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Honors Project: A Tailored Suit

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HONORS PROJECT
Home Economics Department
Ouachita Baptist University

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Fall 1973

HONORS PROJECT

When I began thinking about starting my honors project, I came up with several ideas but the one that interested me most was the making of a tailored garment. My major is home economics so I thought this would be a good experience for me and a good time to learn something new. I liked the idea that I could work on my own and at my own speed, and could make appointments with Mrs. Elledge when convenient for both of us.

I have made garments before but I've never taken on such a large project or as detailed as this one. My plans were to make a tailored suit made up of a jacket and slacks, a kind of outfit I knew I needed.

I wanted this suit to be one that I needed, not just something to make, but an outfit that would be used and enjoyed. I wanted it to be in the latest style and made of a current popular color or print. I wanted the outfit to be a durable one so that I could get several years of wear from it. I thought this outfit should co-ordinate with my wardrobe so that I could possibly mix and match it with things I already have. I also wished to wear a variety of accessories with it. I wished to make a style of garment that would look good on me keeping in mind my complexion and hair color. I wanted to make a winter garment that I could wear during the Christmas holidays when the semester is over. Looking at my budget I decided I could afford to spend from \$20.00 to \$25.00.

With all of this in mind, this is what I made:

Butterick

THE FASHION ONE

3023

jacket



slacks



jacket lining

This style of jacket and slacks is a current popular one. I found my pattern in the new Butterick pattern book. From looking around in the stores and in fabric shops, I saw that gray was a good color this year. I haven't worn much gray in the past so I was glad that this could be a different color to add to my wardrobe. I chose solid gray material for the slacks and a gray print for the jacket. I liked the dainty pastel print in the jacket. Also, I saw that I could co-ordinate this jacket with several blouses I already have. My favorite however, is this light blue turtleneck sweater. It picks up the light blue stripe in the jacket and blue has always been a favorite of mine. I have a red sweater that I can wear with the pants, with or without the jacket to change it up a bit. I also chose this material because it would be warm. On cool days I could wear it without a heavy coat.

This material is washable wool made of acrylic. It is durable, can be washed in cold water, and only takes a slight pressing after washing.

I went to several dress shops and priced similar suits to mine. On the average, the jackets cost \$50.00 and the slacks cost \$35.00. It cost me \$21.00 to make, so I figured I saved \$64.00. The outfits I saw in the stores looked very nice and seemed to be well constructed. When done correctly, home-made garments have a professional look. One advantage I get from sewing is the fit. I can make garments to fit me, but often times ready made don't fit as well as they should. I think I spent around 18 hours making my suit and I believe they were hours well spent. I'm satisfied with the way the suit turned out and I'm sure I'll get a lot of enjoyment from wearing it.