

Ladylike styles please

By RUSTLE SHAND

Spring is a celebration of the return to femininity in dressing for women all over the country. And the more than 600 members of the Birmingham branch of the American Association of University Women who attended their 53rd annual spring fashion benefit last week were no exception to the rule.

The AAUW membership is primarily concerned with education. "The Birmingham group," said general chairman Mrs. Robert Whitall, "is one of the largest groups of university educated women in the country. But," she added, "they are also very conscious of keeping a good appearance."

Mrs. Whitall and other members said they found the clothes shown by Alvin's to be "very exciting."

"They are so pretty, we are thrilled to find lovely daytime dresses again."

None of the women attending the showing seemed concerned over the absence of polyester pant suits. "It was a relief," one said, "not to see pant suits on the runway, for a change. We enjoy getting dressed up again," she added.

SEVERAL of the AAUW members said they looked forward to the annual spring fashion showing to learn how to update their wardrobes through artful use of scarves and accessories. Alvin's fashion coordinator, Margery Stearns, supplied them with many tips on spring accessory touches.

She suggested tucking a colorful handkerchief in the hip pocket of suit jackets and reminded the audience that "shawls add pizzazz" when artfully tossed around shoulders. "Buy one long aviator scarf in bone fishnet and wear it with everything, knotted at the ends," she added.

The art of wearing a scarf, the women were told, often comes in triplicate. If one is good, two are

better and three best, counseled Ms. Stearns, saying "Layering is light for spring." Alvin's also recommends that two silk shirts in contrasting colors be worn under your suit jacket.

THE FANTASY look of summer dressing did not fare as well with the audience as did the more classic look. "I don't care for that 'old world' peasant look," said Mrs. Robert Mowers of Franklin.

Ms. Stearns confided she often is told by grandmothers: "That's how I looked when I came over here on the boat. We weren't allowed to bring any luggage, so we wore all of our clothes, layer upon layer."

Another look, new this season, which members of the audience felt would take some getting used to was the open vest worn over a big shirt left to hang out over the skirt. "My husband would tell me to go finish dressing," remarked one woman.

But, there was no question of their acceptance of the soft, pretty, sheer prints shown in both blouses and dresses. They also shared enthusiasm for the feminine high-heeled sandals shown with dresses for dancing.

Alvin's theme throughout the showing was the return of the ladylike look. Neutral suits for spring were emphasized along with soft pastels.

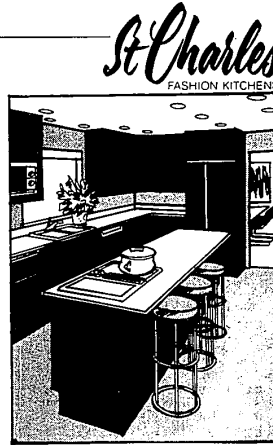
A SEGMENT on all-weather coats introduced a "paper bag" top coat by Main Street. The neckline closing is drawn together with string ties and the result is soft and feminine while still offering protection from rain or wind. A tissue-light Qiana raincoat offered travel ease along with a crisp rustling sound.

Flower garden fantasy dresses were shown for evening in full length and waltz length. For the most part, they were bare, sexy and slit to show the leg.



Modern arranger

Bob Thomas of St. Petersburg, Fla., a recognized authority on floral abstract design, will give a demonstration for the Michigan Graduate Judges' Association at 1 p.m. Monday, April 10, in St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Five Mile, west of Inkster, Livonia. Tickets are \$3 and may be obtained from any member of the judge's association, which is affiliated with the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association.



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Free health tests offered

Tests to detect signs of high blood pressure, cervical cancer, anemia, kidney disease, diabetes and hearing and vision loss will be given during Health-O-Rama '78, next Monday through Thursday, April 10-13 in the Northland Shopping Center, at Eight Mile and Greenfield.

Organization and Women for the United Foundation, the free health screening program will be from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily.

All health information will be confidential.

In addition to these tests, trained specialists at the community information service exhibit will offer help on such problems as drinking and drugs, unemployment, public assistance, money management, problem pregnancy and personal and marriage problems.

Participants must be well and 18 years of age. People with abnormal results will be referred to their doctor for further testing and examination.

Sponsored by the United Health

Theater gala funds grants

As a benefit for its part-time scholarship program, Women of Wayne will hold a theater party at St. Dunstan's Guild, Cranbrook, Sunday, April 9.

A hot buffet reception will be held in the Green Room at 5 p.m. The St. Dunstan players take the stage at 7 p.m. to present "The Real Inspector Hound," a madcap comedy. Tickets are \$10 and are on sale at Wayne State University alumni house, 576-2157.

Women of Wayne scholarships are for women over 25 studying part-time at WSU. Applications for grants during the 1978-79 school year are due May 15.

Horses star in jamboree

More than 500 Michigan 4-H horse project members will journey to Michigan State University on April 15 to judge, speak about, and be quizzed on horses.

The fifth annual horse jamboree will feature competitions in horse method demonstrations, horse judging, public speaking, slide presentations, and the Horse Bowl—where members compete against time and other members on their knowledge of horses.

Activities will begin at 9 a.m. in Keadie Hall and the Livestock Pavilion. The public is invited to attend all activities including the 6 p.m. awards program in 189 Anthony Hall. There is no admission charge.

Slides tell of arthritis

"Joint Protection," a slide presentation on arthritis, will be the program sponsored by the Michigan chapter Arthritis Foundation at 7 p.m. Monday, April 10, in St. David Episcopal Church, Twelve Mile between Greenfield and Southfield in Southfield. Marge Hadley will lead the program, which provides education and accurate information to arthritis patients and members of their families. The program is free and open to the public.

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