



Long, full flowing sleeves are popular in the contemporary day-dresses of London designer John Bates for Jean Varone Ltd. Mosaic prints with black on white and white on navy are dominant.



Bates' No. 1 evening gown falls softly in beige with a flower at the shoulder. The gown sells for \$150.

#### Fashions:

### A view ahead

The fall-winter collection of feminine evening gowns and day dresses by London designer John Bates will be previewed in Birmingham Monday through Wednesday—before it is introduced in New York and Paris. Bates's designs for Jean Varon Ltd. will be presented by the firm's sales

director Tony Harris at Davidsons during the three days.

New York will see the collection at the European Fashion Fair March 6-9 and it will be viewed in Paris at the Pret a Porter March 26-31.

Among the 75 pieces Harris is bringing with him from London will be additions to the firm's spring-summer collection of gowns, dresses, pants and tunics.

BATES'S GOWNS are romantic, long, flowing with ribbons, ruffles and lace in soft shades of beige, blue-greys, creams and blue-pinks.

"Bates designs the kind of afternoon dress women have been asking for for a long time," said Ruth Davidson—"very contemporary dresses of crepe de Chine.

"Mosaic prints with a lot of black on white and white on navy are dominant in the daytime dresses."

The gowns and dresses are priced in the ready-to-wear \$100 to \$300 range, just under the beginning couture range.

Bates began in a London couture house running errands, picking up pins and sketching endlessly. It was almost two years before one of his sketches was made up into a dress and he was still a long way from arriving.

AFTER A TIME of trying to break into the ready-to-wear design field, and being unsuccessful, Bates re-met two young men he had known from his couture days.

Together they formed their own ready-to-wear company under the name of Jean Varon.

Jean Varon evening dresses were an immediate success, although it was a day dress that won the Dress of the Year Award in 1965. This dress was subsequently donated to the Museum of Costume in Bath, England.

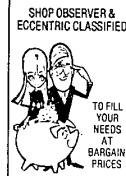
Jean Varon clothes are now available in more than 50 countries with 20 of its own retail outlets in the United Kingdom.

In 1974 Bates formed his own name company to produce an almost couture ready-to-wear collection.

He creates two collections a year for each of his companies, together with two mid-season collections for Jean Varon Ltd. making a total of about 500 styles each year. He also designs clothes for films and television.

#### Optometrists: we blew it

The story headlined "High fashion eye frames with high fashion names" in this newspaper's Feb. 21 edition credited two employees of Optical 1 in Birmingham with being optometrists. Ann Smith and Ann McNeen both are opticians.



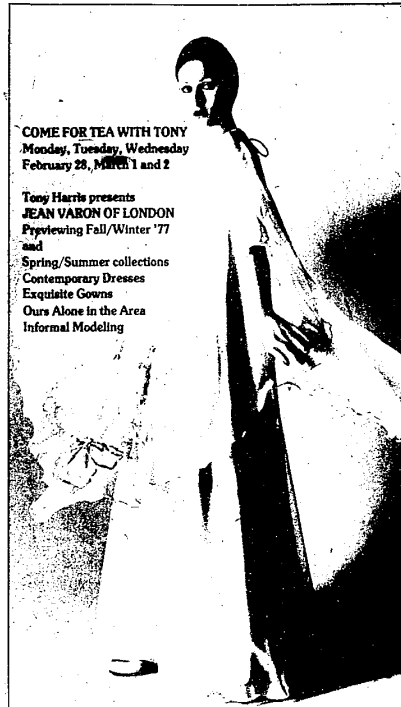
Your time to shop,  
and it's from

*Saks Fifth Avenue*

Big Beaver at Coolidge. Troy

COME FOR TEA WITH TONY  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
February 28, March 1 and 2

Tony Harris presents  
JEAN VARON OF LONDON  
Previewing Fall/Winter '77  
and  
Spring/Summer collections  
Contemporary Dresses  
Exquisite Gowns  
Ours Alone in the Area  
Informal Modeling



DAVIDSON'S

249 Pierce Street, Birmingham

MI 4-7200

## Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

#### Love at first bite

There are no shortcuts in Yvonne Gill Davis' kitchen. Instead, everything is prepared lovingly and laboriously in the true French way, and it does make a difference in the taste. Yvonne has come up with two special dinners for six for the month of March which you can take home to serve your guests. The first (as photographed) consists of English beefsteak pie (beef braised in veal stock and red wine under a decorative puff pastry crust), salade campagne plus a sherry trifle for dessert. The second consists of fresh mushroom salad, madras chicken curry with rice and lemon mousse glace. The cost is \$7.50 per person and three days advance notice is required.

Yvonne Gill Davis, 280 N. Woodward, Birmingham, 644-0050.



#### Knowing the ropes

Crafty Loft has a full range of macrame supplies including jutes, yarns, polypropylenes, acrylics, linens and cotton cords in all colors. The store stocks beads, rings, wooden hoops, bells, and instruction books. Evening classes for beginners will start the week of March 22, with five once-a-week sessions for \$10 per course. The shop also conducts a free workshop 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Friday, and at that time you can receive help if you're having difficulty with a macrame project.

Crafty Loft, 1116 S. Main, Royal Oak, 541-0184.



#### Variations on a theme

T-shirts are amazing things. Just when you think you've seen them all, another marvelous variation catches your eye. For example, Kaye North carries a handpainted dressier version that is made in France. Featuring a matching handpainted silk scarf, the long sleeved nylon shirt is available in several different patterns and colorations and is priced at \$52.

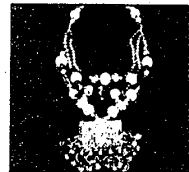
Kaye North, 574 N. Woodward, Birmingham, 647-6965.



#### Baubles, bangles and beads

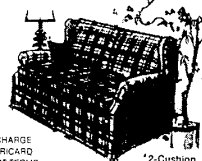
A Moroccan lady who lives in Greenwich Village spends her summers traveling all over the world in search of ancient beads and objects with which she can create one-of-a-kind necklaces. Some of the things she uses are: honey amber from Russia, old coins and silver charms from Afghanistan, tiger skin stone from South America and coral from Algeria. While many of her creations are housed in museums, others can be purchased at Goldfinger Ltd.

Goldfinger Ltd. in the Claymore Apartment Building, 29250 Franklin Road, Southfield, 358-1980.



## Final Week! EthanAllen winter Sale!

Get good looks and great comfort in Ethan Allen Sleep Sofas! Two popular styles now at sale savings! In four sizes—love seat, full, queen, and the luxedo comes in super queen. In your choice of over 150 decorator-coordinated fabrics!



MASTER CHARGE  
BANKAMERICARD  
CONVENIENT TERMS

2-Cushion  
Sleep Sofa  
SALE from  
\$449.50



80" Tuxedo Sleep Sofa  
SALE from \$599.50

Now!  
SHOP  
ON  
SUNDAY  
12 to 4

*the Hearthside*  
An Ethan Allen Gallery

LIVONIA • 15700 Middlebelt Rd. • PHONE 422-8770  
UTICA • 50170 Van Dyke • PHONE 739-6100  
SOUTHFIELD • 15600 W. 12 Mile Rd. • PHONE 557-1800  
OPEN MON, THURS, FRI, TIL 9 • TUES, WED, SAT, TIL 5:30