

Like most people, Ms. Keels doesn't think she photographs well, so she isn't interested in becoming a photographic model.

"Even though that's where the money is, I'm not comfortable with that type of modeling. Maybe it's the photographer. He or she has to be sensitive and understand your look. I want to portray a certain look but still be me."

Modeling has enabled Ms. Keels to support her family, which includes her mother. But she also works part-time at The Main Event at the Pontiac Silverdome.

By working so closely with fashions, Ms. Keel has been able to define what looks best on her and how other women should try to dress.

"Women should dress to draw attention to their good features and to detract from their bad points. Different stores cater to different styles. Women should find a store that suits them. Just because clothing from one store looks good on one woman doesn't mean it will look good on others," Ms. Keels explained.

Her favorite shops are Haberdashery, Me and My Lady, Hattie's, and Becker's Shoes. Her height and slim build allow her to wear the high-fashion European clothing which she likes.

Recently Ms. Keels chose some outfits to illustrate the European look. The clothes, from Haberdashery in Birmingham, owned by Karen and Bill Goldberg, are made both in Europe and in the U.S.

Two outfits are by a California designer who designs under the label "Il Tabarro." Her silk clothes are discretely seductive, and very sophisticated. Made for tall, thin women, both outfits can be worn day or night. "They're very high fashion," Ms. Keels said. Both "Il Tabarro" designs consist of raw silk skirts lined with silk, vests, and soft, finished silk blouses.

The fuchsia outfit has flirty, loose pleats on the skirt and top that move when Ms. Keels moves. The gray boat-neck blouse is accented with two rows of cording around the three-quarter length sleeves.

THE SECOND straight skirt and vest has a nubby texture. "It's not beige or brown; it's the color of raw silk," Ms. Keels described. With a band gathering one shoulder on the tunic, a three-inch-wide belt around the waist and side-pleats on the skirt accented with a thin band across them, Ms. Keels chose a silk blouse with long sleeves gathered with but-

tons to complement the tailored look.

Contrasting with the sophisticated look is a sky-diving outfit of viscose and rayon. The thigh-pocketed pants with elastic at waist and ankles and zippered jacket with multiple pockets are made by Jean-Charles de Castelbajac of Paris.

"I'd wear this for football—to play in, not to watch. It's such a fun outfit, but it's for the younger girl who can wear clothes just for the fun of it," Ms. Keels said.

Her final choice was a beautiful evening two-piece dress of delicately painted lilac silk by Tinka Designs of New York. It has a full-sleeved blouse with a two-layered skirt that billows with every move. The sensuous and ultra-feminine look is topped with a quilted vest of varying shades of lavender. It also is hand-painted.

Ms. Keels said only a tall woman should wear this look because "only a tall person could bring off the proportions of the skirt."

A disadvantage of being a model is working with beautiful clothes that are not in a model's price range. To combat this, Ms. Keels said she has become a professional shopper.

"I shop a year ahead of the season. I'm now shopping for next summer by purchasing items on sale and putting them away. Then next summer, I'll buy good pieces to mix in with the other items."

She prefers buying good quality items. "They last longer and aren't faddish so stay in fashion longer," she explained.

"For instance, I bought a coat with patches of every kind of fur you can think of for \$25. I wore it in New York and people stopped me on the street to ask where I got it. When I told one woman I bought it in Detroit, she said she didn't think Detroit had so much style."

For Detroit to produce a model like Ms. Keels, it has to have style. Dressed in a her own black epaulet shirt and khaki pants, she looks like she could be from any cosmopolitan city.

If she doesn't "make it" in Paris, her world won't end. The San Francisco-born woman said she'll return to the United States to resume her modeling. And if that falls through, she'll be in the public eye in other ways, either on stage as an actress or promoting her own line of nylons for black women.

Like she said, "It's all a matter of luck."

—SUSAN TAUBER KLEIN



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Who says parachute silk is only for parachutes? Diane thinks it looks great in this sky-diving outfit.



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