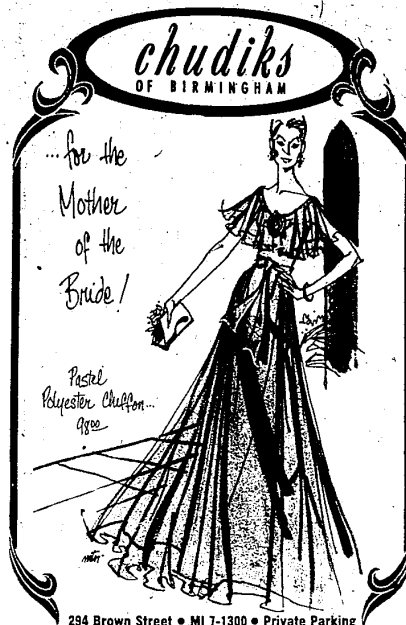




Long and simply cut, the Racine jersey gown is perfect for any age (Photographed by Jerome Magid)



Off the shoulder and accented with ruffles, the Sibley-Coffee design team keeps designs young and sophisticated



## Seasonless clothes

# Designs gain popularity

By CHRISTINE WALDEN

In a loft in New York City, Joan Sibley and Dory Coffee create fashion. They've not Seventh Avenue nor are they backed by a larger corporation. They are pure, unadulterated Sibley-Coffee, designing clothes as only they can.

It is only in the past few years that anyone has noticed Sibley-Coffee designs. Now that women have taken note, the collection is one women wait for.

A glance at the line, recently at

Saks Fifth Avenue, reveals why. The designs are classic, but exciting. Fun, but not funny. They are wearable, seasonless and unconstructed.

ACCORDING TO Ellen Klein, Sibley-Coffee representative, the designers' lifestyle influence what they design.

"They wear the clothes," she said. "They'll try something on and decide to wear it that evening."

That's what makes the collection so unique.

The team is young, under 30. That helps in having a finger on what women want. Many designers tend to change styles as they grow older and create season after season. So far, eight years of designing hasn't changed the scope of Sibley-Coffee.

FOR SPRING the designing team has produced a collection based almost entirely on Racine Jersey. It is soft, supple and flowing. Colors are subtle in dusty blues or pinks, browns, blacks or reds.

The non-colors and the seasonless designs add to the beauty of the Sibley-Coffee line. It is fashion that lasts from season to season.

"You can really build on your wardrobe with these designs," said Ms. Klein. "We have customers who build on their wardrobe from one season to the next."

THE DESIGNS themselves are the final clincher in becoming a Sibley-Coffee fan.

Skirts that hug, but don't cling, represent time spent on construction. The women do the look of the popular bias cut skirt by using panels. Six panels, sewn down the middle and looking like 12, are connected to an elasticized waistband. The skirt is flippy and comfortable.

Topped with long blouse with shoulder detailing and belted

waist, the look carries you from lunch to dinner.

HOWEVER, THE PANELING is the main feature. It provides the bias cut look without being difficult to wear.

Another example of ingenious construction is a simple cocktail dress. The skirt of the dress gets added swing with the insertion of a v-shaped panel. And stitching gives every gown a complete and couture look.

Ruffles appear frequently and in different places.

A MID-CALF black jersey gown features a hot pink ruffle at the hem. The gown's camisole-like top and elasticized torso make it a knock-out.

Handkerchief ruffles add drama to the strapless gown. Placed at the bust and hem, done in printed fabric, they contrast with the tube shape of the dress.

Other designs are less elaborate, but beautifully simple. One of the most popular is a simple, long, v-neck matte jersey. Another is a slim, dusty blue sailor pant suit.

It's amazing that such good things come from a loft, especially with Seventh Avenue is supposed to be the designers' playground. But by ignoring the hoop-la of Seventh Avenue, Joan Sibley and Dory Coffee have created clothing that is new, sophisticated and timeless.

## Fashion Calendar

### DESIGNER APPEARANCE

April 3-4—Personal appearance by Noriko at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall.

### SPECIAL FASHION EVENTS

April 4—Harwyn custom-sized dresses at B. Siegel's in Birmingham.

April 5—Mary Holtman and the Hat Box review for Butterick and Vogue Patterns at Crowleys, Birmingham.

April 9—Informal modeling of the Ferragamo Shoe collection at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall.  
April 9-10—Informal modeling of the Pat Sandler collection at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall.

### LUNCHEON SHOWS

Thursdays

By Montgomery Wards at Ted's, Pontiac Mall.

By Brayton's at Bloomfield Canyon.

By Hudson's in their Pontiac Room, Pontiac Mall.

Fridays

By Alvin's at Bedell's, Bloomfield Hills.

By Brayton's at Duffy, Union Lake.

Tuesdays

By Alvin's at Cooper's Arms, Rochester.

By Brayton's at Duffy, Union Lake.

By Clair Kelly at Sussex House, Southfield.



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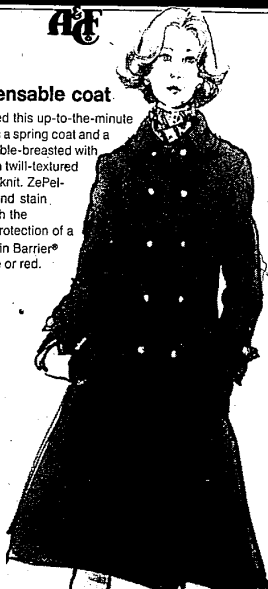
Bonwit Teller's Michel Kazan Beauty Salon, Second Floor 2701 Somerset Mall, Troy

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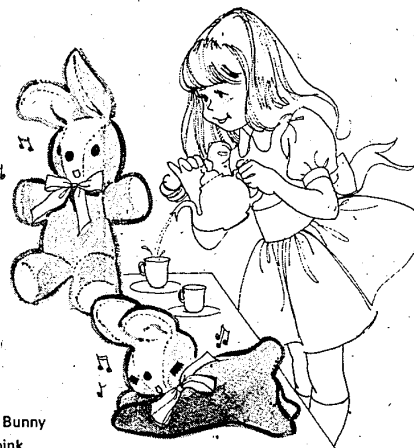
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### the indispensable coat

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