

Matthews Et Al

Label your wardrobe '1981'

By LORAIN McCLISH

Birmingham's Matthews Et Al gave a crash course in how to label your wardrobe '1981' during a benefit luncheon for Farmington Community Center this month in Vladimirs.

The key words are Plaids and Pleats. The key color is every possible shade of purple running from the palest of pinks and mauves through the deepest of burgundys and grapes.

Commentator and fashion coordinator Sally Watton wound the whole formula around her ABCs of fashion, spelled out as Authoritative Becoming Classic.

Authoritative is what women have achieved after groping around to find their individuality in the '70's.

Becoming is what is becoming to the individual.

Classic is the basis of it all; the skirt-



ed suit, the blazer, the shirtwaist-dress, all those classic items that can be purchased as an investment to be dressed up or down. All the items that don't fall into the fad trap.

PANTS ARE making something of a re-entry into the fashion scene, but timidly. Skirted suits are sold with one price tag on them this fall, while the matching pants are sold as a separate.

The better-fashion-wise investment, Ms. Watton suggests, would be a pleated skirt, with wide or narrow pleats; with large or small, bold or soft pleat. This season's kilt, adhering to the two-inch below the knee hem rule, falls into the classic category and walks well.

"Don't get the idea that the authoritative classic look is a masculine look," Ms. Watton told her audience.

"A black houndsloath checked jacket should have a very feminine brooch on its lapel, or a very feminine blouse to accompany it. Notice the many touches of lace this season. Even the preppy look has its touch of softness in color or accessories.

"Be pretty, but practical," she advised.

ALONG THE practical line, Ms.

Watton said Michiganders have to cope with the state's five seasons: spring, summer, fall, winter and transitional, the latter being the longest of them all.

"So think one step ahead," she said. "Think of what else you can do with every item you buy.

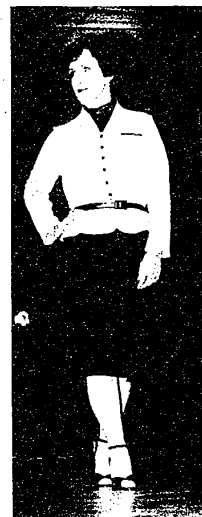
"Of course you can be layered to a fare-thee-well, but other than that, your best bet is the printed cotton or paisley," she said.

Other suggestions were thinking of a sleeveless or small-capped sleeve dress as a jumper during the transitional season. Look to the dress-jacket combination, either matching or mixing. Try a vest over a long sleeved dress for extra warmth when needed.

"Mix and match was started to help the woman who was one size on top and another on the bottom. Now its for every size and for every age to stretch your inflated dollar.

"And don't overlook the knits if you're not a perfect size, that too has changed," she said. "Once made for the perfect figure, the cut of the garments now, particularly from The Knit Group, are flattering to us all.

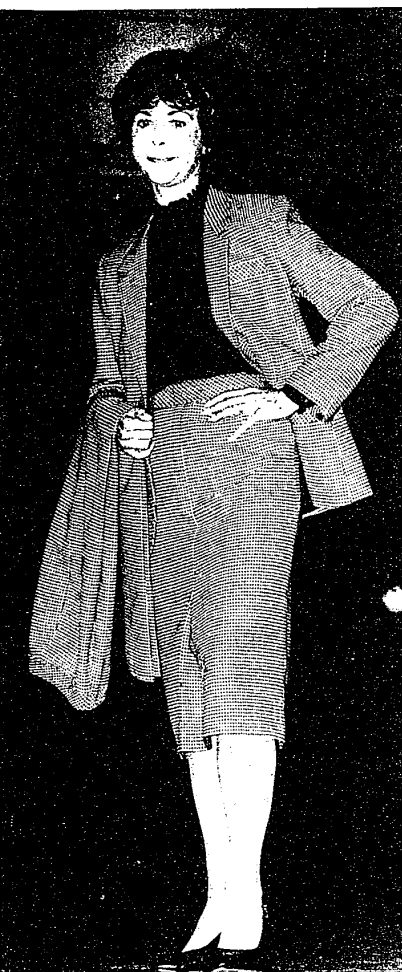
"For the traveling lady, try The Traveler line, for practicality, for packing, for looking good in all season for all occasions," she said.



This season's neon-colored jackets go best with either creamy light or very dark skirts, pleated of course. The Lelle Faye petite is for those 5 foot 3, or under.



A Bonnie Cashin coat goes over about any mix or match imaginable and is a classic for any age group. The coat, with its own wool scarf, tops a corduroy skirt and a Breckenridge ribbed sweater.



The classiest-classic look for the season is the tailored suited skirt worn with a feminine blouse. The suit has one price tag; the pants are sold as separates.



Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

The Price is Right

Free Stuff for cooks (\$2.95) is a paperback book loaded with descriptions of all kinds of free recipe booklets, buying and nutritional guides, catalogs and product samples that you can send for by mail. Most of the items are available for the price of a postcard. However, some require postage and handling costs that range from a dime to a dollar. As a bonus, many of the book's 102 pages contain sample recipes, tips and other information reprinted from the publications described.

Metro News Center, Bloomfield Plaza, Maple at Telegraph, Birmingham, 851-7121.

Wheels

Sixteenth birthdays are very special. After all, getting a driver's license or "wheels" (as they say in the vernacular) is some sort of milestone. The Village Barn has come up with a wonderful way to commemorate this event. The store sells lovable wooden toy Volkswagens (\$15), sports coupes (\$17) and Indy racers (\$16) that are handpainted with the colors and specifications (including names, dates and symbols) of your choice. Orders take three weeks.

The Village Barn, 32760 Franklin Road, Franklin, 851-7877.

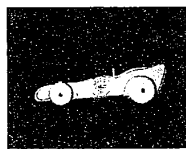
Just in Case

For the person who has everything, including insomnia, Miner's sells The Insomniac's Pillowcase (\$7.50) printed front and back with amusing, sleep-inducing mental exercises, an insomniac's dictionary and a history of insomnia. There is also a pillowcase (\$5) that says "yes" in green letters on one side and "no" in red letters on the other side. Other pillowcases (\$5 each) feature U-M or MSU colors and logos, the words "satisfaction guaranteed" or the word "I" plus a red heart, followed by the word "you." Lastly, there's a pillowcase featuring a replica of a Visa-type card that says "credit cards accepted here."

Miner's 41 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, 644-0514.

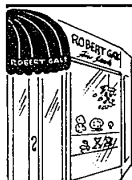
TENDERLY

This Jaccard Meat Tenderizer comes highly recommended from a friend who has been in the meat business for years. New on the market, it's a mini version of one used commercially by hotel and restaurant purveyors. Easy to use and easy to store, it makes any boneless cut of meat butter-tender and it reduces cooking time up to 40 percent. As a result, you have energy and also get less shrinkage. Priced at \$29.95, you can pick it up at the Kimbee Co., Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or calls them and arrange to have it sent C.O.D. or UPS. Kimbee Co., Suite 613 A, Fidelity Bank Building, Northwestern at Evergreen, Southfield, 355-0230.



Fashion commentator Sally Watton (at left) outfitted a great many of the models with bags filled with a variety of mix-and-match items for the outfit being shown. All of the

models were volunteers for the Farmington Community Center benefit. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)



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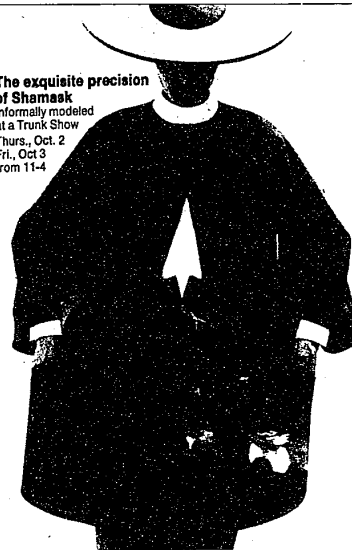
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