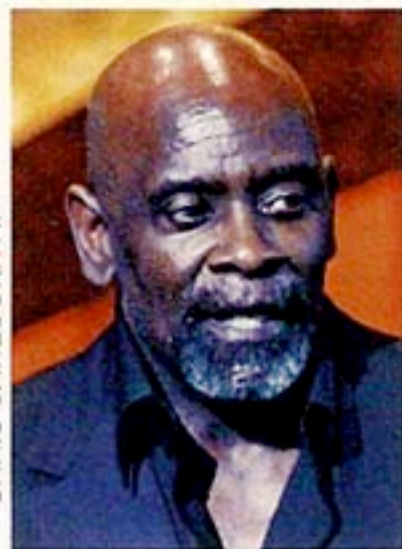


DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT



CHRIS CARLSON//AP

CHRISTOPHER GARDNER

Christopher Gardner is the CEO of his own institutional brokerage firm as well as a noted motivational speaker whose story of being homeless while training to be a broker was told in the book and film *The Pursuit Of Happyness*. Like a lot of men, Gardner, 56, knows what he likes when it comes to fashion. He's designed a pair of reading glasses for Eyebobs and proceeds from sales will go to the Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, which provided shelter to Gardner and his son while they were homeless.



EYEBOBS.COM//

» **Why did you select this look?** I liked the tortoise shell with the blue stems. I call them All Blues. I wear a lot of colors that work with some form of blue. This is the time of year when you're going to your lighter colors in your wardrobe and I felt this combination worked well with everything. Everything has to fit and flow.

» **Is it a challenge for men to find fashionable readers?** Yes. The ones that have a little bit of flair usually have almost too much flair. You can tell they were designed for a woman. At first I was getting my readers from the drugstore and just going for the magnification. But there you are, looking like a million dollars and then you pull out your 99-cent glasses. It's like 'Wow, I can see, but it's messing up my outfit!' I will admit I am conscious of these things. You're talking to a guy who had to wear the same one or two suits every day for a year. I promised myself that one day it would be different.

» **What fashion tips should men consider?** Always, always have your shoes shined. If you have to shine them yourself, do it yourself. Here's a cat with a nice suit, nice tie and shirt and then you look down on the shoes and it looks like you've been playing soccer. It doesn't work. And no wrinkles. Ever. And pull your pants up.

» **What else?** There are ways to look professional without a lot of money. Manicure and pedicures are important. If you have to do it yourself, do it yourself. Be clean. Your clothes don't have to be expensive. Just be clean, fresh and professional. — Karyn D. Collins



courtesy Jet magazine
June 14/21 2010 issue