

Practical American styles sweep hair olympics

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A woman's beauty is known by the glory of her hair. And these days, anything goes, said two Lincoln hair designers who recently attended an international hair show.

Hair styles vary from the conservative sleek look to the bizarre use of hair ornamentation, said Vicki Henri, salon manager at Hair Express, 245 N. 13th St. Henri and Hair Express designer M.K. Kinghorn got a look at some of the latest hair styles while spectating at the Hair World '84 competition in Las Vegas, Nevada Sept. 9 to 11.

The Hair World '84 competition, the first in the United States in 22 years, featured about 50,000 hair dressers from 44 nations showing off their trade, Henri said.

Designers from such countries as France, China, England and South Africa showed their interpretation of coming styles, she said. Many of the styles designers created were outright spectacu-

lar, she said. For example, Kinghorn said, one model showed hair resembling a spouting fountain. The hair began at the crown and circled her entire head, she said. Another model had what appeared to be a bicycle rim on top of her head, wrapped with hair.

While some of the designs were eye-catching to say the least, many probably would not be practical, Henri said. Hair styles need to be "commercial" or wearable for the average client, she said and that was where the U.S. team excelled.

The U.S. team, consisting of three members and one alternate, won more medals than any other team in competition, Henri said. The team featured "prettier" hair styles that were more wearable.

Most of the models the U.S. team worked with had simpler, sleeker styles compared to the bizarre styles on models from other countries, Kinghorn said.

If there was one universal style, the wedge was it, Henri said. The most well-known wearer of the wedge, a simple flowing cut, was

Olympic ice skater Dorothy Hamill. The Scandinavian team made the greatest show of the wedge, modifying it with a bob, Henri said. The bob, many stylists will say, can be anything. In its true form, it resembles a simple blunt cut.

Color and hair ornaments have become increasingly popular and were heavily used by many competitors, both designers said.

Lots of beads and swatches — imitation pony tails — were used on the hair, Kinghorn said. Some designers used swatches to make pony tails resembling British singer Boy George's hair, Henri said.

Strands from wool swatches of all kinds of colors can also be wrapped into the hair to make a splash of color, Henri said. The more daring had their hair col-

ored. The use of color was everywhere, Henri said. Some models simply had their hair colored while others had patterns created in their hair.

The Germans used lots of color, especially with stripping, Kinghorn said. Some of the German models had a tail of hair about 4-inches wide and 6-inches long striped like a tiger, she said. Other competitor's models had strips of contrasting colors on one side of their head, Henri said.

An individual's look does not end with the hair, Henri said. Makeup, clothes and accessories enhances the hair, and the look of this year's clothes and jewelry is large. While the clothes appear to be masculine, the models at the competition looked feminine because of their feminine hair

styles, she said.

The European and Oriental teams emphasized pale, magnolia white complexions, Henri said. If the skin wasn't naturally white, they used face powder, she said. The American team focused on more natural, healthy-looking skin color. The pale skin probably would not catch on in the United States because of the country's emphasis on tanning and looking athletic, she said.

No matter the skin color, all the designers focused on the eyes and the lips, Kinghorn said. If the skin was pale, the eyes and lips stood out more, Henri said.

Men hair cutting and styling was also part of the show, and these days men are touting just about any length of hair.

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From graphics to life. One designer's interpretation of a modified wedge and bob. Photo courtesy of Zotos



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