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Dermal Nutrient Eye Cream is a remarkable formulation combining the best of science and nature to visibly treat the early signs of aging in the vulnerable eye area.

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## SECRET SERVICE

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## DREAM JACKET

You've seen it on the runways in Paris (well, on the runways in *magazines*) and on the streets of New York. Once again, it has become the pivotal point of the spring wardrobe: It can be mixed and matched and worn over everything. The Perfect Jacket is the must-have for spring, and **AGNÈS B.** (116-118 Prince Street and 1063 Madison Avenue) is the place to find it.

The designs at this old-favorite shop are simple and flattering to the female form, with length ranging from hip to thigh and sleeves hitting the wrist or, for warmer days, mid-arm. "Very fitted and very alluring," says Amy Sullivan, Agnès B.'s director of U.S. stores. "There is a very Audrey Hepburn look to many of the newly introduced spring jackets." Look for elegant scoop collars that show off graceful necks and collarbones and lots of detailing—belts cinch the waists and buttons adorn many of the cuffs. Colors focus primarily on pastels and exaggerated earth tones in fabrics of linen, cotton, silk and, for evening, gold and silver lamé. All of Agnès B.'s styles look great whether over leggings or chiffon dresses for daytime, not to mention their appeal when worn over short, short skirts, which are still very much in. For evening, the jackets are paired equally well with this year's elegant, fuller draped skirts. Prices for the ultimate Agnès B. jacket start at \$250. **LAUREN SPENCER**



## Faux So Fine

**E.T. RETRO** (1023A Third Avenue, 755-5054, by appointment only) is a one-woman show, owner Esther Tobi is most definitely the star. Surrounded by beautiful vintage items, Tobi puts on quite a production.

She began her immense collection of high-quality costume jewelry showcased in this store in her early days as a nightclub singer (she still regularly appears in Atlantic City and Las Vegas). And even in this small space, Tobi has found room for photos of herself with the likes of Liberace, Milton Berle and Dom DeLuise—"I want to sell the frames," she insists. In addition to jewelry, Tobi's overflowing cabinets, walls and niches are filled with clothing, hats, accessories and even a handful of household deco items like vases and martini glasses.

The elaborate, beaded necklaces, "beautiful gaudy" rhinestone clips and other pieces Tobi acquires through private clients and estate sales are all restored by professionals under Tobi's direction. She's constantly reading to keep abreast of restoration and repairing techniques, as well as attending classes at FIT on the history of costume jewelry making. Favored clients (anyone with an hour to chat) are provided with a lesson in the giveaways of genuine vintage costume jewelry, such as metalwork findings or crystal beads that are no longer made. But difficult customers are another thing. "I had a woman come in with her daughter-in-law," Tobi says, "and she said, 'Let's get out of here. This is junk. We'll go to 47th Street and I'll get you a *real* gold chain.' I say, 'Ugh! How boring!' " She takes a breath, makes sure the audience is paying attention. "Costume jewelry," she says with a dramatic pause, "is a different thing altogether. A separate art." And priced to match. The gems range from \$50 to \$5,000. **ROBIN L. BAUR**