

# Eyes of fashion

## No longer nerdy, eye wear has become the center of style

BY BILL COULTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Y on change from jeans and a T-shirt to a suit, from tennis to designer shoes, and you even changed from your Mickey Mouse to a Gucci watch. So what's left? "Glasses have become a fashion accessory," says Grace Glushkin of

Family Eye Care in Farmington Hills. "There's no question," said Sue Dubin of Dublin Optometric Clinic in Farmington. "Within the last couple of years people have become much more concerned with fashion in eye wear. 'What else do you wear, except

for your wedding band, that you don't change?" Lynn Miller, an optometrist at Family Eye Care, said glasses have become "the thing" in some circles to the extent that children will fake poor eye sight to get them. "I'll ask them if they can read a

line, and they'll keep saying, 'no,' " she said. "Then I'll ask them to distinguish colors and they still say they can't tell. They really want to wear glasses." That's a change from the time when kids who wore glasses also sported nicknames like "four eyes" and "Coke bottles."

Glushkin said some women in the corporate world find that traditional look and some women find that men are more attracted to women who wear glasses.

"And then there are a lot of choices," she said. "Some frames are very businesslike, some are artsy. Tinted lenses offer a different look that affects how people see you."

Dubin said the anti-reflective coating available on glasses these days makes them more aesthetically pleasing. Smaller lenses can accommodate even strong prescriptions that once sent customers looking for contacts.

"The look of the '60s, with wire rims, is very popular," says

Glushkin, who said a popular model is the John Lennon frame, a replica of the type worn by the late Beatle.

Glushkin and Dubin said color choices are almost unlimited, and styles from funky to classic are possible in colors with plastic.

And materials make it possible to actually twist frames in a knot so they'll bounce back, Glushkin said.

Glushkin uses colored cloth samples to show how certain frames bring fit with certain colors, or in some cases, how colors can highlight different frames. Function can match form as well.

"We have some lawyers who like the preppy, classic look," Dubin said. "But they want to be able to fling them off with one hand in front of a judge or jury. If you don't have the right kind, that wouldn't work."

And those in the fashion know are looking through green-colored glasses. Armani, Fendi, Yves St. Laurent and Marchon are a few of

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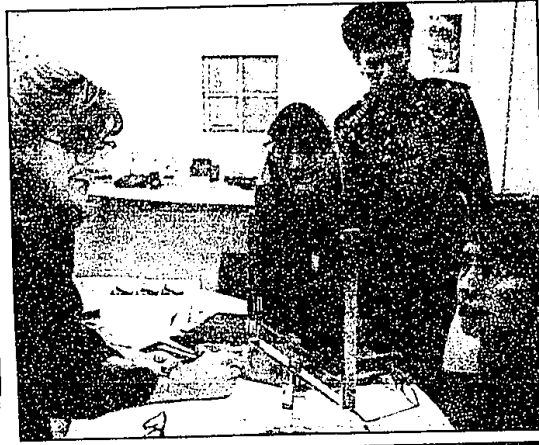
the designer frames available. You can spend from \$35 to \$200 for frames depending on style, size and material.

"I own several pair of glasses," Glushkin said. "I can change glasses according to the look I want."

"It's like having a purse and shoes that match," Dubin said. "You wouldn't wear the same pair of glasses with blue jeans that you would with a formal."



Glasses galore: Grace Glushkin, owner of the Family Eye Care center, shows — in unusual fashion — the variety of frames available.



Picking a pair: Dr. Lynn Miller (left) watches her patient, Jane Vennix, try on a pair of glasses with the help of Donna Warman. They use different color scarves to demonstrate the versatility of the glasses.

# Sticktacular

## Farmington hosts unique music clinic

Now in its third year, the Farmington Public Schools Community Partnership Advisory Council is dedicated to bringing the schools and local businesses closer together and inspiring them to share talents and resources. Direct queries to Betty Wolfard, School Community Relations, at 489-3349.



'Stickin' it out: Jerry McKenzie, former drummer with the Stan Kenton Orchestra, was the featured guest artist at "Sticktacular '95," a first-of-its-kind activity for percussion students.

"Sticktacular '95" adds another dimension to the offerings of Farmington Public Schools Music Department made possible through partnerships with professional musicians. "This event is a first of its kind in the nation," says Carl Glipert, a member of North Farmington High School's instrumental music faculty.

The program offered percussion instrument students at all levels a unique opportunity to learn through interactions with guest artists. Approximately 250 fifth through 12th grade students and their parents gained a better understanding of what percussion might be on Feb. 23 at North Farmington High School.

Jerry McKenzie, former member of the Stan Kenton Orchestra, kicked off the evening by performing with OCC Jazz Band under the direction of Mark Phillips, Harrison High School Instrumental 1A teacher. McKenzie shared with the audience what he has learned through his experiences in playing with big bands as well as his early teachers.

"The drummer has to take charge. Rhythm is essential. When I sit down, I'm thinking about (keeping) time and I'm applying it to the music. I'm reading the music," is the message he stressed to the young drummers. McKenzie, now a detective with the Farmington Hills Police De-

partment, played drums and toured with Kenton.

Percussion specialists from Farmington Public Schools and Central Michigan University conducted clinics in snare drum, bass drum and cymbals, keyboards and tympani. The evening culminated with performances by the percussion ensembles of the three high schools and a grand finale in which the audience joined the ensembles in a rousing rendition of "The Pursuit of the Woman with the Feathered Hat."

"Sticktacular" joins "Day for Strings" and "Farmington Sings" in giving students a chance to learn from professional musicians living or working in the school district. It is these partnerships that help build enthusiasm, awareness and understanding for the music program.

Members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra performing in "Day for Strings" set the standard for the programs to follow.

They have also expanded their involvement with students. Once a week, high school students at North and Harrison benefit from DSO members' advice and demonstrations, thanks to funding from their high school booster clubs. Middle school students receive a visitation once a year. DSO members sit in their rehearsals, play along with the students and show them how to improve their performance.

Paul Barber, Farmington Public Schools music coordinator, attributes the success of "Sticktacular," "Day for Strings," and "Farmington Sings" to two things: The musicians who live in the community and really care about what the schools are doing, and Farmington Public Schools music staff.

"The whole staff pulls together. The great job they are doing is evident from the number of young people in the program," said Barber.

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