

Proper look for elegant gentleman

"If we couldn't speak a word, our clothes would be talking for us. Clothes communicate!" — Sal Cesariani, Coty Award recipient.

Through the holidays, I read several articles on clothes for the "new woman of the new year." However, I had not seen any on clothing apparel for men. Go through any mall and you will find about six clothing stores for women for every one men's store. So, fellas, this article is for you — the first of a series not only on clothing but of proper demeanor for an elegant gentleman.

Charles Hix wrote in *Dressing Right* "The truth is, whether we like it or not, appearances do count. And how we're dressed is one of the criteria used by others to peg us."

When we meet someone, the first impression we form is based on appearance. You don't know if they have a degree from MIT, what they had for breakfast, or what their ideas are on the theory of relativity. Nevertheless, you form your opinion of them based on how they look and act. Now, remember, they are also judging you in the same way — it will be a lasting impression, so make it a good one.

Navy suit works

First let me say if you men know how utterly handsome you look in a dark blue navy suit, white shirt, and proper tie, you

would wear it every day. If you are going to have just one suit in your wardrobe, make it navy blue. I do not know of any man — tall or short, heavy or thin, young or old, whatever color of skin, hair or eyes — who doesn't look smashing in navy blue suit.

For a second suit, choose dark gray. After that, choose either a blue or gray with a slight pattern or stripe, but, careful, do not let the pattern be noticeable from more than eight feet away.

Purchase your suit in a store that caters to men or in a reputable department store and not in a shop where the clothing racks are next to the plumbing supplies. If you cannot buy the best, buy the best you can afford. Be sure you try on both the jacket and trousers for a proper fit.

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Be sure you have a knowledgeable tailor: do not let the salesman tell you that a flaw in a suit "will be all right after it is pressed." Instead, choose another suit or another store.

When you are dressed, only your head, neck and hands are exposed. Even though your shirt,

tie, shoes and hose are an important contribution, it is the suit that covers most of your body.

Tapered jacket

The jacket's waist should be slightly tapered along the natural lines of the body, but it is not supposed to fit like a glove. It should be too tight around the hips. If your jacket has a vent in the back, it should not be pulled apart so the seat of the trousers show.

Most men wear suit sleeves either too long or too short. The best way to measure is to let your arms hang naturally and have the tailor mark the point where your wrist and hand meet. Arms lengths may differ, so have them measure both sleeves. The shirt sleeves should show one-half inch between the suit cuff and hand. That adds a touch of elegance and puts you on the well-dressed list.

Pants should fit comfortably but are too tight: if the pockets are put in, they should be long enough so that your hose don't show when you walk. Cuffed pants are usually sewn straight across, while ones without cuffs are hemmed on a slant. Both should rest on top of the shoe for a slight break, and neither of them should be scraping the ground in back as you walk.

Hang suits on proper wooden curved hangers and quickly brush off after each wearing.

Have your suit cleaned only when necessary as the cleaning solutions can damage the fabric.

Other tips for an elegant gentleman: ■ When dining with a female companion, have her sit on your right. ■ Do not wear class ring to office unless you just recently graduated from school/college. ■ Offer a toast at your next dinner party — it will make you more cosmopolitan and mark you as a person with great charm, good taste and good breeding — all traits others greatly admire.

A survey was taken a while ago asking men what they disliked most about women. No. 1 answer: fumbling in a large purse trying to find something. What would you guess women said about men? Write me at Margit Erickson and Co., P.O. Box 941, Northville, MI 48167.

Margit Erickson is an etiquette expert who hosts seminars and writes a monthly column for the Observer.

ETIQUETTE



Margit Erickson

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS



NOVAK-BIERMANN

Kimberly Novak and James Biermann announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter

SZELAG-WALTERS

Martin and Cyndy Szlag of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Christina Lynn to Brandon Keith Walters, son of Randy and Debbie Walters of Flint.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Harrison High School and a senior at Eastern Michigan University majoring in literature. She is currently employed at Best Buy in Ann Arbor in the customer service department. She is also a professional freelance harpist.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Kearsley High School and a student at Eastern Michigan University majoring in business marketing. He is currently employed at Best Buy in Ann Arbor as an inventory supervisor.

A September wedding is

of Donald T. Novak and the late Irene Novak. She is a graduate of Farmington High School and Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in materials logistics management. She earned her MBA from Oakland University and is currently employed at Brass Craft Manufacturing in Novi as supervisor of demand forecasting.

Her fiancé is the son of Virginia Biermann of Utica and the late Robert Biermann. He is a graduate of Armada High School and Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in materials logistics management. He is currently employed at TRW in Washington Township as a commodity manager.

A May wedding is planned at St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Macomb.



planned at Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church in Redford followed by a reception at Glen Oaks Country Club.

Internship set

Victoria Anderson, 2nd runnerup and community service and talent winner at Miss Farmington/Oakland County 2000, has accepted an internship with the Department of Energy, Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board in Washington, D.C., for the summer.

Currently a junior at Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she's majoring in nuclear engineering and political science, Victoria is a 1998 graduate of North Farmington High. She is the daughter of Bob and Andrea Anderson of Farmington Hills.

Korea service medal awarded veteran

Korean War veteran Clifford Martin has received a medal for his actions on behalf of the Republic of Korea after a 50 year wait.

Martin, who wrote two articles reminiscing about his military service for the Farmington Observer, received a letter from Kim Dae-jung, president of the Republic of Korea.

It said "On occasion of the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, I'd like to offer you my deepest gratitude for your contributions."

"The ideals of democracy for which you were willing to sacrifice your all 50 years ago have become universal values in this new century and millennium..."



Cliff Martin

Veterans who would like to inquire about service medals can contact Republic of Korea Ser-

vices Medal Information at U.S. Air Force Personnel Center, Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CST) (600) 658-1404. Mailing address is HW AFPC/DPPRA, 650 C Street West, Suite 12, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78160-4714. The Web site is <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

Last week U.S. Army Col. Ernest Parker commended the Farmington Observer and Groves-Walker American Legion Post 346 in Farmington for its extensive news coverage on behalf of veterans during his 50th anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration period.

Veterans of the Korean War



era are invited to share their stories. For more information, call Uncle Jack Curd at 478-4694 or Hometown Life Editor Mary Rodette at 477-5450.

Benefit for Another Way center

Another Way Pregnancy Center in downtown Farmington will host a coffee house benefit 7-10:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Michigan Theological Seminary, 41550 Ann Arbor Trail, in

Plymouth. Musical groups such as Joy Ride, Celeste Nantambu, will perform. Cost is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door and all proceeds will benefit the center. Call Julie at 471-3195.

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