Contra Costa Times

April 4, 2006

FYI: Safe and Stylish

Think that honker of a pepper spray you carry around looks more like a baton? Try Pepperface.com's Palm Defender, a sleek defense spray that looks more like a lipstick holder than a compact umbrella.

It's 1.8 ounces of safety small enough to fit in a Louis Vuitton clutch. For each model sold, Pepperface.com contributes \$1 to support the National Center on Domestic & Sexual Violence.

MEET THE MAN

Male-clothing designers rarely debut their collections in person -- especially in the 'burbs. The strollers make them itch, we've heard.

But San Francisco-based clothing designer Henry Jacobson will present his 2006 menswear collection from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at Macy's in Walnut Creek. The store is located at 1301 Broadway Plaza.

Check out Jacobson's woven and knit sport shirts, casual slacks and denim jeans, sweaters, sport coats, outerwear, neckwear and more.

FAB ON THE CHEAP

Maybe you're young and broke. Or maybe you just want to live the life without breaking the bank. Face it: Time to trade in those free wine-tasting glasses for cool antique shop teacups, and quit coughing up four bucks for your morning latte. Learn how to make your frothy fave at home.

"Chick Living: Frugal and Fabulous" by Kris Melcher is a guide packed with tips for any fund-hungry chick who wants to live frugally while oozing chic. Here are some ideas (for more, visit www.chickliving.com):

- For your next wine and cheese party, instead of buying expensive wine charms, spiral-wrap different colored pipe cleaners around the stems of wine glasses.
- To create an instant side table, stack a few large, heavy books (buy them at garage sales) and perch a serving tray on top.

- Add pizazz to a plain wall mirror by hot-gluing a feather boa (available cheap at craft stores) around the edges.
- Personalize your pad by going online to your local public library and pulling up old black-and-white images of your city and favorite junctures. Print them out on a color copier and frame.
- Make your own lip gloss by putting one teaspoon of Crystal Light powder in a small dish and adding three drops of water. Once the crystals are dissolved, add two drops of red food coloring and stir. In a separate dish, put one tablespoon of petroleum jelly and microwave until liquefied. Add Crystal Light mixture. Sir until well-mixed and pour immediately into a contact lens case. Allow to set for a half-hour.

- Jessica Yadegaran/Times