

BrownSkin

magazine

A New Face
for the Spring

Ditch These
Duds-- **NOW!**

Is **BIGGER**
Really Better?

Why Aren't You Married?
...the **REAL** Reasons

The Myth of
the **Thick**
Black Woman

BROWNSKINMAG.COM
\$4.99 - FREE!



Welcome to the March issue of BrownSkin Magazine! There have been big changes to the BrownSkin family, most



noticeably the addition of new and returning writers. We anticipate fresh opinions and new

perspectives, so stay tuned!

In this issue, you'll find all you need to jump into Spring Style. Learn the latest trends in fashion and beauty, and learn which fads are OVER (hint: goodbye leggings!). Also inside, the organizing savvy of Paris Love; no matter the disaster, she can fix it! Our feature article on Black women and marriage is nothing short of phenomenal. Read everyday women's (perceived) reasons for their single status. You'll be amazed... at how much we can all relate!

Enjoy the issue and remember, we love to hear from our readers! From questions for Alpha Male, to article responses, to story submissions—we love feedback. Tell us what you want and we will deliver.

Happy reading good people!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronique Turner".

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The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and are not always shared by the staff or the publisher (most of the time we agree though). BrownSkin Magazine is always looking for new contributors so send everything you got to:

**Articles@
BrownSkinMag.com**

Are You A BrownSkin Woman?

If you are interested in becoming a cover model, send an email to: David@BrownSkinMag.com.

Be sure to include your contact information, a picture of yourself and a brief (200 words or less) explanation of why you are a BrownSkin Woman.

All photos become property of BrownSkin Magazine.

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NEW PRODUCTS



**Almay
Hydracolor Lipstick**

Kiss dry, chapped lips goodbye and say hello to moist, luscious mouths! Almay's new Hydracolor lipstick offers 100 times the water found in regular lipsticks—that means your lips won't dry out and make your pout pitiful. Available in over 30 shades.



**Clinique
Take the Day Off Cleansing
Milk**

Searching for a non-drying makeup remover that won't leaving your face greasy? Well look no further. Clinique's new makeup is great for most skin types and will rid your face of damaging product residue. As an added bonus, it will remove the dirt and grime of city life too!

Are you
opinionated?

Do you have a voice
that needs to be
heard?

Would you like to
speak to hundreds
of thousands of
women each month?

If so, become a
BrownSkin
Magazine writer!
Submit writing
samples to:

articles@BrownSkinMag.com.

Spring Beauty Trends

If you're tired of pink lipsticks and nude eye shadows, we have the answer. The color of this season is fresh. It's bold. It's purple! Try it if you dare!

Purple hues flatter a wide range of BrownSkin tones. Choose your purple accents carefully, if you don't you'll look like Barney. Don't say we didn't warn you.

Singer, Beyonce Knowles

1.
*Bobbi Brown
Violet Face Palette, \$50*
2.
*Hard Candy
Super Slim Eye Pencil in Vibe, \$8*
3.
*Shiseido
Hydro-Powder Eye Shadow in Violet
Visions, \$23*
4.
*Clinique
Almost Lipstick in Sheer Blackberry,
\$14*

1





2



3



P
U
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P
E

3 Hot Spring Trends!

The look this spring is anything but the usual pastels and floral patterns! To get the “it” look, opt for bright colors, wide pants, full skirts and mini... dresses?

Minidresses can be young, fun and flirty. Pair this daring trend with some cute sandals and chunky jewelry



Ditch your pastels in favor of bold colors! Don't shy away from purples and teals—but for the love of God, stick to one color, you don't want to look like the rainbow.



Skinney jeans will be around for a little while longer,



but that doesn't mean that's your only option for pant wear. Wide legged jeans are back!

**\$100
Outfit**

Total: \$99.10

There's something in the water. It has to be. Why else do I see pregnant women everywhere I turn? They're in the malls, at work, at church—and their fashion sense is scary! If you're one of these expecting mummies, this article is for you. Just because you're with child does not mean you can't be with style! And because we know your feet are swollen, you can find all these styles in one store!

Old Navy.com

Maternity V-Neck Shell \$18.34

Maternity Real Waist Trousers
\$25.88

Maternity Denim Jackets \$25.8

*Women's Striped Espadrille
Wedges* \$19.50

*Women's Burnished Beaded
Stretch Bracelets* \$9.50





Lather, rinse, repeat.

...If only it was that simple!

Most women underestimate the power of a good conditioner. They'll wash with shampoo and follow-up with whatever conditioner is lying around the house, if they condition at all! These women are doing their hair a great disservice; with the

right conditioner, you can fix almost any hair care problem: thin strands, damaged ends, dry tresses or oily hair. No matter your hair's condition, there's a perfect conditioner for it!

Dry Hair

Dry air needs moisture. When looking for a moisturizing conditioner, select products with humectants; humectants attract and hold moisture into the hair. Use sparingly during winter months.



Recommends:
*Nexxus Humectress
Conditioner*

Thin Hair

Add body and thickness to your hair by choosing a conditioner with acidic properties. The mild acid will close the hair's cuticle and wash away clean leaving hair with added shine and elasticity.



Recommends:
*J/A/S/O/N Thin-to-Thick
Conditioner*

Oily Hair

To get your hair clean, opt for clarifying conditioners. These conditioners strip away the build-up left by gels, pomades and sprays without leaving your hair dry, stringy and lifeless.



Recommends:
*Suave Clarifying
Conditioner*

Damaged Hair

“Reconstructive” conditioners will improve the condition of your hair. Because most reconstructors contain protein, follow the directions on the label to prevent making hair brittle.



Recommends:
*Aveda Damage Remedy
Conditioner*

Bigger...is Better!

This season, ditch your sleek, straight, flat wraps for big, voluminous, curly hair. Less is definitely not more when it comes to hair right now. So reach to the back of your cabinet and pull out your rollers and AquaNet—big hair is back!



“**Tips on how to get curls...**”

With curly hair:

Manipulate the hair as little as possible until the hair sets. To speed up drying time, use a diffuser set to “cool.”

With a Curling Iron:

Invest in a ceramic iron and use a heat protectant. Curl hair in small segments and Allow hair to cool before styling.

With Rollers:

Use a good setting lotion and thoroughly detangle hair. Roll hair away from the face for body.

Actress- Jennifer Hudson

ADVERTISE WITH BROWNSKIN MAGAZINE

DEMOGRAPHY

BrownSkin Magazine's readers are educated, stylish, sophisticated and upwardly mobile women of color. These young, urban professionals have an average annual income of \$50,000 and represent \$250 billion in buying power. BrownSkin readers are motivated by quality and selection. They are part of a progressive culture of brand consciousness and possess an acute desire to surround themselves with fashion, health and beauty, culture and entertainment.

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½ Page	\$275	\$225	\$175
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Rates listed are per insertion. Each ad listed will appear in 10,000 print magazines, be featured on [www. BrownSkinMag.com](http://www.BrownSkinMag.com) for 1.6 million readers and be included in an email blast to 12,000 email subscribers.



*Why I'm
Not Married...
Black Women Speak™*

“60% of Black women are unmarried.” Shocked?

I'm not. I read that figure last month in an article and while I was surprised, I couldn't say the number sounds far fetched. After all, I'm not married. Most of my friends are unmarried. My sisters, cousins, aunts and 59% of BrownSkin readers are without a husband. What gives?!

Are Black women really that hard to live with? Are Black men turning their backs on

us to chase after women of other races? Are all our eligible bachelors uneducated, incarcerated and with 8 kids by 10 baby mommas? This can't be the case... or could it? I don't have the answers, but I set out to discover if my girlfriends do. Hear from their mouths the answer to the question: “Why aren't you married?”

“...I don't have anyone; I stopped looking.”

J ranisha, 24

I believe that I am unmarried because I've forced myself to believe I am too young (I'm only 24). And second, I have trust issues. Not only due to my previous relationship but also with my father. And lastly I'm not married because I've set myself on a goal schedule of being financially straight, having a house and basically starting a life as an individual before getting married. So, I guess that sums up why I'm not married... right?

S tacy, 25

I'm not married because I don't have anyone; I stopped looking. Looking helps you to NOT find, and I believe when the time is right I will meet that one person who's worth my time and effort and I WILL spend the rest of my life with him. I think too much pressure is put on women to marry. And women put too much pressure on themselves to marry. So in a lot of cases, we end up not happy because we settled and that's not a good way to embark on any

relationship be it marriage or not.

*J*aylor, 26

I'm single because the person I've been with—and we've been together so long, and I love him and I'm IN love with him—he's not ready. And rather than ending the relationship and having to start all over (we do have a really solid foundation

"I'm waiting on him and it sucks because obviously we're at two different places."

and practically a drama-free relationship, with the exception of not being married) I just feel like I have to wait.

That's the bottom line: I'm waiting on him and it sucks because obviously we're at two different places. Why am I single? I'm waiting for the man I've been with for 10 years to get his [stuff] together but one day I'm going to wake up out of LaLaLand...

*J*oan, 27

I guess I haven't found the right

one for me. I haven't found a guy that is compatible and on the same level as me: mentally, financially and spiritually. I guess that's probably why I'm not married, 'cause I haven't found the right one that can meet my needs. I'm always finding men whom I have to take care of, men with their hand out, that can never do anything for me. Men that never give anything in return financially or spiritually or mentally. But I can always find a guy that can give to me physically. That's why I'm not married because my man needs to meet all my needs, not just my physical ones.

*D*iane, 30

As a 30 year old professional woman who's choosing to put God first, I'm allowing Him to do a work in my life as well as give me patience to wait upon the man that He has for me. So my main reason for not being married is because I'm waiting... I'm waiting on God to reveal him to me. I'm not in a hurry to get married, my biological clock is not

ticking so I'm being patient and continuing to do the will of God and whenever that time comes that I'll be married then so be it. If that doesn't happen, I'm sure my life will still be fulfilled.

*P*atricia, 34

I believe I am single because I have yet to find a man... not saying I haven't been with any men (chuckles)... but it appears that in my relationships I am the

Most of the men I've dated have told me I'm too independent, too stubborn, [they] couldn't deal with me.

dominant one. I am the man. I make the decisions, I tell him when to jump, when to leave me alone... I haven't really met a "real man." I've been

dealing with little boys. That's the reason why I'm not married.

*K*atrina, 37

The reason why I'm not married is because most men do not want to take the time out to

have a steady relationship and get to know the person first. They are always looking for an end instead of looking for a way to become one. That's the reason I'm not married.

*G*olanda, 40

Why aren't I married? Good question. I don't know. Most of the men I've dated have told me I'm too independent, too stubborn, [they] couldn't deal with me. Some of the guys said I was too high maintenance—I beg to differ. But as far as why I'm not married, I really can't answer that. In this day and age, I'm better off without another kid, I have a son and I don't have time to raise somebody else's kid especially when he's grown. If it happens it happens; if it doesn't, I'm cool being what I am: a 40 yr old single parent of 3 and I do what I do. I make \$47,000 a year and that's marriage enough for me.

DEAR ALPHA MALE:

I used to date this guy for a few months. I broke it off because I wasn't feeling him like that, but we remained friends. Just a couple weeks ago, I bumped into him at a party with some of his boys and he introduced to around. I hit it off with one of the guys, and I would like to get with him. Would I be wrong?

-Keisha, Chicago

Well, well, well. I would like to say "We are all mature adults and no, you wouldn't be wrong, you never kicked it hard with your ex. And you only live once you should seek your happiness," but the truth is it would get in the way of your friend and your new boyfriend's friendship. It would also lead to comparisons early on in the relationship, and if your ex's friend is a true friend he wouldn't pursue you seriously anyway. Now we guys may act hard, but we don't want any

of our cats hitting any of our ex's that we had ANY feelings for. This may also lead to your "new boyfriend" feeling guilty down the road and breaking it off with you, leaving you hurt. Now if you two had met prior, then it would be better, but the fact that your ex introduced you means he's off limits. If you're that desperate for a relationship I got a lot of buddies you could hook up with... and if you're that desperate, then I can take care of that until you find someone.

-A.M.

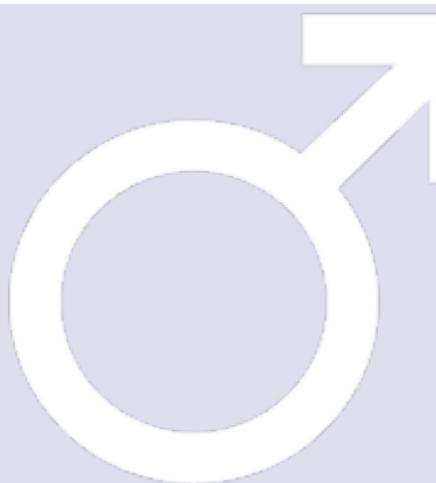
DEAR ALPHA MALE:

I received some emails from this woman that claims she's sleeping with my boyfriend. When I asked him about it, he said it was just some hater that was trying to break us up. I want to believe him, but my mind won't rest. I found the girl's phone number (internet search of the email account), should I call her?

-Chris, Skokie

Two words CALL HER! See chicks usually aren't bogus enough to go out of their way and contact another woman. Set up a dinner date with her and give her the 9th degree. Ask questions that she shouldn't know, then invite her to the crib while he's home and make sure she drives. That way she shouldn't need directions and if something jumps off she can ride out. Now what you're looking for is the reaction on your guy's face when he sees this chick. Better yet, after your dinner with her, tell her to contact him and set up a date. Since she contacted you she'd be more than willing to "hate on him." You just make sure you're there when he brings her back to the crib... with some hot grits and karo syrup on the stove.

-A.M.



Direct all hate mail
and questions to
the Alpha Male.

E-Mail him at:
AlphaMale@
BrownSkinMag.com

We don't make this
stuff up!

Dear Naughty Nella,

My husband and I can talk about anything-- friends, work, finances-- nothing is off limits... well, except sex. We have a good sex life, but neither of us are comfortable talking like porno stars! Lately though, I've been wanting to try new things. How can I let him know about my new desires without "talking" about them?

-Julie, Joliet

Nella:

Welcome to Porn Star 101! We'll start with dirty talk and move on to bondage and positions in part 2.

Communication is key to a good relationship. Sex and intimacy are also important in maintaining a strong relationship. If you two can talk about anything then you

should be able to discuss what makes you feel good. People change and so do their desires, that's a normal part of growth in a relationship. Your husband loves you and should want to make you happy and vice versa. Start by asking him if he has any fantasies and make sure he feels comfortable expressing them to you. Let him know that you're open-minded and you want to please him in every possible way. Be confident in your sexuality and suggest watching a naughty movie together. Tell him how different scenes turn you on and see if he gets into it. Start incorporating the naughty terms for genitalia into your sex life. Eventually the two of you will graduate into trying more adventurous things. You'll be dressed up like a dominatrix and spanking him for being a naughty boy in no time!

-NN

Dear Naughty Nella,

My partner and I would like to add some spice to our love life by bringing in sexy foods, like chocolate syrup and strawberries, but I read somewhere that some foods can cause nasty infections. Any recommendations about what I should and shouldn't use? How should I use them?

- Frenchie, Evanston

Nella:

I'm gonna nickname you "Freaky and Tasty." Ha! Bringing fruits and toppings into the bedroom is a delicious way to heighten the experience. However, women should be very careful; there are enough STD's out there to worry about! The vagina is a tricky thing. Ingredients in different foods can throw off the pH balance in a woman's body and cause a yeast infection or bacterial vaginosis. It may have been sexy, but all the fun is ruined when you have a loaf of bread growing out of

your... well you know. Foods are for EXTERNAL use only. Never insert food into your body. Never use citrus fruits like oranges because the acid will burn your private areas. Sticky things like whipped cream and honey should be kept above the belt. Have your partner pour chocolate syrup or whipped cream from your neck to your belly button and all over your breasts. The feeling of the cold syrup and his warm tongue will send shivers down your spine. I'd recommend using Altoids or Halls cough drops while licking your lover. The flavor will heat him up and cause a new sensation that's guaranteed to make his toes curl. Getty messy and enjoy yourself!

-NN

Naughty Nella - Every girl's answer to the question: "What's it like to have a pornstar bestfriend"
Got a Question for Naughty Nella?

E-Mail her at:
Naughty@BrownSkinMag.com

Cut it out!

You love the wedge; I know you do. It elongates your leg and looks good with everything from full skirts, to walking shorts, to skinny jeans. Wedges are one shoe you can definitely take from day to night and back again! This season, no matter your budget, you can jazz up your old favorite with this modern update: cutouts!



SPLURGE!

1

Wedge by Giuseppe Zanotti
\$315.95

2

Wedge by Emilio Pucci
\$433.95

3

Wedge by Sigerson Morrison
\$453.95



5



3



4



SAVE!

4

Cannes by Very Volatile
\$43.95

5

Passtime by SM New York
\$50.95

6

Sidonie by Miss Sixty
\$ 164.95

Myth of the “Thick” Black Woman

Thick. Voluptuous. Pleasantly Plump. Call it what you want, but we have a serious weight problem in our community. By some accounts between 50-66% of African American women are “overweight.”* Socioeconomic factors, cultural norms, diet and lack of exercise are all cited as reasons for this high percentage of obesity.

The Health Risks

The health risks of being overweight are very familiar; they are the same health conditions that plague many in our families: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease and some forms of cancer. Other conditions, such as bone and

joint diseases are made worse when the body is forced to carry excess weight.

What to do if you're overweight

There is no such thing as a quick fix, permanent, weight lost strategy. In fact, many fad diets cause your weight to yo-yo, and leave you with more weight than when you started. Instead, make lifestyle changes. Incorporate exercise, make healthy food choices, watch your calorie intake and (the best kept secret of healthy people) stay well hydrated. Losing weight is difficult, but possible if you're committed to improving your quality of life.

Quick Tips!

1. Exercise doesn't have to be a dreaded routine. Find an activity you enjoy and feel comfortable doing. Dancing, skating and walking are all good forms of exercise.
2. Healthy food doesn't have to be bland, boring food. Cook dishes using spices and herbs instead of fats and salts. The

flavors will be better and your body will thank you.

3. Watching your calorie intake is easier than you think—just read the labels. Burn more calories than you'll eat and the pounds will start dropping before you know it.

4. Introduce a water regimen into your lifestyle. Drink at least 8 glasses of water daily, and you can be sure you're losing fat, not water weight.

*One is considered overweight when he/she carries more weight than normal for his/her height. The BMI (Body Mass Index) is the most widely used measure of weight status. To find your BMI, divide your weight (in kilograms) by the square of your height (in meters).

Example: Woman A is 5'6" feet (1.68 meters) and weighs 160lbs (72.57 kilograms). Woman A's BMI is 25.71; she is (slightly) overweight.

BMI Chart

Under 20	<i>Underweight</i>
20.0 - 24.9	<i>Normal Weight</i>
25.0 - 29.9	<i>Overweight</i>
30.0 - 39.9	<i>Obese</i>
Over 40.0	<i>Severely Obese</i>



Managing Your Time Wisely

By Paris Love

How do you manage your time? Are you utilizing every minute of the day? Do you find yourself short on time? Do you wish you had more time in a day? Well, read on to see how you can maximize your time.

Time Management Skills

Step 1: Create a daily log and jot down the activities you perform during the day. This includes waking up, bathing, eating and going to bed. Each minute should be accounted for.

Step 2: Recognize the time wasters (reading “junk” emails, watching t.v. etc.)

Step 3: Design a schedule that

will allow you to accomplish your tasks. If you get off schedule, don't worry, it happens to the best of us. Remember it takes 21 days to develop a habit.

Step 4: Don't try to accomplish everything by yourself. Delegate tasks, for example, can your secretary open your mail, check emails, return calls? Get everyone involved, at work and home.

Step 5: Prioritize your schedule, list the tasks that must be completed before the end of the day, highlight the item once you have completed it. If a task isn't completed on that particular day, add it to the next days' list. The key is to accomplish those tasks first before moving on. Don't stress out if you can't accomplish everything in a day or week. Remember Rome wasn't built in a day.

Step 6: Always, always, always schedule time for yourself and your family. Take care

of **YOU** first. You're not any good to anyone if you can't function properly. Try this for a week and see how it works. Don't give up and do your best to stick to your schedule. Remember to say **no** and not feel guilty.



*Paris Love, Owner of Organize With Love, a full service organizing firm writes organizing articles for several publications. You can visit the website at:
www.organizewithlove.com
or email:
paris@organizewithlove.com*

Are you
opinionated?

Do you have a voice
that needs to be
heard?

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women each month?

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Book Review

Admit it; you've thought about it. You know you have. Late at night, maybe you've had a few too many drinks, you're feeling extra good, then your hands and your mind wonders... what it? What if you spiced up your ho-hum sex life? What if you tried new toys? New tricks? Or the ultimate taboo—new partners.

Author Torrian Ferguson gives us a glimpse into this fantasy and what he shows

will make it impossible to put this book down! *Swingers* is the story of a chronic cheater and his wife. Fed up with her husband's infidelity, Rena (wife) admits there's a problem in her marriage and the couple

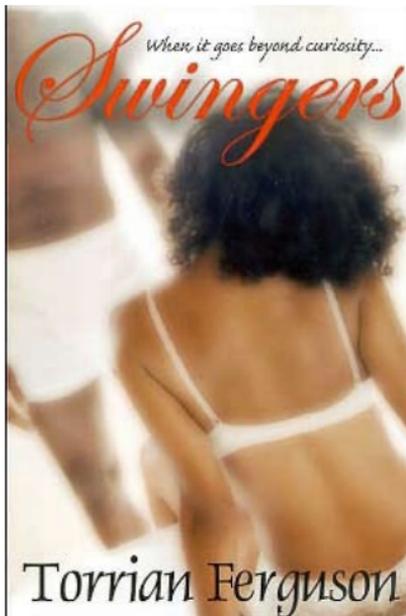
visits a marriage counselor. The counselor's advice? Bring a woman into the bedroom so Rena can find out what really makes her husband tick. And the story gets more twisted from there. When the couple decides fulfill an exotic dream

and enter the world of swinging, they get a rude awakening! Scandal is around every corner and under each rock lies a secret. But will their marriage survive?

Enter this exotic world of love, lust, mystery and intrigue. Once you finish *Swingers*, I guarantee your secret sex desires

will never be the same!

Book: *Swingers*
Author: Torrian Ferguson
Two of a Kind Publishing
Cost: \$14.95



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The Upper Room

The editors, writers and staff of BrownSkin Magazine would like to offer our sincerest condolences to the friends of the following trends who were put into the ground last season. We understand how hard it will be to let them go, but please ladies—it's time.

RIP Leggings

It seems like just yesterday you came back into my life. It had been years since we crossed paths, but we picked up right where we left off as if not a day had passed since I wore you with bobby socks and feathered hair. I'll miss you leggings, my minis won't be the same without you. *Sniff*



What was I could never enough for giving me another chance... and helping me hide the extra cookies I ate. You will be missed. *Tear*

RIP Scarves

I wore you when I didn't want to comb my hair, when my stylist called canceled on me at the last minute and when I needed punch of color to spice up my "blah" wardrobe. It's going to be hard to let you go, but know that you will live on... in my belt loops and around my neck. But not on my head. *Sigh*



RIP Wide Belts

Before you, I didn't know what a waist was! Although you were always there, I misused and abused you—making you hold up pants and cinch extra



Finishing Touches

It's all in the bag!
Is there any wonder why tote bags are the must have bags for the Spring? They're roomy, fashionable, and you can fit a jacket, make-up pouch, cell phone, keys and wallet inside ONE! So long little clutches—or maybe I'll put you in my tote too...?

1. Coach
New LARGE
SIGNATURE
GALLERY TOTE
\$398

2. XOXO
Hanover Tote
\$68

3. Kate Spade
Bristol Rudy
\$295

4. Rampage
Ipanema Frame Tote
\$82

5. Dolce & Gabbana
Oversized Leopard
Print Tote
\$560

6. Prague Genoa
Mock Croc Leather
Tote
\$70

BlakIceMediaGroup

Design - Printing - Web Hosting

We pride ourselves on creative and innovative designs; reliable 1 on 1 web hosting; and fast turnaround on our full color printing press. Our core services are listed below and should give you an idea of our skillset:

DESIGN:

Need a new website or is it time for a redesign? We will take away the stress and manage the design process for you. We can even manage the hosting if you like!

We work in all areas of design:

- HTML Websites
- Flash Websites
- E - Commerce
- Print Design
- Newsletter Design
- E - Mail Blast Design
- Animated Banners

HOSTING:

Web Hosting with real people. At Blakice we believe in providing more than high performance reliable servers. It is about the connection between our company and customer base. We offer more features and a 1 on 1 support system that cant be matched by our competitors. Our Hosting plans are engineered by real people for real people. We host sites for individuals, small businesses, start-ups, charities, foundations, and resellers.

PRINTING:

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