

Sears Softer Side



Looks for less: As the days grow shorter, layering is the key to being fashionable and warm. Arctic fleece jacket, \$34; rib turtleneck, \$15; legging \$20 - all from the Crossroads Collection at your local Sears Department Store. Crossroads is a new shop concept inside Sears, featuring women's clothing with natural fibers and updated styling.

RETAIL DETAILS

Retail Details features news briefs from the Malls and Mainstreets beat. Send information to: Retail Details, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009. Or fax (810) 644-1314.

Merchants sponsor holiday CD

A 12-selection holiday CD recorded locally by the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra is made possible by the Bloomfield Plaza, WQIS Classical 105.1 FM, and Erhard BMW in Bloomfield Hills. "Sounds of the Season" under the baton of Maestro Felix Reznick includes: Festival of Alfred Burt Carols, Canadian Brass Christmas, Festive Sounds of Hanukkah, Fantasia on Greensleeves, and White Christmas, to name a few.

The preview party fund raiser for the BBSO's new season is Wednesday, Oct. 9 at Erhard BMW on Maple in Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$10, \$15 includes a holiday CD. Call (810) 645-2276 for reservations. Proceeds from the \$15.99 CD, will benefit the symphony. It is available from the BBSO and will be available in early November from the shops of the Bloomfield Plaza, Borders and select Harmony House stores.

Lots of retail jobs available

In October, retailers typically hire "holiday help." But this year, with such a shortage of labor in the Michigan market, malls, department stores and restaurants are looking for help - any help - period. The Michigan Employment Security Commission and the Michigan Retailers Association have joined efforts to find employees for the state's retail industry.

Retail collectibles event

The Disney animation sculpture "Bibbidi, Bobbidi, Boo" featuring Cinderella's Godmother is available for \$125 during a one-day event for collectors at Card & Gift Center Hallmark at the Oakland Mall in Troy, Oct. 12. For more information on the products call (810) 688-6710.

Hudson's debuts shop concept

"Distinguishing accents for the home" are presented in a "lifestyle environment" at all Hudson stores this week, except Woodland Mall in Grand Rapids. Etcetera Collections will feature several themes which will change every three months according to Joel Kaplan, home division trend director. Look for ceramics, porcelain, glassware and art glass, clocks, candles and lighting, frames decorative

pillows, baskets, topiaries, wrought iron items and signed artwork priced between \$5-\$300.

Author personalizes books

Stephanie Miller of Troy autographs her four-book collection of self-esteem renewing tales at a series of appearances at Waldenbooks: Oct. 12 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Summit Place Mall in Waterford; Oct. 18 6-9 p.m. at Lakeside in Sterling Heights; Oct. 19 4-7 p.m. at Somerset North in Troy (third level next to Hudson's) Oct. 26 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Meadowbrook Village in Rochester Hills.

Outlet mall welcomes hotel

Construction is underway for a Country Inn & Suites Hotel on two acres adjacent to the Birch Run Outlet Center near Frankenmuth, MI. The Horizon Group, owner/managers of the retail center, announced the plans noting the hotel will have 71-rooms over three floors with a conference room and indoor pool. Opening date: April 1997.

Pair opens furniture shop

Andrea Brown and Susan Tremonti of Michigan have opened a handmade furniture shop at 280 Merrill Street in downtown Birmingham. Customers can walk into the store and literally create their own sofa based on cushions, fabric cover, length of arms and legs, and style. The furniture is manufactured in their North Carolina workshop. For more information call (810) 640-8486.

Romantic moments contest

Win a night of fun a romance in downtown Birmingham! Several businesses are sponsoring a Sweetest Day essay contest, looking for a few paragraphs about romantic moments that go awry, with the winning couple receiving a deluxe facial from Margo's European Spa, tickets to the Birmingham Movie Theater, a gourmet meal at the Cook's Garden, and a night's accommodation at the Holiday Inn Express. Pick up an entry form at the participating businesses and write your funny romantic story on back. Return the entry by Oct. 12. The winner will be announced Tuesday, Oct. 15. The prize is valid only on Sweetest Day, Saturday, Oct. 19, 1996.

Plymouth's Chili Cook-Off

Plymouth stages its first Chili Cook-Off, Sunday, Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in downtown's Kellogg Park. Cooks invited, for more information call Annette Horn at (313) 455-8838.

Test your tube smarts



Quick, answer this...: Who belonged to the brotherhood of the Benevolent Bison on Dobie Gills? What was the name of the convent in Puerto Rico where The Flying Nun hung her habit? The answers to these and 1,000 other TV trivia questions can be found in the new Nick at Night Classic TV Trivia Game from Cardinal Industries, \$19.99. Players race through the game's six rooms answering trivia questions to collect all six pieces of their TV Dinner Puzzles. The game is available at Target, Hudson's, Toys R Us, KayBee Toys, (FYI: Dobie's dad, Herman T. Gillis; Convent San Tanco.

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The Perfect Gift

Do you remember the best holiday gift you ever received? Was it a pair of ice-skates when you were 10? The four-lice toaster the year your fourth child was born? The framed finger painting from your 5-year-old grandson?

The Eccentric Newspapers wish to publish readers' recollections of their very best gifts ever and what made them so. In a special gift guide on Dec. 12, 1996.

Just jot down your memories, 150 words or less, and mail them to: Susan DeMaggio, c/o The Birmingham Eccentric, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

Be sure to include your name and phone number in case there are questions. Stories selected will be based on the gift's uniqueness and impact on your life. Published stories will win for their author, a special gift from the newspaper. So... Now do you remember the best holiday gift you ever received?

Deadline for stories is Friday, Nov. 8 at 5 p.m.



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