

 Print |  Close Window



THE ENQUIRER

Last Updated: 8:33 pm | Sunday, April 27, 2008

Dress with dignity to make spouse look good at formal event

I AM ATTENDING a black-tie work function for my husband's company. Any suggestions on appropriate black-tie attire?

If the event is this spring, you are in luck because dresses continue to be a hot item, and there are more options than ever. Be careful with too much glitz, sparkle or bling, especially if you are over the age of 40. Too much of this will not only make you look older; it will also make you look as if you are trying to relive your senior prom.

Keep in mind that even though the event is black tie it is, also, a work event and you want to represent your husband well. I know this sounds a bit 1950-ish, but it is true. If you are all bedazzled and bejeweled, you run the risk that negative attention will be on you and reflect poorly on your husband.

They key to an event like this is understated elegance. A simple cocktail dress would work. It does not have to be black. We should all have a LBD (little black dress) in our wardrobe, in an evening fabric such as silk, satin or chiffon, that is not too revealing and will work well at a formal party. Remember, "less is more." You can bring in sparkle and glitz in your shoes and your jewelry, but keep the hair, makeup and dress sophisticated and elegant.

Confidence is the best accessory and will help us feel appropriate in any situation. Have fun!

WE ARE ALLOWED to wear denim on Friday at the company I work for, and I was wondering if it is ever appropriate for men to wear flip flops to work?

My first thought is absolutely not. But as I have mentioned before it depends on what industry you are in. Is it creative or conservative? First I would recommend that you observe what the executives in the company are wearing and take your cue from them. If the CEO is wearing flip flops, then you know it is acceptable. In the beginning I would err on the side of caution and wear a great pair of loafers and see what your colleagues are wearing.

Men, please take a cue from women and when the weather gets warm and you break out the flip flops, do yourself and those around you a favor and indulge in a pedicure. It will not only be the most relaxing 45 minutes but also will prepare your feet for public display, and those of us who are looking at your feet will be so happy that you have paid special attention to your grooming.

MANNERS THAT WORK

Manners That Work, my hands-on course in dining etiquette, is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 22 at The Bankers Club in the Fifth Third Center downtown. Cost, including lunch, is \$75. Reservations can be made via www.jhimage.net or by calling 513-505-2732.

Jill Haney's Cincinnati-based business, JH Image Consulting, conducts individual and corporate group training on appearance, behavior, and communication. She is a certified image consultant with the Association of Image Consultants International. Reach her at 513-505-2732, jill@jhimage.net, or www.jhimage.net.

 Print |  Close Window | Copyright 2008, Enquirer.com