

# Seniors kept up to date on summer fashion



Seniors at McDonnell Towers got to see the latest in summer fashions, modeled by teenagers on Monday afternoon. The show was arranged for them by a representative of Montgomery Ward's and Barb Bleier, a field work student who will soon be awarded her degree in recreational therapy. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

By SHIRLEE IDEN

It was hard to figure out who was most excited at a recent fashion show for seniors at McDonnell Towers—the teens who modeled, the seniors eyeing the clothes or the senior men enjoying the models.

For Barb Bleier, it was a day of satisfaction, since she spent several weeks getting the show together.

A Southfield resident, Ms. Bleier is doing field work at the center towards a degree in recreational therapy from Wayne State University. She is a senior.

Recreational therapy attracted the 23 year-old because she has always "been into sports."

"But I didn't want to be a physical education teacher," she said. Ms. Bleier spent over three years as a student of theatre arts but switched recently to her current field.

**'And I loved it all. These people get kind of lonesome and it's easy to really get close, but you have to be careful not to get too attached.'**

—Barb Bleier

"I thought it would be a good field," she said. "It includes setting up recreational programs for people who can't do it for themselves. It means working at senior citizens places, hospitals and the like."

Ms. Bleier has been working at McDonnell Center for two months and found she truly enjoyed working with seniors.

"For me it's been interesting and relaxing," she said. "Whatever happens, senior citizens are never in a rush."

MONDAY'S fashion show was produced by Maureen Gordon from Montgomery Ward's who leads a program for teens who want to be well-groomed and knowledgeable about fashion.

"The models are all from this program and are high school girls," Ms. Bleier said. "It would have been neat to have the seniors do the modeling but it would have been very difficult to arrange. I also felt badly that there are no male models, but we tried hard to have the fashions that would be appropriate for older women."

The 45-minute show focused on fashions for the summer months.

For Barbara Bleier, setting up the show was a culmination of her field work at the McDonnell Towers. Prior to this project, she did just about everything there.

"I've answered phones, taken complaints and even held hands," she said. "And I loved it all. These people get kind of lonesome and it's easy to really get close, but you have to be careful not to get too attached."

She said her next field work may likely be with mentally retarded children.

"I've worked with them before and it gives me a good feeling. Last summer I was a counselor for a swim and gym program at the parks and recreation for special children."

"It makes you realize how lucky you are to be normal."

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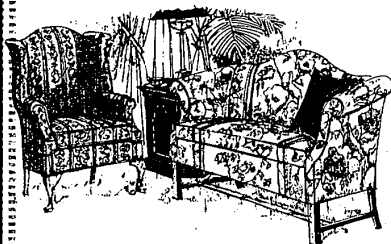
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