

Spring's signature: Vintage looks flower with feminine fabrics

by Kathy Flanigan and James H. Burnett III Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

To know how to dress well this season, you will want to see a lot of old movies say those from the 1920s, '30s and '50s.

Then imagine all this V-neck dresses, cropped pants and soft feminine fabrics in Technicolor with vibrant hues of pink, blue, coral and yellow.

"It's sort of vintage-inspired proportions," said Stephanie Sherman, co-owner along with Carrie Arrouet of Lela, in Milwaukee.

"Three-quarter length sleeves. Cropped pants. Anything that looks like a Coco Chanel jacket but in sherbet colors," Sherman said.

In New York, designers sent models strutting down the runway more girlish than model churlish. The dress is back in a big way. So is color. And flowers. And ruffles. And ribbons. And gauzy, soft, flowing fabric.

Yes, you might want to buy a slip. In fact, Sherman highly recommends it because dresses hang so much better with a slip underneath.

They've updated the classic look with a short cropped jacket or a shrunken cardigan. If you're going to wear a blazer, skip the belt and tie a vintage scarf or one of the very hot satin cummerbunds around the middle instead. Pair your favorite

jeans with a slip of a top, something sheer and sexy with something underneath..

Dress up the feet in a strappy sandal but note that this spring, the wispy woman look gets some balance with round-toed shoes perched on a substantial, if high, heel.

Overall, there may be a classic feel to spring fashion, but it's up to the wearer to add a bit of edge. Sherman suggests pairing a flowy lightweight tunic over jeans and adding vintage jewelry such as rhinestones or pearls. Attach a brooch or ribbon to your purse or T-shirt to update last year's wardrobe.

Oh, and about jeans. They may be the one fashion item that doesn't reflect old movies, according to Faye Wetzel, whose shops include Faye's 1, Faye's 2 Petites and Faye's @ Play in Mequon, Wis., and Faye's 1 and Faye's 2 in Brookfield, Wis.

"It seems to be that it's getting safe to pull up your underwear once again because the rises are getting higher," Wetzel said.

In addition to playing with waist, wash and color of jeans, designers are helping us look better by positioning pockets so that butts look slimmer and higher. The washes on the fabric are situated to make legs and thighs look slimmer as well.

"There is absolutely positively no end in sight for jeans and their impor-

tance. What jean you have on is an indication of where you are in the fashion food chain," Wetzel said. Expect the popularity of the stretch jean to continue and look for the "career jean."

Wetzel suggests that shopping for the right jean and jean fit can be "as frustrating and intense as buying a bra." She suggests asking for assistance.

Now, step away from the twin sets, Sherman warns, they're not in the five staples she sees for spring.

At the top of the list is the Coco Chanel-inspired jacket. Then there's the full skirt an A-line or a circle skirt that's full and in a floral or vintage inspired fabric. Under that accessorize with nude fishnets or, if you dare, sheer floral hose. Add a slip and a piece of vintage jewelry.

10 TIPS FOR MEN

Check out this list of 10 spring tips for men provided by our panel of experts: Lloyd Boston, urban-dress designer and author; Michael Anderson, men's designer for Banana Republic; Tony Magnetic, designer of SEEMS, among the hottest woven patterned shirts out right now; Todd Richter, founder of Guyshop.com; and Navin Manglani, whose jeans and woven shirts were recently featured in Cargo magazine.

1. In lieu of a sleeveless T-shirt this spring, try a sleeveless woven shirt.

-Magnetic

2. Ditch the formal sportcoat and sport a textured non-solid blazer, with a buyer's cut striped or checked double-button collar shirt. -Anderson

3. Lose the sand-blasted jeans and replace them with straight-legged or boot-cut blue jeans with just a mild wash finish. -Anderson and Magnetic

4. Wear your big velour warm-up suit to the gym or on a long drive, but if you must wear a track suit of any sort in public, go with a '70s style terry-cloth suit. -Richter

5. Unbuckle the bulky belt and go with a fabric woven number. -Boston

6. Draw double-takes from passers-by with the latest wristwear, mini-wrist ties, made from the remnants of retro neckties by up-and-coming Oklahoma designer Xvala. -Richter

7. Unload your remaining pleated trou and replace them with flat-fronts.

8. Unlace the wingtips and the hightops. Save space in your closet and replace them both with hybrid dress tennis shoes, especially the Cole Haan/Nike Airmax heel, and Pony's new line of crossover kicks. -Magnetic

9. Accessorize with an I-River or Samsung YP900 MP3 player. -Manglani

10. Invest in a spring blazer. Go for white, but that might be hard to find. If so, look for pale gray, khaki or seer-sucker. -Boston

Through the Looking Glass

by Mike Pingree

BUT, THIS IS AN EMERGENCY

A man went into a pharmacy in Mostar, Bosnia, just as it was closing to buy some condoms. The pharmacist refused, saying he would serve him only if it was an emergency. So the man pulled a gun and demanded the condoms.

DOES THIS MEANS 'DESSERT' IS OFF?

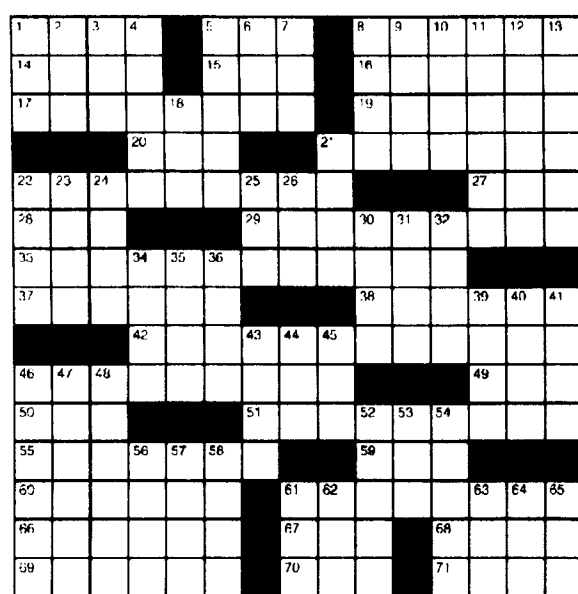
A chef who has a TV cooking show in England playfully prepared a roast at his home for his wife while in the nude. Unfortunately, he got too close to the oven and burned his privates.

IT'S OK, WE LIKE THIS MUCH BETTER

A Pennsylvania woman was jailed for putting on a strip show at her teenage son's birthday party after becoming intoxicated on pills and alcohol. The striptease was a last-minute thing, which came to pass when plans for a go-cart ride fell through.

Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Most desirable
5 Handle clumsily
8 Soprano Mar a
14 Beehive State
15 Chape' vow
16 Save your ...!
17 "Mean Streets" director
19 Make beloved
20 Horse morsel
21 Camp-stove fuel
22 Hard-bop jazz drummer
27 Buttons of films
28 "Road to
29 17th-century French dances
33 Office breathers
37 Washington portraitist
38 Chicago singer Peter
42 Performs spin-doctoring
46 Thomas Arne song, "Rule ..."
49 Have dinner
50 Operate
51 Ben Franklin's sayings
55 "The Spectator" co-founder
59 Brooch
60 Streaked, like blue cheese
61 Unique person
66 On cloud nine
67 Harlem room
68 Matter of regret
69 Ecclesiastical councils
70 Lah-di-
71 Certain feds

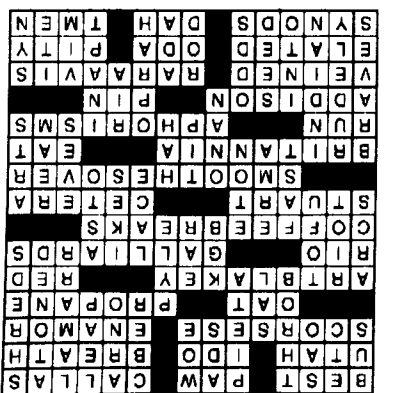


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- DOWN
1 Public vehicle
2 & more
3 Paulo
4 Pilsate
5 Michelangelo masterpiece
6 Want ...
7 Sadness
8 Person with a handle?
9 River of Pisa
10 Hurdle
11 "Ecstasy" star

- 12 Made amends
13 Fragments
18 Actor Mineo
21 Old-time journalist Ernie
22 Curving courses
23 Free-for-all
24 Bean curd
25 CIA adversary, once
26 Serving of corn
30 Intertwine
31 Eisenhower and Turner
32 Regarding
34 Rapid
35 Writer Bombeck
36 Famed British school
39 Nights before
40 Paper quantity
41 and crafts
43 Son of Judah
44 Service bonus
45 Doubter's exclamation
46 Atlanta team
47 Impolitely

Solutions



- 48 Bombay man
52 Ms. Winfrey
53 Narrow inlet
54 Not the right thing to say
56 Keen on
57 Future plant
58 and ends
61 Fishing pole
62 Clare of "Bleak House"
63 Energy
64 Resident's suffix
65 Equivalent wd.

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