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CETTING & SPENDING I H I N G S I O B U Y

he fact that England gave the world Jean Shrimpton and the mini is no reason to make assumptions about its taste in fashion. Well, you may sniff, what about those loverley Bridesheady tweeds (make you look like a stuffed parakeet) or that devastating riding gear (ever seen Princess Anne on a horse?) or, of course, the inimitable Princess Diana. However, her penchant for polka dots and frumpy frocks is well known, and her hats are usually made out of Prince Charles's frisbees and the Queen's Tupperware. What's more, the Lucky Princess Di will soon have an ally in the Palace her pal and fellow Sloane Ranger, Sarah Ferguson (HRH Princess Andrew to you. matey), whose hat at



Ascot last year—
site of the fateful fixup with Randy
Prince Andy—was
formerly an integral
part of the UFO
diorama at the
Museum of Natural
History.

Such marvelous creations perched atop the heads of British Royals

should not deter anyone from wearing hats, especially if they're made by Manolo. With tongue firmly in cheek he has concocted incredible little straws, often whimsically decorated with flowers, ribbons, birds (and sometimes their

nests too), shaped to be worn lower on the crown and to look good on nearly any size or shape of head. He also makes perfectly simple boaters and all sorts of other straw hats. trimmed with ribbon or veiling, often in unusual colors. And there are many other outrageous, oversize, and outstanding one-ofa-kinds in his shop; prices start at \$35. So even if your invitation to Ascot got lost in the mail, or the only Prince you know is available at Tower Records, you can still look far more chic than any Real Princess.

Manolo, 96 St.
Mark's Place
(downstairs), 2542710. Open from 5 to
10 p.m. weekdays,
noon to 10 p.m.
Saturday, noon to 6
p.m. Sunday, or call
for an appointment.

-Karen Moline