

'BEAUTY BOX'

A nostalgic trip down the makeup aisle

By CHRISTINE LIN
Epoch Times Staff

Remember the first time you put on makeup? Of course you do. I bet it was a lipstick from your mother's purse, a cherry red that smelled of perfume. What about those pre-makeup moments?

I remember the first time I came close to wearing makeup, playing with some Crayola wa-

tercolor paints. At age 10, I was done with paper and had developed an interest in painting my face. One hazy morning, after double-checking the "non-toxic" label, I dipped my fingers into the pot of red and tentatively blended it over my cheeks. Blush. And then I dipped into the violet. Eyeshadow.

I thought, "This is great! I'll never need to spend money to buy makeup in the future!" At

lunch, father hinted at how flushed I looked, to which my grandfather quickly replied, "She's been exercising." I was sure they both knew what I had been up to, and chose to let it slide.

Of course I had been very wrong about using Crayola watercolors as makeup for the rest of my life. Since that incident, my interest in makeup—the real stuff—has only grown. I

began with exploring my mother's modest kit, eventually wetting my feet with small drug-store purchases.

Recently, cruising through the makeup aisles at Duane Reade, I suddenly recalled names of lipsticks and eye shadows that inhabited a budding makeup chest.

There was a "Honeymoon Heather" lipstick from CoverGirl, a sheer plum with tiny

flecks of glitter that at the time looked classy to me. Jane Eye Zing in "Grapevine," an electric purple, was another favorite. It mysteriously went missing from my stash one day to my great frustration. I went to the store again but it had been discontinued. Even now when I pass the Jane rack, I can't help but sneak a glance to see if Grapevine had somehow been resurrected.

That growing collection would repeatedly be purged by my mother, who deemed my favorite colors "too modern." Of course, each purge led to more replacements, and as I got older, I tried out more and more so-

phisticated labels, occasionally returning to some trusted drug-store brands for basic items.

Often I rove the aisles of makeup stores looking for some incarnation of that "perfect purple" that the Crayola violet had imprinted in my mind. Today I am fishing for a deep magenta lipstick to match the nails that are popular this season, which brings me to reflect on the nature of personal beauty.

The trends will always change, but what we aesthetically gravitate toward varies little as we age, gelled into our consciousnesses by our earliest cosmetic experiences.



Speaking of Fashion

MIRIAM SILVERBERG

Fashion Week disappointments and delights

NEW YORK—The last time Nedret Taciroglu, a designer from Turkey, showed her collection, I raved about it. I thought the clothes were stunningly beautiful and eminently wearable. This time, unfortunately, I was not so impressed.

Many of her dresses have asymmetrical hems with the back dragging on the floor and the front so short that they look like rompers. In fact, many of her dresses (if you can call them dresses) are so short they do resemble rompers or babydolls. Actually, they would be fine for doing the can-can.

There was one short, white sequined number with shoulders so wide that it looked like a costume from "Star Trek." There was another dress with wide, thick swirls of fabric on the bodice which made the model look pregnant. What was Taciroglu thinking? No woman is thin enough to wear that. Many of the dresses had swirls of fabric on the side, but these were no girlish ruffles. These were for man-eaters.

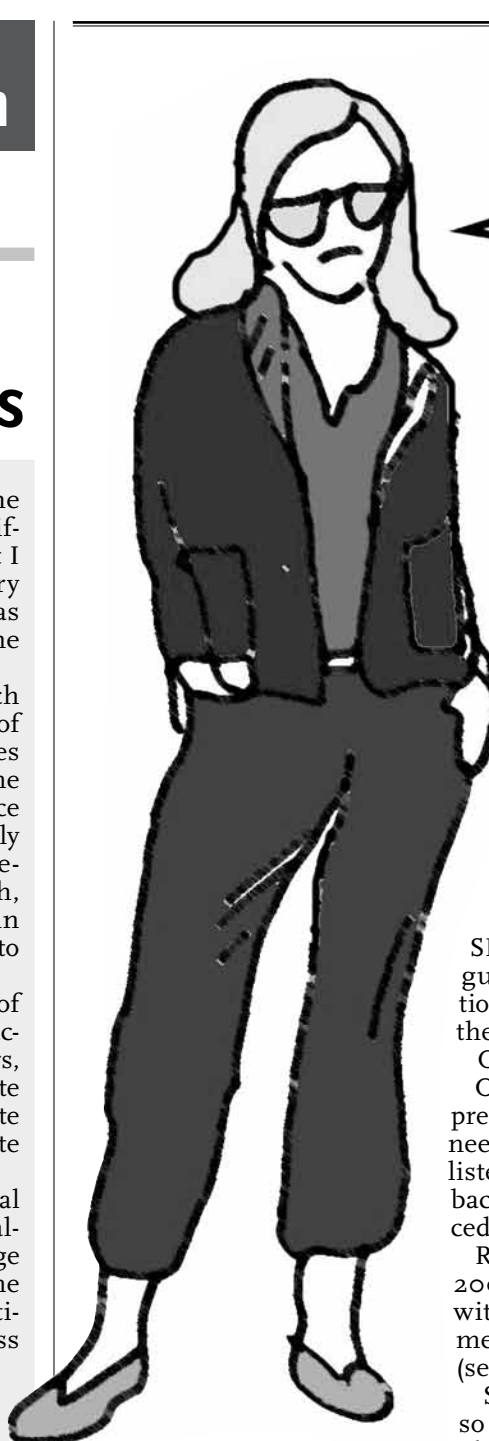
Taciroglu did bring out one number—a long, pale blue chifon with flowers sewn on that I loved. And while this was very wearable and beautiful, it was the exception that proved the rule.

I was lucky enough to catch a showing by Walid Atallah of Dubai and thought his clothes were stunning. I was not alone in thinking this as the audience went wild. His clothes are truly beautiful and wearable. I preferred his long dresses which, while glittery, were always in good taste and never veered into costumes.

Atallah showed a number of yellow dresses with purple accents. There were purple flowers, beading, and jewels. My favorite of all was a long black-and-white strapless with a black-and-white print skirt. So beautiful.

He showed a number of bridal gowns that looked fit for a real-life princess. These all had huge trains and gold beading on the bodice, and the brides wore tiaras to complete the princess look.

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CARTOON BY MARTHA ROSENBERG

By MARTHA ROSENBERG

CHICAGO—Progressives and conservatives do agree on something—that the bailout has done nothing but anoint and embolden fat cat financiers to continue being greedy. (How much does AIG's new CEO, Robert H. Benmosche, make? \$7 million a year.)

Sure Americans are buying new cars, homes and furniture again. (deciding not to wait for jobs or health care.)

But if the "mark to market" SIVs, CDOs and CDSs the money guys retained for a "better valuation" have sprung to life—explaining the "recovery"—isn't it still a bubble? Or am I missing something?

Our "healthy" economy is still predicated on buying things we don't need with money we don't have. Just listen to EZ mortgage ads, which are back on the radio next to the Mercedes ads.

Remember the Recession of 2007–2008 (Sept.–Aug.)? We went weeks without \$5.95 lattes and our gym membership almost lapsed. Whew. (see: Siege of Leningrad.)

Still, you gotta wear something, so we decided to go back-to-school shopping with a \$300 budget—about equal to our unemployment check.

Back-to-School Shopping With \$300

Before we knew it, we'd blown a quarter of our budget on jeans, which were \$75 at Urban Outfitters, the Gap, and the Levis Store! After we spent \$39 for a translucent hot pink "burn" top, we had a new problem. (Besides the fact that we'd blown a third of our budget.)

Because the "burnout process varies from piece to piece," says the tag on our new top, some garments are "sheerer than others and have variations in shading within the same T-shirt. Expect fraying at the collar, and possibly small snags or runs. Fabric is very delicate. Handle with care."

Oops. Not only can you see our bra through the burn shirt, you can see our suntan lines and holes from our last acupuncture session in 2007.

This also means the top is what? Not Warm. Since it is 58 degrees in Chicago, we will need a dual T-shirt—that isn't "burned"—or better yet, a forest green, loose-weave "boyfriend" cardigan for \$54. We are too broke to make boyfriend jokes like "who remembers them" or "see: migratory birds."

Second problem—handle with care. Why? So the "fraying at the collar, and possibly small snags or runs," won't get worse and we won't sue because the defective garment we bought became more so? Only in America.

The last thing we hand-washed was our Ziploc travel pouch because it had sunblock congealing on the inside.

Another problem is the textile workers no one wants to talk about. If the burnout process does this to cloth, what does it do their streams, factories, and lungs? What do rag-wearing workers think of their job, industrially degrading perfectly good textiles so Westerners will wear them?

But back to high-class problems. We love our new jeans and top but now need what? New underwear to go with our new low-cut, see-thru profile. Eureka! We find a "ta tamer" at Lululemon, the yoga store, for \$58 and a Lacey Luluthong for \$12.

Let's duck into a boutique called Untitled, which says it has everything reduced by 70 percent. We find a pink, English-inspired coat with a hood at almost \$200. Is it too soon to think winter coat? Do these prices reflect the 70 percent discount we ask, our fingers crossed? Yes, they tell us. So much for the coat—or the \$60 hobo bag for that matter. "Hobo?"

We only have \$39 left in our budget and have no choice but to get on the Red Line, Chicago's mass transit, to the bus and head for the Village Outlet thrift store to satisfy our shopping jones. (Even if we owned a car and knew where one was, we wouldn't patronize Wal-Mart.)

Village Outlets are the closest to a bazaar or souk you can find in the city, jam packed with saris, hijabs, and kurtas, and with no English spoken. In addition to tops for 90 cents—arranged by color not size—pants for a \$1.50, and winter coats for \$5.00, you can find shoes and boots for \$5.00 and prescription glasses for \$2.00. (Don't laugh. At half a thousand dollars for new glasses, you find yourself trying them on to see if they're your correction!)

The Lakeview Village Outlet near Wrigley Field closed a few years ago, so we take the Clark Street bus to the one in the Hispanic neighborhood on the near North side though the bus is so slow (the bicyclists beat us), and we have to stand most of the way.

But it is worth it. We find aqua-colored Crocs in just our size—the thinking woman's galoshes—for \$3; white, like-new sweatpant cutoffs that say "Pink" on them for running and/or lounging for \$4; and an '80s glam, gold lamé brocade, fitted, cuffed coat in perfect condition—which could be camp or serious depending on accessories—for \$12.50. We were just looking at jewelry and electronic devices when we realized our transfer mode would expire on our transit card if we didn't hurry.

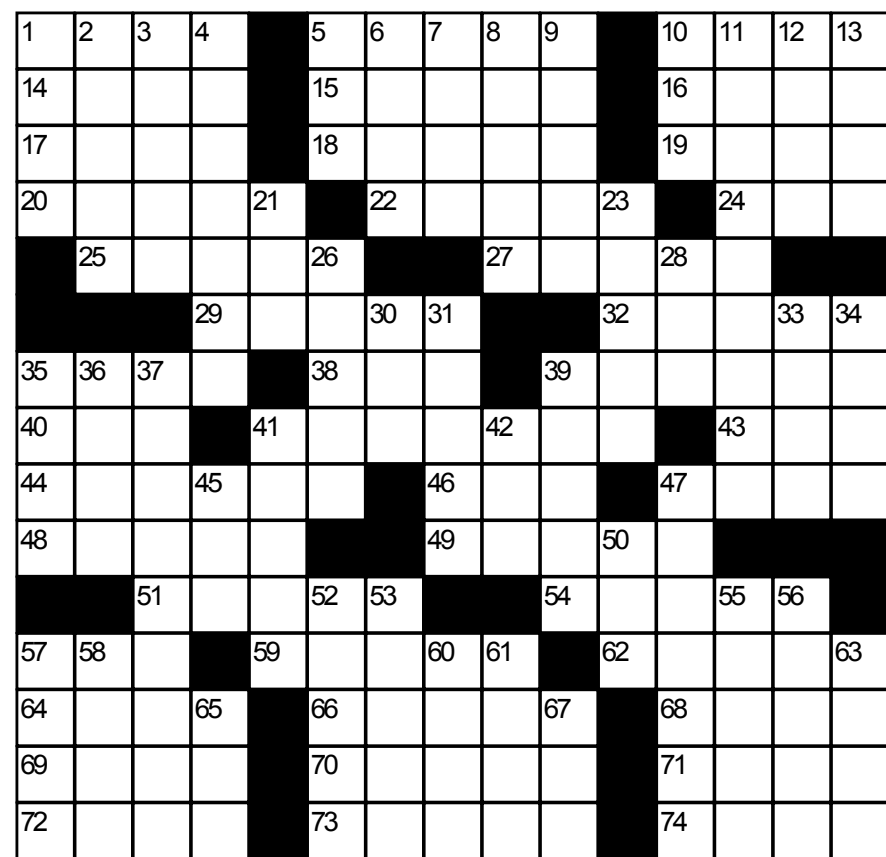
You pay \$2.25 for your first bus or train trip on Chicago transit, 25 cents for your second trip, and nothing for your third—IF it is in within two hours. But the slow boat to the Outlet store cost us an hour right there. If we have to pay another \$2.25 for the bus ride home, we will exceed our back-to-school budget. We confess we had a snack. Still we have one really good outfit to wear; an outfit for every day of the week, as the joke goes.

And how was your back-to-school shopping?

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Crossword



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

Across

- 1 Thunder ___
- 5 Foamy
- 10 Type of dressing
- 14 Draw
- 15 Green-skinned pear
- 16 What horses eat
- 17 Gumbo
- 18 Severe
- 19 African antelope
- 20 Not war

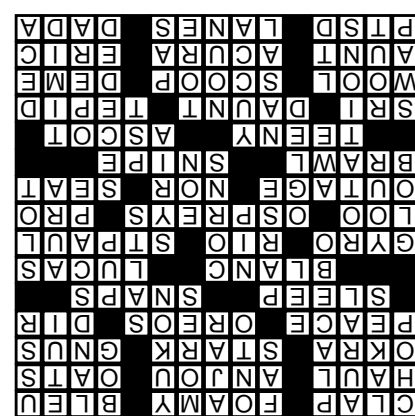
- 22 Sandwich cookies brand
- 24 Director (abbr.)
- 25 Catch some Z's
- 27 Metal fasteners
- 29 Mont ___
- 32 "Star Wars" creator
- 35 Rotating mechanism
- 38 River (Spanish)
- 39 City in Minnesota (2 wds.)
- 40 Water closet
- 41 Fish hawks
- 43 Professional

- 44 Interruption of power
- 46 Neither's partner
- 47 Lounge
- 48 Fracas
- 49 Sharpshoot
- 51 Small
- 54 Scarf
- 57 ___ Lanka
- 59 Scare
- 62 Warm
- 64 Fleece
- 66 Ladle out
- 68 Interbreeding population within a species
- 69 Father's sister
- 70 Sporty car brand
- 71 Little Mermaid's love
- 72 Posttraumatic stress disorder
- 73 Small roadways
- 74 Daddy

Down

- 1 Lop
- 2 Large ponds
- 3 Relating to the ear
- 4 Fake pill
- 5 Foreign Agricultural Service
- 6 Upon
- 7 Open
- 8 Customs
- 9 Alaskan territory
- 10 Marsh
- 11 Decorate property
- 12 Decorative needle case
- 13 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- 21 Snake-like fish
- 23 Sprinkles white stuff on

- 26 Analyze syntactically
- 28 Puppy
- 30 Clip
- 31 Grains
- 33 Manner
- 34 Hole
- 35 Chunk
- 36 Not mine
- 37 Shifts
- 39 Asian country
- 41 Eyed
- 42 Long time
- 45 Respect
- 47 Separated
- 50 Pacific Time
- 52 Whining speech
- 53 Desert plant
- 55 Musical production
- 56 Coy
- 57 Exchange
- 58 Beat
- 60 Person, place or thing
- 61 Ripped up
- 63 Factor of ten
- 65 Type of partnership
- 67 Old-fashioned Dads



Today's Solution