

## The fashion plate

# Sugar n' spice returning

By RUSTLE SHAND

Today's children are growing up in



an environment of self-awareness. They want to express themselves in the way they dress. Designers believe the more relaxed lifestyle enjoyed by parents is being reflected in the child's choice of clothing, indicating a return to more classic and functional clothing with two distinct looks: one soft and feminine and the other active and sporty.

"A child's lifestyle is a reflection of the parents' lifestyle and they're all much more sports-minded and into physical well-being as well as into a more overall casual way of living," said Ruth Scharf, who specializes in toddler to 14 sportswear, when she appeared at Jacobson's Children's Shop last week.

"That's why active sports clothes are gaining importance and soft classics with a clean look are replacing sloppy put-togethers," she said.

MS. SCHARF looks forward to "lots of big looks, oversized overblouses with belts, narrow pants with pleats at the waist, loose blazers, soft skirts and faded looks in chills."

She will continue to play up the sweet look and the Annie Hall look. She believes children want prettier clothes because that's what they see their mothers are wearing.

"They are really and truthfully getting away from jeans," she adds. "They'll now buy one pair, for instance, instead of three."

There is, however, always the exception to the rule and in this case, the exception centers around the girl of 11 or 12 who wishes to be seen in cute dresses and black patent Mary

Janes. On the other hand, she is not comfortable emulating the teenage girl whose clothes are just a little too sophisticated.

As a result, she prefers the anonymity and obscurity of jeans or cords from the boy's department, and wears a shirt under a bulky puffer sweater.

Ruth Scharf recently invited a group of 11- and 12-year-old girls into her New York design room to test her fashions. "It was very interesting," she said. "They don't want to be seen. They wear jeans, boy's shirts, and big sweaters. They want to wear things that won't make anybody look at them."

MS. SCHARF said she used the girls as a sounding board for her new collection. And although she said she is not really answering this problem area, her "sounding board" panel of girls did not utter as many "Ugh, gross" comments as they have in the past.

Suzy Barr, our 12-year-old model agreed with the New York panel. She came directly to her photo session from her sixth grade classroom, dressed exactly the same as her counterpart in New York, wearing cords, shirt and big sweater.

She liked the crinkle cotton separates well enough to ask her mother to order them for her when they arrive in stock the first of April. She liked the active sportswear and didn't mind the "out of the attic" white party dress and stole.

"The girls are so changeable at this point, they have not experienced an identity yet," explained Ms. Scharf, adding, "they don't know whether to play with dolls or go out with boys."



Crinkle cotton tiered skirt and overblouse machine wash and dry. (Staff photos)

## Heart attack topic for discussion series

"Heart Attack—What Now!" a series of programs for heart attack patients and their spouses, will be presented by the Michigan Heart Association 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays beginning March 29 at Fisher Center, Providence Hospital in Southfield.

Designed to help the patient and his family understand his heart so that he may better follow his doctor's advice, the sessions will be presented by physicians and nurses specializing in heart disease.

All four sessions will include both basic instruction and small informal discussion groups.

Topics to be covered are: "How

Your Heart Works in Health and Disease" by Barbara Stumpf, March 29, "Hints to Assist You in Following Your Diet" by Margaret Frisk, April 5, "How to Take Your Medication" by Dr. Allan Chernick, April 12, and "Work, Exercise and Your Heart" by Fran McCarty, April 19.

In order to maximize the effectiveness of these programs, enrollment will be limited to 60 couples. Registration, which is free, may be made by calling Eleanor D. Peterson, Michigan Heart Association, 557-5500.

### Jews in Detroit

#### Faxon's topic

Mich. Sen. Jack Faxon (D-Detroit) will be speaker for the Jewish Welfare Federation junior division at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 29.

His talk, titled "From Hastings to Maple and Drake: Down Memory Lane with the Jews of Detroit," will be given in LaMed Auditorium of United Hebrew Schools, 21550 W. Twelve Mile, Southfield.

The meeting is one of a series open to men and women of post-college age through their mid-30s. There is no charge.

## Connie Crane center opening

Connie Crane is the name of the new skin care center soon to be opened on Northwestern in Farmington Hills.

The Nelly de Vuyst skin care products mentioned in the Feb. 23 Fashion Plate column will be used in the new facility scheduled for opening sometime in March.

## St Charles

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## Volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of agencies needing volunteer services. Further information about these and over 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau.

**DRIVERS**—The Michigan Cancer Society needs drivers to transport cancer patients from their homes to area hospitals for treatment. Help is needed in all areas of Oakland County but especially in Birmingham, Bloomfield, Clawson, Farmington, Oak Park, Royal Oak, Southfield and Troy.

**EMPLOYMENT COORDINATORS**—An ability to work with people and an ability to organize and operate the employment service project are necessary for the volunteer interested in this job with the 50th District Court in Pontiac. The aim of the project is to provide employment for probationers. Duties of the coordinator include contacting and acting as a liaison with employment agencies, providing fol-

low-up contact with employers, coordinating job developers and performing administrative tasks necessary to evaluate and operate the program. Training is provided. Commitment is for at least four hours a week.

**RECREATION PROGRAM ASSISTANT**—Easter Seal Society in Pontiac is looking for men and women interested in working in a newly-developed program to provide recreation and social contacts for disabled adults. No previous training is required. A commitment of 3½ hours a week is preferred, any weekday but Wednesday.

**PROBATIONERS' FRIEND**—especially men, who are personable, tolerant and stable in their own lives are needed to serve on a one-to-one basis with a probationer of the Oakland County Circuit Court. The purpose of the program is to provide a probationer with a friend who can provide a steady influence, help in obtaining a job or further education and be available to listen and offer advice.

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