

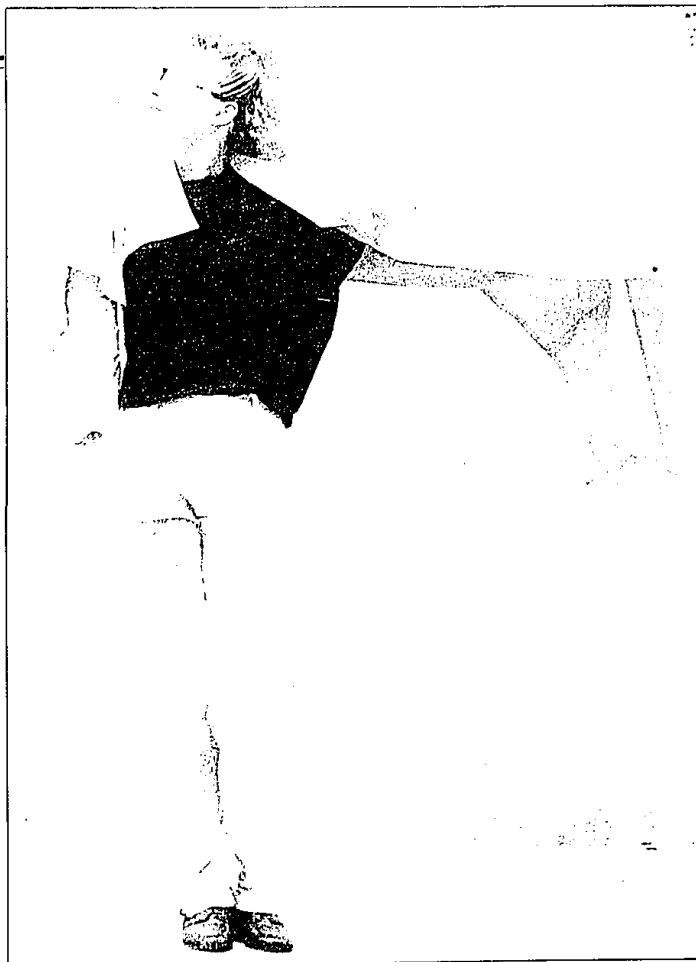


Timing hands you success



STEPHEN CANTRELL

Thierry Mugler's belted green poet dress in a soft wool jersey blend has narrow hips balanced by very full sleeves. Hattie, Birmingham.



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**Assertive
leathers**

**Body
skimming**

**True
brights**

**Crunchy
marigolds**

**Cardinal
reds**

Bette Appel's marigold coat welcomes cool winds. Coat, \$400; trouser, \$165; pullover top, \$185. Boardwalk, West Bloomfield.

TIMING IS everything in fashion.

Being in the right place at the right time in the right clothes is the key to success. Whether you're aiming for a job, a run-filled or relaxing weekend, an elegant evening or a romantic interlude, it's what you wear, or don't wear, as the case may be, that counts.

Life is, after all, one big costume party that depends on the clock for appropriateness.

Role-playing for the workplace requires a relatively subdued wardrobe that says you mean business. For these hours, flash is best left hanging in the closet. Colorwise, better grey than gay.

Weekend dressing gives stage time to an expression of individuality, permitting the coveted country look to star in a variety of roles.

NEW FALL-TIME colors drift from greens and browns into muted autumn greens, cardinal reds, crunchy marigold and purples. And the timing is just right for basic grey, sparked with nature's leaf-turning true-brights.

Beautiful fabrics lend a fresh appeal to timeless silhouettes. Soft wool jerseys and lightweight knits lend a new ease to suits and dresses. Alpaca, vicuna, camel hair and leather create dramatic coats.

The season's coats are mostly serious but they also have their frivolous, colorful side. The ultimate coat for her is the belted, cashmere wrap. For him, it's the raglan shouldered tweed overcoat. Reffer coats — timeless and elegantly practical — are harbingers of the clean, spare look that will dominate this fall/winter.

A new category joins the dinner-at-seven mélange.

Called the dinner suit, its lines are simple and clean. Fabrics are luxe and often the suit sparkles with bead trim, signaling less jewelry, at best.

Furs have become less of fantasy and more of a reality as a well-deserved reward for women who work. Homefront engineers included. More and more men, by the way, are enjoying the warmth of fur for other than business situations.

INCIDENTALLY, the newest furs for women have taken on the roomy cut of a bathrobe.

Accessories are the props of fashion, marking the time of day and the occasion as clearly as a stop watch. And speaking of watches, time pieces are the newest accents. As a leading accessory trend, timepieces are joined by Aztec Indian designs, cats, animal prints and bold, clean pieces of silver or gold. Shawls, stoles and scarves are important for adding a light layer of warmth as autumn leaves begin to fall.

Saks Fifth Avenue's Troy store fashion coordinator Cheryl Hall points out that fashion is a dichotomy because it is both timeless and trendy.

"Timeless looks and styles become classics. They reappear again and again in one form or another and they are always well received. The trendy looks mark the passage of time in much the same way that world events, politics and literature reflect the history of the human race. Fashion trends become the symbols of an era — like flappers in the '20s and the poodle-skirted, bobbiyswowers of the '50s."

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