

His design's on a fashion career

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Ask Antonio Amico what turns him on, and he'll tell you without hesitation—needles and thread.

"Ever since I was a kid, I liked to do things with a needle and thread," he says. "And I learned it all on my own. My mother taught me to sew but now she picks up ideas from me."

The talented designer is an former employe of Jean Pierre, a firm that produced original clothes in Southfield for a short time.

Amico did his designing. He also designs for friends.

"I started doing work for friends about three years ago," he said. "Very quickly, people found out I was putting a few things together and next thing, I was doing things for all my friends, both men and women."

Amico prefers designing for women and puts his things together in his own way. "Everything is finished with French seams, all hand-done," he said.

"I put my ideas together with what my friends said they wanted and they'd have something they couldn't find anywhere else."

Amico the designer, however, is still Amico the dreamer. His living is

earned as a hairdresser.

"WHEN JEAN-PIERRE'S closed, I couldn't afford to go to New York so I went to beauty school," he explained.

"I earn my living by working at Emile Coiffures Deux Fois in the Racquette Building in Southfield. I do the designing on my own."

Amico's employer, Richard Joseph, said he recognized when he hired the young man that he possessed a feeling of coordination between hair style and fashion.

Joseph has allowed Amico to display his dress designs in the shop and many customers appreciate the opportunity to own something originally designed or even to design something for Amico to make up for them.

The young designer, a native of Sicily, came here at age nine and grew up on Detroit's east side. He has not had formal training in design but does his sketches and creates his own patterns before producing the final garments.

"I like to use silks and a few cottons, basically natural fabrics," he said. "Them seem to fall better and have a nice flow."

He admits he often buys fabric on impulse and then designs something



ANTONIO AMICO



Summer's newest look is the pale sundress done by Amico in white eyelet with matching scarf and finished with a ruffled hemline.



Neutrals like the white dress daintily printed with black and the black two piece polyester and the frothy sleeveless silk are mainstays in Antonio Amico's fashion philosophy.



Photos by JAC MARGLOIS

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Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

Topcurest

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Olga's Kitchen in the Continental Market, 210 S. Woodward, Birmingham, 647-2760.

Camping in

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Brody's Boys and Young Men's Wear, 3745 W. Nine Mile, Oak Park, LI 34115. (Sundays: 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Putting it in print

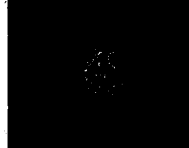
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Orthogonality, 135 S. Woodward, Birmingham, 642-1460.

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Mark Cross, Somerset Mall, Troy, 643-0390.



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