

ARE THERE REAL FRIENDS IN FASHION?

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Gucci's takeover of the house), it was because Bergé wanted to show up the new generation as a bunch of tykes.

Thinking back on that era, Talley says, "You had friendships because you had time." He counts among his tried-and-true friends Lagerfeld, Ralph Rucci, Manolo Blahnik, Marc Jacobs, and the Valentinos (Garavani and Giancarlo Giammetti). Of Lagerfeld, he says, "We might not speak for six months but then, in Paris, we just pick right up. That comes from years and years of friendship, since 1975." Talley adds, "Karl and Valentino are very similar. It's the culture—they believe so much in a sense of balance in life." He also points to the longevity of Jacobs's friendships with Sofia Coppola and the artist Rachel Feinstein: "They inspire each other."

But today, for any number of reasons, friendship is difficult to sustain; it may not even be a priority. "This industry is huge now," says Kathy Kalvesti, whom I met in the when she managed sales for Narciso Róque. "It's not an intimate group of anymore." And, as Talley suggests, time factor. Gone are the years when editors could escape for long lunches between shows. "No one, including myself, is more connected to their phones and computers," he says.

Perhaps, along with celebrities and new media, the very nature of friendship is changing. But I prefer to believe that, like talent and vulnerability, friendship goes to the core of a person and enlarges our understanding of an industry that is about much more than clothes.

"With L'Wren, she absolutely put friendship first," says the London milliner Stephen Jones. He adds, "We used to call ourselves church ladies because we wrote thank-you notes and we took care of each other." Still, knowing what a nervous hotbox a design studio can be at collections time, Jones readily concedes that it may be wiser to keep a professional distance. "Otherwise it would go crazy and fall apart." ■

WASH YOUR FACE

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passionate about Lacey's Cleansing Pomade (\$100) and Eve Lom Cleanser (\$80). Oils, like Josie Maran Argan Cleansing Oil (\$32), are also a good choice, especially for sensitive skin. "Applying cleanser to completely dry skin will help it bind to dirt," says Gross. "Then hop in to the shower, where the steam opens pores and makes deep cleaning more effective."

All this talk of smog clog may make you want to take a Brillo pad to your face, but even non-sensitizing types should be wary of overcleansing. While manual scrubs may feel satisfying, using them too often can lead to inflammation. "A safer bet for both aging and acneic skin is cleanser with glycolic or beta-hydroxy acids once or twice a week," Zeichner says. Try Dr. Dennis Gross's Alpha Beta Peel pads (\$82).

The one must-have weapon for all skin types, however, is a sonic brush. Robb Akridge of Clarisonic, which recently introduced the Smart Profile (\$265),

But short of living in a bubble, there isn't much you can do to prevent pollutants from invading your skin. "Day creams can help, but they're not 100 percent," says Vargas. The right antiaging product can combat the effects, though. "Look for products with vitamins C and E, lycopene, green tea, and grapeseed extract to fight free radicals," Gross says. Try Shiseido Ultimune Power Infusing Concentrate (\$95), Natura Bissé Essential Shock Intense Cream (\$115), or Sisley Black Rose Precious Face Oil (\$235). It also couldn't hurt to use makeup that contains Detoxyl, a detoxifying ingredient found in Rouge Bunny Rouge Liquid Foundation (\$55). There may be little we can do about our increasingly smoggy air, but with the proper routine your skin will glow even through the haze. ■

THE SAVIOR IN SEATTLE

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donate at least half of his fortune to charity) "and taking them on the journey with us, which is neat," she says.

Gates says "neat" often. It's reassuringly dorky and completely on brand for a computer science and economics graduate who joined Microsoft as a product manager in 1987 before marrying Bill in 1994 and launching the Gates Foundation six years later. She also loves the resolutely unsexy word "data." "Bill and I took several things away from Microsoft," she explains. "You have to be able to measure things. You can get numbers about how many lives are saved, how many people are accessing contraceptives or vaccines, and you can make strategic decisions."

The information the foundation was collecting on women and girls prompted Gates to partner with the Clintons on the No Ceilings initiative, which the Clinton Foundation launched last November. "I'm in Africa roughly three times a year, Asia, India, Bangladesh," Gates says. "The needs are so great. Childhood deaths, for example. Women are the ones who are getting the child to the clinic. They're the ones who decide, 'Will I allow you to put that shot in my child's arm or polio drops in my child's mouth?'" This is where the data come in. "A woman who is educated is twice as likely to keep her child in school. That not only affects her family, it has a community and economic effect. Or a woman being able to work, something we so take for granted in the U.S., right? The whole reason we're able to work is we can plan the births of our children, but if you don't have access to contraception..."

The foundation is working toward getting an additional 120 million women in developing countries access to contraceptives by 2020, which could prevent more than 100 million unintended pregnancies. It seems odd that Gates would have to sell this idea to anyone (from church to state), but she does. "People forget. We have to remind people, what we have in the U.S. allows a woman to go into the workforce and decide,