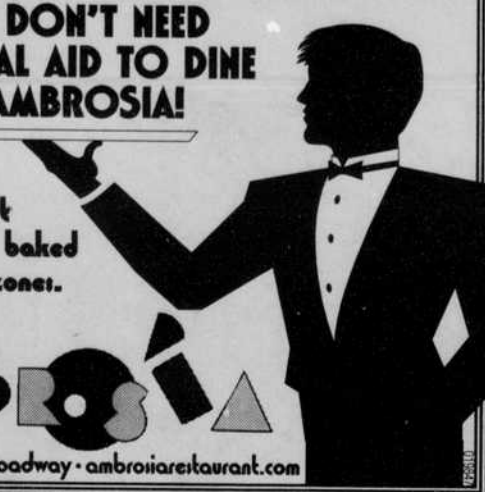


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Family time

Celebrity couples are lining up at the altar, and 2005 might bring a few (surprising) new babies

BY AMY LICHTY
PULSE REPORTER

Celebrities claim to be "normal people," but normal people don't appear on the front covers of countless magazines every week, make \$10 million for two months of work or have their relationships exploited and explored by *Us Weekly* magazine.

But celebrities and normal people share at least one bit of common ground — their need for love and, at times, for marriage and families. Although celebrity marriages are typically shorter than those away from the spotlight, and occasionally done for publicity (remember the 5-minute marriage of Carmen Electra and Dennis Rodman, anyone?), the public's fascination with celebrity weddings is nothing new.

Chances are 2005 will follow the trends of other celebrity-obsessive years. With the recent speculation of wedding bells ringing for retired tennis star and pin-up queen Anna Kournikova and Latin crooner Enrique Iglesias, the question remains:

What hot celebrity couples will marry this year?

Rumors have been swirling since the beginning of Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher's hot relationship. After the initial surprise of this sizzling May/December romance, Hollywood and fans began asking: When will they wed and will they incorporate Hollywood's trendiest religion, Kabbalah? Perhaps this will be the year Demi and Ashton make their controversial relationship legal.

Drew Barrymore and her musician boyfriend, The Strokes' Fabrizio "Fab" Moretti, have been surrounded by engagement rumors for quite a while. *Us Weekly* published pictures of them shopping at jewelry stores, although Drew tells the magazine they were "shopping for a pen." With

the recent passing of her father, John Barrymore, Fab has shown support and comfort for his grieving girlfriend. Perhaps the third time will be the charm for Drew this year, who's previously been married to bar owner Jeremy Thomas and outrageous funnyman Tom Green.

There are other celeb weddings to look out for this year: The Royalty of Real Estate Donald Trump and model fiancée Melania Klauus are set to wed this month. Watch for a huge (and hopefully not too tacky) wedding in the next few weeks. Also, look out for *Bennifer Part 2* (Ben Affleck and Jennifer Gardner) and 2004's *Sexist Man Alive* Jude Law and girlfriend Sienna Miller, as rumors about wedding bells abound for both famous couples.

Baby boom 2004

A Hollywood baby boom blew up in 2004, with A-list celebs like Gwyneth Paltrow and hubby Coldplay's Chris Martin, Kate Hudson and rocker husband Chris Robinson, and Courteney Cox and quirky love David Arquette all adding to their families. And with the recent deliveries of Julia Roberts' fraternal twins and Liv Tyler's baby boy, the 2005 baby boom may see the biggest stars around starting families.

Britney Spears is another celebrity striving to board the baby bandwagon. Already a stepmother twice-over to husband Kevin Federline's two children, Britney has been hinting that she wants to be a mother since she and Kevin wed in mid-September.

"A lot of people think you should wait till you're older to have kids," said the 23-year-old in a post on her members-only Web site, adding, "I've had a career since I was 16, have traveled around the world and back and even kissed Madonna! The only thing I haven't done so far is experience the closest thing to God, and that's having a baby. I can't wait!"



Ashton and Demi:
a 2005 marriage?

BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHIC ARTIST

Another over-exposed star itching to become a mother is Jennifer Lopez. Gossip columnists recently reported that the multi-talented star allegedly asked the chef at a ritzy London hotel to prepare nutrient-rich meals of herrings, lentils and nuts to "boost her fertility." According to gossip magazine *In Touch*, Jennifer even went as far as switching all of hubby Marc Anthony's tightie-whities with silk and satin boxer shorts after reportedly reading an article that claimed boxers were the favored underwear of choice for men looking to get on the stork's delivery list.

No one knows what will happen in the hills of Hollywood in 2005, but don't count on it being too much different from other years. Expect plenty of surprises and shockers — especially with Paris Hilton's recent comment that she wants to have a child sometime soon. Let's just hope that 2005 is full of the bombshells that keep us all entertained.

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IN BRIEF

Gadgets are functional, not flamboyant, in 2005

LAS VEGAS — The world's premier consumer electronics show wouldn't be complete without the fanciful and outlandish: A smart oven preserved and cooked meals based on remote commands, while a plasma TV taller than the walls in many homes inspired ooohs and aaahs from couch potatoes.

But manufacturers at this year's gadgetfest generally took a more modest approach: They eschewed the flamboyant and futuristic in favor of relatively affordable devices that will debut within weeks or months, not years.

Many of the 2,400 exhibitors at the International Consumer Electronics Show this week hawked simple, elegant, sub-\$1,000 items meant to enhance consumers' "digital lifestyles."

Universal remote controls, handheld computers, MP3 players and TVs that can be programmed from cell phones help users stay plugged into a world of digital music, video, games, television and Internet.

"We're encouraged by the real-world products at affordable price points this year," said Mike George, chief marketing officer at Dell Inc. "We're finally moving from hype to reality."

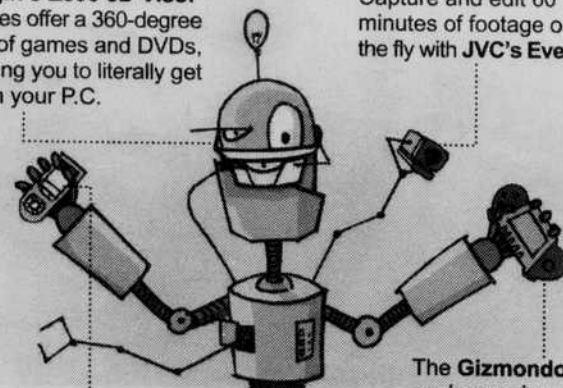
Although the 2005 show is light on breathless enthusiasm, the realism thrills skeptics who have been hearing technologists' gush about the "wired home" since the mid-1980s.

Gadgets, gear and gizmos

The 2005 International Consumer Electronics Show had everything from the outlandishly futuristic to the relatively affordable. Look for these new gadgets to hit the market some time in 2005:

eMagin's Z800 3D Visor
goggles offer a 360-degree view of games and DVDs, allowing you to literally get lost in your P.C.

Capture and edit 60 minutes of footage on the fly with **JVC's Everio**



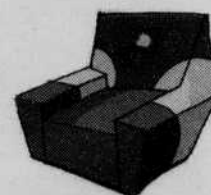
Be the command center without leaving your couch with **Universal Electronics' NevoSL universal remote control**

The **Gizmondo** packs gaming, video and music into a console small enough to hide in your pocket

See and speak on **Motorola's Ojo personal video phone**



Experience the game with the surround-sound gaming chair **Hotseat Solo**



NOTE: Robot not included

SOURCE: The companies

AP

"It always remained something that was likely to happen tomorrow," said Michael Greeson, founder of The Diffusion Group, a consumer electronics think tank based in Plano, Texas.

"The problem was that tomorrow never arrived, and the digital home was becoming ... somewhat of a pipe-dream. But this is no longer the case."

— The Associated Press