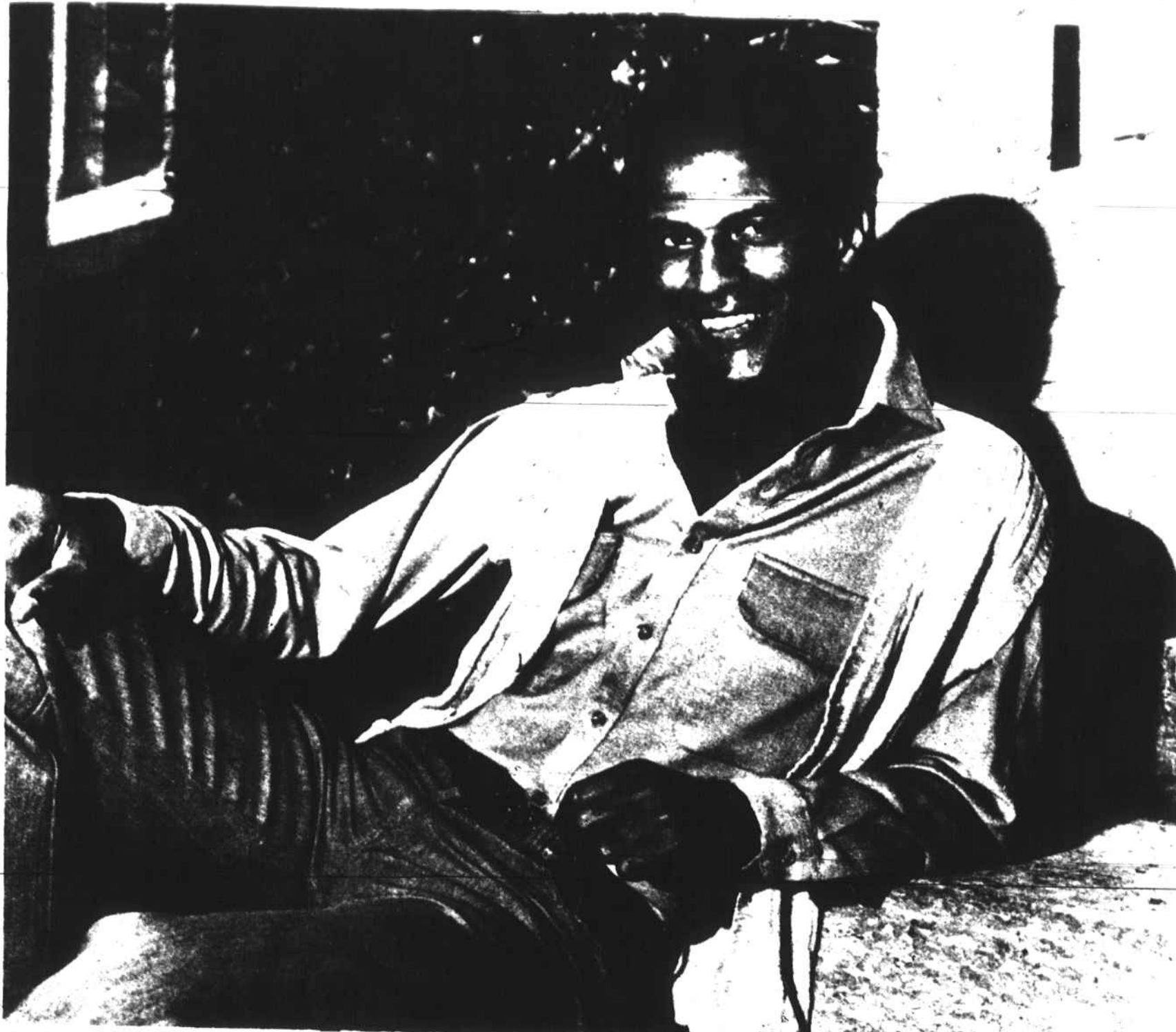


together



He's Ready. An all wool oatmeal cable sweater vest [\$16], tan corduroy shirt [\$18] and tartan plaid scarf [\$10] are worn with

pre-washed jeans [\$18]. These or similar styles are available this fall.

Not Too Early For Fall

Let's face it. The seasonal changes that usually occur in menswear are gradual, not radical. Controlled, not whimsical.

This fall, for instance, sportshirts and dress shirts have narrower cuffs and shorter collar points; suits have narrower lapels (3 1/2 inches); ties have been pared down accordingly, and jeans and slacks have straighter legs.

This narrowing has happened over the past two years, season by season 1/8 inch or 1/4 inch.

But there is one recent shift in menswear scene that could be called revolutionary. And that's the classic business suit going separate.

"It's kind of amazing that the menswear industry has taken this long to latch onto the idea of separate components for men's suits," says Paul Rogers, fashion director for Sears Men's Store. "After all,

the idea isn't new. Separates will have suit rates have been a part of components in navy, tan the women's sportswear and gray for flexibility in

together fashion

scene since the early '70s and then moved on to men's sportswear some years ago."

The case for the business suit separates is strong. Fit is one. "Many men don't fall into perfect standard size ranges," explains Rogers. "But by buying a good quality jacket, vest and pants separately, the suit can have the fit and feel of a custom-made one at a much lower price."

Versatility is another. Suit separates allow greater flexibility. The three-piece pieces form classic corporate office attire, but the jacket -- with its stitched down, patch pocket treatment -- can be worn as a sportcoat with contrasting slacks. "Our executive

intermixing," notes Rogers.

The final chapter in the man's Fall '79 story is quality. Poly/wool blends for men's suiting with the look and feel of 100 percent wool; wool and wool-look sportcoats that can be worn with traditional dress slacks, pleated flannel

Carpet Picking And Choosing

Don't be floored when you shop for carpeting. Know before you go.

Over 90 percent of all carpets sold today are tufted. In tufting, loops of yarn are pulled through a primary backing to form the face or surface pile.

The four representative types of cut-pile carpet textures -- plush, shag, frieze, Saxony -- are differentiated by the amount of

of the fiber and pile density. The denser the pile, the less visible will be the backing material be when you bend back a corner of the carpet.

Base your choice of carpet fiber on the performance you expect. Wool has good resistance to crushing; spots and stains are readily removed, but its abrasion resistance is not up to polyester, nylon or

polypropylene. Polyester fiber offers colorfastness, easy care, low static and durability. Nylon fiber wears very well although it soils more readily and is prone to static. But when properly constructed, it is a good choice for high traffic areas. Acrylic carpet fiber features excellent pattern retention; it looks and feels a lot like wool. Its resistance to abrasion is not on par with polyester or nylon.

twist in their yarns. Plush yarns have less twist, saxonies are inbetween; frieze is tightly twisted. For carpet used on high traffic areas, the more dense constructions are best. Although shag carpets with higher pile heights may look tickler, they are not recommended for high traffic areas.

Quality of carpet and resultant performance are determined by the height of pile, the inherent strength

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Getting Along

Adoption Letter



Dr. James P. Comer



Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint

[Alvin F. Poussaint and James P. Comer are psychiatrists and the authors of the book, "Black Child Care." Dr. Poussaint is associate professor of psychiatry and associate dean for student affairs at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Comer is professor of child psychiatry and associate dean for student affairs at Yale University School of Medicine.]

Dear Dr. Poussaint: I am responding to your column about interracial adoption.

I am white, a former social worker, an adoptive parent, and a child welfare consultant with personal knowledge of many interracially adopted children.

As you indicate, most of these are black, Native American or Asian children adopted by white families. However I do know of a white teenager adopted into the family of a black professional athlete.

Like most black applicants, this family was motivated to adopt by the disproportion of waiting black children. But they were to any child who needed them, and this boy with a troubled past and keen interest in sports seemed right for them.

In another, more unusual case, a middle-aged black widow rescued a white newborn baby girl about to be dropped off a bridge, but didn't legalize the relationship for several years. However, adoptions of white children by blacks are surely rare. I know of only these two.

Before the 1960s, interracial adoption was rare because physical matching of the child and the couple was in vogue. But in the 60s these concepts began to be challenged, and adoption was recognized as different from biological parenthood.

"Room for one more" families emerged, and experiments with interracial adoption began as a way to assure a home for every child.

Sensitive adoptive parents often moved to interracial neighborhoods, found black godparents for their children

and tried in other ways to maintain a sense of black identity in their children. Followup studies reveal that most of the children are doing well.

However, interracial placements galvanized black social workers and the black community into establishing their own agencies and pioneering more flexible adoption standards which have been imitated by other agencies seeking homes for older children, black or white. Adoption subsidies also permitted many black foster parents to adopt their charges.

So, black infants and toddlers are almost never adopted by white families any more. In 1971, about 2,500 black children were placed in white homes, but the number has shrunk now to a few hundred, mainly older and handicapped black children. Most agencies will consider an interracial placement only after efforts to find a like race family have failed.

Black couples must be aware that there are now many more qualified white applicants for healthy white children under 6 than children available for adoption. Therefore, their chances of becoming parents of such a child are virtually nil.

However, such black couples might be able to adopt a handicapped or older white child. They should not approach an agency with an exclusive request for a white child any more than a white couple should ask specifically for a black child, since agencies are rightfully suspicious of such requests. If they are genuinely willing to take a child of any race who needs a home, they should stress that.

They should also realize, however, that black children wait longer for adoption, especially black children with handicaps and boys over 10. So if race really is irrelevant to them and they want to go where the greatest need is, they should consider such a youngster.

As you said, this matter is very complicated and not easy to explain in a few words.

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