

Beachwear styles bold, barely there

By DEBRA PICKREL
DTH Contributor

Bare. Bold. Bright. The words for beachwear 1979. In a season of *slit-to-there* clothes exploding with color, beachwear is following the trend. Maillots, the streamlined, one-piece suits of the '70s, are filling the racks of local clothing stores.

Addi Maynor, manager of Casual Corner at University Mall, said the maillot is selling well at her store.

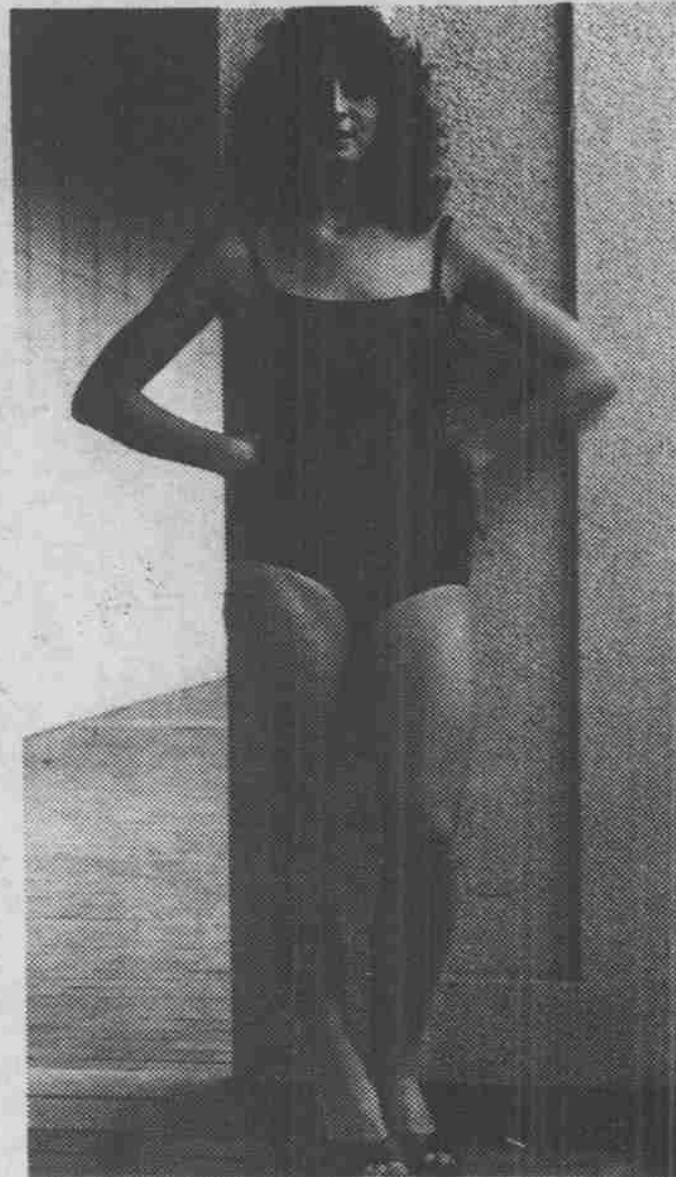
"Many of the suits have bandeau tops that have ties to tie around the neck. Colors ranging from magenta to aqua—solids sell the best," she said.

Many of the suits may be worn as underlayers for bare spring jackets—they are becoming a basis for dressing this season, and are especially pretty for evening wear.

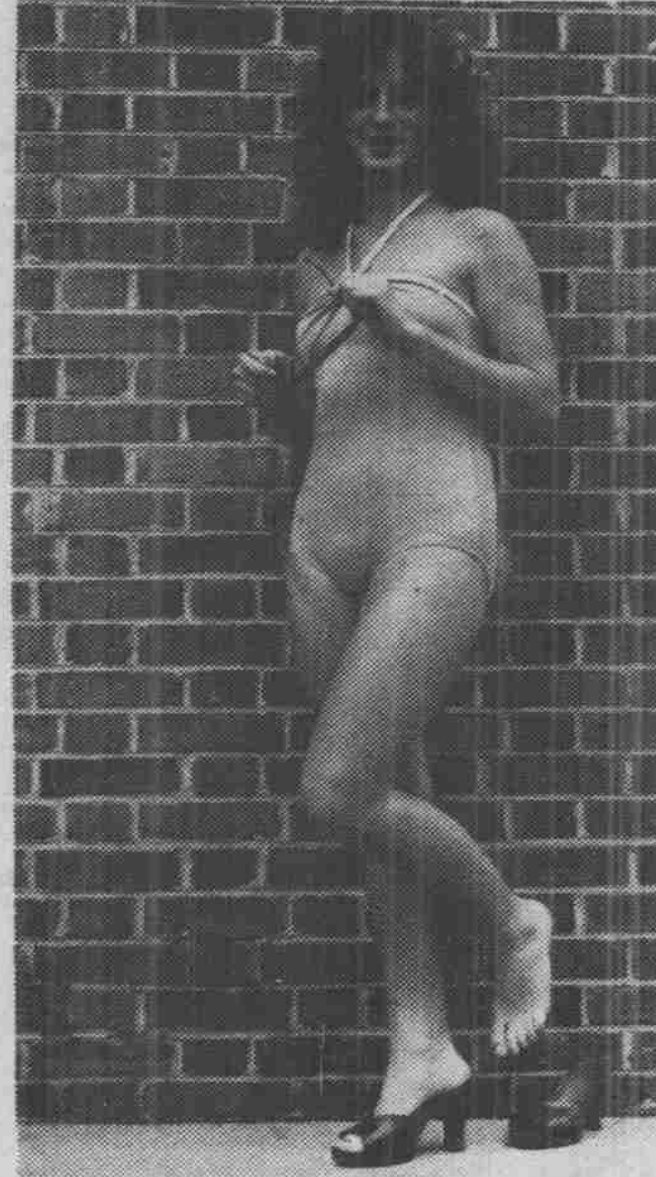
"The suits are made of lycra spandex—they're functional," Maynor said.

Special features of this season's maillots include: "cut out" backs, shirred gathers down the front and sides, "French cut" legs (cut in a "V" at the front) and "keyhole" slits at the sides.

Nancy Slott, manager of The Towne Shop, said the maillot is selling well at her store also.



Model: Andrea Miller



Sun's out: By-the-shore fashions shrink smaller, smaller, smaller



DTH Kim Snooks

Two-piece suits carry many of the same style features as the maillot this year. The tops are often bandeau, and the bottoms are shirred and cut high on the leg.

Coverups are functional and the pull-on or wrap-on dress-like varieties are the most popular. After the sun goes down, they work doubly as bare, casual, evening dresses to wear with strappy sandals. Coverups are available in a

rainbow of colors, including such brights as banana, grape, fuchia and teal. Many are slit at the sides or front.

"Most of our coverups are the step-into type with stretchy bandeau tops. Many are belted at the waist or include shorts and are usually made of terrycloth. It's nice to be able to step out of the pool and into something so comfortable," Maynor said.

What to use for a beach tote? Straw is

always good, but how about a roomy canvas bag in a punchy Carribean color for a change? Canvas bags are washable, squashable, and are versatile enough to use as overnight bags. Look for one with striped straps—the brighter, the better!

For spring and summer '79, grab a sleek maillot, terry wrap, some bright and shiny sunglasses, a canvas tote, and head for the beach! Sun's out! ■

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