

FIND OF THE MONTH

**MICKEY LYNN DESIGNS** Have a heart! With this new pendant from Mickey Lynn Designs, that is. Crafted by I.T. consultant turned jewelry designer Mickey Lynn—who often employs contrasting metals and precious gemstones—this piece captures our love with simple sterling silver. Ranging from \$62 to \$95 (a portion of which will benefit the American Heart Association this month), the pendant, along with other Lynn-crafted baubles, can be found at boutiques such as Kaleidoscope and Pink Lemonade as well as at [mickeylynn.com](http://mickeylynn.com). —Kaycie Newbern



STYLE COUNSEL

# Party Dress

Demystifying “suggested attire”

By AMANDA K. BROWN

BEFORE AN EVENT, phone calls are made:

“What are you going to wear?”

“I don’t know! The invitation says [insert “suggested attire” here] . . . but what does that mean?”

More often than not, the answer lately has been, “who knows,” “anything goes,” or, “I’m not sure, but do you think I can get away with jeans?” In a city that loves to party—whether for charity or a revel without a cause—invitations arrive upon creamy card stock daily. These recent attempts at influencing an event’s aesthetic, however, were a little *too* creative and only flummoxed invitees:

**ATLANTA CHIC:** Hmm . . . chic-ness as it directly relates to a city that is home to both Lil Jon and Jane Fonda. Are these guidelines published in the ACVB brochures?

**MOUNTAIN ATTIRE:** Banish those L.L. Bean thoughts. The dress bewilderingly turned out to be less flannel, more Chanel (flats, of course—we are *roughing it*).

**CALIFORNIA CASUAL:** Our third-largest state must find it refreshing that its look can be so easily defined.

**BACKYARD CHIC:** It depends. Will our “chic” Jimmy Choos sink into any “backyard” designer dog poo?

**CREATIVE COCKTAIL:** Let’s just say the editor who received this one thought she’d be *sipping* a “creative cocktail” rather than *sporting* one. Same goes for **COSMOPOLITAN**.

**DRESS TO CHILL:** I “chill” in pajamas, sans bra. For some reason I don’t think this would be okay.

**DRESSY CASUAL:** Well, which is it? Dressy or casual? Why not “dressual”? After all, surely other portmanteaux like “snasual” (snappy casual) and “bizchic” (business chic) are the next cutesiness to come.

When faced with such displays of cleverness over clarity, style savoir faire can be elusive. The nature of the event itself could lend a hint, but not always. “Atlanta Chic,” for example, was culled from a baseball player’s charity gala invite and resulted in both little black dresses and premium denim. In which case, wouldn’t “Anything but Daisy Dukes and midriffs” have been more helpful (if less eloquent)?

My advice? Flout the fine print and wear what you want within reason. And if you gaffe, just laugh. At least you will have made it an affair to remember. ■

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