

True confessions: Hairdressers dish the dirt

Have you ever looked at yourself when you go to your salon to have your hair done? It is not a pretty picture!

Doesn't it stand to reason that on the day of your appointment you do your hair and makeup to the best of your ability? Let us see your handiwork so we can tell you where you are going wrong or what you're doing right.

BEAUTY AND THE BEST



JEFFREY BRUCE

This lends me to today's topic. I asked several of my favorite stylists just what gripes they have about their customers. I also asked for suggestions to help the client. Some responses may surprise you. Many, I'm afraid, will not.

Elaine Sovinsky, owner of Mafalda's Salon in Livonia (734-476-1383), advises you to check on the licensing of the stylists. Many salons utilize unlicensed personnel. Also, make sure that the staff is up on the latest techniques. There are hundreds of hair shows each year. Are they pursuing their education or are they back in the "Dark Ages?"

As for color, Elaine says if you have done your own color, be prepared to spend the time and the money to have it repaired.

Michelle Hirschuk, owner of Salon 140 in Rochester (248-656-4990), wants you to be realistic in your expectations. Do not bring in a photo of Cindy Crawford and expect your artist to duplicate the look. Discuss the feasible possibilities: price, maintenance and frequency of visits.

Mary Alice Sawyer, owner of Tantalus Salon in Livonia (734-476-1078), stresses that to maintain the look your hairdresser has accomplished, you must have the proper tools. "We are not trying to take your money," says Sawyer, "but by using the correct brush, styling gels, etc., you will get closer to what we have done in the salon."

"You are our best advertisement for the next four to six weeks, and we want you to keep the look as long and as beautifully as you can."

She also has a thing about Rapunzels who want to keep their long thin hair. It's not flattering and definitely detracts from your natural beauty.

Donna Wallace, owner of Charles & Company in Canton (734-981-5811), considers over-bleached blondes a major issue. "When a woman comes in and wants a corrective color and will not do foiling (highlights), the hair will have no depth and will look too flat," she says.

Wallace also says her staff has to train dictatorial clients who feel that they know more than the hairdressers. "We," she stresses, "are the professionals."

And now it's my turn. When you come to see a makeup artist, come with an open mind. The reason why I ask you to come in with no makeup on is that I do not want any preconceived notions about how you think you should look. I want to be objective about your subjective situation. And remember, you are not a season. You are a human being. Do not fall victim to color fads or people who advocate them. Go to the hairdresser for a makeover. Which leads me to a most important announcement.

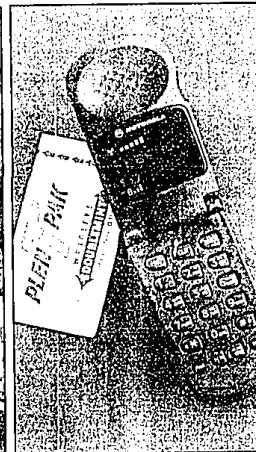
After nine years in Birmingham, I will be changing my base of operations for your personal makeovers. The beautiful Hotel Baronette in Novi at Twelve Oaks Mall will be our new home. This luxurious new surrounding offers me a superb Presidential Suite from which to work, and is there nothing jollier than Santa Jeffrey wielding his magic in an opulent space?

I have added a week in January when I will be doing your makeovers, personally. Groups of four will be with me for 2 1/2 hours and the session will include makeup application, a makeup lesson, a complete skin care lesson and lots of advice on your hair. The minimum purchase of \$125 is applied to any Jeffrey Bruce alcohol-based products you would like.

I look forward to meeting you, the women of the "other side of town." Please call 1-800-944-6588 and I will get right back to you. Or e-mail me at jwb@worldnet.att.net, or take a glance at my new Web site: jeffrey-bruce.com.

Next month: Winter skin care. And I promise it won't be boring.

Turn ho-hum into ho-ho-ho



Present perfect: (clockwise from top left) Pillow pats, The Unforgettaball, "Pearls pour la pet" from Jacobson's, Burberry doggie trench coat, diminutive cell phone from Let's Talk Cellular and the paper suit from Hugo Boss. Staff photos by Tom Hoffmeyer.

BY LINDA BACHRACH
STAFF WRITER

By now you've been inundated with catalogs tempting you with all manner of gift ideas, from fruit baskets and feathered bras to talking Santas and sushi plates. Hey, you wade through the myriad gaudy and gadgets to find the most distinctive gifts for giving this holiday season?

Says Linda McIntosh, marketing director at the Somerset Collection, "Our array of shops offer something unique for everyone, priced from \$10 to \$10,000." To illustrate, the stores at Somerset chose a few of their most distinctive gifts for a pre-holiday presentation. We share some of our favorites:

• Back when bars were built into the paneled wall of the basement Rumpus Room, shelves were lined with high-precision bar ware, like perfectly calibrated jiggers and double-action stirrers. You likely would have found a nickel-plated cocktail shaker in the shape of a penguin, with a screw-cap at the tip of the beak. Originally produced in 1936 by the Napier Company of Meridian, Conn., the penguin shaker is again available for pouring drinks to the beat of Louis Prima, at Restoration Hardware (\$48).

• Pop Art comes in all guises, including paper suits. Hugo Boss recreates the legendary DuPont Tyvek suit made famous by artist James Rosenquist in the 1960s. One of the suits is on permanent display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute. For information on purchasing one of the remaining 24 shabby-chic ensembles, contact Hugo Boss (248-816-6091).

• Remember the classic "I Love Lucy" moment when Lucy and Ethel had meltdowns in the chocolate factory? Madame Alexander dolls capture the memory. Dressed in factory uni-

forms and carrying chocolate pieces, the miniature likenesses of the hilarious duo, are available at FAO Schwarz (\$179).

• You'll never lose your way in the woods with the Magellan GPS ColorTRAK from Eastern Mountain Sports (\$279). The navigational tool,

using the Global Positioning System, is accurate to within three feet and is ideal for sailing favorite fishing holes or finding your location in a storm.

• Nothing heralds the season like the scent of a freshly baked apple pie cooling on the kitchen counter. But who has time to bake every day? Now you can have the aroma without the muss and fuss (of course, you sacrifice licking the bowl). The Candleman offers hand-poured, hand-scented and appropriately scented candles that will make your mouth water. Find pie, hot chocolate, even blueberry waffles (\$7.50-\$32).

• From Crate & Barrel, a glass

caviar server (\$24.95) and mother-of-pearl serving spoon (\$12.95). After all, the food of the gods deserves only the best resting place.

• For those thoughtful correspondents who forgo e-mail and continue to express themselves on paper, nothing communicates your love more

than words penned in accented French inks from Savoir Faire at Crane & Co. Choose from French perfume fragrances (\$36) or men's colognes (\$34).

• Burberry's classic trench coat, the universal standard in rainwear, is now available in five sizes for Fido. Yes, your best friend can hit the neighborhood sidewalks in style. How's that for pampered pedigrees? Exclusively at Burberry's (\$210-\$240).

• Perhaps the ideal pen pal is the mini-message pen (\$25) from Chiasso. It writes as effectively as it relieves head and neck pain. A perfect stocking stuffer for the stressed-out college student. Also from Chiasso, a thermoplastic vase that bends and

shapes to hold daisies as well as long-stemmed roses (\$28).

• Pack the ultimate picnic in a woven basket with leather fittings and all of the necessities for a special-occasion alfresco feast. This basket contains cutlery with staghorn handles, hand-painted dishes and glasses, food containers and a leather condiment caddy. An Austrian linen cloth completes the gourmet basket from Gburka (\$2,900).

• No more wedging the cell phone into an over-stuffed purse. There's always room for a pack of gum, and at 2.7 ounces, that's the size of Motorola's new phone with a built-in answering machine, voice recorder and 90-minute talk time. The smallest phone available, Motorola B3620 can be found at Let's Talk Cellular (\$900 with activation).

• Avid sports fans can keep their favorite team mascots with them through the holidays. Just place these Santa dolls next to the remote control - they stand over two feet tall and wear Detroit Red Wings, Detroit Lions and U-M uniforms. Handcrafted by Mary Beth Designs, the Santa dolls can be found exclusively at Saks Fifth Avenue (\$250-\$290).

• The buyers at Jacobson's also have come up with some incredibly distinctive gift ideas. Consider an Unforgettaball, a limited-edition hand-designed baseball depicting such venerable stadiums as Wrigley Field and Yankee Stadium (\$24). Need a little jewelry to go with Fido's Burberry coat? "Pearls pour la poush" is a stretch pearl necklace with a bone charm (\$15). Also available with bone charms for kitties. Your child can snuggle up with his own plush Pillow Pal and watch all of the holiday TV specials. Available in Santa, snowman or reindeer, \$25.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Entrance 6 at Westland Mall. The Mopo Bears and Westley Holiday Bear join Santa for a holiday performance, 11 a.m.

Fairlane Town Center welcomes Santa and his misquidde-cousin, Santa Claus. Santa will rock to Opryland Productions' "Ring Them Bells," 1 p.m.

At 8 a.m., the Somerset Collection welcomes Santa and The Royal Court for breakfast in the Penelope Café. Breakfast every Saturday through Dec. 24. \$5. Reservations taken next to Santa's Castle in Somerset North.

Marc Thomas and Max the Moose join Santa at Tel-Telville Mall to help celebrate the mall's 30th anniversary, 1 p.m. Center Court.

Kick off the holiday season with a special appearance by Santa and several Radio City Christmas Spectacular Rockettes at Twelve Oaks. Noon in Center Court.

FOLK ART

Internationally known folk artist Barbara Bourgeois-Richards will be signing her work at her

Birmingham gallery, B. Bourgeois-Richards, 12-4 p.m. She will premiere four new prints and her 1998 Holiday print, 154 West Maple, Birmingham.

NATIVE TALENT

Buffalo Spirit Native Dance Theatre, Canada's premier Native dance troupe, entertains festivalgoers at the Sixth annual Native American Festival and Mini Pow Wow, today and Sunday at the Novi Expo Center, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. today and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. \$6 ages 3 and up.

SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

The San Francisco Music Box & Gift Company in Twelve Oaks mall introduces a line of collectible musicals inspired by Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Each Dickens piece purchased will be signed by Jeanne-Marie Dickens, great-great granddaughter of the author, 1-6 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

BEAR BASH

The 1998 Festival of Trees presents The Teddy Bear Brunch, a benefit for Children's Hospital of Michigan, 11 a.m. Cobo Conference & Exhibition Center. \$10, \$8 children under 12. (248) 650-8733.

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

ALL ABOARD

Richard Scarry's Busytown Express visits Livonia's Wonderland Mall today only. Kids can help build the world's largest wooden train.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

WELCOME MR. CLAUS

A horse-drawn sleigh flies Santa to Oakland Mall where he'll lend a parade to his Department 66 fantasy snow globe at Center Court, 7 p.m.

Santa arrives at Santa's Winter Village" in Meadowbrook Village mall. A horse-drawn carriage delivers him to his own winter wonderland: 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

SANTA SIGHTINGS

Santa arrives by horse and carriage outside