



Tip of the Week

Today's Feature: **THE NATURAL LOOK REIGNS UNIVERSALLY**

Did you happen to see the Miss Universe Pageant the other night? Miss Australia took home the title. When the first cut of twenty was made from the 80 contestants there was a dominant "look". Most seemed reminiscent of last year's title holder - long dark hair, over scaled dramatic elegant features. This served to really showcase the few blondes who made the cut. What a perfect example of contrast, which I talk to you about so frequently. The first runner-up was Miss America who personified the look of a Barbie Doll. The hours and dollars spent coaching this gal were highly evident, and served to contrast the "natural" look of the Aussie winner. It seems odd to think of the word *natural* in context to a pageant on an international scale, but, by comparison she did seem to look natural. When she walked around the stage she looked like a parade pony, or a girl who learned how to show off her bathing suit by watching videos of former winners

What's this got to do with You? This arena showcases and sets standards for trends which become the context or back drop of *your* appearance. In our American society the pendulum swings. Fashion trends used to follow a five year bell curve, but that has speeded up to warp speed. Natural style, especially in makeup, has been a trend that is so present that I have wondered if indeed it is a trend or modernization and refinement that have followed a lifestyle shift and a more casual appearance in general. Certainly the runway of the Miss Universe Pageant is the ultimate swing position so it will be fun to watch and see if a shift occurs from this point.

Additionally, learn from the example of contrast we saw demonstrated during this pageant; i.e. whether you are a person who is more comfortable blending in or standing out, use the rule of contrast to achieve your personal objective. Ultimately creating your own sense of style is something everyone in the universe can strive for. **It's Your Image!** is here to help you polish that look!

DON'T BE CUTTING

Are you cutting off your legs to spite your derrière? (or tummy)

Tip: When you lengthen your leg line you look taller. Looking taller instantly makes you look thinner.

Sometimes the tips you see on those dressing shows and in fashion magazines are not correct for YOU. Every tip you get should be evaluated personally. There is general information and personal information. Part of the personal responsibility for looking *your* best requires that you *consult your mirror* to evaluate the value of all tips given, that includes mine too. One quick way to lengthen you legs is to shorten your tops. Now that the average size of American women is changing, larger sizes are more and more available in the petite department. Petite doesn't mean little, it means under 5'6". It also means your arms and legs and your torso are shorter in proportion, thus Petite! So to avoid alteration cost, why not check for shorter tops in the petite department. Many of the collections have the same clothing in both misses and petite departments, the primary difference is length. We must be careful with this tip because if your hips are a little larger in proportion to the rest of your torso, then shorter tops will just "end" at the place you may be a little large. Oops! Again, *consult your mirror!*

My favorite way to lengthen your leg line is to wear your *skin color* hosiery and a *skin color* pair of shoes. Viola! An instant 3 inches has been added to the visual length of your leg! Shop now for all styles of your *skin color* shoes, especially those that could be worn all year around.

FAVORITE TRAVEL PAL

Recently I read a story by a travel editor that chronicled the merits of a white t-shirt which she heralded as her all time most versatile travel wardrobe companion. Remember, if your color type is one that doesn't wear pure white, then you must find *your* most versatile wardrobe companion. If you have a trip in your plans this summer be sure and consider ahead of time what travels well. Special purchases are not necessary if you project ahead with an awareness of what your needs will be. Is there a perfect traveler from your past that served you well? Keep an eye out for its equal as you shop.

Tip: Try the twist test. Twist the corner of the garment for 10 seconds then release. Does it spring back in shape, or leave a wrinkled trail?