



Sensual shapers: Victoria's Secret has a line of pantyhose that "sculpt the body from waist to toe," with four styles of contouring control panels.

New hosiery is high style

There are three big trends in women's hosiery this season:

- Pantyhose so sheer that they're barely there, in pale, pastel colors, worn under sheer print dresses and skirts
- Sheer, patterned pantyhose, worn under solid color skirts and dresses
- Floral, striped or solid color, lightweight, ankle-length socks, paired with long skirts or shorts.

If you truly want to pamper your legs and money is no object, then Wolford brand pantyhose may be for you.

"They're the Rolls-Royce of pantyhose," said Aileen Morgan, director of stores for Wolford of America.

Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue have carried 25 percent of Wolford's hosiery line for many years, but to see the company's complete line of pantyhose and other merchandise (including body suits and swimwear), you

have to visit one of its boutiques and the only Wolford Boutique in Michigan opened at Somerset South in Troy in November.

Wolford pantyhose generally run from \$28 to \$60 a pair. What's so special about them? For starters, they're made in Austria, where Wolford is based, on knitting machines that are different from anyone else's in the world, Morgan said.

Most hose take 15 minutes to make. Ours takes four hours to complete because of the workmanship involved," she said.

Unlike other brands, Wolford hose has a three-inch thumb guard to prevent runs from occurring when being put on. Also, the back of the hose is three inches bigger than the front and different sized waist bands are available to accommodate real bodies.

Most pantyhose on the market today are dyed after the hose have been knitted. But Wolford dyes its yarn before knitting occurs. The result is a product that is the same color throughout.

Most importantly, she said, Wolford pantyhose feel softer, silkier and more comfortable than other brands. Its sheerest line of pantyhose, called Le9 (pronounced Le Neul), has a denier of 9. Denier is a measurement of the thickness of yarn. The smaller the number, the thinner the yarn and the more sheer the pantyhose are.

Wolford's spring and summer collection includes a lot of sheer hose with unique patterns like arches and vines woven into them, and fashion colors, including emotion (a pale beige), marmer (an ivory), and dragee (a pinkish beige).

For more information, call the Wolford Boutique (248) 637-6641.

Donna Karan's Colorwash Collection of pantyhose is also very sheer, and the colors are soft, delicate and based on nature, perfect for spring. Colors include sea grass (a pale green), sea mist (a pale purple), sea mist (a pale pink), storm gray and driftwood (a pale pink).

The Worthington Sheer Carrots pantyhose at JC Penney also comes in some very pretty, limited edition, fashion colors for spring, including maize (a yellow), light gray (which includes a touch of lavender), blue (a peachy pink) and soft mauve. They have a denier of 20 and cost \$3.95 a pair.

As for socks, like the delicate floral, striped and/or windowpane patterns by Cal Tuo and Yarnworks, \$3.65 a pair at JC Penney; Arrow, \$4.45 at Sears; Cherokee, \$2.49 to \$3.99 and Merano, \$2.49 to \$2.99 at Target; Lila California, \$5.75 to \$7 a pair at the Lila California store, Somerset South, Troy.

A fish story

Water pets are the best bet

If spring has you thinking about adding a little kitten, cute puppy or fluffy chick to your household, think again. A pet is a lot of time, expense and trouble. You may want to take the well-worn path to the lowly goldfish and end it at that.

Almost every family has a fish story. The Wills of Troy, recall the summer they returned home from a week-long vacation to find their goldfish baked on to the side of son Matthew's dresser.

Apparently, as the water in his bowl near the west window, warmed from the heat of the sun, "Goldie" jumped out to escape the rising temperature. Sadly, he got stuck to the side of the dresser where he died. The Wills had to scrape him off with a spatula.

The McFees of East Lansing, in the rush to get their kids to ballet lessons and basketball practice after school one day, failed to notice that their pregnant guppy was not in her usual water bowl on the kitchen counter.

It was only with serving the kids pizza that night, and stepping on an "anchovy" with her bare feet (which she hastily flicked down the garbage disposal) did Mom put two and two together.

"Oh my god!" she cried, her hand over her mouth.

"That was no anchovy, that was Allison's guppy!" The evening ended in a back yard prayer service with an empty box buried near the bushes in memory of "Caribbean" and her unborn guppy babes.

Pete Sackleh sales manager at Sea for Yourself Aquarium on Woodward in Royal Oak, said a fish is probably the easiest and cheapest pet a family can have, provided folks follow a few rules.

1. De-chlorinate the tap water or the fish will die within 24 hours. (Use dechlorinating drops or let the water stand for 24 hours before adding the fish.)

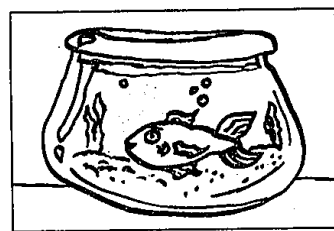


ILLUSTRATION BY DIAN DELACROIX

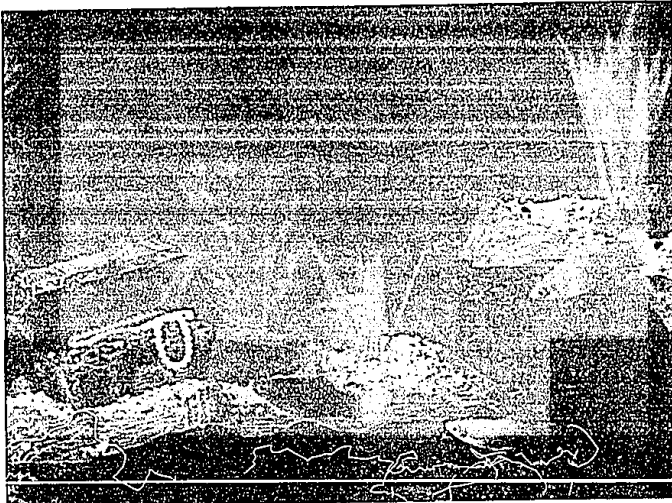


PHOTO COURTESY OF PONTIAC AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Pick a pet: Is there a child in America today who has not had a goldfish growing up? (And even if you manage never to buy one, they are a sure prize at school fairs.)

2. Don't over feed the fish. Three times a week is recommended - a goldfish's stomach is only as big as his eyeball.

3. Increase the size of the bowl or tank as the fish grows.

4. Keep the water about 68-degrees Fahrenheit. Goldfish are fresh water fish that like it cooler.

Sackleh sells 12 goldfish for \$1. (They are also used as food for the many other exotic aquarium species he sells.)

"Once you select your fish, you'll need a bowl, gravel, food, a net, and a little decoration. The whole setup will run about \$25. If you opt for a 20-gallon tank or bigger, you'll need to add a filtration system to keep the water clean," Sackleh advised.

Goldfish sold locally are commercially bred and purchased from wholesalers in Pontiac, MI, Georgia and Wisconsin, he said.

Eileen Levine, assistant manager at Pet Supplies Plus in Royal Oak, said goldfish typically live three to four years, and some varieties can grow to two-and-a-half-feet. There are 100 different varieties of goldfish.

"If you have a bowl with no heater you can keep guppies, goldfish and betas," she explained. "Otherwise you must get an aquarium for tropical fish like neon and angelfish."

Goldfish at Pet Supplies Plus cost between 50-cents and \$1.99, depending on their size and variety.

Bowls run \$5-\$15.

There are several lines of high protein food especially for goldfish, 99-cents for a small canister, and should they contract an ailment, there are over-the-counter pharmaceuticals to administer.

If you really want to jazz up your goldfish bowl, decorations available include these deep sea treasures: a diver with air hose, \$5.99; a one-man submarine explorer that travels the aquarium from top to bottom, \$8.99; sunken ships, ruins of Atlantis with holes for the fish to swim through, skeletons behind ship wheels and mermaids.

No serious goldfish owner is without an instruction manual and pet stores have several good titles from \$8.

Did you know ...

- Goldfish are from the carp family and are related to minnows.
- They have a single dorsal spine, single tail.
- A goldfish's fin forms are bred.
- Goldfish originally came from China. They are olive-colored in the wild, but centuries of captive breeding in Chinese fish ponds led to their colors of orange, gold, white and black.
- Goldfish in North America are feral (domestic animals gone wild.)

Ranking Michigan's 10 Biggest Malls

Center Name, City	Square Feet	Opened
1. Northland Center, Southfield	1,748,000	1954
2. Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn	1,532,000	1976
3. Lakeside, Sterling Heights	1,529,000	1976
4. Summit Place, Waterford	1,500,000	1962
5. Eastland Center, Harper Woods	1,450,000	1957
6. Oakland Mall, Troy	1,400,000	1958
7. Genesee Valley Mall, Flint	1,296,147	1970
8. Twelve Oaks, Novi	1,230,000	1977
9. Woodland Mall, Grand Rapids	1,100,000	1963
10. Briarwood, Ann Arbor	1,000,000	1973

— Source: National Research Bureau

There were 986 shopping centers in Michigan in 1996, up from 976 the previous year. Approximately 6.7 million adults shop in the centers each month, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers News.

Notes of special events for shoppers is included in this calendar. Send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o The Observer & Economic Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; or fax (248) 644-1314. Deadline: Wednesday 5 p.m. for publication on Sunday.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Holiday hours

Malls and Mainstreet shops closed for the holiday.

MONDAY, APRIL 23

Baseball exhibit

Mall hosts baseball museum with exhibits, interactive activities and special guests through May 2. Television screens throughout the mall invite shoppers to relive historic moments of the game. Schools invited to attend as field trips. Oakland Mall, 14 Mile/John R. Troy. (248) 686-6000.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

Hearing Aid seminar

Med Max hosts "Up Close and Personal with Programmable Hearing Aids." 1:30 p.m. sponsored by the Greater Troy Hearing Aid Society. Free. Free phone. Free Hearing Care. Reservations suggested. 33337 West Warren, Westland. (313) 468-7100.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

Pat Mil will host a book signing and book sale from Pat Mil.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

like Ford, Tennyson Chevrolet and Saturn of Farmington Hills through April 19.

Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. (248) 476-1160.

Bridal show

Neiman Marcus hosts an open house and reception for couples to showcase products and services for wedding in the Gift Galleries from 6-9 p.m.

Somerset Collection South.

Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy.

(248) 643-3300. Ext. 2386.

Meet Sparky Anderson

Ex-Tiger manager Sparky Anderson signs his new book at Borders from 1-3 p.m. 15-percent off each Borders purchase April 17-19, goes to benefit CATCH for children.

Woodward/I-6, Maple, Birmingham.

(248) 203-0005.

NO ARTS SHOW

Fraser Fine Arts Club exhibits and sells their work through April 26 during regular mall hours. Tel-Twelve Mall, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. (248) 353-4111.

Meet Mort Crim

News anchor meets and greets visitors and signs his

Benefit ball

Evening sparkle: Saks Fifth Avenue provided the Badgley Miskha fashions modeled at The Whitney last month to kick off preparations for the annual Red Cross Gala, Saturday, April 18 at the Ritz Carlton in Dearborn. Tickets for the benefit, which includes dinner, dancing to the music of Mel Ball and Montage, and the chance to bid on David Yurman jewelry designs, are \$200, \$300, and \$500, available by calling (313) 494-2886. Neiman Marcus hosted the March benefactor dinner.



book at Waldenbooks, 30200 Plymouth, Livonia. (734) 261-7811.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

Mall concert

The Starlite Trio featuring "Sheree" performs 2-4:30 p.m. on stage near Crowley's. Their forte is contemporary, standards and show tunes.

Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt.

(248) 476-1160.

Sew mom a gift

Haberman's Fabrica invites kids 8-11 years, to learn to sew while making mom a special pillow from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Repeated on April 25. Cost is \$25 including materials. Register by phone. 117 West Fourth, Royal Oak.

(248) 641-0010.

Kids day at mall

10 a.m. Face painting. 11 a.m. - Hooper the Piston's mascot. Noon and 2 p.m. - Music Makers and their puppet friends. 1 and 3 p.m. - Family Dino & Dixie Revue. 3:30 p.m. - Karate demonstration. Rosie the Clown visits for photos. Universal Mall, 12 Mile/Dequindre, Warren.

(810) 877-5749.

Curious George visits

Border's Books hosts a kids party with Curious Little Monkey the guest of honor 7 p.m. Games and story hour.

Southfield 13 Mile, Birmingham. (248) 644-1616.