



Colette Austin with her new skin care products

More than skin-deep

"LAST year I turned Paleo and organic, and feverishly began the task of replacing my normal diet with all things organic," says the lovely **Colette Austin**, who has recently launched a drool worthy range of skin care products under the name The Skin Pantry. "I started emptying out all my drawers and cabinets of make-up, lotions, creams, serums, but when I looked around in the market for organic alternatives, I wasn't exactly spoiled for choice," says the graphic designer, who describes herself as a 'genetic cocktail', her dad **William (Bill) George Austin**, — the legendary horloger, who is said to have turned down the queen of England's job offer — was born in Egypt and is a mix of Italian, Austrian and French ancestry and her mother, **Altricia**, was born in Shillong and was a mix of Khasi, Scottish and Bengali descent.

"I decided to make my own skin care. I imported organic butters and oils, extracts, organic fragrances," says Austin, who sells her potions and lotions out of her charming studio in a leafy lane at Grant Road, replete with 14-foot ceilings, and a verdant backyard that houses Colette & Yvonne, the brand and identity studio she runs with her sister **Yvonne**. "The Skin Pantry was created on the belief that you



Colette with her father William

shouldn't put on your skin what you wouldn't put into your mouth! Our products are handmade using the finest organic butter bases drizzled with organic virgin cold-pressed oils," says Austin, who charmingly describes the accompanying pictures, as "one is of me in the office with the products, and the other of me and dad at a cousin's wedding when he got punch-drunk, and just lay down under a tree, while I sat beside him, quite worried."