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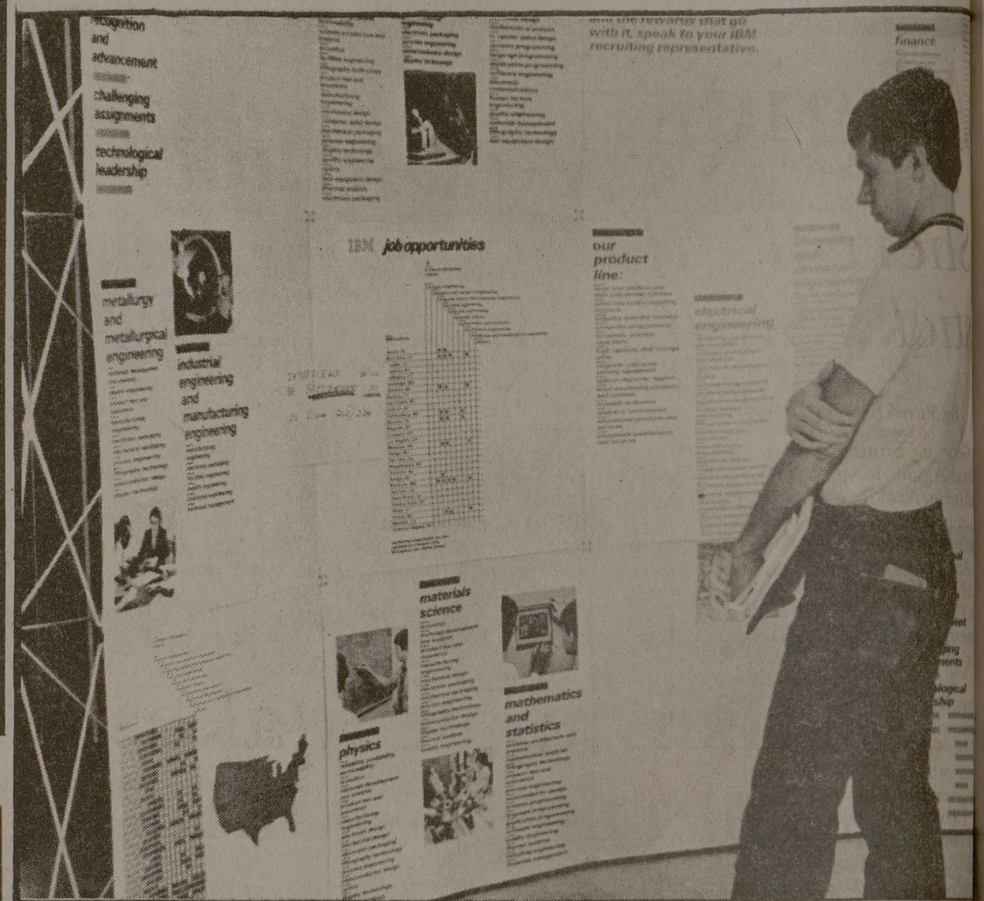
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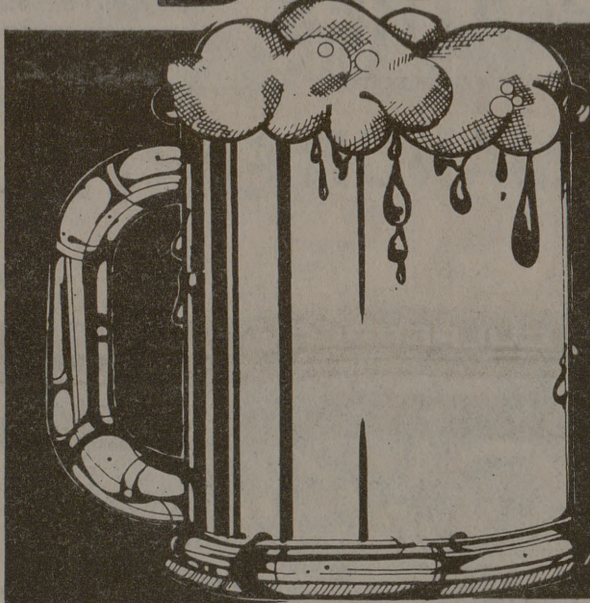


staff photo by Jane Hollings

Early Start

Sean Roberts, a senior computer science major from Richardson, checks out an IBM display before signing up for interviews with them. Many seniors, Sean is getting an early start for job interviewing.

Big, Bad, Bodacious Beer Bust VI



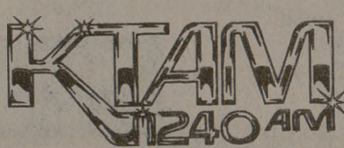
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Suggestive Chinese dress disappearing from fashion

United Press International HONG KONG — The cheongsam, that simple yet suggestive Chinese dress made famous by Suzie Wong, a character in the film classic "The World of Suzie Wong," is becoming an endangered garment.

Less than 15 years ago, the close-fitting, shapely dress was worn by most Chinese women in Hong Kong. It made the port city a gawker's paradise. Western sailors on leave bought thousands of the high-necked, sleeveless sheaths in the hope it would make their wives and girlfriends as sexy as the supple Chinese.

In modern Hong Kong, the cheongsam's spiritual home, the dress is now extremely difficult to obtain. It is also expensive. Young trend-setters scorn it as impractical and unbecoming.

These days it must be made to order. It can cost up to \$350, because all stitching is done by hand.

Tailors from old Shanghai, the dress's real home turf, are scarce. Because production is no longer lucrative, few people are willing to learn the art.

Only about 20 shops remain where cheongsams can be ordered.

The youngest expert dress-maker is over 50.

Western women periodically try the cheongsam, but few have the figures for it. The dress is straight and narrow, with two slits in the skirt that reveal a discreet amount of thigh.

"It brings out the worst in your figure from the top of your legs to your neck," said one Western woman, who bought a cheongsam, tried it on and then left it to gather dust in her closet.

Suzanne Ho, a college senior, said she had worn a cheongsam for special occasions in the past, but didn't intend to in the future.

"It seems ridiculous when there are so few people wearing it, especially people my age," Miss Ho said. "The world's changing and people can't spend so much time having those things made."

It can occasionally be seen on the streets of Hong Kong on Chinese matrons still proud of their figures.

Marie Pak, a svelte accountant in her 40s, wears only the cheongsam. She owns dozens.

"It's an adult fashion, always right, always sophisticated," Pak said. "It's a perfect design for me and I can dress it up with brocade or silk fabrics or make it practical with cottons."

"The cheongsam goes everywhere," she said.

Its snug fit is not always becoming, even on petite women. Asked why she chose Western styles instead, one professional woman said, "I'm too fat."

Some older, more traditional women sport a loose version of the garment over baggy pants. These outfits bear little resemblance to the breathtaking creations worn by actress Kwan to win William B. Eerhart in "The World of Suzie Wong."

Another poor copy of the dress is seen on giggling schoolgirls whose required academic forms are modeled on the traditional cheongsam.

One sign of hope comes from China. Just this year a fashion show in Beijing spotted on the streets of the capital.

Even a resurgence of fashion in China may be enough to save the cheongsam. Fashion designers say it is on its way to become a museum piece.

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