Dawn Fashions

What You Wear Is Key To Happy Vacation

By LOIS ALEXANDER

It's that time of the year when we begin to think about getting-away-from-it-all. No longer is it just the affluent who travel during the height of the tourist season — June, July and August — but most Americans are traveling more and enjoying it, especially during the summer months.

Whether it's an outing at a nearby park area, a church picnic to the Poconos, or a jet junket with the golfers to Tanzania, an estimated ten million black Americans will have spent close to a billion dollars for fun and sun before we bury the beach at Atlantic City.

Black Americans are some of the best dressed people in the world today — and some of the worse. Our concern in "Dawn" is that our readers will be appropriately groomed for that trip, wherever it is; that they look the part and feel comfortable. This is the key to a happy vacation.

For the record, there is no magic list of what any traveler should take on a trip because of the many variables insofar as each individual is concerned. What you wear and what you carry will depend, in large part, on where you are going, mode of travel, length of your stay (including stopovers) and the activities in which you expect to engage.

PRE-PLANNING IS IMPORTANT

There are some basic rules, however, no matter what the itinerary, and they involve pre-planning. Let's begin with a list of apparel and accessories already in your wardrobe which would be suitable for the trip. From here, you fill in other essentials.

Label one page "Traveling Clothes" and itemize each item you expect to wear on your departure. Even here you must be selective. You may dress ever so casually if you are traveling by car, i.e. shorts or slacks with sweater or T-shirt, but this would hardly be apropos on a 747 to London, Paris or Rome.

For long distance train or air travel, be cool and comfortable in a smart, wrinkle resistant, knit pants ensemble (viva la pants suit) with all the proper accessories. It's not a bad idea to carry an all-weather, lightweight coat on your arm, assuming it's too hot to wear it as you take off.

Start a fresh page for each day you plan to be away and itemize what you expect to wear. This does not mean, of course, that you need a different outfit for each day. As a matter of fact, the pants suit in which you travel, with proper coordinates, can turn into a weekend wardrobe utilizing such things as matching skirt, shorts, a change of blouses or shirts, gaily colored scarves, assorted belts and exotic jewelry. (See photos).

DON'T OVERLOAD: IT'S COSTLY

One of the mistakes most travelers make is packing too many clothes — especially when going abroad. By making a list beforehand, you can avoid excess weight which can prove both costly and cumbersome, especially if at some point you must carry your own luggage. It has happened to many a vacationing tourist.

On the other hand, if you're overweight before you depart, you will hardly have space for the good buys found in most places you will be going including such MUSTS as muu muus in Hawaii, ponchos in Mexico, cashmeres in London, perfumes in Paris or wood carvings and jewelry in the Caribbean and Africa.

No matter where you go, most women will want to get prettied up for dinner. For a week's vacation, you will need a minimum of three light weight (chiffon, silk organza, polyester or other synthetic) daytime dresses with jackets, or you might substitute a stole or sweater. The omnipresent air conditioning makes a coverup absolutely necessary for late day and beyond. If you choose basic styles, you can look different each night out with a change of accessories.

There will most likely be one special night on the town, and for that you could use a long skirt or palazzo pants with a fancy top. (May we suggest sequins or pailettes, lace or cotton brocade for the top as your bit of extravagance). Throw your hair up high, or put on your glamour wig, pin a piece of jewelry in it and you'll be looking GREAT!

If you plan a two week stay, you may need another light weight suit or a pair of pants (or skirt, if you prefer) with a change of blouses and scarves. That's enough, believe me!

While outerwear is important, — and we have concentrated on it — so is what goes underneath. Here again, restraint is necessary in how much you take. Three pieces of each garment you customarily wear during the day is sufficient if you don't mind a little work. Nylon, or a blend, is your best bet, so that you can wear one set, keep one fresh in your bag and wash the other each day.

The same applies to hosiery if you choose to wear it. Three pairs should suffice, however, you may wish to take an extra pair just to play it safe. You can stuff crushable items of lingerie, hosiery, a packable hat and gloves in the toes of your shoes anyway and thus save precious space.

Speaking of shoes, three pairs should serve you well, inclusive or in

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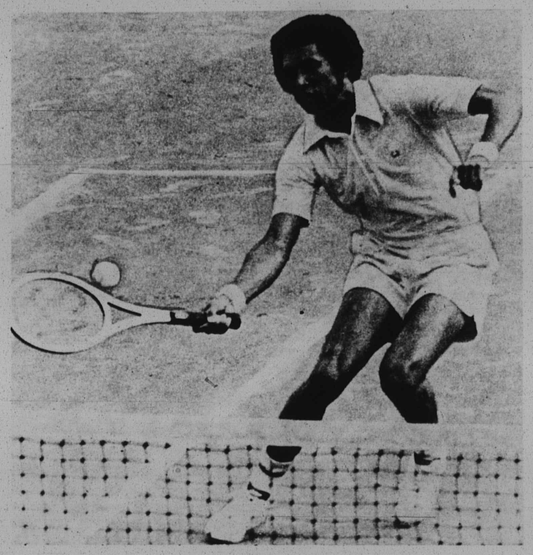
BLACK DESIGNER Marie Levin provides the perfect weekend wardrobe in this 4-piece pink polyester pants, skirt, jacket and shell ensemble. Mix 'em, match 'em with ropes of pearls (as pictured) or with vari-colored scarves — or your more elegant jewelry. It's dusk to dawn for the woman on the go.

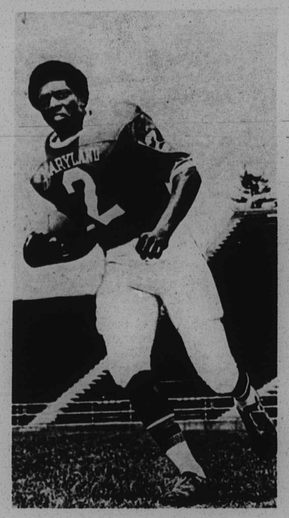
DAWN Sports Gallery



Arthur Ashe

ARTHUR ASHE is battling hard on the professional tennis circuit in the hope of again reaching a $100,000-plus payoff year. Ashe's earnings were well past the midway point during May. Here he swings his "golden" racket.

BEN KINARD, sophomore football star at the University of Maryland, will be battling for the top quarterback post when the Terrapin gridders renew competition in the fall.



Ben Kinard

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