

HEALTH & BEALLTY

Skin deep with Samantha Altea

The Comeback Kids

Now that spring is officially here, you may be thinking about doing some spring cleaning. You know you're itching to sort through things you've had stashed in the back of your closets in order to make space for what's new and cool. After all, you're a fashionista, a beauty connoisseur, who's always ahead of the curve, on the cutting edge, ready and willing to leave old trends behind - way behind. Yes? Well, you can stop right there, people. I'm here to tell you that plenty of what came before 2004 is back with a vengeance, and you better believe it. This year, what's old is new again and it can be seen in music, fashion, health and beauty and even attitude. So if you're one of those people who hoards things and can't bear the thought of throwing anything away - the face cream you've been using for twenty years and wouldn't dream of changing - you might just be hipper and more au courant than you thought you were.

"Sex Doesn't Sell: Miss Prim Is In" was the headline of a *New York Times* style section in February of this year. The feature, covering fashion week, talked

about the fact that designers today are leaning toward a retro look that harks back not to the 70s or 80s, but as far back as the 50s and early 60s. Girls, these days, are looking to role models like Mandy Moore, who stands out because she doesn't show it all, rather than the more revealing media icons who do. In fact, the New York Times quotes trend forecaster David Wolfe who said that, "In fashion these days, to be uptight, is to be edgy." Twin sets are back, as are polo shirts, pencil skirts, up do's and even, dare I say it, health-conscious Dr. Scholl sandals. And don't even think about coming home after a day at the beach without moisturizing with an old favorite like Oil of Olay. Wind back the clock, because this year is the year of the comeback kids. Here are two or three you might have forgotten about to get you started.

Lacoste: The unisex sports T that made its resurgence as a fashion statement at the end of last year's summer and is even more en vogue this year. It's been seen on runways and celebs alike and you're next. So rummage to the very back of your closet



and see if you can find the one you bought twenty years ago — Couple it with a pair of jeans, or a flirty little skirt and you're hot to trot. What, can't get your hands on the now coveted item because you foolishly threw it away? Or are you too young to have had it and can't beg, borrow or steal from mother, grandmother or older friend? Well, it's a must this season, so buy Lacoste in new and improved colors and get up to date. Beware though, the style is old, but the price is "all new 2004." Collared lacoste T-shirts now sell from \$70-\$80.

Dr. Scholls: Remember them? I do, and used to cringe at the very thought that my Mum would try to get me in a pair because they were good for my feet and posture. The healthy shoe! Whatever. They even have the prefix Dr. in their name, but I just hated them, they were so...frumpy, prim and proper and so...not for me! Geeks wore them, didn't they? That was until last month in Miami when I snapped up a pair of these fashion relics, substituting them for my high heels, I proudly wore them, knowing that I was ahead of the style curve. I not only looked cool, but my feet are as healthy and happy about the sandals as I am.

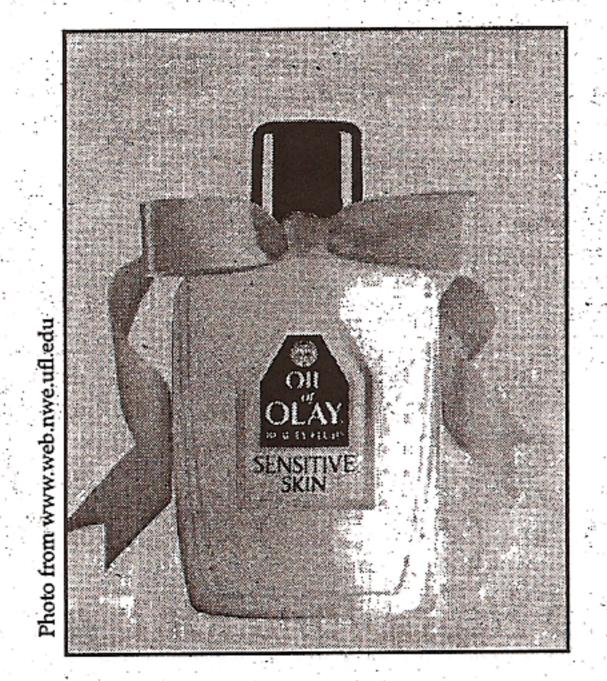
Oil of Olay: If you're always looking for the newest innovation in moisture and wrinkle control, you might want to take a pause and look back at Oil of Olay, which actually never really went that far away. But it's interesting to note that sales of this age-old elixir are better than ever. So lather some on after the beach, or before going in to the elements and enjoy the tried and tested skin enricher, a golden oldie that still loves the skin you're in.

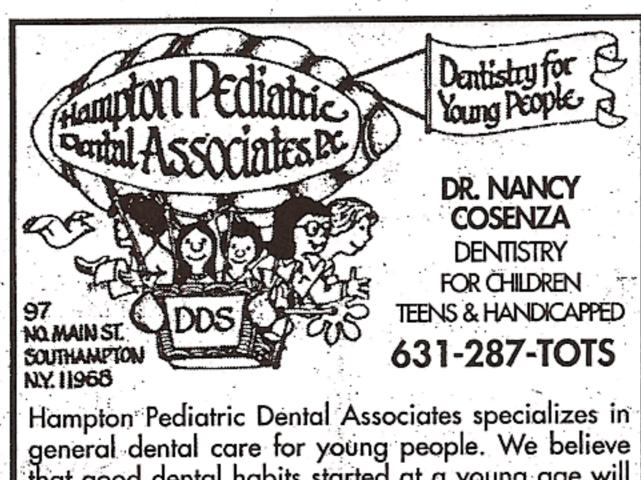
Have an Opinion?

off your chest?

Want to thank someone, but don't know exactly who?

e-mail Dan at askdan@danspapers.com





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