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The heat's on Covering up with a lot of pizzazz

By Margery Stearns Krevsky
special writer

Lucky you. A new swimsuit is in your summer life. You love it, the color is hot and perfect, and onlookers have given you rave reviews.

Now take out your cover-up, the one that's been a standby for a couple of seasons. It's probably white terry cloth, and it wraps. It's a real standard, staple item, which means it's serviceable but boring.

So get with it. Now there is an explosion of great toppers for the pool and beach which will lead double lives.

Many of them look wonderful over a swimsuit and then can work in other ways such as a mini dress, a top for shorts or trousers, a fashion piece by itself, or even an evening jacket.

Mary Hagan, a selling supervisor at Gantos of Oakland Mall, told us "there's lots of new excitement in beachwear, especially in our Michele Vollbrach collection. We're excited about having it because it appeals to that fashion customer."

THE VOLLBRACH collection features exquisite, colorful hand-painted designs on bikinis, mailots, slide tops and short and reversible jackets, with

price tags from \$38 to \$140. His original designs are like wearing a piece of art, she said. This collection is one of the most striking and fashion forward this season, Hagan added.

Tammi Mullin, also of Gantos, said "We haven't sold much terry. The customers like new silhouettes and cover-ups that can be used for other things. There's more color this season, and some terrific stripes. We've had success with ones that have matching shorts so a lady can have a play outfit, too."

Debra Moon, an assistant manager of Winkelman's Oakland Mall store, said, "The skimp has been successful for us because of its versatility. It can be worn over exercise clothes or can be taken to the gym. Cover-ups can be used for everyday living. I think a skimp looks great over jeans."

An official survey among some members of the Birmingham-Bloom-

field Welcome Wagon Club revealed what new trends are going to be seen at local clubs, pools and beaches.

Clara Magill of Birmingham and Janet Coogan of West Bloomfield like traditional terry but in long styles that can be worn to patio parties. Magill prefers big kimono sleeves that make her cover-up appear more dramatic. Coogan would choose a strapless kimono to show off her suntan and blonde hair.

Kathy Lenish and daughter Molly of Bloomfield Hills like the fashion colors of black and white in stripes or polka dots. Lenish would wear her cover-up also with white trousers. Eleven-year-old Molly likes mini dresses that she can wear with flat shoes to a party.

Maria Kern of Birmingham and Peaches Harboure, West Bloomfield, are enamored of the dramatic pieces in the Michele Vollbrach collection.



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