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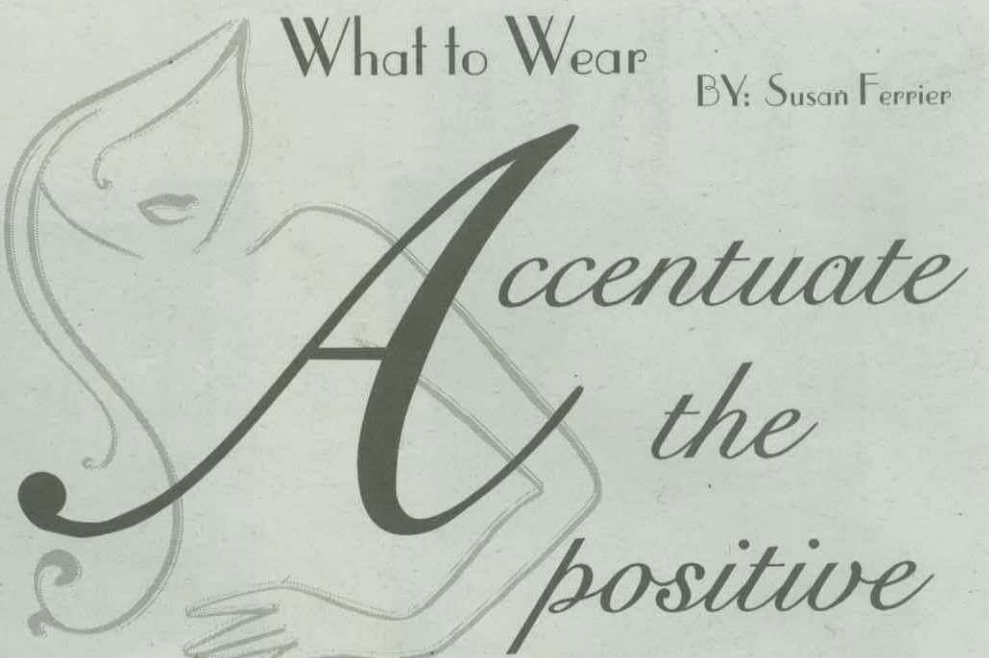
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What to Wear

BY: Susan Ferrier



It has always been my contention that you do not have to have the measurements of a supermodel to sport a two-piece on the beach. The key is to wear the proper suit—one that flatters and fits well.

Marilyn Lopez, manager at Everything But Water, a swimwear boutique located at the Pier at Caesars, agrees but notes there are exceptions. Lopez says, "There is a limit but, yes, there is something for everyone." The shop keeps a style guide on hand to help women select the suit that best complements her body type. Additionally, all two-piece swimwear is sold as separates. So, no more suits with tops that fit and bottoms that are two sizes too small.

Lopez says finding the proper swimsuit is about finding balance. Let's face it, we haven't all been blessed with the perfect figure. Lopez explains the suit you select "should balance you out." So, if you have broad shoulders and slim hips you should select a suit that gives the illusion that your shoulders are narrower. Perhaps a halter style top is right for you.



With tankinis and apron tops (a tankini top that is open in the back), women who once may have felt relegated to the one-piece rack have more options. Tankinis are a great compromise; they cover a bit more, but while lying on the beach you can roll the top up and get a bit of color on your mid-section.



There is only one swimsuit type that Lopez recommends most women avoid—the string bikini. "Unless you have the perfect body, stay away from the string bikini," says Lopez.

If you absolutely feel you cannot wear a two-piece of any sort, there is the Miracle Suit that cinches a bit like a girdle and has cups for bustier women.

Lopez recommends that you bring an honest caring friend with you when shopping for a swimsuit. This should be someone you trust wants you to look your best. Faith Rosenkrantz of Talk of the Towne in Margate doesn't necessarily agree with that advice. Sometimes the person we think is going to give us an honest evaluation may unknowingly have a hidden agenda. Rosenkrantz's approach to selecting a swimsuit is a bit different. She typically starts by asking the client what they have liked in the past. What they have found flattering in other suits. As the song says, "Accentuate the Positive." With so little fabric to hide behind, Rosenkrantz says you should look for "a suit that does not highlight the negative." She also notes that

you need to be in the right frame of mind when shopping for a swimsuit. "If you are not feeling good about yourself, it is hard to pick a bathing suit."

If a client is having an off day, Rosenkrantz will suggest she come back on a better day. She would rather the client do that than leave with the wrong suit.

When you head out to find the perfect suit, don't be afraid to ask for help. That is what the sales staff is there to do. They want you to look great as much as you do. Remember, if you are wearing a bathing suit that is the hottest style of the season but fits wrong and looks unflattering, it is a reflection on the merchant who sold it to you.

