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“FASHIONABLE FEMMES” **BUNDLE UP WITH STYLE**

By Jane R. Snyder

Considering all the snow that’s already fallen this winter, you might just be a bit tired of hiding beneath layers and layers of clothing. Is it hard to be “fashionable” if staying warm is your ultimate objective? With a little legwork, and some smart shopping, you can step out into the rain, sleet, or snow, in fashions which reflect your “hot” personal style. Let’s start from the ground up!

Keeping your toes warm when the temperature is near freezing doesn’t have to mean unattractive footwear. Boots mean variety, and not just in colors. Suede, leather, print fabrics, patchwork designs, buckles, fringes, pull-ons, and lace-ups are just some of the styles available this season that are warm and very wearable. And, when it comes to outfitting yourself for winter sports like skiing or snowboarding, the colors for boots may just dazzle you.

Leather is always a cold weather staple and there is no end to the range of styles. From bomber jackets and full-length coats to elegant, tailored jackets and gloves, maybe this is the year you should splurge. This fabric not only stops the wind, but will also make you feel absolutely “IN”! If your man sports a leather jacket or coat, too, you will look as if you belong in a “*hottest couples*” feature in *People* magazine!

Shearling is another great solution for those cold, wintry days, especially if you plan to hang out around the ski lodge. From hip or fingertip length vests to notched-collar jackets or long coats with patch pockets, you will love the warmth, not to mention the sense of history. Our founding fathers and mothers wore shearling through early American winters, too!

If you are headed to the slopes, or just want to look great on those cold, wet days, a Gore-Tex® parka is your solution. From lightweight rain gear to heavier, insulated styles, these colorful garments protect you from the wind, rain, and snow with flair.

Cashmere is a great solution for cold winds. This season, matching hat, scarf and glove sets are simply all over. If you haven't broken down and bought at least one – if not several – you'll be forever pulling up the collar of your coat. This soft, luxurious fabric is a definite treat. The wide selection of delicious colors in stores and online will make you feel like a kid in a candy shop. And, if you are willing to splurge, a classic, plaid scarf from Burberry is a must!

This year, making an entrance any queen would envy, fleece has taken over. Walk into any store and you'll find hats, gloves, scarves, jackets, pants, socks, and even bathrobes and pajamas! This fluffy fabric, which only gets *softer* each time you wash it, is going to be around for a long time.

And why should you be the only well-dressed family member this winter? If you have any four-legged friends around your household, you might want to investigate all of the adorable and practical pet gear at www.pet-shop.net, or visit your local pet store. These days, everyone in your family can stay warm and look terrific at the same time!

Here are some Web sites that are worth visiting:

www.burberry.com
www.gap.com
www.llbean.com
www.oldnavy.com

www.delias.com
www.jcrew.com
www.northface.com
www.pet-shop.net

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FASHION POLL

Do you plan to add a leather coat to your wardrobe this winter?

YES **NO**

