

# Julie Hatfield talks about fashion

## Fashion Glimpse

By Christine A. Brophy

Julie Hatfield, fashion writer for the *Boston Globe*, contributor to *Allure* magazine, and former reporter for the leading fashion daily newspaper, *Women's Wear Daily*, talks about college fashion, models, and the future of the fashion industry.

### CASUAL, CONSERVATIVE BOSTON

On campus, students don't dress to impress. If it's clean, they wear it. If it's easy, they wear it. And in some cases, if it matches, they wear it. Most of Northeastern University students go casual to class, except the work study and co-op students.

But casual can be fashionable if you know how to wear it. "There's a difference between casual chic and casual sloppy," said Julie Hatfield.

"Casual chic is the best Gap clothes and the best J. Crew clothes with your own jewelry or lack of jewelry," said Hatfield, adding that a great haircut and simplicity in outfit are all part of the casual chic look.

"Casual sloppy is someone in sneakers and a pair of old pants and what ever they pick up from the floor," said Hatfield. "Nothing is wrong with a T-shirt and jeans if it is done the right way ... with a little bit of thought."

Boston, in general, tends to be casual. Where do you draw the line to what's appropriate or not? Casual wear should not be worn at a performing arts theater, Hatfield said. "I am just amazed that Bostonians will go into a theater in jeans. I don't think that is respectful to the actors and the effort that went into the production," Hatfield said.

Bostonians also have a habit of dressing more conservatively than most cities, said Hatfield. But there's still hope. "I think our international

students have pushed us to be a little more stylish and a little less conservative," she said.

### MODELS

While models plaster the covers and pages of fitness and fashion magazines, most are poor role models, with poor diets and drug problems. Fashion models are idolized by image-conscious women who strive for that perfect

model body. But that body doesn't come from good nutrition and exercise in most cases.

"A model can abuse her body, and many do," said Hatfield. "The world of fashion cares about the moment. And for that moment she's beautiful. If she dies at the age of 27 from an OD, they can always find another one," Hatfield said.

"It's an exterior beauty. I don't think they are representing a picture of health or the way to be for a young woman," said Hatfield.

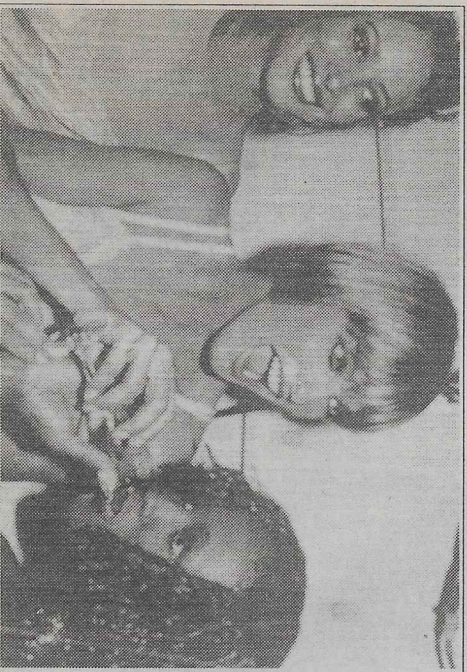
But unfortunately, magazines continue to feature twiggy women with Barbie doll bodies. It sells. Magazines would surely lose money if 120 or 130 pound models replaced the 105 pound 5'9" model of today's magazines.

### FUTURE OF THE FASHION INDUSTRY

The fashion parade will no longer be marching to the same tune. If you have ever looked at runway fashions in magazines like "Vogue," you would notice a lot of unwearable outfits which look more like theater costumes than practical, wearable apparel.

### Supermodels like Cindy Crawford show off their "ass"ets to sell calendars and books.

"I don't know how strongly people will look to the Paris shows and the N.Y. shows for direction. They are becoming more of an entertainment," said Hatfield. "The models are becoming superstars. That doesn't sell clothes. That sells books by the models, and TV shows about the models. I think it is going to change."



Problems like drinking, drugs and eating disorders plague the world of supermodels.

