

Teen "SFall bash" was "SFantastic"

By RUSTLE SHAND

Saks Fifth Avenue gave an invitation-only party at their Somerset Mall. Troy store one recent Thursday evening and over a thousand teenagers accepted.

The after-glow included cokes and potato chips and fashionable conversation ran like this:

"Didn't you love the 'sweet-sweet' look in dresses for school dances?"

"Hey, guys, how about those letter sweaters?"

The conversation was all about the area high school students who modeled Saks' back to school fashions before a large audience of their classmates, all of whom were anxious to start school next month wearing the "right" clothes.

The show was produced by Saks fashion director Ken Dewey and teen board coordinator Annie Rowers who saw to it that the entertainment never missed a beat as student models moved through fast-paced routines to the tempo of disco music. Their progress was accompanied by whistles and applause from an appreciative audience who found many school favorites among the mannequins.

The show opened with quiet choreography. As if in a still photo, four models posed together at four different points of the plus shaped runway. All were dressed in classroom khaki. Suddenly they came to life as if dismissed for lunch, and thus began Saks "SFallcast '77."

The show was a lesson in more than new clothes. It was a lesson in the new way of wearing clothes—wrapped, draped, tied or gathered in easy, imaginative layers of soft-soil fabrics.

There were light wool challis, brushed cotton flannels, wide wale corduroy, feather-weight supersuede, plus cotton velvet and loose woven wools . . . all looking best in nature's own neutrals, including ivory to sand and wine to raisin.

Simple oversized shapes and gentle silhouettes are all a part of the new softness, which fashions frequently enhanced with scarves in all sizes, colors and shapes. Most often the scarves were draped casually around the neck.

The most exciting back to school news, according to Dewey and Rowers, is the "geared for action" outerwear designed for keeping warm. Coats and jackets were double-faced, fur lined, fleece lined or unlined. All promise to be the best thing to have around you when cold weather comes.

Denim, the favorite of all fabrics with the school crowd, takes on a versatility this fall. Used in the best of the new fall shapes, from the skinniest cigarette jeans to the biggest quilted blouson jackets, it appeared in a new color spectrum called frosted yogurt flavors: raspberry, banana, mocha, strawberry, peach, lemon, cinnamon apple, blueberry and vanilla.

Sweaters are bold face headlines this season—big, bigger, biggest—both in size and importance. The newest look is the return of the letter sweater. Sweet, soft baby sweaters and great gussy cownecks continue to be important.

"Wear them bloused at your waist, down on your thighs, under a vest, over a shirt or a dress—wear them every way and anyway," was the Saks message.

The return of romance in dressing was heralded with "tender, sweet and innocent" dresses inspired by Yves Saint Laurent's "sweet-sweet dress." Dresses for the younger set come in tiers and tiers of the softest challis in a rich pattern mix. Delicately detailed corsetlike bodices, lace collars and hem flounces combined to hint at Alice in Wonderland.



For fun in midst of the show, Saks turned out models in frankly 50s style fashions. The look, complete with sweaters buttoned down the back, leather jackets, and rolled socks received whistles and cheers from over 1,000 students who stayed on for a coke and chip afterglow at Somerset Mall. (Photos by Jack Margolis)



Well-mannered maternity dressing that's right in-step with tall's newest classes. The plaid blazer with suede elbow patches, beige and brown wool, polyester and a red, 6 to 16 sizes, \$70. The crewneck sweater in oatmeal acrylic and wool, S.M.L., \$24. Beige polyester and cotton shirt, \$25. Brown cotton corduroy pants, \$22. Both in 4 to 16 sizes. From our fashion-savvy Maternity booklet. Please call 641-9900, or write for your copy. Maternity Collection.

Saks Fifth Avenue

Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge

Local students modeling fall fashions were given a helping hand from Saks fashion coordinator Ken Dewey, below left. The biggest news at the popular pre-fall party was the return of the feminine dress, sweaters worn in multiple layers, and denim in shades of yogurt and sherbet. Coats, above, are geared to defy possible repeat of last season's frigid weather.



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Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

Mum's the word

Fifteen years ago, James D. Low started selling flowering plants from his greenhouse to a few friends. Now, through word of mouth, his business has grown to include hundreds of customers. The nicest part of all is that Low will deliver the plants to your door. Various color mums, plus the daisy and spoon mum varieties (\$4.50 per 6 1/2-inch plant) are available all year round. Gloxinias (\$3 per plant) will be available through Sept. 15. Mr. Low also sells poinsettias, azaleas, cineraria, hyacinths and easter lillies when they are in season. Three days advance notice is requested. James D. Low, 852-1231.

Kidding around

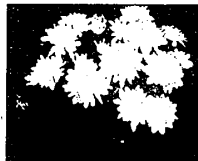
Rainbow Lollipop is a brand-new store chock-full of unique and lovable clothes for children. The denim overalls and bib dresses (\$26 to \$39) are hand-timed with appliques in the forms of Snoopy, Raggedy Ann, Superman, Batman, trees, rainbows, houses, hearts and butterflies as well as studs and sequins. There is also a group of handknit sweaters ranging from ski sweaters to dressy styles. Some are in stock, or, if you prefer, you can special order the colors of your choice. Orders take two weeks and prices range from \$16 to \$20. Rainbow Lollipop, 163 Townsend, Birmingham, 642-3911.

King of the road

If you're college-bound, travel-bound or anything but house-bound, you should know about these marvelous bags from Roots. Made of rip-stock nylon (the parachute material that will not rip if punctured), you may select from the 22-inch long by 14-inch diameter duffel (\$35), or the 21 by 16 by five-inch suitcase (\$35). Either style folds into a small 10 by seven inch matching kit that you can carry in a suitcase, purse or store in a drawer. Available in red, royal blue or beige and trimmed in white canvas. Roots, 123 W. Maple, Birmingham, 647-4220.

Carpet baggers

If you find rug hooking creative but tedious, don't give up the ship. Speed-tufting is a terrific technique that allows you to create dozens of perfect loops a minute. In fact, by using the Speed Tufter, a patented tool, you can complete a two-foot by three-foot rug in only eight hours and the tool can be adjusted to four different heights ranging from flat to shaggy. Speed-tufting demonstrations, plus all the equipment you need are available only at Rug Crafters. The shop also carries a complete line of latch hook rug making supplies. Rug Crafters, Twelve Oaks Mall, Novi, 349-4544.



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