



Old coat looks forward with new jewelry

By RUSTLE SHAND

There's no need to hide all your fashion personality under a coat this year. Victor Carranza has designed jewelry specifically for outerwear decor. It's appropriately and simply called "coat jewelry."

Carranza's jewelry takes the place of the fur neck piece grandmother wore to decorate her coat. It also replaces last year's overly ubiquitous shawl. And, it is so much easier and much more fun to wear than the aforementioned accessories, which, unless you stood perfectly still, slipped and slid.

Frankly, they were nothing but a nuisance.

"On top of all that, the new jewelry makes an old coat look so advanced that everyone will think you are just back from a buying jaunt to Milan."

While launching his new designs at Hattie's in Birmingham earlier this season, Carranza said "my coat jewelry makes it possible to give an entirely new look to a basic coat."

One such piece, a \$200 horse hair cord with a carved bone double wolf face side, may be wrapped at the waist or worn diagonally over one shoulder.

"They are all art forms for the body—versatile pieces that may be worn in many different ways," he said.

A classic coat takes on a whole new personality with the Carranza body art. Worn at the waist, the body looks lean and classic. Worn diagonally across the body, then circling the waist, the silhouette takes on a broad shoulder look.

One of Carranza's body wraps is a leg or thigh harness that continues upward to wrap the waist. A perfect accent for the tight leg of current pant fashions, the Italian metallic cord boasts a gold sea serpent.

Carranza, a native of Mexico, said his interest in jewelry design was sparked when the Mexican government commissioned him to design a bracelet for Cartier of Paris.

A year ago, he was commissioned by Oscar de la Renta to design body jewelry for his spring collection. The jewelry designs stole the show when de la Renta later launched his spring designs. Carranza's concepts became the talk of the fashion world.

Carranza's work has been heralded in Women's Wear Daily, other fashion trade newspapers, and Harper's Bazaar. It also inspired The Best of New York Magazine to cover fashion for the first time.

The youthful designer proudly traces his Mexican Indian heritage to Mixte Indian on his father's side and Yuki Indian on his mother's side of the family. He credits the unusual mix of the two Indian tribes for his own artistic nature.

"The Mixte Indians," he said, "are of small stature, very calm and are known for their mystical nature."

On the other hand, he said, "the Yuki Indians are known for their fiery, open and frank dispositions and they are big beautiful people."

Good health, humor and openness radiate from Carranza's hands one face and like body. He prefers natural goods and drinks Perrier water rather than wine or cocktails. He is the fifth child of the family to go through the University of Mexico.

"My father," said Carranza, "is interested in all the arts. He is a retired



Carranza's talented designs also include dramatic horsehair combs and a horsehair lapel pin that are sure to be more fun to wear than shawls that slip and slide.

designer of airports. When he retired, they had to hire six men to replace him."

His heritage also includes a great grandfather who was president of Mexico. Although New York claims much of his time, Victor continues to make his home in Mexico City, where he has turned the third floor of the family home into a studio. He also has three workshops in Mexico, where his horse hair pieces are woven, stones are carved and black clay pieces are made.

Carranza's business partner, Stephen Smith, hails from Texas. He, too, has a masters degree in fine art. Formerly the director of window displays at Bergdorf-Goodman, Smith's skill as an illustrator is obvious in an exclusive to The Eclectic fashion sketch depicting the coat jewelry.

Of his partner, Smith said, "Victor loves the arts and in his spare time vis-

its museums rather than the discotheques. But when he does go to discos he is the star."

Carranza, he said, recently volunteered his efforts to help with artistic backdrops for a charity theatrical production. In a moment of spirited enthusiasm, the otherwise staid young

man was coaxed onto the stage during rehearsal. He proceeded to sing and dance with abandon, Smith said. Someone filmed the stint and as a result Victor was offered a movie contract.

"I am not interested in theatre arts as a profession," explained Carranza. "I will remain in the fashion arts."



A year ago, Carranza was commissioned to design body jewelry. This year the youthful Mexican designer has created a collection of coat jewelry that he calls art forms for the body.

Fashion Calendar

Monday, Jan. 15

Sussex House Fashions by Leyton's are featured each Monday during lunch.

Tuesday, Jan. 16

Fisher Building Lobby The National Modern Rhythmic Gymnastic Team will present a special tumbling show demonstrating intricate manipulations with non-acrobatic dance movements synchronized to music. Cooper's Arms Designer fashions from Janet Varner's of Rochester are modeled informally from noon to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday September through May at the Cooper's Arms, 308 Main Street, Rochester.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

Fisher Building Lobby The Fairlane Family YMCA will present a dance fit demonstration. Six women will demonstrate this exciting way to become physically fit with the fun of dancing. Lynette Handley will coordinate.

Thursday, Jan. 18

Fisher Building Lobby Beginning, intermediate and advanced tumblers from the downtown YMCA will give a demonstration at the noon hour.

Friday, Jan. 19

Jacobson's The Giorgio Sant Angelo 1979 Spring Collection will be modeled informally in the Birmingham store from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 21

Somerset Mall W. Big Beaver, Troy. Enjoy a brunch of crepes, bacon, juice and coffee while watching fashions by Saks Fifth Avenue, Bonwit Teller and a host of other toasty shops in the Somerset Mall. Complimentary brunch is by the Magic Pan. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Sunday through the month. Reservations for brunch are necessary. Call 643-6380 before Friday.

Hudson's The Pepsi National Skateboard Champion Team will offer a thrilling performance of skateboard stunts, all geared to promote skateboard safety. They can be seen at Northland at noon. Also at 2 p.m. in the Northland Woodward Shop an exciting array of California fashions will be spotlighted in a special fashion show. Learn how to put together the sensational California look.

Carranza's jewelry takes the place of grandmother's fur neck piece. Instead of last year's overly ubiquitous shawl, he devises a lariat and fits it with a dagger to be tucked in the belt. (Photos by Stephen Cantrell)

These pieces are the first jewelry designed specifically for coats. They are great over large bulky overcoats and blazers also. It is especially nice that they transform last year's coat into the piece for fall and winter. The bangles can also be worn as a belt giving small cinched waists and emphasizing shoulders. The pins are great also on hats and scarves or even stuck into hair braids.

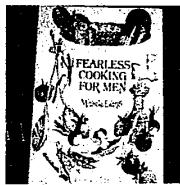


Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

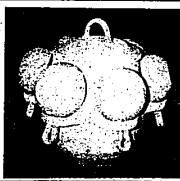
Batching it

Nowdays, either out of necessity or desire, more and more men seem to be wending their way into the kitchen. With that in mind, Michele Evans has written a wonderful cookbook entitled "Fearless Cooking for Men" (\$9.95). Ms. Evans gives you not only the essential rules of basic cooking but also a glossary of terms. There are bachelor meals; plans for cooking for (and with) children; diet recipes; barbecue recipes; a celebration dinner for one; an elaborate breakfast for two and a grand dinner for six plus a list of everything you'll need as a host at a cocktail or dinner party. Bookpeople, Orchard Mall, West Bloomfield, 851-9150, and Prudential Town Center, Southfield, 358-4646.



Clay feat

This clever "everything pot" would be another terrific item for a bachelor to have on hand. In fact, it would be a fun gift for anyone who entertains. The two-quart pot (\$65) is encircled with built-in handles that hold six individual serving crocks. Just fill the ovenproof pot with chili, gaspacho, hot chocolate, mulled wine or whatever and let guests dip in. Featuring a natural beige clay exterior and a glazed beige interior, it's a space-saver that's bound to be a conversation piece. Adlerchnee Ltd., Somerset Mall, Troy, 649-5710.



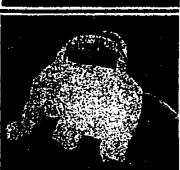
Shoe ins

According to a recent issue of Progressive Architecture Magazine, "Ronald McDonald is second in child recognition after Santa Claus." Such being the case, these adorable, warm and comfy slippers (\$5) should serve to keep your children from walking barefoot around the house. Made to fit boys and girls 2-10 years of age, plastic Ronald McDonald heads topped by furry red hair are mounted on the fuzzy yellow slippers. Red and white striped knit cuffs hug the ankle for extra warmth. Sak's Fifth Avenue Children's Shoe Dept., Somerset Mall, Troy, 643-9000.



Animal Fare

No ifs, ands, or buts about it, these animal-shaped purses (\$30) complete with fabric ears, tails and painted-on eyes are guaranteed to make you smile. The pigs and hippos are in stock in your choice of red or beige canvas. The elephant, also available in gray suede cloth, has sewn-down flap ears which serve as pockets. If you prefer, a red canvas apple-shaped bag with green leaf pocket and green handles is priced at \$18. All of the purses can be personalized for \$3 extra. Tennis Time, Bloomfield Commons, Maple and Lahser, Birmingham, 646-4475.



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