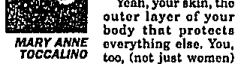


## Men, too, should protect their skin

**DISCOVERING BEAUTY**  
 Hey men, in between coaching the soccer team, ripping golf balls, investing in the stock market and pounding the pavement, have you ever stopped to think about your skin?



**MARY ANNE TOCCALINO**  
 Yeah, your skin, the outer layer of your body that protects everything else. You, too, (not just women) need to protect it from external and internal influences.

Both the environment and what happens inside your body affect your skin. An active lifestyle and abusive diet that includes alcohol and cigars can add years to your face. However, you can prevent premature aging by cleansing, toning and moisturizing your skin.

What does that mean, you ask. Well, cleansing the skin is just that. Instead of using a bar of deodorant soap, which strips the skin, I suggest trying a gentle foaming wash. You can even shave with a cleanser. Better yet, it will reduce wrinkling of the skin caused by shaving.

Then tone the skin. That means apply a mild astringent to remove anything the cleanser may have missed. The two-part cleansing system insures clean skin.

After, you will move on to protecting your skin with a moisturizer. Before you proceed, though, you'll want to evaluate your lifestyle and determine your skin type.

For example, if you're often outdoors, you'll need to use a moisturizer with a strong sun block. If, on the other hand, you sit at an office computer all day, you will probably want to apply a lighter, hydrating moisturizer to alleviate dryness.

For men who work-out daily and take more than one shower a day, I recommend a moisturizer with a gel consistency. Showering depletes the skin of natural oils, and a gel protects the skin without feeling greasy.

Since many men are unfamiliar, not to mention uncomfortable, with skin care products, I'd also like to simplify matters, by making a few specific recommendations. By the way, there are plenty of products on the market that won't insult even the toughest guy's masculinity.

Peveria for Men, for example, offers everything from a gentle cleanser to an exfoliating gel mask, a skin care treatment that gives facial skin a healthier, more rugged appearance.

A good product for the eye area, which is without oil glands and shows age prematurely, is Cell X G Eye Contour Cream. It's available at major department stores and Todd's Room in downtown Birmingham.

Mia Pello is another skin care line that's user-friendly to men. Available at Red The Salon in downtown Birmingham, Mia Pello's holistic skin care products are herbal and include cleanser, toner, moisturizer and eye cream. They're also light and refreshing without being heavily perfumed.

Available at Sephora stores, Hump Works is another group of products that I recommend for men. They're gentle, all-natural and environmentally sound. And, the company makes soaps and shampoos, in addition to products for the face.

Whether you choose a skin care regime made for men or a unisex product line, the point is you only have one skin. Take care of it! You can still take care on the world. Your face just won't bear the brunt.

Please send your beauty questions to Mary Anne Toccalino, c/o Toccalino Cosmetic Studio, 470 N. Old Woodward, Suite 200, Birmingham, Mich. 48009. Or, call her at (248) 203-9477.

Toccalino is a professional make-up artist and skin care consultant at RED The Salon in downtown Birmingham. The owner and founder of Toccalino Cosmetics, she studied at Jose Blasco's School of Cosmetics in Hollywood where her training included work in special effects and make-up for film and print.

## Season's trends with classic looks

### Ellen Tracy's collections presented at Saks Fifth Avenue



**Jackets and other classics:** A series of jackets paired with skirts and cropped pants made for an elegant finale of Saks Fifth Avenue's runway show of clothing designer Ellen Tracy's looks for the season, above. Jackets were in abundance and lent a classic look to the collections. And, many of the jackets were classic designs such as trapeze and double-breasted. At right, a simple linen wrap dress in true red was a show stopper. Ellen Tracy's color choices were equally classic - white, Navy, red and khaki.

Fashion trends do lend themselves to classic looks. Saks Fifth Avenue's runway show of current collections by designer Ellen Tracy, held Tuesday at the Somerset Collection in Troy, was case in point.

The show followed a presentation of the Matilda R. Wilson Award to local philanthropist Maggie Allessee and was a benefit for the Boys & Girls Clubs of South-eastern Michigan.

From cropped pants to wrap-fronts to gingham prints, the season's trends had a strong presence but never overwhelmed Ellen Tracy's signature style - casual, classic and luxurious.

"Very classic - that's what I liked," said attendee Doreen Bull of Bloomfield Hills. "You know what I loved," she added. "The colors."

Though Ellen Tracy primarily relied on classic shades like Navy, red, khaki and white, small doses of apple green, pale jade, bright yellow and lilac were injected into the collection.

And, overall, color had a crisp, vibrant quality. A simple matte jersey tunic and matching drawstring pant in solid red, for example, inspired a burst of applause. Another look favored by the audience was a simple linen wrap dress, again, in true red.

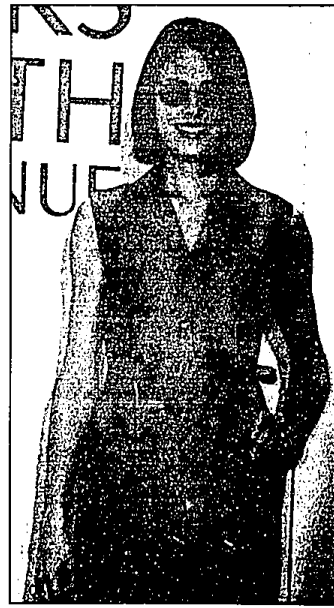
Tops were mostly V-necks - another season trend - and came with and without collars.

Cropped pants were shown just below the knee, at the ankle and everywhere in between. Skirts, too, were shown in a range of lengths with shorter skirts hitting just above the knee.

Sparkle and embellishment were kept to a minimum. And, with beading, sequins and embroidery virtually absent, the collection relied on luxurious materials, such as organza, paisley print on silk, metallic shantung and iridescent knit for a dash of elegance.

Beyond the absence of ornamentation, perhaps what gave the collection its classic, clean finish was the plethora of linen and strong presence of tailored jackets from trapeze to double-breasted designs.

- Nicole Stafford



Retail, style and special store events are listed in this calendar. Please send information to Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax: (248) 644-1314. Information must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 16**

**DOWN SHOW**  
 Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, presents a selection of designer evening wear through April 21, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Designer Salon, second floor. To make an appointment, call (248) 643-9000 ext. 491.

**CRAPTS SHOW**  
 Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield hosts a spring arts and crafts show featuring handmade gifts and seasonal Easter items, noon-5 p.m., throughout the mall. For details, call (248) 353-4111.

**PRIVATE TRUNK SHOWS**  
 View the Elana collection for fuller-figured women at the home of a local representative through April 20, by appointment only. Call Jean at (248) 336-1204.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 18**

## ADDED ATTRACTIONS

**ST. JOHN FOCUS DAY**  
 Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, hosts a representative from St. John and pieces from the designer's spring and summer collections through April 19, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., St. John Boutique, second floor. To schedule an appointment, call (248) 643-9000 ext. 491.

**SCHOOL JAZZ BAND**  
 Farmington High School's jazz band performs at Livonia Mall as part of the shopping center's celebration of the arts, 11 a.m. Also, several art exhibits will be on display in the mall through April 20. For additional information, call (248) 476-1160.

**TRISH MCGOVY TEAM VISITS**  
 Meet Trish McGovy's team of national makeup artists and experiment with the cosmetic company's spring color line at Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset

Collection in Troy, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Cosmetics and Fragrances, first floor. For information, call (248) 643-9000.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22**

**MAGIC SHOW**  
 Northland Center in Southfield hosts magic shows for children and adults, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., J.C. Penney Court. For details, call (248) 569-6272.

**MOVIE PASS GIVEAWAY**  
 Art Van Furniture in Southfield gives away passes for a preview of the new Flintstones movie, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (movie passes are available for preview at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 25 at the Star Southfield). For more information, call (248) 669-3770.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29**

**BATTLE OF THE SEXES**  
 WNIC's Breakfast Club radio show hosts its popular Battle of the Sexes competition at Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills. Team entries of either two men or two women will be accepted through April 26. Winners will receive a trip to Chicago. Competitors also will be entered into a prize drawing. For additional information, call (248) 454-5010.