

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, MAY 16, 1995

6A(F)

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

Learn what goes underneath it all

Let's talk foundations. June weddings, spring proms, and summer garden parties are upon us and you thought finding the right dress was the hard part? Visible panty lines, dangling bra straps, and telltale bulges can ruin any special occasion look. How can you avoid them? Heed these tips from local experts for looking great from the inside out.

"Undergarments are wardrobes in themselves," said Jan Karcho lingerie buyer and manager for Harp's in Birmingham. "Just as you don't wear the same shoe with every outfit, you don't wear the same bra under all your clothing." The professionals at Harp's, 265 S. Woodward, have the specialty foundations you need for this season's feminine close to the body silhouettes.

If your dress is halter-style and slinky, opt for a convertible backless/halter combo or a bustier that's backless and strapless. Karcho makes a best-selling bustier in sizes 32-40DD. Karcho says that once you try a bustier, you'll find it becomes a necessity. "It smooths the bodice, cinches the waist, and is actually more comfortable than a strapless bra because it doesn't feel like it's falling." Most have removable garters for those super-sexy silk stockings.

Bring up the rear

Body shapers are key for a sleek bottom line. These are not the stiff girdles of the '50s, nor are they the athletic bikini shorts that your teenager wears. High-tech lightweight fabrics provide just the right amount of tummy, rear-end and thigh control. They come in panty or long-leg styles and are priced from \$35-\$50. The most common are skin tones (ecru, bronze and mauve) and butter-sect.

Need a little boost or some extra cleavage in your party dress? Pushup bras are the glamour statement of the '90s. Karcho recommends a classic pushup by Lilyette (425) "It's been around for years and is the best-fitting bra of this type that we've seen."

Remember, fit is foremost. Take the time to have your undergarments fitted by trained professionals who can suggest specific styles for your body type. This is especially important for full-figured women who may be jeopardizing their health by wearing ill-fitting bras.

Don't confuse tightness with support. A bra should never bind or cut into your flesh. Bruises or red marks at the breastbone or around the frame indicate a bra is too tight.

Check for lunge at the cleavage or under the arms. Excess flesh is a sign that a full figure cup or wider coverage is necessary.

Finally, after years of armor-like foundations, large size women can find pretty, lacy, comfortable styles that fit and flatter.

Shop talk

Diane Doyle of Waterford was so thrilled with her new bra from Annette's Unique Boutique, 616 Rochester Road in Troy, that she wore it out of the store and vowed to burn her old bra.

"I feel wonderful," she said, "like a new person." She praised the selection and the trained fitters at Annette's.

"We're flussy about fit," said owner Annette Newman whose shop specializes in an incredible selection of bras for full-figured women up to size 52-H. No more ordering from catalogs, now women have a charming, intimate boutique in which to purchase beautiful lingerie. It's the plus-size woman's answer to Victoria's Secret. Plus control briefs to size 6X, strapless long-line bra to 46FF and very purple and peach satin bra to size 42G.

Annette also caters to post-mastectomy patients and nursing mothers. You will be impressed, as I was, by the positively charged atmosphere of caring and compassion in surroundings not unlike your own private retreat at home.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. You can leave her story ideas at (313) 853-2047, mailbox 1829, or fax them to her at (810) 644-1314.

LOOKING AHEAD

- What to watch for in Malls & Mainstreets next week:
- Linda Bachrack goes shopping for sensational swimwear.
- Added Attractions lists interesting events at area shopping centers.
- Retail Details briefs you on store openings and closings.

Neiman's toasts good taste

Fine food and trendy tablescapes were the topics at Neiman Marcus' salute to Le Cordon Bleu last week.

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Never ones to let the finer things in life pass by, Neiman Marcus and Bon Appetit Magazine joined in saluting Le Cordon Bleu's 100th Anniversary by treating customers to a French cooking lesson complete with a table settings exhibit.

Le Cordon Bleu's Chef des Chef Patrick Martin showed guests how to make Chicken Salad with Sesame Seeds, and later Crepes Suzettes, after Bon Appetit editor Randi Danforth presented several themed table settings in The Galleries on the third floor of the Somerset Collection store in Troy.

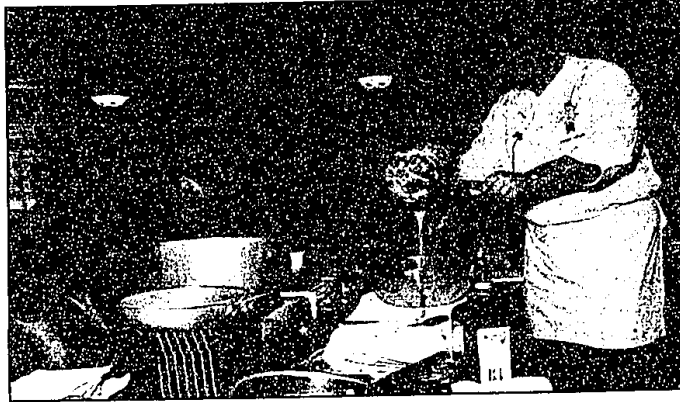
Customers seemed especially attracted to the table settings with Mackenzie-Child's gaily-colored china which resembled a Tea Party at the Mad Hatter's.

Porcelain fruit and vegetable sculptures by East Coast artist Katherine Houston were a hit with shoppers who appreciated the added charm the items brought to a country table setting.

See NEIMAN'S, 7A



Hats off: Two Mackenzie-Childs cake plates were stacked, lifting this torte designed to look like a bonnet, high off the table.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMANSON

Batter up: Cordon Bleu Chef des chef Patrick Martin adds melted butter to the crepes suzette mix he prepared for guests at Neiman Marcus' salute to fine dining experiences.

Le Cordon Bleu marks 100 years

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Le Cordon Bleu cooking school was founded in Paris in 1895. It continues to teach the art of French cuisine internationally at schools located in Paris, London and Tokyo. Here are some facts about this culinary legend from the school's history book:

The name "Cordon Bleu" has its origins in the 16th century when King Henry III created "L'Ordre des Chevaliers du Saint Esprit" (The Holy Spirit Order) then the most exclusive order in France. Members, which included royalty, were called "Cordon Bleu" after the blue ribbons they wore. Nothing was too good for the order. The banquets and feasts that accompanied their ceremonious meetings were legendary.

By the 18th century, the term "Cordon Bleu" applied to anyone who excelled in a particular field. The term eventually became associated with the culinary arts.

In the 19th century, French journalist Marie Diatel founded a weekly publication where famous chefs offered lessons and recipes through the articles they penned for "La Cuisiniere Cordon Bleu."

Soon afterward, Diatel organized free classes where chefs could give demonstrations. The first Cordon Bleu cooking class was held in the Palais Royal on Jan. 14, 1896.

Diatel's goal was to link the best chefs of the day with the tables of the

wealthy and educated elite. The organizers had the latest in culinary technology when electricity was installed in their kitchens before the rest of France.

Chef Henri-Paul Pellaprat taught at the school for 40 years. He wrote "L'Art Culinaire" and "La Cuisine Familiale et Pratique" which remain classics.

Through the decades Le Cordon Bleu grew, changed and flourished. By 1905, students were coming from

as far away as Japan. By 1935, Le Cordon Bleu magazine had 25,000 subscribers publishing more than 60 volumes of classic recipes.

In 1953, Le Cordon Bleu alumnus Rosemary Hume joined Constance Spry, an expert in table and flower design to establish "l'Ecole du Petit Cordon Bleu," in London. The school was requested to cater the coronation dinner of Queen Elizabeth II.

See CORDON BLEU, 7A



Bountiful basket: Bon Appetit editor Randi Danforth (pointing at left) directs guests to follow her to the next decorated table in Neiman Marcus' Galleries Department.

All retail businesses in suburban Malls and Main Streets are invited to submit announcements of upcoming events and promotions for Added Attractions. The deadline is the Wednesday before publication on Monday. Send the facts to: Malls & Mainstreets, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009. Or fax to: (810) 644-1314.

MONDAY, MAY 15

PUPPET SHOWS

The Golden Unicorn presented daily through May at 7 p.m. Saturday performance times 11 a.m. 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday 1 and 3 p.m.
Maplebrook Village Mall, Adams/Walton, Rochester Hills. (810) 375-9451.

PAL BENEFIT

Jacobson's Men's Store hosts an evening of sports fun to raise funds for the Police Athletic League which provides summer programs for inner city youth. 6:30-9 p.m. Hotdogs, pizza, refreshments. Live broadcast of WRR's Sportswrap with Chuck Swonick. Comic Tim Allen is guest of honor. Admission \$5. \$1 raffle tickets for chance to golf with the pros this summer. 325 N. Woodward, Birmingham. (810) 644-6900.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

BACCARAT EXHIBIT

For just two hours 6-8 p.m. Baccarat presents a sample of decorative crystal from its Golden Age, 1808-1930, at Neiman Marcus. Representative Chantal Burns accompanies the exhibit to oversee shopper's questions. Somerset Collection, 812 Deaver/Creeper, Troy. (810) 643-3300.

REUNION SHUTTLE

Roundtrip bus service between mall and Detroit Institute of Arts. Leaves mall at 9 and 11 a.m. Leaves museum for mall 2 and 4 p.m. \$8 ticket includes transportation, docent-guided tour, museum admission. Limited seating. Purchase tickets in advance from museum shop on mall's upper level. Next trip: June 21 and May 19. Twelve Dates, 12 N.W. Nov., (313) 833-9706.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

CRAFT FAIR

Browse among hundreds of creations by local artists through May 21, regular mall hours.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Akkrilbeet. (810) 476-1160.

MOONLIGHT MADNESS

Discounts up to 70 percent off at plaza shops through May 20. May 18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 19 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. May 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The Boardwalk, Orchard Lake/Le. Maple, West Bloomfield. (810) 855-5400.

STORY TIME

Children's Emporium hosts treats and tales, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Free to pre-schoolers.
6666 Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield. (810) 737-3357.

INFORMAL MODELING

See fashions from Chico's casual shop modeled during lunch from noon to 2 p.m.
Stage & Co. Orchard Lake/Le. Maple, West Bloomfield. (810) 855-6622.

JAZZ CONCERT

Mark Hynes quartet performs. 6-7:30 p.m. Food court area. Free to shoppers.
Tel: Twelve Mall, 12 N.W. Telegraph, Southfield. (810) 353-4111.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

DESIGNER VISITS

Four designers Fall Collection for JAX, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Collection sportswear.
Jacobson's, 336 West Maple, Birmingham. (810) 644-6900.

INFORMAL MODELING

Featuring styles from Clothes Encounters informally modeled during lunch at The Grand Cafe, noon to 2 p.m. Fridays.
33316 Grand River, Downtown Farmington. (810) 615-9181.

LAWN/LEISURE SHOW

Exhibits feature hot tubs, pest control, pools, solar-heated driveways, but notators, watercraft items through May 21 regular mall hours.
Woodward Mall, Plymouth/Akkrilbeet, Livonia. (313) 522-4100.

WESTERN ART SHOW

The Cowboy Trader hosts Royal Oak resident George Lerner's collection of western art by more than 30 artists including U. Grant Speed, Russ Vickers, Bob

Schwer, and Joe Bester. Many available for purchase, priced \$300-\$10,000. 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through June 10.
Second floor, Merrimack Building, Birmingham. (810) 647-8833.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

USED BOOKS SALE

Baldwin Library hosts annual sale of previously owned reading materials. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On May 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. On May 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bates, Pierce, Birmingham. (810) 647-1700.

CHILDREN'S STORY

Jon Scieszka's Slinky Cheese Man read at 11 a.m. A kid's classic.
Border's Books, 31150 Southfield, Birmingham. (810) 644-1515.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

CELEBRATE BIRMINGHAM

Pancake Breakfast 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the YMCA, 400 E. Lincoln; also at the F Fishing Derby 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Parade celebrating "The World of Animals," 1 p.m. Woodward at Maple to Bates. Hunter House offers historical tours noon to 3 p.m. Hip Hop Animal Rock at noon in Sham Park. Air glow in park until 5 p.m. with Q95-radio broadcasting live from park.
Downtown Birmingham. (810) 644-1700.

KIDS SHOW

The Magic and Comedy of Doug Schwer. 1 and 2:30 p.m. Restaurants on Main Street. Complimentary shows.
Tel: Twelve Mall, 12 N.W. Telegraph, Southfield. (810) 353-4111.

STORYBOOK SURVEY

Lori Bennett of WRC radio reads "Nelly's Granville," and "Puss in Boots." 1 p.m. Center court, Fergus the Dragon visits. 2 book reports can be redeemed for discount mall tokens.
Fairlane, Michigan/Southfield, Dearborn. (313) 593-1370.

MONDAY, MAY 22

HEALTH TESTS

Dorsetford General Hospital provides free blood pressure screening 8-10 a.m. Jacobson's Court. Also information about e-walking.
Lansud Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh, Livonia. (313) 462-1100.