## Stylist likes to break rules

Fashion designer DeLah McKay assures you that she understands all the rules — "I just don't happen to live by them."

them."

Speaking about her spring collection from offices in New York, McKey explains that she is "an artist" who attempts to design "what people will love."

"My pieces are garments your heart tells you to buy," she said, "I make unusual clothing that's fun and fits well."

For spring McKay introduces

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For spring McKay introduces romantic, long, flowing shifts and skirts. Her signature jackets feature patchwork or contrasting bias. There is lacework on her

cardigans.

"I design for the woman who has been there, done that," she said. "She owns 50 jackets and 10 pants but buys mine because they are different and expression."

sive."
Eleganza owner Sue Loussia-Hickey features McKay's collections in her West Bloomfield boutique. She said there is another reason women buy McKay - comfortable fit.
"Her pants are generous cuts.
Her jackets offer room to move," she said. "You can wear a McKay design for years because she listens to her customers."
McKay grew up in England



where her mother was a men's tailor. She said she never gave her mother's work a second thought, but subconsciously it must have taken hold of her. "I started out, unsuccessfully, to be a designer and model," she said. "I could not get into cellege so I wound up traveling the world, living in seven countries, buying fashion in Paris that I'd sell in Australia.

## Lucky break

"I met designer Pierre Bal-main at a party and he became my mentor. I was his right hand

main at a party and he became my mentor. I was his right hand girl in those days.

"After he went bankrupt, contacts in the business led me to become fashion director for a chain of British department stores. I went to Hollywood where I was a stylist for the stars (Stephanie Powers, Kathleen Turner, Vicky Lawrence, Jacqueline Bisset te drop a few names).

names).

"Eventually, I got a job as a
Seattle television host doing
makeovers and fashion seg-

A reversible jacket McKay made for herself launched her There's a new game in town

design career he second time around. Friends all wanted one, and when a department store ordered some, a New York Times article set McKay on her way.

"It was a fluke," she laughed. "In 1989, I sold a million dollars worth of jackets in just eight months."

McKay said she believed her lack of ability to sketch kept her from being a designer early on, until she realized, she "sketched" collections all day long in her "mind."

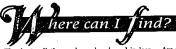
Single, McKay said she believed her from remain. Single, McKay said she's devoted to the long hours of her career, and then to decopaging furniture, playing tennis and doing "home stuff" to unwind. "Pleass don't believe that my career in any way kept me from relationships," she laughed. "Ive had several very serious romances around the world that just never worked out for one reason or another.

These days I'm doing what I've always loved, artistically taking colors and textures and trying the unusual with them."

The Eleganza boutique is in the Robin's Nest Plaza on Orchard Lake, north of 14 Mile. DeLah McKay's line is priced at \$135 for walking shorts to \$35 for a jacket. Inquiries are wel-come at (810) 737-2666.



High style: Designer DeLah McKay works in georgette crepe, rayon, silk and wool, adding whimsical touches to jackets and dresses.



Thanks to all the readers who phoned in loca-tions for the hard to find items in this feature! Several callers have inquired about fees for this service. There are none! Where Can I Find? is a service of these retail pages for consumers,

Margaret Nagy searched her basement and came up with an April 1946 copy of Ford Times magazine for Robert Hisson. "My late husband worked for Ford for 38 years and he was a saver!"

magazine for Robert Hisson. "My late husband worked for Ford for 38 years and he was a saver!" she said.

\* Two callers said they came across clothing made from recycled plastic. The Aveda Lifestyle Store at Somerset Collection North sells a line called Anatomy which includes polar fleece, sweats and T-shirts made from old plastic spun into fibers, and The Nature Company at Someraet Collection South features a collection of gloves, mittens and shirts — plus much more, through a catalog 1-800-227-1114.

\* Three callers came up with sources for mens' Supp-hose stockings — Mitzelfeid's Department Stape in downtown Rochester (810) 631-8171; the Veteran's Hospital cancer on Southfield Rd. in Allen Park and McClutchey's Store in Indian River, (616) 238-712. The store is happy to send out special orders.

\* Suzanne Edmunds (super shopper) reports seeing Math To Go by Texas instruments at Sam's Club on Haggerty in Farmington Hills. She also found Picarelli hamburger relish at Ackroyds, Five Mile and Beech Daly in Redford, 313 532-1181.

\* A caller reports seeing Yardley's liquid soap at the F& M store on Warren Road.

\* Two readers were willing to sell Wearover Super Shooters that they no longer use.

\* Soveral callers explained that Hallmark's Frosty Friends are still issued annually. They may be found at the Dearborn Civic Center's annual Hallmark Show in February, and also through Ron Kesterson of Knoxville, who carries them (423) 675-7511.

\* A reader has a copy of "The First Nine Months

•A reader has a copy of "The First Nine Months

Are the Hardest" and has been put in touch with the caller looking for it.

## We still need to find:

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\*Linda Gorinski is searching for a copy of an English textbook for her seventh grade son: "Warriner's English Composition and Grammar Complete Course." Has anyone come across this book?

\*Lynn Duke hopes to locate a copy of Michael Douglas' recording "Happy Birthday Jeaus," popularized in the 1970s on his afternoon talk show.

\*Former state representative John Jamian is anxious to come up with old restaurant photos, menus, signs and other memorabilin for a history book he is writing on the Woodward Corridor. Specifically, he wants information about the old Corning's, Ted's, Devon Gables and May's Drive. In. He welcomes information at (810) 540-6065.

\*Sandy Hill hopes to track down a place to buy mineral oil for a rainlamp KAYDOL-35.

\*Jennifer" wants to know what retailer carries clothing by Smooth Ones. "I purchased a pair of Smooth Ones trousers at Lochmann's a month ago and found them to be the best-fitting pants I've ver owned."

Smoth Ones trousers at Leemann a nature age and found them to be the best-fitting pants I've ever owned.

• A reader is looking for a copy of "Boy on a Delphin' by David Devine. Since it is now out of print, she'd be willing to buy someone's old copy.

• Ever see Magic Baking Powder made by Mobisco of Toronto on your grocery shell? A caller doesn't want to travel to Canada to buy it.

• A Birmingham resident can't find the Almay hypo-allergetic all-over body splash that she used to buy at Montgomery Wards.

• Katherina Catrowski towd sending engraved Mitchell Christimas cards to friends and family. Since the company went out of business, she is trying to find something comparable. I like the real ornate cards," she said. "Does anyone know who sells these?"

If you've seen any of these times in your travels, let Malls & Mainstreets know and we'll print the answers. Please call (810) 901-2567.



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