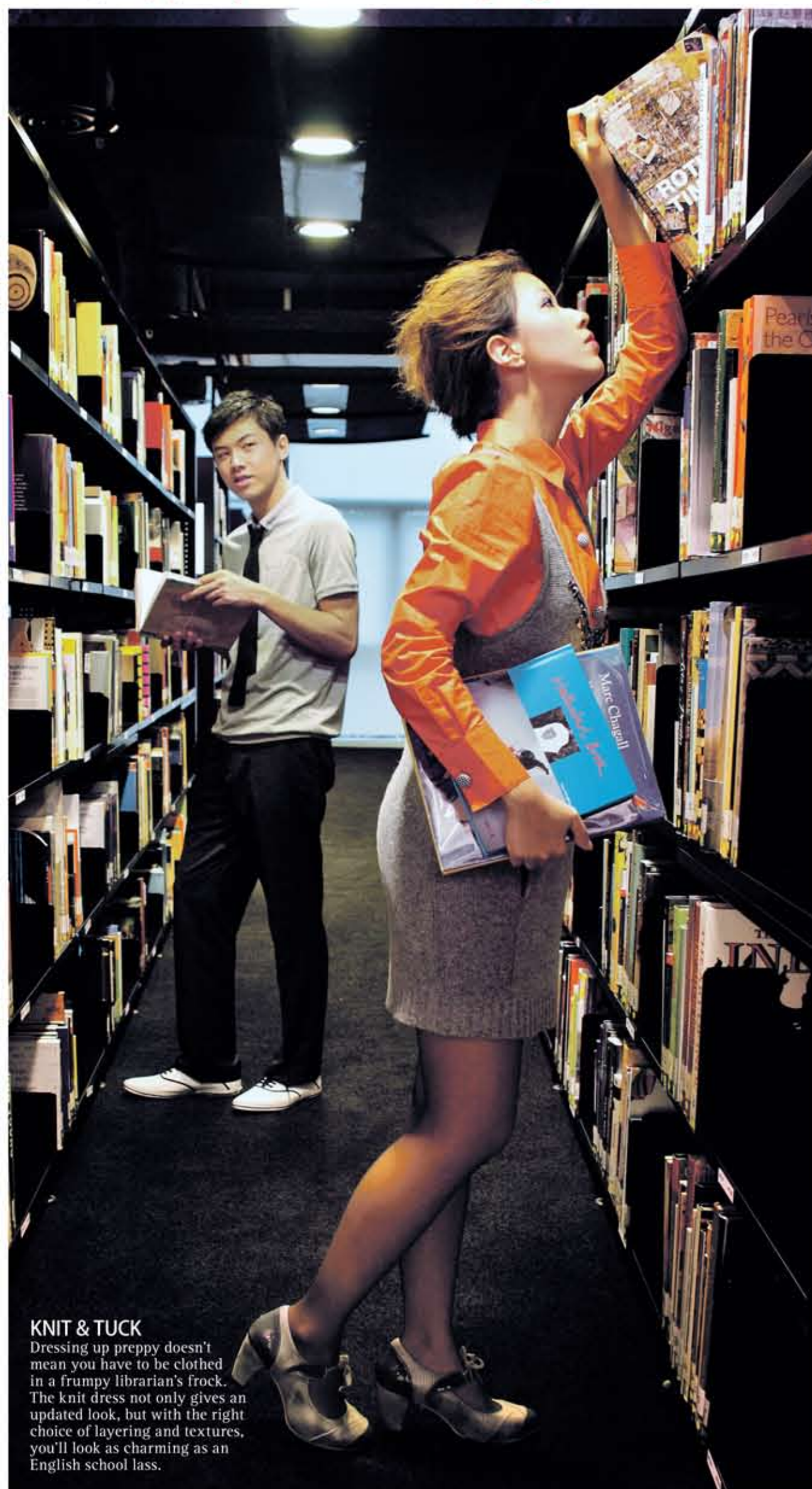


dapper: your essential style guide



KNIT & TUCK
Dressing up preppy doesn't mean you have to be clothed in a frumpy librarian's frock. The knit dress not only gives an updated look, but with the right choice of layering and textures, you'll look as charming as an English school lass.

On her: Knit dress, \$82; shirt by V&A-vii, \$59, both from Collage Workshop, 04-138 Far East Plaza; grey patent and faux snake leather heels, \$98, from Collage, 61 Haji Lane. On him: Polo tee with tie, \$53; trousers, \$105; white pinnacles, \$89, all from River Island, 01-41 VivoCity.

PREPPY *in love*

They aren't exactly your typical style savants, but as **Imran Jalal** discovers, the fashion world is bracing itself for the revenge of the geeks

LIKE everything else in the cult of fashion, nothing is ever predictable. What is deemed dowdy and stodgy one day, might just be the most celebrated look the next. At the recent Spring 2008 shows, designers pay homage to school-like dressing with an invasion of bookworms on the runway, proving that being a geek can be chic. At Bottega Venetta, Tomas Maier showed what Style.com's Tim Blanks labelled "a quirky take on a preppy Palm Beach story" - with breezy shorts and gauzy tops made from the lightweight cotton fabric, madras. Paul Smith on the other hand set a kaleidoscopic march of candy pop colours on polo tees and shirts. The godfather of British tailoring was inspired by renowned British painter David Hockney and this was apparent from the fuchsia pinstripe blazers to the pink sneakers. For women, Smith infused another key trend this season - menswear tailoring on jackets, pants, and yes, even bow ties. But if you prefer flirting with your girlishness, then Miuccia Prada's gamine interpretation of the preppy look will leave you enthralled. For her second line, Miu Miu, Prada exemplified how bright floral and graphic prints on slinky silhouettes will leave you looking more Lolita-esque than secretarial.



CHECK MATE
Prints are making their mark on the style radar. From Viktor & Rolf, to Comme des Garçon, designers are saying that it's hip to be square.

On him: Plaid shirt, \$123; cardigan, \$89, all from River Island, 01-41 VivoCity; denim and leather messenger bag, \$89, from Sky-floors, 84 Haji Lane.



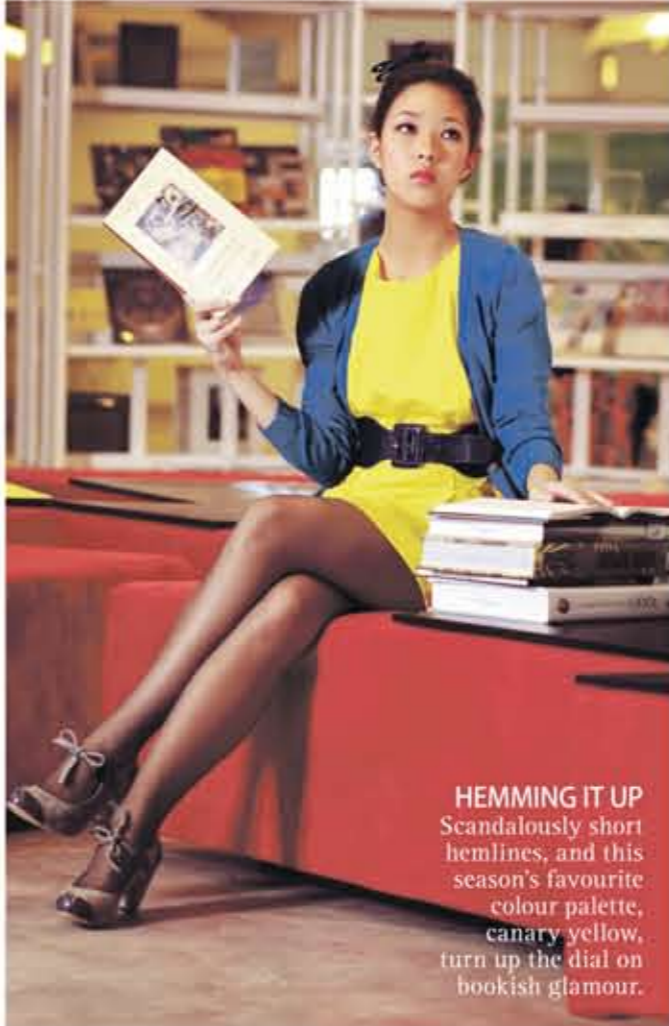
GEEK GODS
No longer the perennial knitwear meant for your geography teacher, the cardigan is now a hit with fashionistas.

On her: Cardigan, \$35, from Collage, 61 Haji Lane; shorts, \$95, from River Island, 01-41 VivoCity. On him: FunMUSE shirt, \$69, from Collage Workshop, 04-138 Far East Plaza; shorts, price unavailable, from Niche, 34 Haji Lane. Blouse and headband, stylist's own.



WASTED AMBITION
With the tides of fashion getting high, finally you get to cover up your behind. Pull up your act and look demure with either high waisted pants or skirts.

On her: Striped blouse, \$90; high-waisted skirt, \$100; patent platforms, \$169. On him: Cardigan, \$160; singles, \$21; pants, \$100; straw hat, \$45, all from River Island, 01-41 VivoCity; spectacles and head band, stylist's own.



HEMMING IT UP
Scandalously short hemlines, and this season's favourite colour palette, canary yellow, turn up the dial on bookish glamour.

On her: Cardigan, \$35, from Collage Workshop, 04-138 Far East Plaza. All other items, stylist's own.



VESTED INTERESTS
Waist coats are overrated, while pullovers are predictable. Resurrect the sweater vest and add a dollop of energy with prints and colour.

On him: Jack and jones shirt with knitted vest, \$79; shorts, \$59, both from Duplex, Level 1, 44 Haji Lane; shoes, made's own. On her: Jacket, \$175, from River Island, 01-41 VivoCity; velvet mary jane with patent trim, \$99.90, from Bianca, Level 2, 44 Haji Lane; chiffon blouse, stylist's own.

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