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## Show offers shopping opportunity

By Joy Donovan  
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Private shopping -- with just a few hundred women armed with plastic -- jump-started the day last Friday for the Junior League of Arlington.

A couple of hours of hot-footing it around the Arlington Convention Center was just what the group needed to get revved up for its annual style show and luncheon. Pre-luncheon, the women surveyed vendors offering everything from jewelry to toys to gourmet goodies. Even though there were noticeably fewer booths this year (speculation was that the earlier timing of this year's Junior League show meant the merchants had to choose between the league and Dallas' long-standing Chi Omega Carousel), charge cards were being whipped out at a frantic pace. The official word is that everyone's starting their holiday shopping, but I doubt there were many who didn't manage to find something personal in that day's selection of stylish items.

All that shopping was just the warm-up for the big fashion show. Last year, when male models appeared wearing little more than white towels wrapped around their waists and cowboy boots, the results were some un-Junior League-like behavior. This year the guys modeled real clothes -- except one wore a see-through shirt, several had their shirts open to reveal washboard abs, and one took his shirt off completely. Whistles, catcalls and a thrown rose or two constituted the response from the women.

In this style show, dubbed "Belles, Baubles and Bows," the more sedate styles came from Ella Bella, Terry Costa, N Boutique, the Wardrobe, John L. Ashe and the Shoppes at Brownstone Village. Warm shades of gold, brown and cinnamon dominated the holiday fashions. Boots were everywhere, and so was sparkle -- if a sweater didn't have some glitter, then the skirt was sprinkled with sequins.

Among the northeast Tarrant County shoppers and fashion watchers were **Colleen Meadows** and **Leslie Klein** of Colleyville and **Sue Howery** of Southlake. While there, they had the opportunity to see firsthand a style that we just must *not* allow to catch on. One of the models, who presumably was attired in holiday wear, strutted the runway in a low-slung skirt and a cropped sweater with no shirt underneath. Now I ask you: Once you've gone over the river and through the woods, is Grandmother going to want to take in all that skin and a bellybutton, too?

**That same day**, a style show was held at the Marriott Solana in Westlake to benefit the North Texas chapter of the PKD Foundation. Might have the best name for a style show ever -- "Passion for Fashion."

Co-chairwomen were **Carolyn Morris** and **Marilyn Martin**, both of Southlake. Carolyn tells me that this first-ever event drew more than 200 people. The fashions that aroused the passion were provided by Taylor G and 1 in Three Trinity. No numbers are in yet on how much money was raised, but Morris expects it to exceed her "wildest dreams." Proceeds will aid research for polycystic kidney disease, a genetic disease affecting more than 600,000 people in the U.S.

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*Joy Donovan's column appears on Mondays and Fridays. She can be reached at 817-685-3842*