

The fashion plate

Doggie bags are out —just like polyester

By RUSTLE SHAND

Fashion, normally associated with clothing, extends beyond how we cover our bodies today. Haute couture has a piquant rival in haute cuisine.

Actually haute cuisine came into vogue in the Detroit area about the same time as this automotive capital of the world began to wrinkle in pure fiber clothing associated with haute couture.

It happened around the time when the anti-polyester rumblings began and the enchantment with fast food began to wear off. Perhaps the best way to describe the haute monde approach is an equation: Polyester is to microwave ovens and doggie bags as haute couture is to haute cuisine.

Some restaurants are "doggie bag" restaurants. Others are not. Consider Twenee's Cafe, the ultra-chic, rather expensive Birmingham restaurant that specializes in haute cuisine.

PERHAPS THE Twenee chic is best related in a conversation overheard between haute couture Advocate Brenda Rosenberg of the J.L. Hudson Co. and Yvonne Gill Davis, who owns Twenee's.

Squeezing in a luncheon between fashion trips to Europe and New York is not easy, maintains Ms. Rosenberg. And, amidst her hectic schedule, getting an evening meal on the table for her husband is practically impossible.

Knowing her husband shares her penchant for titillating Twenee tidbits, Ms. Rosenberg decided to carry out something delectable for dinner. Settling on quiche, she was advised, of course, to heat it before serving.

"I don't have a microwave oven," she explained. "What's from micro wave?" declared Ms. Davis. "Do you wear polyester? We don't cook with micro wave."

Visibly shattered at the thought of wearing polyester in her haute couture world, Ms. Rosenberg related easily to Ms. Davis' recollection in horror at the thought of microwave entering the world of haute cuisine.

BUT BACK to the doggie bag. In the Twenee's world, a patron's request for such signals one of two things. Either the food was not palatable or the servings were too large — both of which create a major crisis in the mind of perfectionist Yvonne Gill Davis.

Even dogless persons know, from watching TV, that dogs don't eat table scraps any more — they eat something that looks like raw hamburger, but isn't. The thought that you might take home partially-eaten portions of food and reheat and serve even yourself makes Ms. Gill shudder.

(It makes me shudder, too, but then I was never one for leftovers. I remember once having some fried fish that I did not particularly like. At the waitress' insistence I took it home for my cat, who didn't like it either.)

Not finishing your dinner at Twenee's does not mean you are an outcast and never invited back as it does in the private world of dinner parties given by members of various gourmet groups.

But it does get noticed at this restaurant where Yvonne Gill Davis really cares about the quality of food served and seeks to have all customers satisfied.

You will not be asked if you would like to take the remains of your meal home with you in a doggie bag, but if you ask, Ms. Davis, always the perfect hostess, will see that you are accommodated.

Summed up, all of this means that in a world of haute couture and haute cuisine, doggie bags are gauche. They, along with microwave ovens and polyester are "out."

Consider tripping out of a fine restaurant in your four-inch heels and sitting in the car all the way home with a "doggie bag" on your silk-clad lap, planning to reheat the remains in a microwave oven.

"Out, out, out."

Volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at over 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

CRAFTS ASSISTANT — Patience, warmth, and an interest in handwork are the requirements for volunteers interested in this job with Oakland County Medical Care, a skilled care facility in Pontiac. Volunteers work with teachers to assist patients with projects in painting, sewing, gluing, and the like. Hours needed are 10-11:30 a.m. weekdays except Wednesday.

CAMP ATTENDANT — The Muscular Dystrophy Association is looking for male volunteers 16 and older to help with its summer camp program on Lake Huron, July 15-22. Attendants must be mature, responsible, and good with people, and also enjoy camping. A one day training session is provided.

TEENS — Volunteers 16 and over are urgently needed by the Michigan Animal Rescue League in Pontiac. Duties include feeding, cleaning cages, exercising dogs, and brushing and bathing animals. Hours are flexible.

TEENS — Volunteers 16 and up are needed by Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield to serve as Clinic Assistants. Duties include greeting patients, handling routine clerical tasks, escorting patients, answering the telephone, taking messages, etc. A weekly commitment of four to six hours is required.

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A warning about hair dye

If you dye your hair or are thinking about doing it, you should know about the controversy concerning permanent hair dyes. In tests by the National Cancer Institute, "coal tar" ingredients in some of these products caused cancer when fed to laboratory rats. There's special concern about this because other studies show that these dye substances can penetrate the skin and enter the bloodstream directly.

A new booklet from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) explains that the FDA is currently powerless to ban these products. Because the dyes were the only ones practical in 1938, a law at that time exempted them from FDA ban. So for now, the FDA has proposed a new warning label. Until it's ready, consumers can protect themselves by checking the ingredient label on the package. Avoid dyes with "4-M-M-P-D" or "4-M-M-P-D Sulfate" listed on the label.

For a free copy of "Hair Dyes," send a postcard to the Consumer Information Center, Dept. 597G, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

"Coal tar" ingredients (now made from petroleum) are usually found in the darker shades or ash blonde tones. They're not generally used in reddish or golden blonde colors or in semi-permanent dyes or rinses.

Since 90 percent of all hair coloring is for home use, most bottles will have ingredient labels you can check. But, professionally applied products require no ingredient label. So you'll have to

check with your hair-dresser or the manufacturer.

The FDA is also checking on metallic dyes used in widely advertised gradual hair coloring. In these products that slowly cover gray, lead acetate reacts chemically to produce a pigment. This use of lead acetate was only provisionally approved in 1974 pending further study. The FDA wants more proof that lead is not absorbed into the body when these products are used in combination with other hair groom aids.



Temple picks first woman president

Temple Kal Ami of West Bloomfield recently elected Mary Saidman to be its first woman president.

The other new officers are Irving Friedman, Bette Roth and Ed Roth-schild who are vice presidents; Harvey Beim, treasurer; and Shirley Meraky, secretary.

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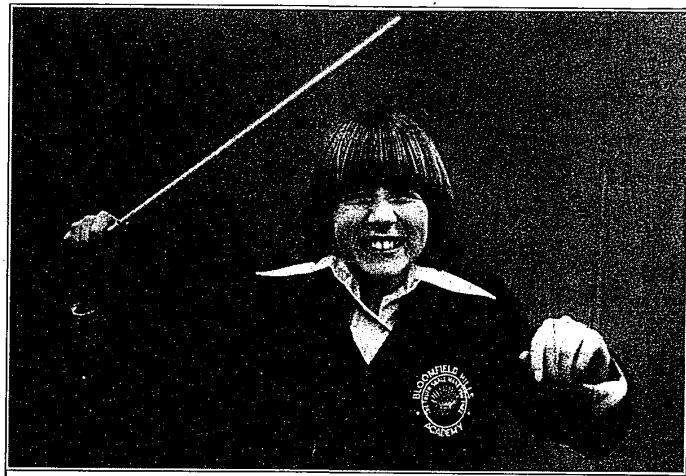


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