

1943

## Your Best Foot Forward

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Well-groomed, perfectly attired and smiling, a career-seeker is on her way to a successful business interview leading to a promising future

*Joan Miller suggests good grooming tips for the senior preparing for her first interview*

**S**HOPPING for a career is the spring assignment for many Iowa State seniors and there is a beauty job to be done before the real thing begins.

How an applicant for a position looks plus what she says and how she says it are the three big points an employer notices. When an applicant steps into an employer's office he immediately casts a plus or minus vote on her appearance.

Eight or nine hours of sleep the night before an interview results in shining eyes and a springy walk which convey the desired impression of alertness.

Appearance depends on an erect carriage, quick movements, shining eyes and a responsive smile. The smile can be accented with teeth brightened by one of the dentist's semi-yearly cleanings. Clothing, make-up and coiffure comprise the other half of the appearance equation.

The clothing problem is not solved overnight. College women should have it in mind while making clothing purchases their last two years in school.

Suits and simple dresses with tailored lines are the best answers to the "what to wear to the interview" question for this is the type of costume most employers prefer on the job. A suit can be soft and feminine or smoothly simple, depending on the style and accessories. These should be chosen to emphasize the interviewee's individuality. The applicant should be comfortable and at ease in the costume she wears.

# Your Best Foot Forward

What should the applicant wear if she is successful and gets a return engagement for a second interview with the employer? Because the first costume choice was evidently in her favor, it would be logical to repeat the original with a change of blouse style or different accessories.

The contents of a college woman's hatbox run to the beanie and tea party veiled extremes. A new, more versatile hat may be included in the job-hunting budget. The career-seeker should choose one to frame her smile or accent her best feature. If her eyes are unusually blue or her skin has a special pink glow she can do it with color as well as with hat style. Simplicity is the safest policy in hats.

Women are often passed up by employers when they are overdressed. The employer may feel the decorative woman will spend too much office time on her appearance.

Before the interview, long hair should be cut to a practical length or pinned up in a smooth roll. Whatever the style, one hair requirement is glossy cleanliness.

Fingernail polish is as well established as women's rights. One of the light dusty-rose colors is more practical for interviewing as well as for working. Nails can be a sensible length without trimming them even with the fingertips.

Her purse is one of the most important details in the equipment of a woman seeking a position. Large enough to hold necessities and small enough to be inconspicuous is the ideal size. Special compartments for make-up, money and papers can give the interior all the neatness of a filing cabinet. This will save embarrassment if something is needed from the purse during the interview.

Just before the interview hour when "Miss Applicant" is on the scene of action, a quick check-up in the powder room will be good grooming insurance. An extra pair of hose tucked into the purse can save a last minute catastrophe in case of runs. Fresh white gloves taken from an envelope in the purse just before the interview will give a fresh touch. Gloves are either on or off when the employer's office is entered, not at that in-between stage.