

## Now Spring comes on as fashion's 'new' season

Spring has suddenly been reinstated as a long range fashion season.

No longer caught in the squeeze between heavy winter layers and wispy summer floss, spring clothes become shapely, slim in materials that are seasonless, do not drop nor take repeated arranging.

Last season's trial balloon, the padded shoulder is now a fashion fact. Most American designers treat shoulder pads lightly, with no attempt to revive old movie looks but simply to revise the look from big, round and long to a new combination of narrow triangular top and round-tipped leggy oval below.

The peeled-down, bare-a-lot look is the keynote in many designer collections.

It has terrific initial shock impact, but designers allow plenty of options for the exercise of taste and discrimination. Women with great figures will show them proudly, without a leer, others will, more conservatively, welcome slender seaming, inner uplift bras and the belted waistline that shows the figure without bulk.

Americans designers must compete successfully in a huge essential industry, with the fun and games as window-dressing.

Slenderness and careful trimness are their spring fashion statements; striptease slits and excessive bareness are theatrics that can be adjusted by each wearer.

The sociological point is that designers say they sense women's disenchantment with the idea of muffling the good bodies they work so hard to maintain, and also of disguising their femininity when they no longer need to prove their ability at man-size jobs.



Spring is here a little early in this two-piece pacesetter print dress in white cotton challis spattered with "crayon-printed" spring flowers. Deep pockets and soft shirred skirt make this a comfortable choice from the James Daugherty collection.

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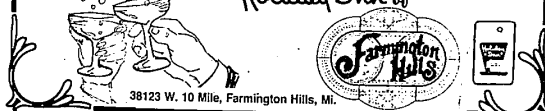
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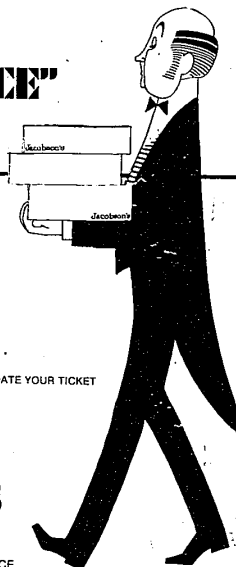


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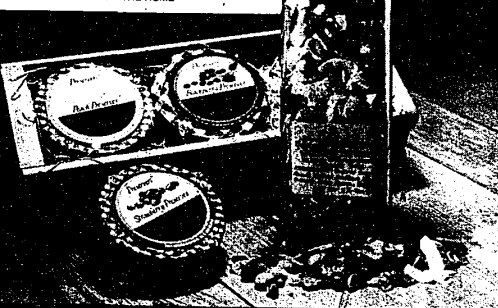
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