

Good Housekeeping

JUNE 2003

Fun Food
for Outdoor
Parties

Super-easy Plan

NEW **Walk
It Off**

35 lbs.—gone!

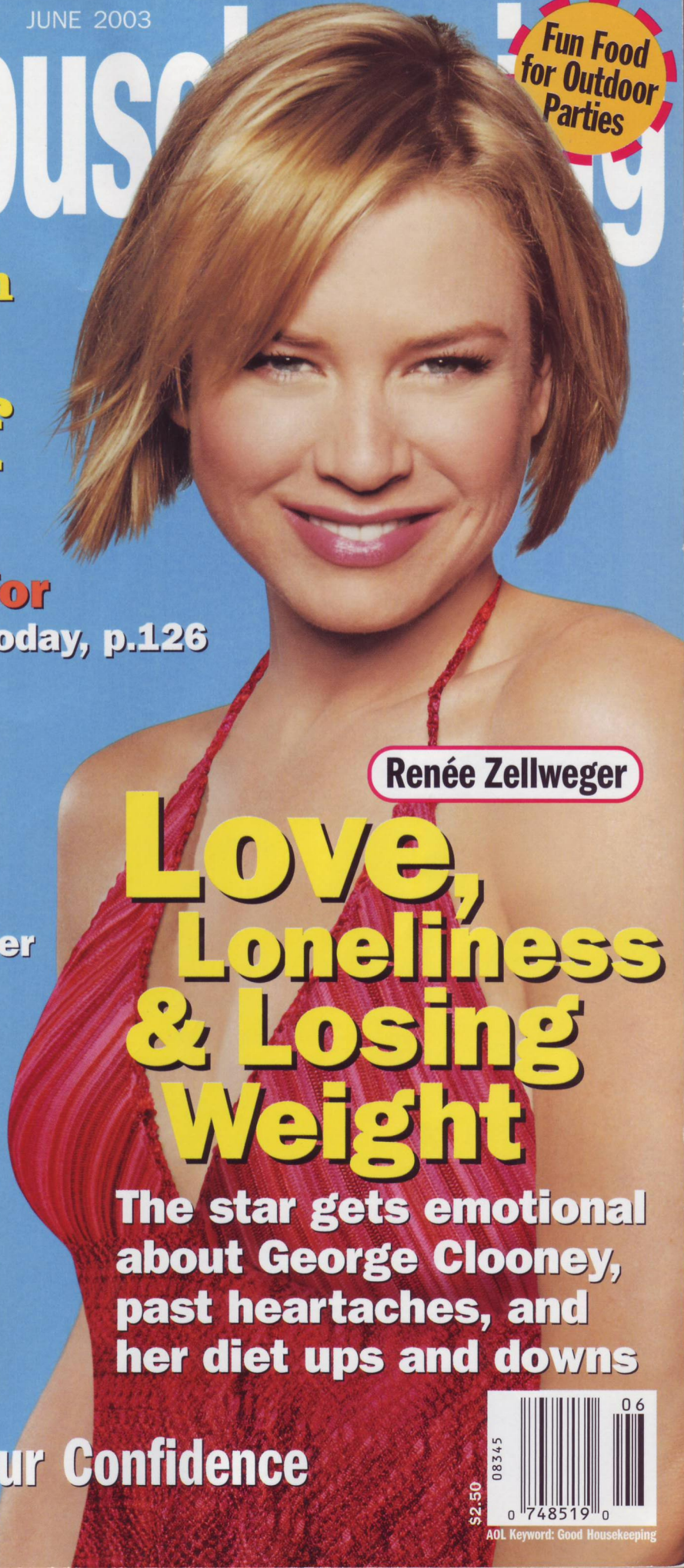
The Simple Cure for
STRESS Try it today, p.126

How to Get Over
**Swimsuit
Fear Factor**
24 styles that fit & flatter

Is Money Hurting
Your Marriage?
8 ways to tell

**HOW TO MAKE YOUR
HOUSE WORTH MORE
(in one weekend!)**

Women Who Zap Your Confidence
And how to get it back



Renée Zellweger

**Love,
Loneliness
& Losing
Weight**

The star gets emotional
about George Clooney,
past heartaches, and
her diet ups and downs

\$2.50

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AOL Keyword: Good Housekeeping

(continued from page 93) asked. If one wants to spend it on gumballs and the other on new china, fine. The pleasure of exercising absolute control over a certain amount of money makes it easier for spouses to compromise with each other on big expenditures.

HE SAYS "Let's build up our emergency fund."

SHE SAYS "But we've never even been to Paris!"

Sometimes the biggest question in life is when to live it. While some money priorities are obvious—better to pay the orthodontist bill on time than to pay the mortgage off early—others are a harder call.

Get-Rich Scheme Develop that emergency stash, but earmark extras like tax refunds for your dream fund. In a true catastrophe, you can always tap those savings as well. But barring disaster, you'll have enough to take the trip of a lifetime in the middle of your lifetime, rather than at the end—or never at all.

SHE SAYS "I told Timmy we'd lend him the \$125 for that Grim Reaper skateboard he wants, and then he can pay us back later, when he gets a summer job."

HE SAYS "It's a Blind Reaper Axe skateboard, for goodness sake, and I already gave him the money for it this morning."

When it comes to teaching kids financial responsibility, there are as many theories as there are ATMs. But one fact can't be ignored: Money handed out to children needs to be treated as what it is—another monthly drain on your resources—and monitored accordingly.

Get-Rich Scheme Pay your child a regular allowance, then cut down on parental conflict by designating one spouse the go-to person for additional money requests. (But agree to talk



She says: We've got to see Paris!
He says: We've got to save!
They can do both.

over big purchases together.) Also, be blunt with kids about what the family can afford. "Children are far more likely to stick to spending limits when they understand the reasoning behind them," says Chellie Campbell, who runs financial-stress-reduction workshops for couples in Los Angeles.

HE SAYS "We should pool our incomes in one checking account."

SHE SAYS "That's what my first husband said, right before he spent it all on implants for his girlfriend."

There's nothing like money to bring out all those trust issues in a marriage, but trust us: It's harder to stick to a budget and meet savings goals if you're operating out of two checkbooks.

Get-Rich Scheme When couples divvy up payments—she does car, he does

mortgage—neither gets the real overview of where all the money goes. And without that picture staring you in the face, it's tough to keep savings on track. If you must have a private stash, you can each contribute to a joint account in proportion to your income; pay household expenses through that account and detour some into savings.

HE SAYS "My mechanic's investment club is buying shares in a company that makes squirrel-proof bird feeders out of recycled inner tubes. I think we should get in on the ground floor."

SHE SAYS "Nuts to that! We're sticking with our index fund."

Yes, stick with the index fund. But if you can afford to put away a little extra, there's probably no harm in setting up a small squirrel-proof bird-feeder fund as well. If you invest a little money more adventurously, you may get whomped and return chastened to the index-fund fold—or you just may end up making a tidy bundle.

Get-Rich Scheme Capitalize on each spouse's approach to savings and investments; you may profit more that way. Just make sure neither spends money that will be needed for another purpose or that would be painful to lose.

SHE SAYS "Be sure to turn off the lights before you leave the house."

HE SAYS "We'd save way more if you pumped your own gas."

Arguing about minutiae misses the point and locks you in to money-draining power struggles.

Get-Rich Scheme Focus on numbers, not behavior. If you, as a couple, aren't meeting your savings goals, you're going to have to turn off the lights *and* fill your own gas tank. So stop arguing and start growing—your relationship and your cash. ★