

We'd like to thank ...

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers would like to extend special thanks to those folks who helped us put together this special spring fashion section appearing today in all O&E editions.

• Weight Watchers Inc. award-winning building Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills welcomed us. Their building was awarded the 1987 Construction Association of Michigan award; Pazz Inc., building interior architecture and design; Victor Siroki, AIA, building architect, and Janna Construction, builders. We thank WW Group Inc. president and chairman Florine Mark for her gracious hospitality.

• Wake on The Lake in Bloomfield Hills opened one of their condominium units to us. Our hostess was Ida Lucas, director of sales.

• Bestak Cos. opened their stunning Venture Place office building in Troy, at Livernois and Big Beaver roads, to us, also. The

building has been honored by the Construction Association of Michigan for its excellence. Special thanks to Farman/Stein Co., the building leasing agent, and Dennis Browne of Bestak for their cordiality.

ABOUT THE COVER: Capturing the look of the current season is the two-piece R&K design with its white linen jacket atop a black and white chiffon skirt. At Crowleys. The photo was taken by O&E photographer Stephen Cantrell.

This special section was coordinated by O&E special fashion writer Rustie Shand and Marie McGee, special sections editor. The cover design was by David Frank, O&E graphics editor. Photographers were Cantrell, Jerry Zolynsky, Randy Borst and Jim Jagfeld.

Advertising coordinators were Gigi Gondek and Audrey Root. Questions about the section should be directed to McGee at 591-2300, Ext. 313.

STRONG SUITS

Strictly business — Christian Dior's menswear mix features a navy and white striped double-breasted, crested blazer, \$195; French vanilla tweed skirt, \$118; tiny star print red silk blouse, \$72, Don Thomas Sportshaus, Bloomfield Plaza.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

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Escada checks it out in a black and yellow busboy jacket and skirt, softened with a yellow chiffon blouse. Jacket, \$920; skirt, \$340; blouse, \$380. He's wearing a black unconstructed jacket, \$140 with pinstripe trousers, \$75. His black and white striped T-shirt, \$85, Saks Fifth Avenue.



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Willi Wear's black houndstooth separates (left) — jacket, \$90; trouser, \$60. Shirt by Girbaud, \$65, Signal, Twelve 195; Louis Raphael black trouser, \$90, Hudson's.

Soft fashion in a high tech world



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Popples herald getting in shape for bathing suit season... Adrienne Vittadini's floral cotton swimsuit has matching voile coverup. Suit, \$56; cover, \$90. Active Lady, Twelve Oaks Mall.

CLOTHES may not make the woman, but they are certainly covering her very nicely this spring and giving her many choices. It's a season for individuality.

Clothes are more flattering — often featuring narrow waists, softened shapes and sheer fabrics. Graphic and floral patterns bloom on a range of cloth for all hours and menswear mixes mean serious business.

Off-hours are anxiously awaited as a time to get into what Ralph Lauren calls "rough gear" — the kind of clothes you can be your ultimate self in — when appearance is only half the game and the rest is for comfort.

The latest looming fashion column as you may have guessed is pants — all lengths and any shape — for all day and all night.

IN THE FASHION news for spring are such things as navy blues, polka dots and stripes, prints and chiffons. On the other hand, there are blacks and whites, seascape colors, vibrant brights and sunset-over-the-desert hues. There are leathers, traditional menswear fabrics, poplins, pliques and linens.

In other words, this season of choices allows expression of individuality which is key to the season's best looks. Just as we make choices on how we spend our time, we will have many choices of how

we want to spend our clothing allowance.

• Favor the time-honored Chanel look with its gold buttons, chains and contrasting color-tipped shoes?

We have that.

• Eager for the soft, feminine, flowing looks?

OK. Here they are.

• Corporate minded and headed for the top?

Certainly. We're with you.

• Spend Monday through Friday biding time, waiting for the weekend?

We're so relaxed.

• Eager for spring cocktail parties?

We're ready with olive and a twist of lemon.

• Anxious for a slow boat to anywhere?

We're on ship's rail. Boats are hot this year.

• Florals turn you on?

Flower power abounds.

• Love spots before your eyes?

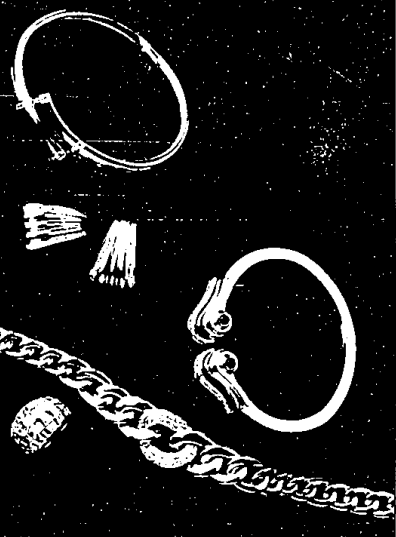
We're certainly dotty enough.

• More interested in getting real?

We're with you there.

As spring zooms in — greening the environment and lighting the ground with colorful blooms — our bodies collectively breathe big sighs of relief and lean toward the lighter side of clothing. And the stores are ready for us.

—Rustie Shand



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