

# Men learn colors tie wardrobes together

By CAROL MAHONEY

A group of engineers recently did some problem solving without using a slide rule.

At a seminar entitled "Executive Wardrobe Engineering," sponsored by the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers, a predominantly male audience was given tips on dressing by Lois Fenton of Compagny's Coming, a Mamaronck, N.Y., consulting firm. The program was held at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy.

During her presentation Ms. Fenton stressed the importance of color and

coordination in achieving what she terms the "successful look."

"Your clothes suggest what you would like people to think about you, so express the best you that you can possibly show," Ms. Fenton told her listeners.

And that does not necessarily mean spending a lot of money. Ms. Fenton emphasized that since color is free, using it well costs no more than using it poorly.

Using a variety of props, including shirts, ties and suit coats, Ms. Fenton demonstrated how various colors and patterns should be blended to produce a striking ensemble.

To the man unsure about which colors go well together, she offered this tip:

"When you wear something in which you get two or more unsolicited compliments, that's a good combination. Put a matching number inside that tie and shirt and always wear them together."

She added that color coordination is a special problem for some men as the latest statistics show that one in 11 males is color blind.

Ms. Fenton also said that too many men shop haphazardly. They may buy as many as six shirts at a time but neglect to buy ties to go with them. She advocates buying shirts and ties together, matching both to a piece of fabric from the suit they will be worn with.

When selecting a tie, Ms. Fenton said, "Find one tie that is perfect for a particular shirt, not one that has to go with three or four others. It will always be perfect for that shirt."

SHE RECOMMENDED blue, brown and grey or black as basic suit colors on which to build a wardrobe. She cautioned that not everyone looks good in all three colors.

"Everybody looks good in blue," she said. "But brown does not work as well for everyone. To demonstrate her point

she selected a man from the audience who was wearing a brown jacket.

She complimented him on how well the jacket looked with his sandy colored hair. As a rule, Ms. Fenton said people with light colored eyes and hair should accent their coloring while people with dark coloring should contrast theirs.

When choosing a shirt to wear Ms. Fenton said the rule is to wear a shirt lighter than the suit and a tie darker than the shirt. She also favors using only two colors. The first should be used in the suit, the second in the shirt, with the tie utilizing both colors.

Generally, she believes that patterns should be worn with solid colors, but admits that two patterns can be very effective if they are different in scale.

"Color coordination must be great when you put patterns together," she warned.

Clothes are not the only thing necessary for excellent grooming, Ms. Fenton reminded her audience.

"Don't believe that anyone can be well dressed without a full length mirror and good lighting," she said. "Shoes are also a very important part."

And socks are not to be ignored, Ms. Fenton stressed the importance of wearing over the calf socks which cov-

er the leg well whether a man is standing or sitting. As to color, she added jokingly, "Only Archie Bunker wears white socks."

Ms. Fenton said she is a great believer in natural fibers. "I'd rather see a real linen suit that's rumpled than a

pristine suit that looks like polyester."

MS. FENTON also pointed out that men's fashions don't change as rapidly as women's. "What's right today may be wrong three months from now," she said of women's clothes.

## Virgil outfoxes Bach and rock fans

Bach star Virgil Fox, king of the concert organ, will perform at Detroit's Music Hall Center at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, and if his hundreds of concerts over the last eight years are any indication, the audience will include rock music freaks as well as the expected classical music fans.

A rock audience for a Bach concert? This seeming phenomenon started in 1970 when non-conformist Fox had the temerity to add a light show to his all-Bach concert and present it in the hotbed of rock music, New York's Fillmore East.

At the end of the night, 2,650 screaming kids (turned on by the lights, Bach, Fox and the sound of his magnificent electric organ) jumped to their feet and, according to Rolling Stone magazine, "gave him the kind of standing

ovation usually reserved for Eric Clapton, calling out for more."

Yet Fox' reverence for Bach is evangelical. He proclaims: "My Bach is a red-blooded, gutsy, he-man Bach." Fox dismisses old-fashioned Bach purists as "barnacles on the ship of music."

"I AM CONTROVERSIAL as hell," continues the 61-year-old former church organist. "My more conservative colleagues regard me as an infidel. They say I'm a showman, and I'm proud to be one."

Tickets for the Virgil Fox/Revelation Lights concert can be obtained at the Music Hall box office, 350 Madison or ordered over the phone by calling 963-7680 and using a Visa or Master Charge card. Group rates are available from Joan Heidt at 963-7622.



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