

Wardrobe helps make good impression

By JD REDMON
Staff Writer

The stress of competing in the job market becomes more of a reality as the end of the semester approaches. Choosing what you wear to interviews can be as intimidating as the actual interview itself.

As you prepare yourself for a potential employer, keep in mind you only have one chance to make a first impression. Here are a few clothing guidelines that will help turn your stress into success.

Traditionally, basic colors and guidelines have been the same for men and women. Starting with the shirt and blouse, white or blue colors are recommended. White portrays honesty and credibility and traditionally has been the most accepted color.

Make sure your shirt or blouse is pressed. Starch is not necessary, but it helps keep the shirt from wrinkling.

White also matches with more pants and jacket colors.

Pants and skirts should be gray, khaki or navy. All three colors match well with a navy blazer. (Hint: With pants that have belt loops, wear a belt or suspenders, but never both together.)

When choosing socks, the easiest way to coordinate with your pants is to stay with the same color or slightly darker. It is fashionable to wear socks with designs or patterns; they are an easy way to show personality and add style to your outfit. Just keep it simple.

For women, it is also important to wear socks or stockings, because some companies require them. Do not give an interviewer an opportunity to get an unfavorable opinion of you. Distractions can cost you!

Shoes, often neglected by men as well as women, need more attention because they are harder to maintain. Take the time to polish them. Do not skip this step, or you may appear to

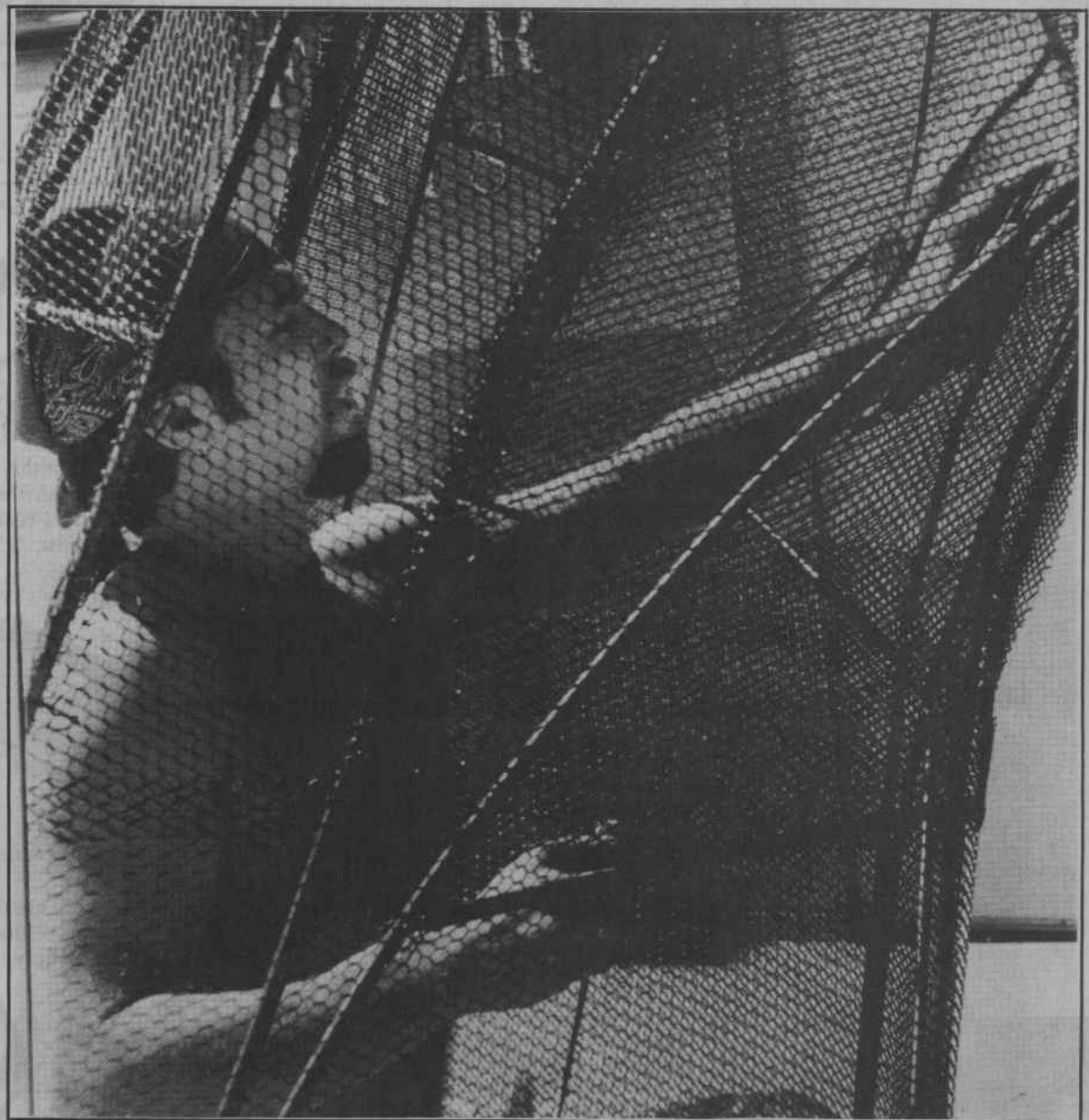
overlook details.

Complement your clothes with a tie or scarf. These are appropriate for most interviewers. Do not be afraid of overdressing. If you only wear these on Sunday you may feel overdressed. You're not! Ties and scarves give an appearance of professionalism and allow you another opportunity to show your personality. So, be creative!

Top your attire off with a navy blazer. This is the most common coat for men and women and is the most often seen coat in the workplace. If you do not have a sport coat or suit, wear a shirt and tie. This is appropriate and will enhance your appearance more than you may think.

Your next interview could lead to your job for life. Allow yourself the opportunity to look and feel confident and prepared for the challenge. Take advantage of these simple clothing guidelines and be dressed, not stressed, at your next interview.

Wired



Senior Todd Jubinville works on an art project for the Artista Vista Show to be held Friday and Saturday. Emily Peterson/The Gamecock

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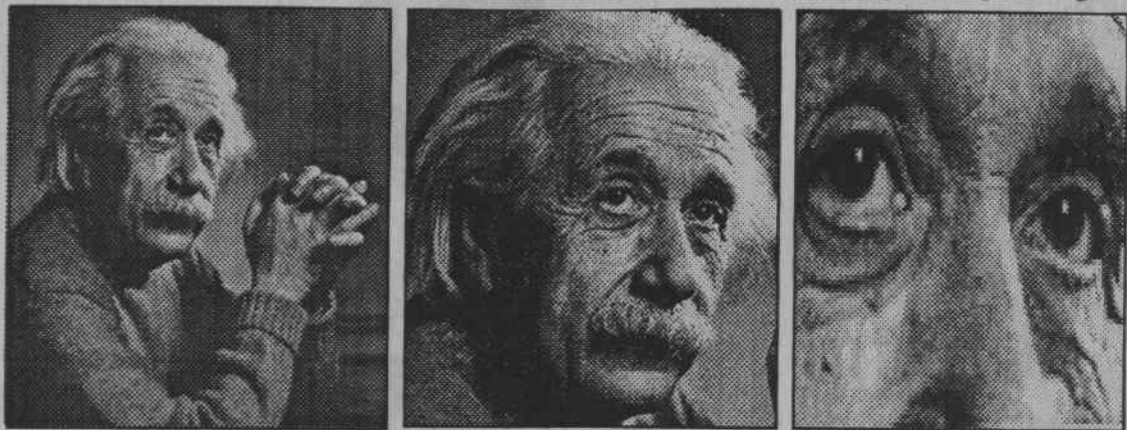


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