haven't looked back since. It was love at first step.



This year, Uggs are still going strong and a fave of many a celeb, but they've got some major competition to contend with and so here are some alternative choices for this winter's footwear.

Even I have thought about cheating on my lovely Uggs, finding my eyes straying upon a nice pair of Pajar Olympic, or Technica Skandia goat and bovine fur boots. Once this furry footwear was confined to ski resorts, but this year, they can be seen around town as fashion accessories and are even worn with

skirts and tights. Though women look, when wearing these heavily fur covered boots, as if they're channeling Bigfoot, they're none the less striding proudly in their wonderfully warm furry new friends. You can pick up a pair for around \$300. They're a step up from Uggs, but certainly worth looking into. Another boot that has fashionistas stomping to stores is the Mukluk moccasin. This moccasin-inspired, trend setting boot has also been around for years, but this

year it hit headlines and is sure to keep you as warm as the Eskimo's who once wore them. Kicking their way into this new trend, many designers, as well as discount stores, are knocking off Mukluk boots, which come in suede, fur, fringed, and beaded designs.

Another comeback kid making a booty call this season is the moon boot! Remember them from the 70s? Swore you'd never be seen dead in a pair ever again, no matter how comfortable and warm they were? Well, swallow your words, original versions of the 70s boot are in high demand with those in the know, and can be found if you look hard enough. However, designers like Marc Jacobs and Christian Dior are making their own retro versions of the moonie and though we said we wouldn't, many can't get enough of them.

An old winter standard also being given a new twist this winter is the Wellington boot. Rubber, wellie inspired boots can now be found from Banana Republic to high-end designers. But this year, wellies come in eye popping colors and patterns and range from \$40 into the hundreds. Get a pair to match or brighten up any outfit. These boots are not for the shrinking violets among us, but you certainly won't get lost in a snow storm when wearing these bright beacons of winter cool, plus your feet will stay as dry as a bone.

Celebs can't get enough of Michael Kors' fur-lined wedge boot this season, either. From Jessica Simpson to Paris Hilton, these wedge boots let you walk tall, but also factor in comfort, warmth, and style to boot. Snag a pair for upwards of \$375.

Me, I'm a faithful soul and sticking to my Uggs this winter. But shhh...don't tell any of my husband's friends I wear them OUT of the house!

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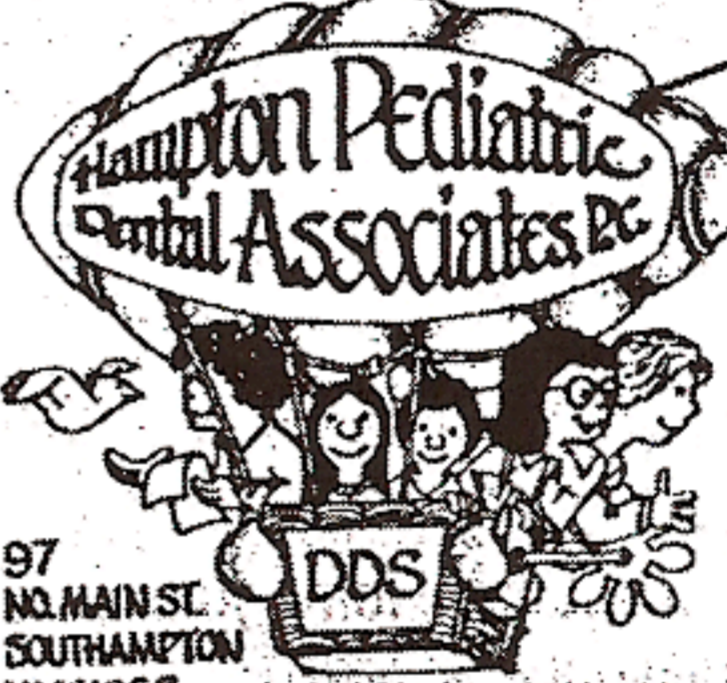
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