

Suburban Life

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



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Lagerfeld leads the field for fall '92

THE "R" WORD (recession) has been replaced by the "I" word (innovation) in the just-completed European Designer Press presentations for fall 1992.

Despite a prevalence of nihilism and funeral colors in many quarters, a new, elongated, slim silhouette has been created that is a dramatic change from current fashion. Achieved in a number of different ways, this new silhouette depends on cut, new stretch fabrics, and exquisite tailoring.

Embellishing the glitz of the runway parades was the presence of numerous famous personalities. Visualize Spike Lee in his baseball cap and jacket in the front row at Chanel with photographers crushing around him to record the scene? Valentin Placuso, as well as the great sculptor Cesar, Jacques Cousteau, Catherine Deneuve and her daughter, and many others added glamour to the showing.

While headlines may proclaim "Down with your hem!" the fashion news is in the silhouette change. Skirt length is not the issue. The design is curvy and elongated, slender and lean, and achieved in different ways — a raised waistline, narrow set-in sleeves, natural shoulders, high collars, long slim stretch skirts, and long, slim pants.

BLACK IS the prevalent color with grey a strong contender. Red is the favorite bright with other brights used as contrast.

There is big news in leather, especially glove leather in jackets, dresses, pants and skirts. Slim pants predominate, but trousers are also very important as separate pants and as pantsuits.

The strength in pants and pantsuits can be related to the dramatic

changes in skirt length as well as to the new silhouette.

Karl Lagerfeld and Christian LaCroix, joined by Claude Montana, lead the way in Paris with almost all designers attempting to create their own version of the silhouette. The same is true in Milan and London.

Lagerfeld continues as the fashion king, especially when one considers that he creates five separate collections each season. Lagerfeld is the designer for the Fendi sisters in Milan where his furs have ragged edges that are reminiscent of the cave man era. Lagerfeld even produced a cartoon showing a cavewoman with club looking up at a fur-clad figure who is saying "It's our oldest way to dress and I love the way they did it then," to which the cavewoman answers "It is flatter to be copied 100,000 years later."

LAGERFELD IS at his most creative in his own label line, where he has used his double-breasted jacket with long voile skirt worn over black tights from his spring collection as the jumping-off point for his new design.

Once again, Lagerfeld's jackets are inspirational in their creative line and detail. But now, King Karl has added outstanding white piped black and brown leather jackets to his usual wool and softer fabric jackets. He has teamed them up with long sheer slim stretch tulle skirts, sometimes lace trimmed, worn over dark opaque tights.

With all the world very conservative at the moment, and avoiding significant risk, Lagerfeld has brilliantly, and with great authority, gamblled on a new direction with sharp-seamed seaming and stretchy long skirts.

In his KL line, Lagerfeld manufactures his lower-priced ready-to-wear in Hamburg, Germany.

European fashion observer
Stanley Winkelmann

But Lagerfeld also designs the Chanel collection both at Couture (\$8,000 and up) and Pret-a-Porter (\$1,000-\$4,000 price levels, in itself a significant feat. Lagerfeld has injected new life into the House of Chanel, retaining some of the classic, tweed feeling but also reinvigorating the entire operation.

WITH SPIKE LEE in the front row, Lagerfeld made a powerful leather statement. Leather is dominant for fall 1992. At Chanel where Lagerfeld interprets the now silhouette first in black, then in tweed jackets combined with black leather, and finally with brilliant red, the best to my eye were the colorful tweed combined with black leather in jackets worn with black leather slim pants, with black stretch tulle skirts over tights, or with long leather skirts two inches above the ankle to mid-calf.

The Chanel cocktail and formal dress models in tulle or velvet follow the same direction with red sequin edging in some cases or fine gold thread as accents for black tulle. LaCroix continues to move toward a more sophisticated look, yet retains his significant Provencal touch. LaCroix opened his presentation with a series of ankle-length, wide-legged pantsuits that were in some cases culottes and in others, trousers. His coats were simple, colorful, and in many cases carried fanciful appliques.

LaCroix's models wore ebullient on top of their heads, adding height

ing colors to the costume. Both LaCroix and Chanel showed dressed-up versions of the high-top boots I wore as a boy in the 1930s, with laces and hooks to give a tight fit.

LA-CROIX'S JACQUARD wools and knits used in unusual color combinations continue to be important. Yet the color combinations appear slightly more subdued, and much of the styling reflects the longer, leaner look. Many of the jacquards include black along with brilliant colors, and are complemented by opaque black or jacquard tights.

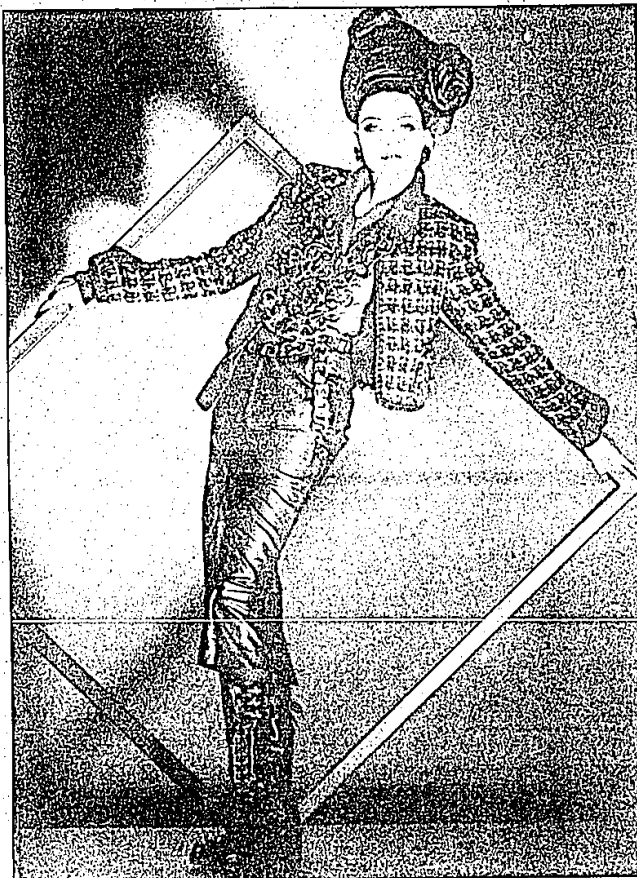
While boots from ankle to mid-calf are very important in interesting color combinations, there is also

increased importance to higher heels on shoes. Flat and low heels have been dominant the last several seasons.

Valentino opened his collection with a series of very short looped-hem skirts in brown leather or grey wool with elongated jackets worn with brown or grey opaque tights and matching high-heeled ankle boots often trimmed in gold.

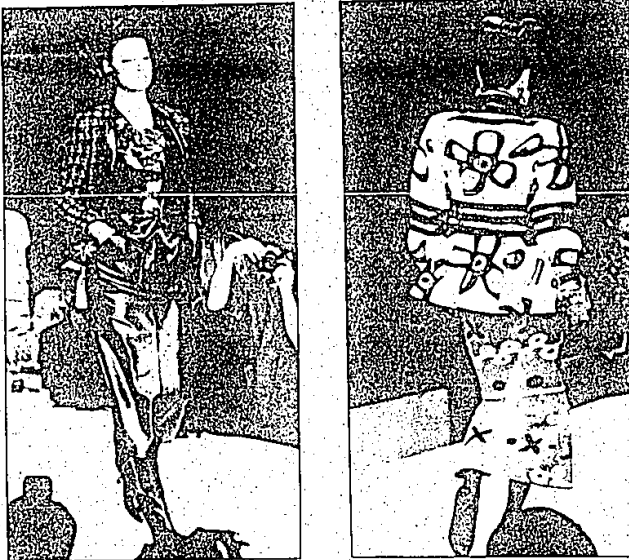
In some cases, Valentino used knee-length, matching brown coats with a six-inch wool lace hem. For hats, Valentino took inspiration from Robin Hood, with two long feathers attached to the brim. The color of

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Elongated silhouettes and luscious leather caught the eyes of the audience — coming and going — at the European designers' fall 1992 show. Above Lagerfeld (for Chanel) starts with button hook boots and moves upward with a long leather skirt topped by a multicolored tweed jacket over a black organza blouse. Far

left, a similar Lagerfeld look with even more leather, including a black leather vest. Left, LaCroix's bottom-of-the-calf multicolored skirt with black tights and black patent pumps got long glances. The jacket is in contrasting colors. Photos at Far left and Left by Stanley Winkelmann.



Cinderella Ball honors three local volunteers

By Carolyn DeMarco
staff writer

CHARITY BALLS are old news. And the oldest of them all is the Cinderella Ball, the Women's Committee fund-raiser for the benefit of the American Lung Association of Southeast Michigan — an annual event since 1947.

The ALASEM, which back then was known as Wayne County Tuberculosis Society, is the local chapter of the nation's oldest voluntary health organization, the American Lung Association.

Now that we've gotten the old news out the way, here's the new: The 1992 Cinderella Ball is scheduled for Friday at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn. According to ball chairman Susan Wilks-Kushner of Bloomfield Hills, "The ball is the major fund-raiser of the local lung associa-

tion. It raises money for educational programs and research."

This year's gala also will honor three well-known Michiganans, Kushner said — Wilhelm-Kast of Bloomfield Hills, Florine Mark of Farmington Hills and Lorraine Schultz of Birmingham.

KAST IS PRESIDENT of DYCS International, Inc.; chairman of American Spoon Foods, Inc., and president of Forum Colorum USA. Kast is a frequent speaker and lecturer on business, entrepreneurship and trade issues at universities and trade organizations. He is a member of the board of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce and the International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Detroit Symphony and a member of the board of directors of the Hospice of Southeastern Michigan.

Kast will receive the Henry Ford II Achievement Award, Kushner said, "as an outstanding entrepreneur and for his contributions to Michigan. He is involved politically, in education and as a community leader par excellence."

FLORINE MARK will be presented with the Michigan Woman of the Year award. She is president and CEO of The WW Group, Inc., the largest franchise of Weight Watchers International. The company employs 2,500 men and women, making it the sixth largest woman-owned business in southeastern Michigan. Mark is frequently cited for her community service. She is an executive trustee on the board of Sinai Hospital and president of the Fashion Group International of Detroit, assistant treasurer of the executive board of the Boy Scouts of America and an advisory board member of



Lorraine Schultz is executive director of the Autoleather Guild of America. As a volunteer she has served as president of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, regional director of the



everything and she contributes to everything, including her time and advice. She's an extraordinary role model for people coming in (to volunteerism). She even shows up at mailing luncheons."



Fashion Group of Detroit, president of March of Dimes Pros, president of the American Lung Association's women's auxiliary and others. Her biography appears in "Who's Who of Women in America."

Kushner said, "I'm lucky to chair this event in a year of three outstanding honorees."

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