

Help in looking good could lead to better things

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

Beauty may be only skin deep, but when it comes to getting a job, appearance counts.

So says Nancy Curow, self-styled fashion guru and dynamic champion of the down but not quite out.

These days, Ms Curow donates her talents as a make-up artist and natural clothes horse to On Track, a program aimed at easing people on welfare back into the workplace.

Her involvement came from reading an article on personal shoppers — people who coordinate shopping for affluent clients — that set her to wondering why such expertise should only be available to the well off.

She found she had a natural empathy for women who were struggling to go back to work, or were members of the working poor.

"They don't have clothes and they don't have any money for shoes" said Ms Curow. "I teach them how to shop on a shoestring."

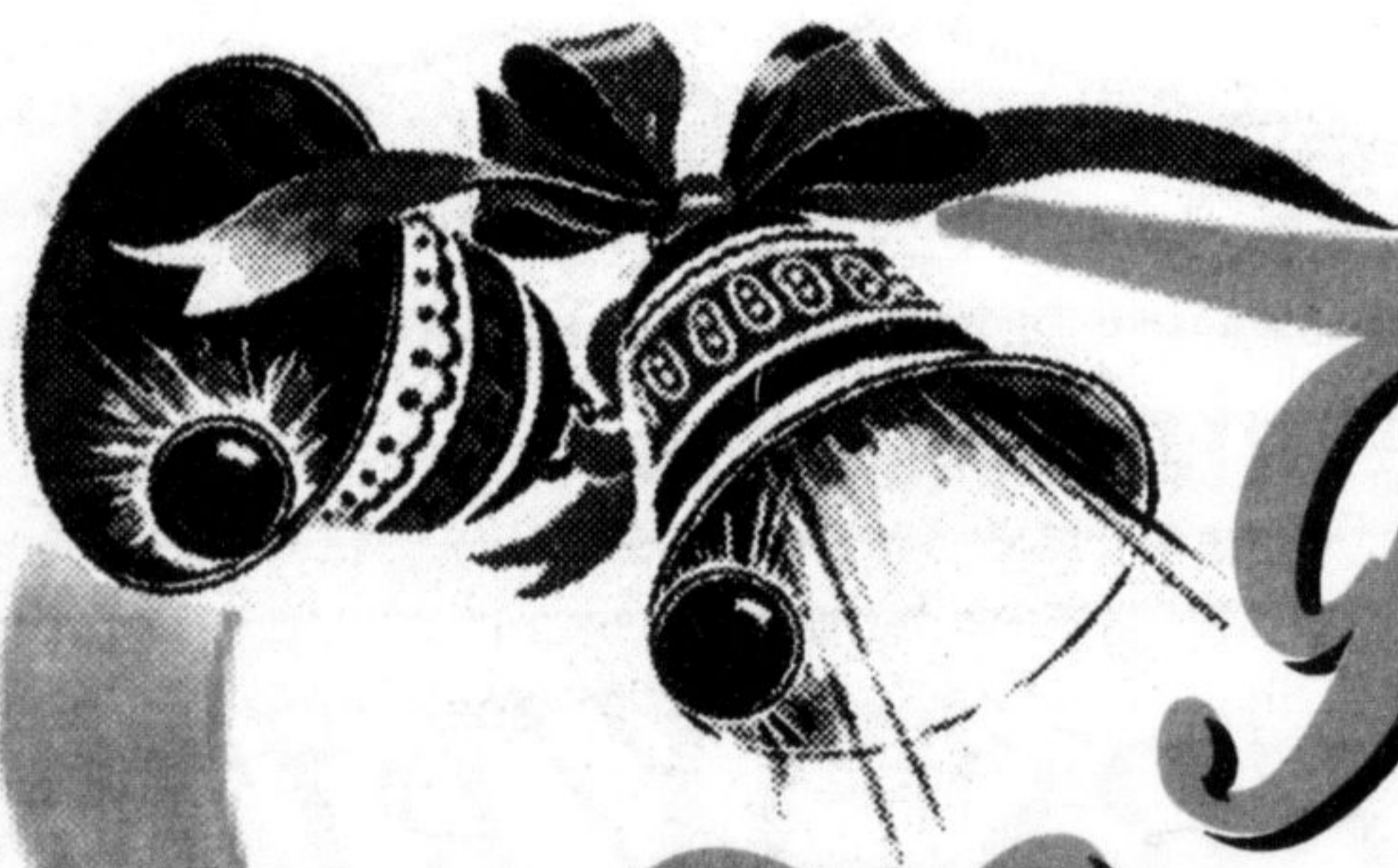
She does it by rounding up near grads of an On-Track class and hauling them over to a neighborhood consignment store. There, for about the cost of a tank of gas, she can fit them in a killer back to work outfit.

"I'm a natural with clothes," she said.

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE
Nancy Curow helps women with fixed incomes dress for success. She's seen here at As We Grow.



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