

By this time, my own children were rolling their eyes and muttering things like "I can't believe this. Is there anyone in that town she doesn't know?"

When we arrived in town, we

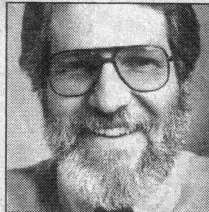
husband Randy and I had both grown up in this town, and we had a lot of memories to share. We drove past our childhood homes, our high school, the church where we were married.

generation to own the paper. In his second editorial, he alienated many of his out-of-state readers by complaining about local students who went to college on local

"We don't normally cash out-of-town checks," she said, "but I'll ask my supervisor." She turned away and shouted toward an office down the hall. n here from

home. Manuscripts should be about 85 typewritten lines and sent to: On My Mind, Features Department, The Denver Post, 1560 Broadway, Denver, Colo. 80202. Include Social Security and phone numbers.

INSIDE CONTEMPORARY COVER STORY AN URBAN SAFARI



By Jim Carrier

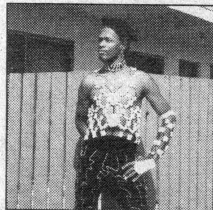
Despite more than 100 years of development on the Front Range, an amazing variety of wildlife continues to thrive in our urban areas. In this first chapter of the new book "Close to Home: Colorado's Urban Wildlife," Jim Carrier looks at the wild creatures that help civilize our city. Page 12.

6 CHOKE ON THIS

By Dave Barry

The humorist passes on the details of an Illinois state study of owl vomit, an unpleasant topic at best. He goes on to discuss the details of his dog Zippy's digestive problems, which invariably occur at mealtimes.

10 ROCK DESIGNERS



By Valli Herman

Rock musicians who want to look outrageous on stage are getting plenty of help from a new crop of cutting-edge L.A. designers. These fashions may not be anything you would want to be caught in, but if you keep an eye on the stage you may seem them showing up on your favorite performer.

20

UNCOMMON CATFISH

By Susan Puckett

There are plenty of ways to prepare catfish, long a staple of the all-you-can-eat roadside stop in the South. Here's a suggestion that combines catfish, pasta, fresh vegetables and a Creole sauce that's sure to be a hit, even with your Yankee friends.



PAGE/CONTENTS

- 4 SOCIAL CALENDAR
- 7 JOANNE DITMER
- 8 DR. ART MOLLEN
- 18 ANN LANDERS
- 21 JEANE DIXON

On The Cover: A rabbit calmly washes his ear beneath a tractor tire at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Photo by Wendy Shattil and Bob Rozinski. Story layout by Maureen Scance.

Dollaghan's column

Denver Post Food Editor Helen Dollaghan is taking some time off. Her column will resume when she returns.

Edward P. Smith
Contemporary Editor, 820-1467

ROCK DESIGNERS

FASHION *with a* BEAT

By Valli Herman
Los Angeles Daily News

LOS ANGELES — Dwight Yoakam gave us jeans ripped at the knee, Nikki Sixx and Vince Neil of Motley Crue brought boldly printed spandex tights, and whatever Michael Jackson wears — if he ever appears again — is sure to find its way to store shelves.

Rock stars and the latest fashion trend seem to march to the beat of the same drummer.

MTV and music videos have made an outrageous appearance nearly as important as the music. And for fashion designers, rock musicians' need for outrage, identity and attention offers an outlet for their own wild creations.

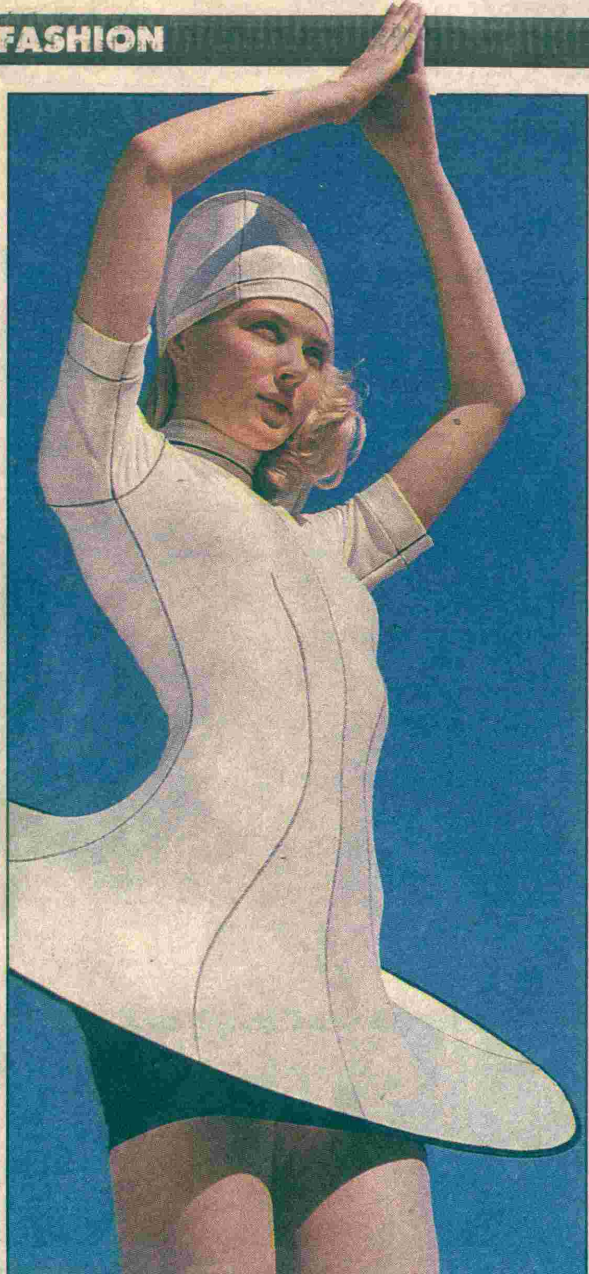
Bob Mackie dressed Tina Turner, Cher and El-

ton John in their most shockingly memorable clothes. Fleur Thieme gave Motley Crue, Kiss, Rod Stewart and Ozzy Osbourne designs that helped turn the singers into stars.

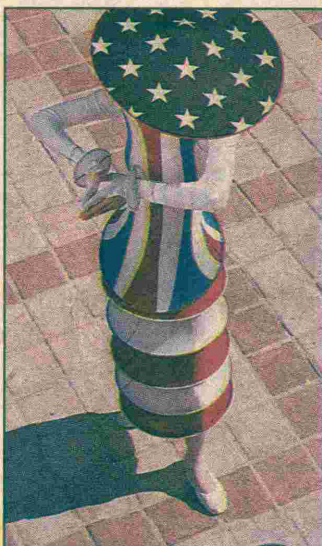
Now several up-and-coming designers are sketching their way to the top. These young and daring designers cater to musicians' need for clothing that is just as outrageous as some of their songs.

"Clothing is power," said Michael Schmidt, 26, whose designs have been worn by Cher, Turner and Taylor Dayne. "Clothing is the most immediate expression of yourself."

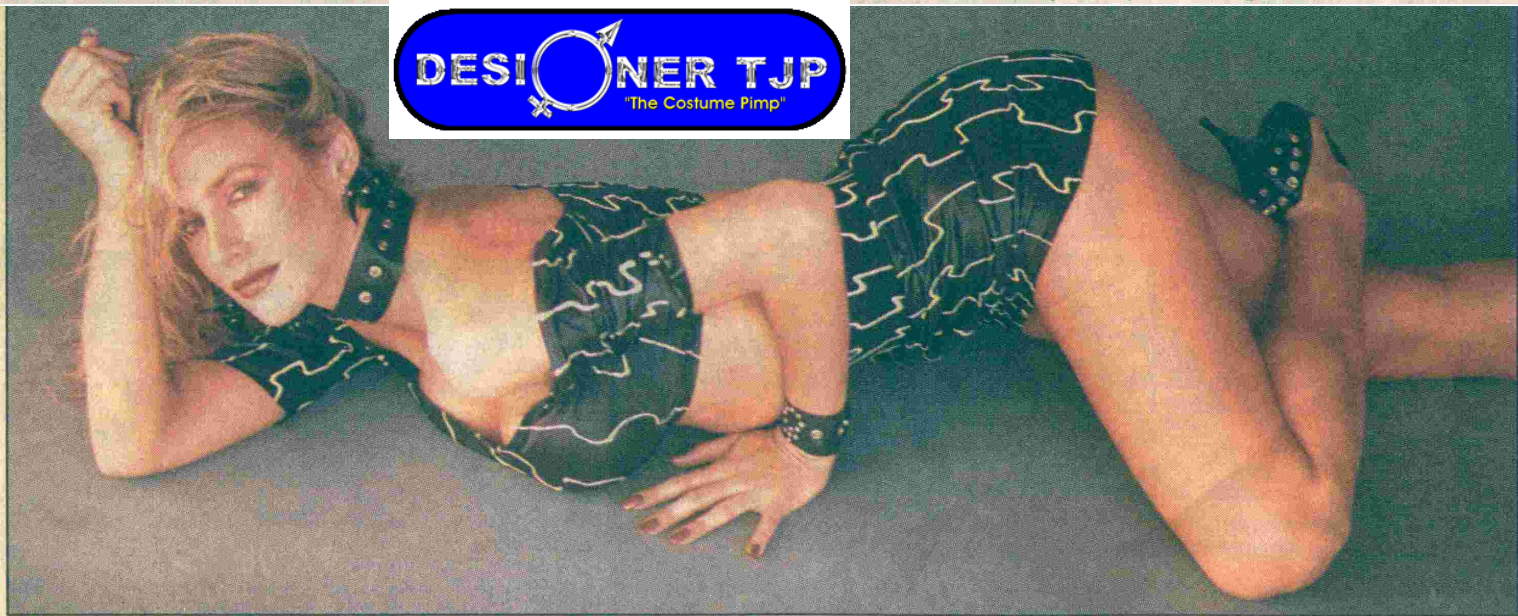
Schmidt counts as one of the most successful new designers, although, unlike his clients, he is hardly a household name.



Hollywood designer Bruno Duluc's spandex hoop dresses are not your typical cocktail party wear.



The Arm Wrap and vest from L.A. designer Tuck John Porter are made of leather, rubber and plastic.



This Squiggle Line miniskirt and top are typical of the women's clothing from Tuck John Porter Hyperactive Action Wear: sexy, revealing and very L.A.



Denver Post File Photos

Sheena Easton, above, and Whoopi Goldberg, right, are two of the celebrities who have worn designs by Hollywood's Bruno Duluc. The onetime medical student is known for his wacky creations, including the spandex hoop skirt worn by MTV VJ Julie Brown at the recent MTV awards.



Nearly four years ago, Cher bought several of his designs at a New York boutique, requested more and launched his career. He moved to Los Angeles two years ago.

"The reason I started was because I was into fashion, but I was also into music. There was really no one doing almost couture-quality pieces for the entertainment industry," Schmidt said from his Hollywood studio.

Tuck John Porter has a unique way of testing the quality of the garments and accessories he designs: He wears them go-go dancing.

Naturally, Porter designs in small quantities, which allows

him to experiment and to offer the kind of high-quality, high-fashion items unavailable on the mass market. Indeed, few could wear the riveted-leather, rubbering vest and arm wraps that have earned the 32-year-old designer shelf space in boutiques and wardrobes of the discriminating.

Trained as a graphic designer, Porter has been making clothing for about four years under his label, Tuck John Porter Hyperactive Action Wear.

As a go-go dancer, he understands the strain rock musicians can put on their clothing.

"It's like product-testing — to

see if it stands up," Porter said. "But, by actually wearing the clothes myself, I give them credibility."

Hollywood designer Bruno Duluc, 30, created the Jane Jetson spandex hoop dress that actress and MTV VJ Julie Brown wore for the recent MTV Awards.

The dress defined the wacky Brown personality and earned attention for both its wearer and its star.

Duluc, a former medical student, supplies Whoopi Goldberg, Sheena Easton and Debbie Allen.

Now that celebrity clients are well-acquainted with finer garments, the pressure for perfection can be intense for a young designer, who can become an instant has-been with any marginal error.

Big designers have bigger laurels upon which to rest.

"When you're small, you're not

allowed one mistake," Duluc said. "You must have the best quality possible."

One-of-a-kind items also are in demand. The pressure for unique clothing has grown so that designers often must promise never to reproduce a celebrity's outfit.

"It needs that mystique. I won't make an outfit exactly like one I sold to a celebrity," Duluc said. "It would be too rude."

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