



## The shape of things to come: fashion tips for springtime 1999

### Casual comfort will be 'in' look

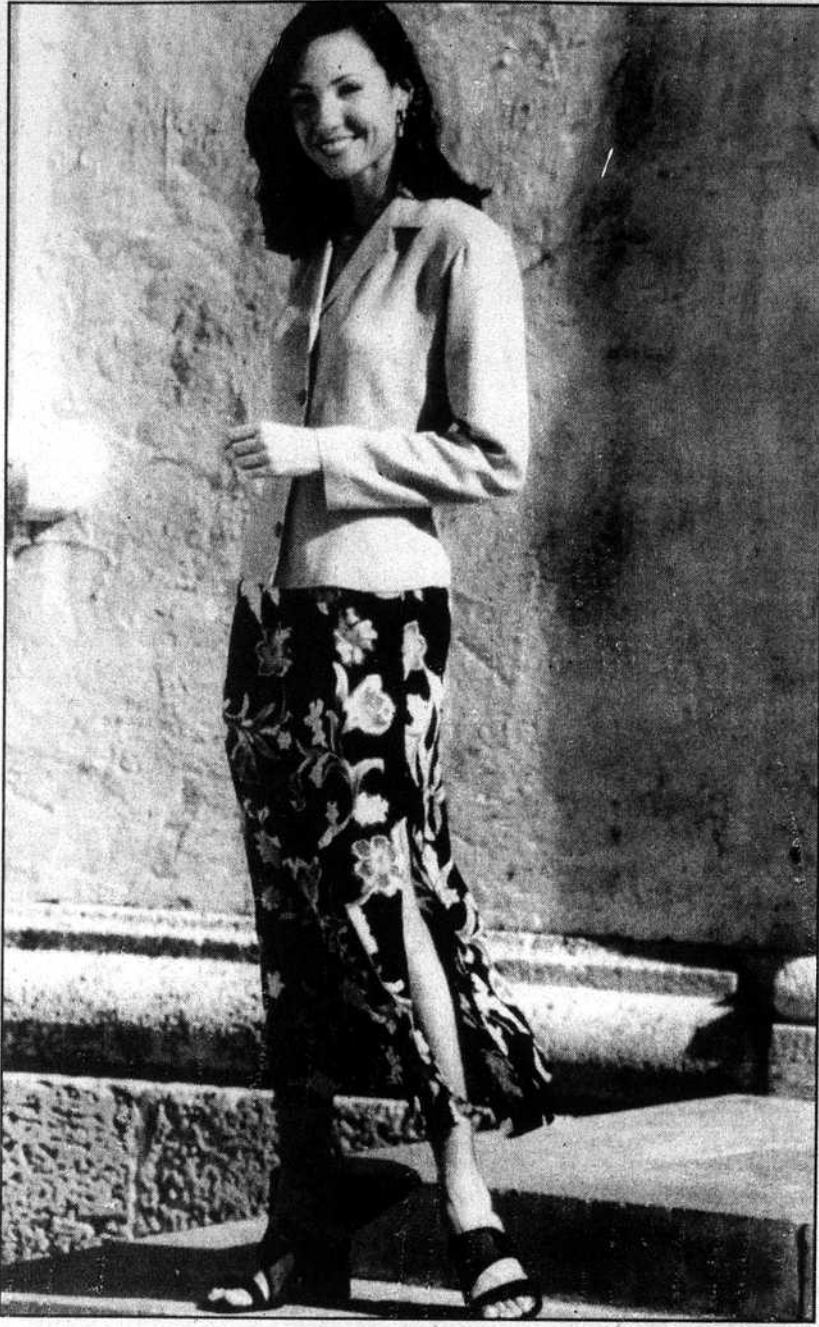
Women's fashions take a new look in lengths and shapes as we head into spring, with an emphasis on casual comfort. Cato, a leading women's apparel specialty retailer, offers fashion tips to freshen up your spring wardrobe.

Look for new lengths in pants and skirts, neckline shapes, and sleeve proportions. "Along with new proportions, we see fashion moving toward a much less structured look," said Greg Blow, Assistant Vice President, Director of Fashion Merchandising, Cato Corporation. "Clothes that are comfortable, casual, yet still very pulled-together dominate this spring's looks," Blow continued.

One of the key trends this spring is reminiscent of days past. Cropped pants made popular in the 40s and 50s are back - in both loose and tight fits. Choose the right length for you - three-quarter length Capri pants, mid-calf clam diggers, or go for the shorter, just below-the-knee pedal pushers.

Skirts and dresses are also going to all lengths, ranging from ankle, to mid-calf, to above the knee. What is most important is a look that is easy and comfortable. Try a soft, linen shirt dress with side slits, or a flowing ankle-length skirt in easy-moving, fluid fabrics for a romantic look.

As for tops this season, new necklines and sleeve lengths



New lengths in pants and skirts, neckline shapes and sleeve proportions are forecast for the warmer weather that lies ahead. (Photo courtesy of Cato Corporation)

are all the buzz. Look for the soft, feminine boat neck top - a boat-shaped neckline slit high on both back and front from each shoulder. Or check out the more contemporary looking deep V-neck. Another "must have" is the three-quarter sleeved top (sleeves ending between the elbow and wrist). Found in blouses, knits and lightweight sweaters, these

neckline interests and three-quarter sleeves make for an easy-going and very updated look.

This spring, you will also see blouses and sweaters used more often as a jacket alternative. Instead of wearing a jacket for a finished look, the less-structured shirt has become a perfect choice. Twin sets, cardigans, two-fors (a one

piece, attached twin set) and tunics are other options for a polished, yet comfortable appearance.

Continue the trend in comfort and easiness by completing your spring look with the right shoes. Low-heeled shoes like the classic Mary Janes and ballet flats are back in style, the perfect way to wrap up your new spring wardrobe.



Fashion experts predict a comfortable, casual yet "pulled together" look for spring this year (Photo courtesy of Cato Corporation)

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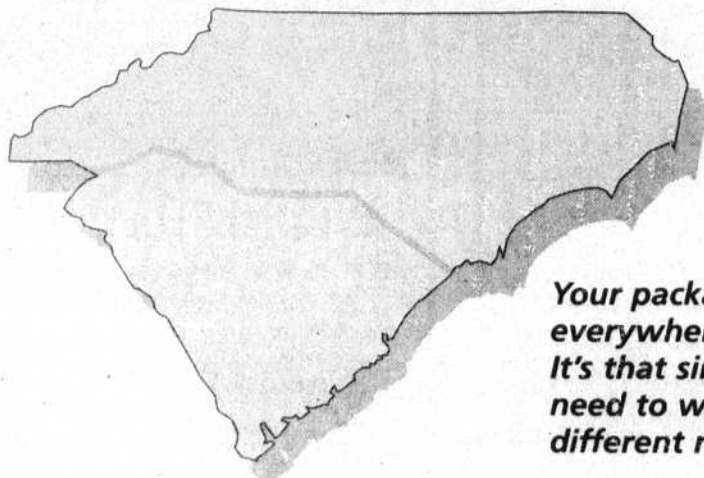
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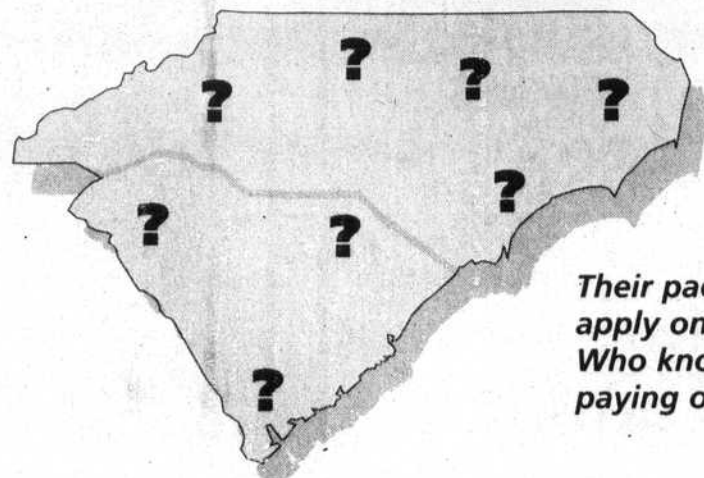
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