

Female fashions spring into color

by Shelly Kalkowski

Relax. Be comfortable. The female fashion mood this spring is light, soft, roomy and slinky.

Baggy pants and shorts, halter tops, shirtdresses, cardigan sweaters and tank top sets, caftans and short, breezy skirts top the spring-summer fashion lists.

In color, the soft, winter pastels have spilled over into the new season. But the traditional Easter pales have perked up to candy brights—strawberry pinks, banana yellow, lime greens and sunkissed oranges.

Natural adds another shade to the spring pastels. Dusty rose, buff, white and beige create a quieter mood. And the spring traditionals—red, white, and navy—are still in the picture.

Plaids, prints—from dainty chintz to wild Hawaiian—and stripes are added dimensions to the spring color code.

For pants, dresses, jackets and blouses, the No. 1 fabric is searsucker, a puckery material most often seen in plaids, stripes and checks. Other favorites are gabandine, pinwale corduroy, brushed denim, double knit and crepe.

According to Teresa Bramble, buyer for Quentin's, there are more pants in the offing than last year. And the outstanding pant silhouette is still the high-waisted, loose-legged and cuffed baggy.

Last year's hot pants have cooled down to less-revealing rehearsal shorts. Ben Simon's Sportswear Buyer Pat Ward said the new shorts look is high-waisted and cuffed.

"Rehearsal shorts may be belted and pleated and will have a fuller, bermuda-length leg," Ward said. "They look like the shorts worn in old Betty Grable movies."

Contrary to rumors, all four Lincoln fashion buyers interviewed said baggy and elephant-belled jeans are still an important item in the UNL coed's wardrobe.

To top the pants, short knit sweaters are still making appearances. Wooden Nickel buyer Susie Sup describes these shrink-like sweaters as "dainty and feminine."

The barebacked halter, midriff and the elasticized "boob tube" are looks which will gain popularity as the weather warms up, according to Ward.

Last year's smocks have shrunk to the waist-length "little angels" which are usually full-sleeved and gathered at the neck or yoke.

Blouses are blooming with tiny flowered prints. Bramble said blouses feature gathering at the bustline and puffy, ruffled or butterfly sleeves.

Waist-length Eisenhower or baseball jackets are another approach to the pants outfit. The jacket usually has long-cuffed sleeves, a shirt collar and a fitted waist. Details such as top stitching, zippers, pockets and buttons add variety.

Shirring is the process and elastic is the raw material in what is perhaps spring's newest look. Judy Condon, the buyer for Hovland-Swanson's Unique Shop, describes shirring as the insertion of elastic into waistbands.

You name it, it can be shirred. Pants,

quentin's
1229 r
9-530 m-sat.

*Sunbathing, here or
abroad is just about
the same, except in
swim wear from*

Quentin's.

Suits in cotton

*Hawaiian prints, knits
and polyesters are the
biggest hit this year.*

