

Magazines: variety's flip side

Read any good magazines lately? If so, try the following, all on newsstands now:

- **"Vanity Fair" (May)** If your favorite type of article is the personality profile, this issue of the trendy slick is for you. Read about Dr. James Grigson, Texas "hanging shrink," whose professional testimony has been instrumental in placing more than 100 men on death row; actress Sean Young; "Prime-Time Godfather" John Gotti; FR power broker, Linda Robinson; Dame Margot Fonteyn; famed journalist, Dorothy Thompson; and smiling cover boy, Richard Gere.

Best of the bunch: Maureen Orth's story on the aging ballerina, Fonteyn, who now lives alone on a remote Panamanian farm. Photos by Lord Snowdon are superb.

You can skip the bit about Richard Gere, unless you're in the mood for another one of those this-former-bad-boy-is-a-changed-man-now things.

- **"Joe Franklin's Nostalgia" (May)** This new magazine contains a special section on the 40s, including a first-rate piece by Reid Stewart Austin on pin-up artist, Alberto Vargas, who created the famed "Varga Girls" (the final "V" in the artist's name was usually dropped, for the sake of euphony). Some of the Peruvian artist's most popular illustrations are featured.

- **"Memories" (June-July)** The Magazine of "Then and Now" offers up an absolutely enthralling article on "The Fall of France," by Alastair Horne and Tereska Torres, personalized by interviews with four French citizens who were on the scene when France fell to German forces in June 1940.

For fun, read Lloyd Sachs' story about the "birth" of that greatest detective, Dick Tracy, and gather clues about William Beatty's new Tracy Movie, starring Beatty (as the detective himself), Al Pacino, Dustin Hoffman and James Caan.

- **"Midwest Living" (June)** Michigan readers should find this latest issue of the colorful lifestyle magazine especially appealing. In an attractive, seven-page spread written by Steve Slack and photographed by Richard Hirshon, you can discover "What's Doing in Detroit" this summer, in case you don't know the details yet. Turn a few pages, and you can also find out about "Asparagus Time in Michigan" (which is, of course). The irresistible article by food editor Diana McMillen is topped off with recipes for Cheddar Asparagus Spoon Bread and Microwave Asparagus with Hollandaise. Enjoy!

- **"Cosmopolitan" (May)** If you're a Cosmo girl, you won't want to miss this 25th anniversary edition of editor Helen Gurley Brown's "having it all" magazine. (The original Cosmo was published in 1965). As big as a book (428 pages), it contains more glossy ads

book break

Victoria Diaz

than the human mind can contemplate, plus some good reading here and there (especially editor Gurley Brown's brief account of high-and-low lights at Cosmo during the last quarter-century), and a cute, but hilarious, shot of silver anniversary centerfold, David Hasselhoff.

- **"American Artist" (May)** This month's issue features an engaging profile, written by senior editor Laurie S. Hurwitz, on foremost children's illustrator, Chris Van Allsburg.

Born in Grand Rapids, the highly-gifted Van Allsburg still thinks of himself as what he started out to be — a sculptor — and reveals here, "I would probably do all my books over if I could."

His work has twice received the Caldecott Medal — for "Jumanji" in 1982 and "The Polar Express" in 1986. Oddly, in this otherwise excellent article, no mention is made that "The Polar Express" received the prestigious award.

- **"American Heritage" (May-June)** In "A Visit With LBJ," historian William E. Leuchtenburg (author of the recently-published "The Shadow of D.D.R. From Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan") provides a comprehensive look back at a memorable White House interview he landed with the president in 1965.

Leuchtenburg, now a professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was, at the time, a professor at Columbia and an activist in the Americans for Democratic Action.

At times here, he seems to have been almost done in by what he describes as Johnson's "loutish manners" and "borishness." Leuchtenburg takes you back 25 years and into "the Inner White House" via extremely effective, observant reporting in a thought-provoking article that not only reveals much about Johnson, but about this historian as well. Don't miss it.

NOTE: Children's author/illustrator, Rosemary Wells, will be at the Elizabeth Stone Gallery in Birmingham, Friday, May 4, from 8-8 p.m. In a previous column, I stated she'd be making an appearance there on May 5.

Bold outlook for menswear

Q: My boyfriend likes the newer clothing styles for men with the looser cut and bolder colors. Recently he bought a pale violet shirt and a tie in deep red and violet tones to coordinate with a summer khaki tan suit. He's 5 feet 11 inches tall, quite slender, and has black hair and an olive complexion. Although these colors look well on him, I'm concerned they will not go over very well in his business community. He's a junior account executive for a local advertising agency. Do you think I'm over-reacting?

A: You're not over-reacting at all. Since menswear dress styles (in contrast to sports and athletic) evolve very gradually, and along very conservative lines, anything that doesn't conform to commonly accepted standards will be noticed. Whether or not your boyfriend should wear his khaki and violet ensemble depends on two things:

First, he must recognize the dress code of the industry or corporations he has to do business with, and dress accordingly. If he doesn't, he will be setting up an unnecessary obstacle putting an emphasis on what he wears rather than what he can do. How far he can diverge from the dress code will vary with the attitude of the executives in charge.

At present, and despite more than 20 years of promoting new fashion looks for men, the most typical and acceptable business suit remains a blue-toned gray, or a gray-toned blue, worn with a white shirt and a conservatively patterned tie in deep red and blue. Khaki is acceptable in summer with a white or pale blue shirt and a conservative tie.

The second matter to take into consideration is whether the style of the clothing harmonizes with his appearance and personality. Since his coloring is perfect for violets and khaki, it will be the personality that will have to carry off such an unconventional harmony. If he is self-assured and on the cutting edge of new ideas, these colors will help to sustain an overall impression of drive and originality.

Ever since the wholesale rejection of the heavily promoted Nehru jacket in the 1960's, most menswear manufacturers and retailers have been reluctant to alter the basic menswear silhouette, except in modifying details. However, in more recent years designers of the high-powered caliber of

all about color

Helen Diane Vincent

Georgio Armani, Valentino, Yves St. Laurent, among many others, have designed exquisite innovations that are bound to change the menswear dress code.

If your boyfriend's business prospects are not damaged, you should support his attempts at thoughtful and individualistic dressing. It's a trend that is going to catch up with us all.

Q: My partner and I are thinking of redecorating our beauty and hair salon. The colors we have at present, peach, grey and cream white, were picked out seven years ago. Now, we want a fresh look for the 1990's, that will, at the same time, flatter our customers. It's quite an investment for us, so we want to make sure our color choice is right. What do you suggest?

A: Specialists like John Wright of Beauté's Craft Supply Co. in Troy tell me that they are seeing a strong return of black and white for salon equipment and interior design color schemes. I can only wholeheartedly recommend it for refurbishing your salon and having it look good later in the 1990s. Black and white remains one of the most universally acceptable colors in the world. Occasionally, it is preempted by trendy colors, but usually not for very long.

Black and white provides a dramatic background for all types of cosmetic and hair colors without the danger of an after-image that a chromatic color provides. (An example would be seeing a slight greenish tone modifying hair or complexion color as a result of looking at pink on the walls for any length of time). Black and white also convey a sense of cleanliness and orderliness — something we all like to have in our lives.



Asquini exhibit at city hall

Jay Asquini, commercial/industrial photographer, will show his photographs in the Livonia City Hall lobby May 1 through May 25. The show is part of an ongoing series sponsored by the Livonia Arts Commission in an effort to showcase talents of area artists. Asquini will present his portfolio of glorified industrial subjects that form the basis of his commercial business. A Livonia resident, Asquini is president-elect of the Michigan Chapter of the American Society of Magazine Photographers.

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