

The Citizen Home & Family

with Bev Christensen

Queen's critic hit by fashion experts

LONDON (Reuter) — Britain's haute-couture experts struck back angrily today at a millionaire Hollywood fashion designer who called the Queen's wardrobe for her U.S. bicentennial visit dull and dowdy.

They defended their monarch's fashion style as

"cool and chic" and launched a personal attack on the offender, Robert Blackwell, who compiles an annual list of the world's 10 worst-dressed women.

The mass-circulation Daily Mirror in a banner headline said: "Happy Birthday America. But a word of warn-

ing to the Yank who criticized our Queen. Watch it, buddy."

And the Daily Express, zeroing in on Blackwell's flamboyant way of dressing, said: "Well, we don't go much for men in flashy jewelry, lapel pins and oversized rings."

The newspaper's fashion editor described the Queen's bicentennial outfit as "smashing" and added: "We wouldn't really want her to be causing riots worldwide with loud and eccentric dress."

Royal designer Hardy Amies said: "The Queen is not a fashion model. Her clothes are designed for her to do a job and that job is being the Queen."

Buckingham Palace, accustomed to the occasional poisonous dart, kept its traditional aloofness: "Whenever the Queen goes abroad there is always someone ready to criticize her for their own publicity."

Blackwell described the Queen's hat as having shrunk, suggested she leave her pearls off, get a softer "wash-and-wear" hairdo and discard her "outsized handbag."

'Street of death' becomes history

SINGAPORE (AP) — Death street is dying in the name of urban renewal.

Skyscraper office buildings, apartment blocks and other new structures are changing Sago Lane in Chinatown, uprooting traditional death houses and related businesses.

What's left of the crowded thoroughfare may be unique. Death houses have been eliminated by the Communists in mainland China and overseas Chinese elsewhere in Asia no longer have access to them.

Modern funeral parlors are replacing the "houses of big difficulty," as an older generation of Chinese call places that tend the dead and dying. And crematoriums are taking the place of cemeteries in this island-nation. Death houses were once the hub around which life revolved in Sago Lane.

Doctors attended ailing occupants. Buddhist monks and Taoist priests made their ceremonial arrangements. Pedlars of herbal medicines displayed their wares and written testimonials in the narrow lane.

Craftsmen put the finishing touches to wooden coffins shaped like boats which were expected to sail the deceased to his ancestors. Makers of paper houses to be burned at the graveside kept busy.

Funeral rites in progress could be heard in the street. Trucks were ready to haul bands, mourners and coffins.

In the evening, tables and chairs lined Sago Lane to accommodate relatives and friends visiting death-house dwellers. Some played mah-jong. Others ate, drank and chatted with the soon-to-be-dead.

Five death houses from Sago Lane were shifted recently to a gleaming new industrial park at Gaylang Bahru, outside the central business district. Their proprietors say the move was bad for business.

A spokesman for the Wing

Fatt death house said he has trouble keeping in touch with such allied services as florists, musicians and priests.

Chau Kuan-ying, 61, had her paper goods business relocated at Gaylang Bahru. Her shop specializes in model funeral houses and other "gifts" to the dead made of colored paper mounted on bamboo frames, which are burned at the graveside.

Tradition has it that these turn into the real thing in the hereafter.

Women find success in insurance sales

CHICAGO (AP) — More and more women are selling life insurance and they have an advantage in dealing with members of their own sex, says a financial expert at Esmark, Inc., a diversified holding company with major interests in financial services.

Women who enter the financial services field bring with them an understanding of the needs of other women, which can be a big plus, the spokesman said, but certain guidelines can help the women become a success in the heretofore predominantly masculine areas of insurance and investment.

These dos and don'ts for women dealing with clients are offered by Globe Life Insurance Co., an Esmark subsidiary:

—Emphasize the freedom of choice. Let your client tell you what she wants. Don't tell her.

—Approach her in an intelligent, businesslike way—and she'll be likely to respond in a similar manner.

—Don't assume that if the woman is single she automatically aspires to marriage. On the other hand, don't assume she doesn't.

—Invite her to discuss her feelings. The more you know about her, the better you will be able to ascertain her needs.

—Avoid any discussion of your own opinions. Your views may be entirely different from hers.

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CHILD HEALTH

Public health nurses from the Northern Interior Health Unit will be available for child health consultations Tuesday at the Baldy Hughes base 1-3 p.m.

For further information about these and other clinics in this area, phone 563-1631.

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Edith Strauss's gowns are meant to last — up-to-date but not kooky, timeless, she says.

'Lived-in' fashions are 'timeless'

TORONTO (CP) — Edith Strauss's idea of a dress is one you can hang in the cupboard for several years and, when you wear it again, people still say you look elegant.

The Toronto designer describes her clothes as "up-to-date but not kooky; my gowns are timeless."

The Strauss clothes are made to be "lived in"—not replaced with a new gimmick next season. They are designed for the woman who cares

about her appearance and who prefers one or two garments which are always in good taste.

Her ideas of fashion and her theory about what a customer wants seem to have paid off. She sells regularly to Saks Fifth Avenue and prestige shops across Canada and the U.S.

A Canadian designer with her own label was almost unheard of when Edith Strauss joined a Montreal manufacturer's design department as a teen-ager.

She was chief designer for the firm when she moved to Toronto after 20 years and "went out on her own."

A great believer in young Canadian talent, she promotes young graduates whenever possible. For the last four years, a young graduate of the four-year course from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, Janice Park, has been in charge of the Strauss administration.

"She can carry on any time I'm away," Mrs. Strauss said. Another graduate does handpainting on some of the chiffons in her latest collection.

The fall collection has the smooth, uncluttered elegance of line that can be worn by people who have nothing to prove.

Although there are always colorful garments in the Edith Strauss lines, beige and black have taken on importance this year.

'HE'S EVERYWHERE'

'Other man' described

Ann Landers



Dear Ann Landers: You recently had a column describing "the Other Woman." Why is it no one has ever described "the Other Man"? He is everywhere. Places you'd never suspect. I'd like to try my hand at it since I know him well. My wife knows him even better.

The Other Man is never seen in the morning, unshaven, with hair disheveled, in a ratty bathrobe, groping for his glasses. He appears in the morning (at work) or in the evening at a favorite rendezvous, looking perfectly groomed and very appealing.

The Other Man is not putting around the house in torn trousers and an old shirt, trying to fix the plumbing or a garage door or a leak in the roof. No hint of perspiration from mowing the lawn or washing the car. He smells of cologne, toothpaste and aftershave.

The Other Man is always in a good mood. When he is with you he is out for a good time. He leaves his worries at home.

The Other Man invariably has a wife who has back trouble, is emotionally disturbed, frigid, and is a terrible nag. She doesn't understand him and talks of nothing but bills, unmanageable kids, bothersome relatives and things that are depressing. But he can't leave her to marry you — for awhile — because of financial circumstances, the children, his aging mother, his religion or his boss. His list of excuses is endless.

The Other Man doesn't care that he has caused his wife untold hours of anguish, that she has become a guilt-ridden nervous wreck, confused and unsure of herself. He doesn't give a thought to the fact that his children have heard rumors, or sense something is terribly wrong in the family. He is having a great big round ball — concerned only with himself, his pleasure and his ego, in spite of what he has led his playmate to believe. Do you

know him? Look again. — Watching It All From Up Close.

Dear Watching: Thank you for an insightful description. It's bound to hit a lot of people where they live — or at least visit.

Dear Ann Landers: The reader who signed himself "Tokyo" was wrong and you were right. He said the letter about the Japanese surgeon who sewed sheep hymens in deflowered virgins was a phony. The operation was, according to the original writer, called "maku saisel."

The Doubting Thomas pointed out to you (with a great deal of personal satisfaction) that there is no letter "I" in the Japanese alphabet. He said that was the tip-off.

I was born and raised in Japan and can vouch for the fact that the surgery described is not uncommon in that country. It is called "maku saisel" which means membrane re-generation. Obviously, someone made a typographical error. It should have been an "i" instead of an "l". So don't let the so-and-so grind you down, honey. — Nagasaki Nick

Dear Nick: I appreciate the vote of confidence as well as the research. You are right. It

was indeed a typo, as several of my Japanese friends pointed out. (This column appears in the Asahi Evening News, an English-language paper in Tokyo.) Thanks for writing.

Newfoundland pay low, taxes high

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP) — Newfoundlanders are the lowest paid and most highly taxed people in the country and, in a year of government spending restraint, retail trade figures in the province are sagging.

Retail sales rose by only 2.1 per cent in March compared with March, 1975, the figures are the most recent from Statistics Canada.

Restaurant receipts grew by only 6.9 per cent, barely keeping pace with the growth in the economy and the population, and new-car sales grew by a mere 2.6 per cent.

The one part of the province's economy that remains strong is the government services sector-federal and provincial payroll accounts this year will total \$400 million.

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THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS

...it tells you how

Potpourri for a winter's day...



7-11

It seems like the fragrances of summer are needed most when Ol' Man Winter sends the thermometer — and your spirits — down. But you can save those summer scents for a winter day — just mix a batch of potpourri.

The idea of mixing potpourri is to concoct a pleasant, not overpowering fragrance from sweet-smelling flowers, herbs, spices and oils. Fixatives — gum benzoin and gum storax, available at drug stores — are added to preserve the colors and scents, and the mixture goes into whatever container is handy — traditionally, a tightly closed vessel of china, pottery or glass. (Clear receptacles must be kept away from light.) The potpourri jar is then allowed to stand open whenever you want to perfume a room.

Rose petals are the main ingredient, and you'll need about four times as many of these as of other flowers. Gather the blossoms in the morning, after a rainless period of at least 24 hours. Carry them indoors and spread them to dry in a dark, well-ventilated place.

In a day or two, pack each variety of blossom into its own screw-top canning jar with orrisroot sprinkled between layers. Store the jars in a dark place until you have time to mix the brew.

Here's the basic recipe:

- 1 quart rose petals
- 1 cup mixed flowers, some fragrant
- 1 tablespoon each of one or two herbs
- 2 or 3 tablespoons crushed spices
- Several drops, added 1 at a time, of 1 or 2 oils
- 1 tablespoon each of gum benzoin and gum storax

The balance of the mixture is important, and an increase in the suggested amounts makes for a confused aroma. But as long as you observe the proportions, you can use any ingredients that strike your fancy.

When you're ready, mix all the ingredients thoroughly with a wooden spoon, pack the scent into jars, cork the containers, and store them in a dark place for two or three weeks while the perfumes blend. Then this winter, when the cold drives you inside for an afternoon, uncork the potpourri jar and forget the outside for awhile.

Tie makes the man

NEW YORK (AP) — Whatever the fashion of the moment may be, there is one consistent staple—a man's tie.

It reflects his personality, his state of mind, even his profession, and, in a manner of speaking his life-style, says D. Gordon Williams, head of a tie manufacturing company.

The selection of a man's tie is often dictated by his profession and just as often by his hobbies. A sports buff might wear a tie depicting his hobby—tennis, golf, baseball and such.

Doctors, lawyers, executives, stockbrokers and the like tend towards understated patterns and colors. Stripes are the most popular choice, though this does not preclude panels, borders, and under-the-knot-pattern ties for those

who like to "dress up" to their profession.

"It is a mistake to assume that devil-may-care personalities are the only ones who prefer flamboyant neckwear," says Williams, president of Countess Mara. "I have known men to buy bold, colorful ties in moments of depression, or just to make some personal statement of independence."

"And this does not apply only to young men. Older gentlemen often declare themselves by wearing a bright, exotic tie."

Nevertheless, navy blue is the consistent No. 1 color, whether solid or providing a background for stripes, prints or patterns.