

Sheba imports from Kashmir

By ROSE WEBER

It isn't catastrophic for a woman to spot an identical dress across the room but it does put a damper on her enjoyment of the event.

Mrs. Nasira Bakshi owner of Sheba, which opened Nov. 1, is determined that won't happen to the woman who buys a garment from her.

"When a woman pays a good price for a dress it ought to be a one-of-a-kind and that is what I have here," Mrs. Bakshi said.

The shop located at 538 Woodward in Birmingham sells only hand made items from Kashmir, India.

Dresses, hostess gowns, milkmaid aprons, ponchos with long skirts and tops for slacks all are decorated with individual designs by Mrs. Bakshi.

"THE HAND EMBROIDERED creel work is done in the workshop in the valley where my family lives. My younger sister, Mrs. Rashda Omar, oversees the work there," the shop owner explained.

Sketches by Mrs. Bakshi are sent back to Kashmir for native workmen to work in their choice of color on cotton, silk and fine woolen fabrics. Fabrics in lengths suitable for the

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Sheba's designs look like this (Photographed by Kathy Willens)

Sears employees sue for jobs

Twenty-seven Sears employees from the Macomb Mall who lost their jobs in the wave of post-holiday layoffs have gone into Oakland County Circuit Court to get them back.

Ben Emberton, chairman of the committee of terminated employees, said the retail chain "unfairly" retained part-time Christmas help and let full-time employees go.

A hearing has been set for Feb. 5 before Judge William J. Beer.

The suit names Sears Roebuck and Co. and Sherwood Culp, the company's regional manager. It asks that the employees be rehired in their former jobs and awarded back pay.

The suit was filed in Oakland County because Troy is a regional headquarters for the company.

The employees claim that they are victims of "unfair, wrongful, malicious and retaliatory termination in employment contrary to oral agreements in reference to pensions and profit sharing."

Emberton said their attorneys are holding meetings with former employees of Sears stores in the Oakland and Livonia Malls and in Lincoln Park.

"We know many of them will be joining us in the suit," he added.

Detroit Attorney V. Paul Donnelly said he expects as many as 200 others from Sears 18 area stores to join in the suit.

At the time of the firings, Sears officials said 380 persons were terminated for economic reasons. The former employees charge the number of firings is higher than the company's claim, and that former full-time employees were being replaced by part-time workers whose salaries are lower and who receive no fringe benefits.

Many of the people fired said they had worked for nearly five years, the time when they would have gained a vested interest in Sears profit sharing plan.

The suit claims the company fired the employees without regard to seniority.

"We wouldn't be angry if Sears had done it the way the J. I. Hudson Co. handled their situation. They didn't terminate, but laid off people on a day-to-day call-back basis, and according to seniority."

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