

FEAR & LOAFING

Eyesore decor



Karl Nilsson

"Today's 'Ask the Decorator' question comes from Phyllis Somjak of Sterling Heights. 'I have recently been diagnosed as having Fashion Trends Recognition Deficit. My doctor says the only cure is a tasteful transplant from a Birmingham socialite. Trouble is, only a few potential donors die each month and the entire city of Ferndale is on a waiting list ahead of me. I'm writing you for a second opinion.'"

"With that, Phyllis launched into her decorating history. 'Recently, we inherited my uncle's furniture, described in his will as 'priceless antiques.' Well, it was obvious to me this uncomfortable, out-of-date junk didn't match anything in our trailer. Fortunately, I was able to trade something called a Louis XIV armchair for two bean bag chairs and a brass elephant."

"My uncle's dining table was made by some dudes, called the Shakers, and I'm not surprised because they sure couldn't cut a straight line or use Formica. To brighten it up, we made a collage of our favorite pistols from 'Guns & Ammo' magazine, then poured polyurethane over it."

"AT FIRST I wanted to use the old stuff for fire wood, but I noticed the Frank Lloyd Wright ladderback chair made a great scratching post for my cats. Likewise, our Hep-plewhite chest made a decent workbench once we found a way to mount the drill press."

"Believe me nothing was wasted. Even those ugly little pre-Columbian statues came in handy when we ran out of pop bottles for target practice."

"Now here comes the part that proves the doctor is wrong about me. I sprayed every stick of furniture with two-tone spatter paint! I saw it at a crafts show and today I have the only faux-granite Mission rocker in the neighborhood."

"Unfortunately, no matter how much paint I squirt on our Chipendale sofa, it keeps flaking off the cushions when I sit down. Is it time

to switch to a newer, hotter trend?" Without bothering to reply, I immediately dialed the local design police who raided her home within minutes. What's left of her furniture has now been taken into protective custody and placed in a foster home.

As shocking as her offense was, a search warrant revealed Mrs. Somjak was on the verge of committing an even more horrible crime. "The Santa Fe Look" Police uncovered stacks of mail-order catalogs filled with hard-core items guaranteed to "lend Southwestern flair to any decor!" Among the obscene materials offered were:

• CACTUS DOORSTOP — "A miniature Southwestern landscape captured in cast iron. Beautiful desert colors are handpainted because we can't think of a cheaper way to do it."

• Pueblo Nightlight — "Cheery light shines through the windows of this native American home. Individually signed by the artist who can't afford electricity on what we pay him."

• Coyote Mirror — "Wooden frame features ubiquitous coyote howling about his royalties, plus sagebrush moss stapled on. Costs virtually nothing to make, but irresistible to Midwesterners at any price."

• Adobe Windchimes — "Terra cotta replica of Pueblo village on strings. Each time the breeze plays a plaintive Indian song, you'll remember paying triple what it's worth."

• Arizona Welcome mat — "Durable and colorful, this ancient Zapotec design pronounces a powerful curse of death on encyclopedia salesmen."

The list goes on, but clearly something must be done to stop this flood of desert dreck before it's too late. Why not a special tax? For instance, unless you ran a Mexican restaurant, it would be illegal to possess a Navajo rug without a license.

The revenues could be used for our new ad campaign: "Just Say No to Santa Fe."

STREET SEEN
Denise Susan Lucas

Our intrepid Street Scene reporter is always looking for the unusual and welcomes comments and suggestions from readers and entrepreneurs. Send those to this column in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 313.

All tied up

An unusual tie can be a conversation piece as these three zany beauties can attest to. The M&Ms style is a sweet choice especially since this is the 50th anniversary of the "Melt-in-your-mouth, not-in-your-hand" candy company. Or there's the Medicine Chest style (right) for health nuts, \$25-\$49. Other versions include Corn on the Cob, Fruits and Veggies and Singles Want Ads. Campus Shop, 116 N. Woodward, Phone 642-1965.



Here's lookin' at you, kid

When Bogie and Ingrid starred in "Casablanca," they created quite a stir. Artist Bakka is creating quite a stir by painting Hollywood personalities on tuxedo jackets for both men and women. You can pick the starlet or artistic design of your choice. The high profile art tuxedo sets for \$150 and is available at Jammie Bakka's Art Studio, 124 S. Woodward. Call 645-2363.



Smoker vs. nonsmoker: Who's right?

Dear Mr. Schiff, I read with interest your recent article on smoking and its impact and cost to society. As a cigar smoker, I have, of course, a vested interest. Yet, I believe you/society's premise is flawed.

Yes, I believe lifestyles do cause increased costs to society in general. But at what level do we take direct action? If taken at face value, no one should be allowed to live in the earthquake prone areas of California or the hurricane alley sections of the South. Indeed, closer to home, those that choose (can afford) to live along lakes that flood with ill winds cost us all a great deal. How about those who are overweight? Then too, those whose genetic makeup portend high chance of having a handicapped child — should I.

Yes, smoking most likely is harmful, but then living in the Detroit area, with its high air pollution, is more dangerous than many areas.

By the way, when was the last time you saw anyone on the free-

ways doing 555 miles per hour — endangering us all, causing high insurance costs, not to mention wasting precious fuel? Surely, these people should be jailed!

Some nonsmokers tend to be quite smug about their own choices, possibly not as obvious, but just as costly to society. But the next fat person who complains will get an earful! Anyway, what this country is all about is choice, not the lowest common denominator.

Sincerely, Ed C.

Dear Ed, I enjoyed your letter. Many of the things you say are so true that I had to laugh. I hope other readers will enjoy it as much as I did. You make many good points and I do not want to detract from an excellent letter with further comments.

Barbara

Dear Barbara,



Barbara Schiff

I am so disappointed that you took such a philosophical, even-handed approach to the topic of smoking. Don't you understand the hazards? Michigan is the slickest state in all the nation in terms of heart disease, stroke and cancer. These are all dis-

eases which are negatively affected by smoking. The biggest rise in the price on a new car is caused by increase in health costs.

People who smoke pollute the air around them for everyone. The state should and must take some responsibility for insuring the betterment of civilization. As I said, I was most disappointed.

M.P.

Dear M.P., I was surprised that yours was the only letter that I received with very strong emotions against smoking. I am happy to print it along with a pro self-determination letter. Even though you are disappointed, I will stick by my promise that there are two good sides to this dilemma.

Barbara

If you have a question or a comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street Sense, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

1990 swimsuits: Bare and bold, but individual

Continued from Page 1 or weight of the swimsuit material until you open up your brown paper envelope and yell "YIKES!"

What you thought you saw isn't always what you'll get. And more often than not, mail order swimsuits are pretty generic, meaning they are manufactured in mass in countries like Korea and Taiwan where standards aren't always regulated and quality is inconsistent.

"I ordered a two-piece suit from a swimsuit catalog," said Adria Bircoff of West Bloomfield. "It looked so good in the picture, and I liked that you could order the tops and bottoms in different sizes, but when I got it, the fabric was flimsy."

"I know it won't last through too many dips in the pool." Another woman ordered a swimsuit by mail. The one she received was cheaply made, with threads hanging from it, and had snags in the fabric. She was told no refunds, she said.

Most women shop for their swimsuits when the mood hits them. It's not something you can do in a hurry. To make the process easier, it's a good idea to wear simple clothing, such as pullover sweatpant when shopping for a swimsuit. Forego the pantyhose for socks, if you actually wear it. (The control top style could trick you into thinking your pot belly doesn't show.)

Another important factor to consider when buying a suit is to decide what kind of suit it is. Is it an all-purpose, functional swimsuit for

going into the water as well as laying in the sun, or is it the kind of suit that you need to keep dry and is more suitable for fancy pool parties where you do no more than wet your feet?

FINALLY, WITH so many choices, it's best to go with your own instinct rather than relying on the advice of a salesperson who is likely to tell you look terrific in a swimsuit that makes you look like an ostrich.

If you really have a tough time finding a suit that fits your body and lifestyle, you might try a custom-made suit, like those available at Beach Bound in Farmington Hills. Their made-to-measure suits are no more expensive than most designer suits found in department stores and you can select your own fabric.

Men have never suffered the agony of swimsuit shopping. For most guys, last year's trunks will still be in style for years to come. But for fashionable men who want to update their poolside wardrobe, bright colors and patterns are very in.

Longer trunks, commonly called Jams, are very popular as well as the Spandex biker shorts-style trunks. There also are a few his and hers coordinates which are a fun way to head for the beach, if you're young and in love.

With so many choices and all this advice, you should have no problem shopping for a swimsuit in 1990, so good luck!



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/Staff photographer

For a change of pace, try a fiery orange one-piece with shirred bust and evening gown straps by Gottex (\$84 from Don Thomas Sporthaus).

Thanks so much

It took a bit of this and a bit of that to produce Street Scene's fourth annual swimsuit edition.

Street Scene would like to thank the Courtyard by Marriott in Southfield, which provided the location and Adria Bircoff and Nancy Praszkiel, both of the Daniel J Salon in Farmington Hills, who did the models' hair and makeup, respectively.

And thanks also goes to Joe's Army Navy Surplus Company Inc. in Royal Oak, which supplied the parachute for background use.

• O&E Sports—more than just the scores •

While few people have ever been hit over the head with a frying pan, many have been hit in the heart. The prostate gland. And the colon. Because fried foods, as part of a high-fat diet, overburden the delicate heart disease as well as certain cancers.

including breast cancer. For a free booklet on how to help reduce your risk through low-fat eating, call 1-800-FAT-LEAN. After all, the purpose of food is to sustain life, not take it away.

1-800-EAT-LEAN

EVERY YEAR THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE KILLED WITH A FRYING PAN.

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