

When and wear

Being "in" fashion doesn't mean a thing if you wear your "in" fashion ensemble at the wrong time.

Throughout the fashion annals, the mode of life determined the code of dress. The pioneer woman who milked cows didn't do it in a silk and embroidered gown, nor was the aristocratic woman likely to be seen in durable cotton or coarse muslin. Either one might wear the other, but only if the occasion called for it.

Today, the idea of being "appropriately dressed" still applies to men and women.

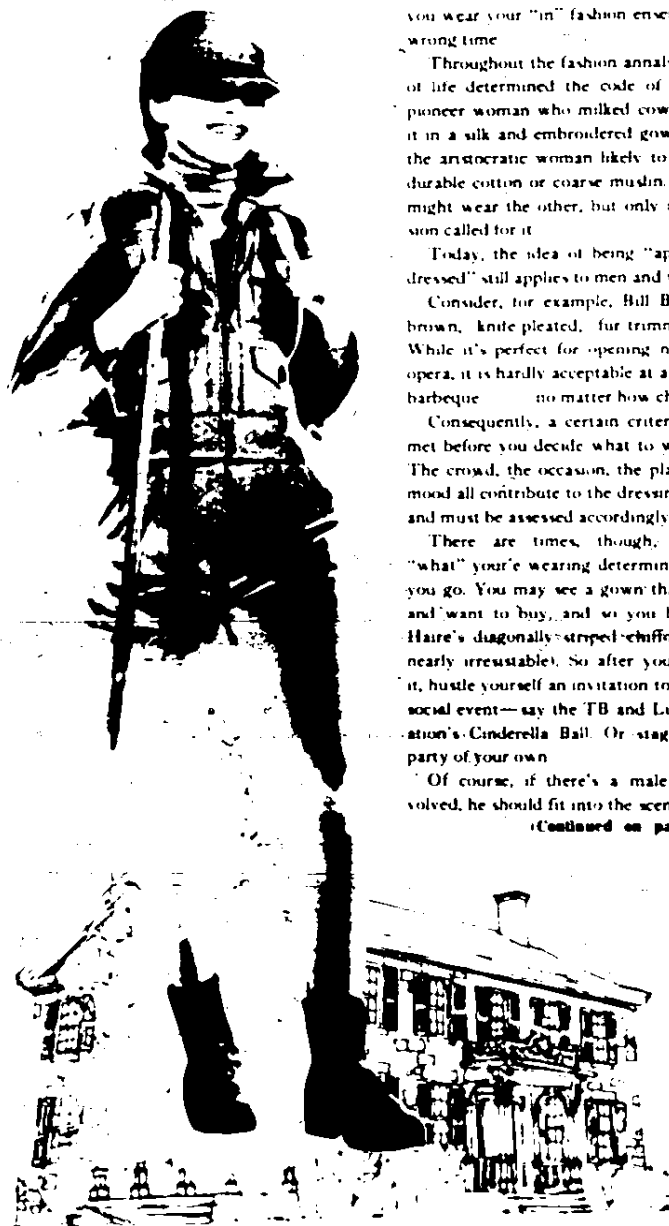
Consider, for example, Bill Blass' cocoa brown, knife pleated, fur trimmed gown. While it's perfect for opening night at the opera, it is hardly acceptable at an afternoon barbeque—no matter how chic it is.

Consequently, a certain criteria must be met before you decide what to wear where. The crowd, the occasion, the place and the mood all contribute to the dressing situation and must be assessed accordingly.

There are times, though, when the "what" you're wearing determines "where" you go. You may see a gown that you love and want to buy, and so you buy it (Bill Haire's diagonally striped chiffon gown is nearly irresistible). So after you've bought it, hustle yourself an invitation to a black tie social event—say the TB and Lung Association's Cinderella Ball. Or stage a formal party of your own.

Of course, if there's a male escort involved, he should fit into the scene too. This

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Though Bill Kaiserman's jaunty little hiking suit would be perfect for a walk around Brooks Farm today, American fashions at the time it was built in 1854 were much more graceful with deep collars and cashmere shawls and increasing acceptance of the Algerian burnous.

Kaye North ... down the hill



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dots with dash

When dots appear, spring is here... and you'll believe it when you see this travel jacket dress by Melissa Lane. Little button front jacket comes off to reveal a cool halter top over a crisp white shirt. Green/White sizes 6 to 16. Red/White, sizes 8 to 14.

\$36

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