

AMERICAN WOMAN



SMART, TALENTED,
& MAKING A DIFFERENCE
JUST LIKE YOU

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Conversations with a Mirror



Mirror: REPEAT AFTER ME: "I LOOK GOOD!" *She:* I LOOK FABULOUS.
Mirror: YOU'RE LEARNING.

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AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

You, the readers, have voted these women the most influential and inspirational of your generation, making them wonderful representatives of the modern American woman! Read on to learn how ~~~~~

ON THE COVER IS PICTURED...

Celina Mei Yong | Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley

MAJOR Molecular Environmental Biology **HOMELOWN** Redwood Park, California **RENAISSANCE WOMAN** When affirmative action was abolished in California schools, Yong spearheaded action. She founded Promise America in Berkeley, a program that encourages disadvantaged students to set—and achieve—academic and life goals. The program now has chapters in 22 states. She has also volunteered in health and homeless clinics in rural Nevada and San Francisco and has interned at the White House. **GO-FOR-IT GOALS** After becoming a doctor, Yong hopes to change government policies to provide health care for the uninsured. **SELF-MADE WOMAN** "I've got myself through college, and with medical school, I still have six or seven years to go. It feels good that I've earned my education." **DOWNTIME DOS** "I love to try new things—traveling, collecting, boxing, kayaking, horseback riding."

VIVIENNE TAM

She grew up in Hong Kong, the city that thrives on the precarious balance of the oldest of traditions with the newest innovations. She didn't grow up daydreaming about becoming a designer. She sewed from the time she was 8. "I just wanted to help my mother," Tam says. Ming, however, was no follower of butterfly patterns. Instead, she was remarkably adept at the intricate embroidery and needlework that adorn the classic Asian dress called cheongsam. The daughter inherited her mother's talent. By the time she arrived at Hong Kong Polytechnic, Tam was skilled at craftsmanship, but she was desperate to acquire the classic dressmaking technique and a greater understanding of the significance of clothes in her culture. When she graduated, however, Tam realized that Hong Kong "didn't need designers, because they were manufacturers." So she came to New York in 1987, crafted 22 pieces of "basic cotton knits" and took them to Henri Bendel, which bought them faster than you can stain silk. Today Tam's collection has evolved into a vivid, unstudied hybrid that respects the delicate beauty inherent in the detail of Asian dress while employing fabrics that are as revolutionary as the DVD players in any Hong Kong electronics-shop window. Spangle, shawl, gold threads and brilliant reds abound. However sleek they may appear, wherever dazzle they display, Tam's clothes offer intimacy through the intricacy of their detail and cut. "I



the
Look
of
vivienne
tam

in style 2.9.99 2009

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man-eater

vegetarian

mix accordingly

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Jennifer's only hope for survival—an experimental stem-cell transplant that had already killed some patients.



MEN THAT MAKE OUR MOUTHS WATER



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Glory Days

Q: What did your friends predict you would be—and did you prove them right or wrong?



"They thought I'd be a public or business lawyer, but then I realized that I was going to be a doctor and I was going to be a doctor about..."



"I was voted Most Likely to Be a..."

WEEK



FEATURE STORY

TALES FROM THE EXOTIC OCCIDENT

BEHIND THE RITES & TRADITIONS OF AN
ANCIENT EUROPEAN TRIBE.



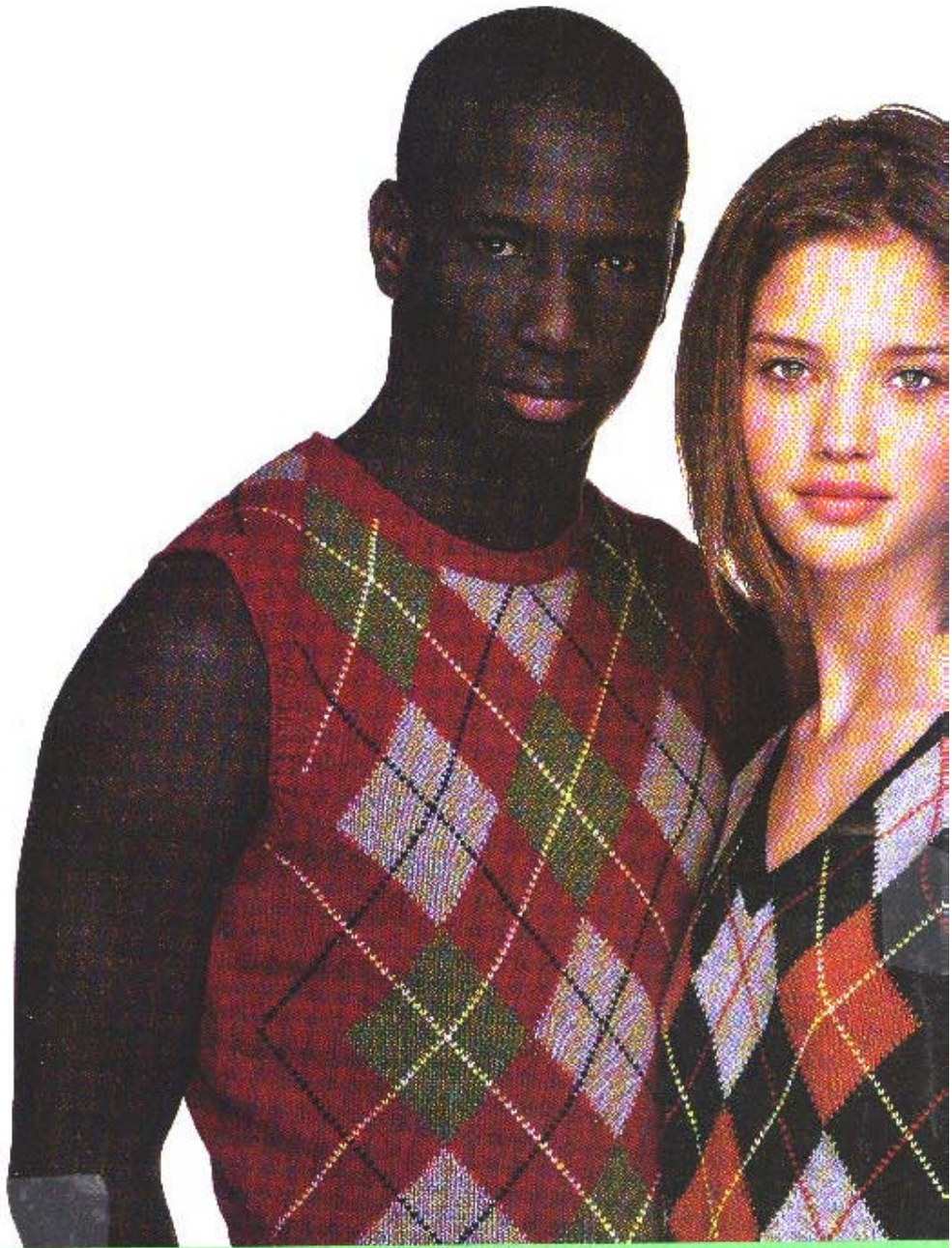
uro-Americans can proudly trace their heritage to



These ancestors
to the "model
majority"

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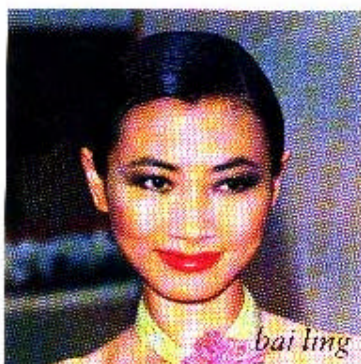
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UNITED COLORS
OF BENETTON.



Bai Ling

sleek

A cut of uniform length (about five inches).

Why it works: The clean, face-framing lines of jet-black hair beautifully set off both her features and her flawless complexion.

Style secret: Ling usually tends to her own tresses, preferring a wet look achieved with Eholine Coconut Oil (\$2.50; at drugstores) for "an elegant, Old-Hollywood style," she says. For nights out, she scrunches it with gel. "It feels punk; I'm free to dance the way I want."

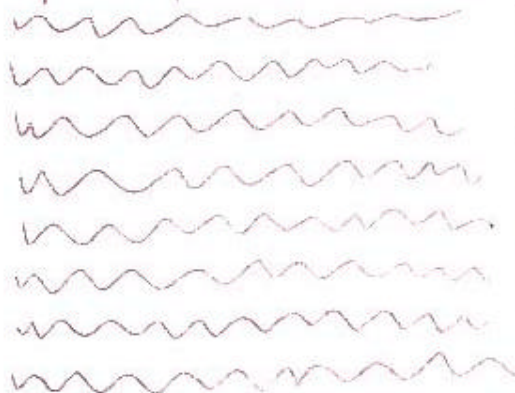
Upkeep: Trim every eight weeks. This do is so easy that Ling, who shaved her head for *Avatar* and *The King*, doesn't hesitate to shampoo twice daily, a luxury she hadn't the time for when her hair was down to her waist.

American Beauty



Michelle Kwan in *Vertigo*

Tips to keep him on his toes:



Thou shalt not stand for lackluster skin.



Before

- Sallow complexion
- Thin upper lip



The after look

To instantly warm up the complexion, a shimmering, pigmented powder is nearly a must. Lightly blend all over the face with (1) Guerlain Météorites Powder Pearls, \$122, 800-882-8822; or (2) Pearls of Formula Pearls of Perfection, \$12, 800-227-0333.

To create the supple pout we pray for, coat lips with a lip "plumper" lip primer that tins in the nest. Then layer on a moisturizing lipstick containing vitamin E for extra shine. TRY (1) Victoria's Secret Pleasingly Plump Lip Enhancer, \$18, 800-882-8822; (2) L'Oréal's True Color Long-Lasting Lipstick in Rouge, \$12, 866-751-0021.