

# Fashion from page 1H

17 combinations of suits, or blazers and sports coats. "The kinds of outfits you'd wear with," he said. He wears white shirts with his suits, and tattered and striped shirts with his blazers.

He claims all his single-breasted suits are going out of style at the same time. "The actors all are wearing double-breasted suits. I prefer single-breasted suits. They're more comfortable," he said.

When it comes to colors, navy blue is his favorite. In summer, he wears khaki and light gray, but in winter prefers darker colors,

and was wearing charcoal the day of the interview.

To spark his clothes, "I have fun with ties," Alexander said. "I have a Bugs Bunny tie and a Three Stooges tie." For some of his more interesting clothing and accessory purchases, he shops through catalogues, such as those of the Smithsonian Institution and the Boston Museum of Art. He also shops at major Detroit-area department stores.

When he dresses casually, he may choose from his baseball cap collection, which includes replicas of old Detroit Tiger caps. "Once everyone learned I liked

Bugs Bunny, the bartender (at D. Dennison's Seafood Tavern in Farmington Hills, where the interview took place) gave me a Bugs Bunny T-shirt. In the summer, when I'm not working, that's what I wear — jeans and shorts," Alexander said.

Born in Arkansas ("Just like Bill Clinton"), Alexander was raised in northwest Detroit and received a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University. He did graduate work at Michigan State.

He is the father of three sons and a daughter. Divorced, he lives with his 29-year-old son Kevin in a Farmington Hills apartment, where he has a walk-in closet for his wardrobe.

Alexander spent three years in the Marine Corps and participates in Toys for Tots, a charitable effort where the Marine Re-

serve collects toys for kids. At Christmas, when he goes to parties, he asks other guests to bring gifts for kids, and a Marine comes to collect them.

Alexander's name was suggested for Off the Cuff by Roseanne Souch of Farmington Hills, a former student. She said, "I liked the way he handled himself. He dressed very well. He would dress very professionally. He was just as impressive to me."

Off the Cuff is an occasional feature that focuses on ordinary people with extraordinary flair for fashion. If you know an Observer & Eccentric area resident — man, woman or child — with a distinctive clothing sense, be it classic, trendy, homespun or outrageous, give us a call at 644-1100, Ext. 243.



Outdoor wear: Alexander relaxes in denim duffle coat with hood and toggles.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

The right fit: Bill Alexander tries on Detroit Tigers hat from his collection of baseball caps.

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## How to reach agencies

A number of agencies and government departments offer free information or advice on a wide variety of subjects of interest and service to older adults and their families. Following is a list of toll-free numbers. Operators will be happy to answer your questions or direct you to other proper information sources.

**AT&T Special Needs Center** 800-233-1222  
**Alzheimer's & Related Disorders Center** 800-621-0379  
**American Cancer Society** 800-ACS-2345  
**American Council for the Blind** 800-424-8666  
**American Diabetes Association** 800-232-4372  
**American Parkinson's Disease Association** 800-223-2732  
**Arthritis Foundation** 800-283-7800  
**Auto Repairs Complaints** 800-292-4204  
**Cancer Information Center** 800-422-6237  
**Center for Independent Living** 800-482-0222  
**Energy Assistance** 800-292-5650  
**Hospice** 800-331-1620  
**Housing Discrimination, HUD** 800-424-8590  
**Lawyer Referral** 800-968-0738  
**Legal Hotline for Seniors** 800-347-LAWS  
**Medicaid Information (Social Services)** 800-638-6414  
**Medicare Appeals** 800-365-5899  
**Medicare Inquiry (Part B)** 800-482-4045  
**Medicare Inquiry/Part A (Hospital)** 800-872-2566  
**Michigan Bell Special Needs Center** 800-482-8254

**Nursing Home/Long Term Care** 800-292-7852  
**Physically Impaired Association of Michigan** 800-274-7426  
**Prescription Drug Credit form** 800-357-6263  
**Social Security** 800-772-1213  
**Taxpayers Assistance (State)** 800-487-7000  
**Taxpayers Information (Federal)** 800-829-1040  
**Utilities (Public Service Commission)** 800-292-9555  
**Veterans Information and Assistance** 800-482-0740

## Tell us where folks can send their donations

During the holiday season, people's hearts are filled with the philosophy of giving. They want to help the needy with gifts of money, food, clothing and other goods.

If you or your organization is collecting things that can be given to the less fortunate during the holidays, the Suburban Life section would like to know about it.

On Thursday, Dec. 10, we will publish a listing of organizations to whom donations can be made. Please send details of your organization's program, including type of organization, name, address, phone number and kinds of contributions that are needed.

Send your listing by Tuesday, Dec. 1, to: Holiday Donations, Suburban Life, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

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