



Power of the people

staff photo by Eileen Mantor

Property owners in the Bryan-College Station area are upset at a Houston Power & Light proposal to put a 120-foot power line through many of their backyards. A. H. Stroud signs a petition against the proposal in the MSC Monday afternoon.

Fashion trends changing; casualwear now the basics

United Press International
NEW YORK — America is a nation on the move — literally. For this nation of close to 230 million persons is on a fitness, health seeking and maintenance kick.

The results are manifold. If we stick with our choice of activities, we become healthier, slimmer, probably add years to our life span and certainly do an about-face in our style of living. The turnaround reflects in fashion.

That is why today, items once classified for the locker room have become the basics of wardrobes.

Look for instance at the two-piece warmup suit, once for the gymnasium and the players' bench — a baggy item in undistinguished gray. Now a favorite with joggers and runners, it has emerged as a must in our leisure wardrobes, dressed up, re-styled and alive with color. It is worn for everything from lolling to shopping, traveling, spectator sports and even goes to parties.

"I'm just back from business in La Jolla, Calif.," said Arnold Schoenfeld, president of Loomtogs, a major sportswear firm headquartered in New York. "It seemed to me everybody was wearing a warmup suit. On my last trip to Europe, I saw the warmup suit everywhere."

"The same trend goes for tennis dresses. Women who never held a racquet in their life love

them. They're cool, pretty, easy to care for, and the wearer looks like she's into the 'active' life."

Designer Norma Kamali said: "I think what's happened is the change in the mood of the nation. The stress has turned to comfort, practicality, the economical."

You can go to the opera or a concert at Lincoln Center in New York, for instance, and right there alongside women in formal gowns, their jewels and furs, you'll find music lovers in dungarees.

This spread of informality was too much for Hope Hampton, a former opera star who died January 23 at 84. She gave up the grand entrance business, and not because of age.

A friend, Tony Carlyle, said first nights lost their appeal when Miss Hampton saw a young woman in dungarees at the opera.

"Glamour is finished," Hampton said. "I don't want my picture in the paper next to a girl with jeans on."

The advances made in fabrics also are a factor, both in styling and color. After World War II, nylon became a staple especially for outdoor wear. Along came new knits, poplins and terry cloths that could go right into the family laundry. The new velours add a feeling of luxury and are especially popular for at-home wear.

No one has attached rhinestones to warmup suits — yet. But designers can do a lot of styling with the basic garments.

Most manufacturers have added more color, in prints and stripes, and to break away from gymnasium gray, are using what Bauer called "subtle, light and medium tones" — the corals, pinks, beiges, ivories and lilacs. Others add embroidery, applique and even metallics.

Very few utility items have escaped. Jogging shoes now go to and from the office, along with an extra pair of traditional business shoes for the working hours.

"Casual attire has not displaced the Establishment dress," Bauer, skier and former Marine Corps officer. "For the businessman, I suppose we'll always have the suit, the tie, the vest."

Eli Elias, president and executive director of the New Skirt and Sportswear Association, sees matters this way.

"There is no question what the running suit is the form throughout the country. We look at it now just the way we looked at jeans 20 years ago."



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Today's Almanac

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 1982, with 318 to follow.

In 1959, Fidel Castro, leader of the Cuban revolution, was sworn in as Cuba's premier.

In 1970, Joe Frazier stopped Jimmy Ellis in five rounds to become the undisputed heavyweight boxing champion.

A thought for the day: Illustrating how times and nations change is this quotation from first U.S. President George Washington, "Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances, with any portion of the foreign world."

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