

# Big and baggy layers answer fashion prayers

By Joan Korinek  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Women's fashions are diverse and varied this fall but most have two common traits — they are big and oversized.

This is the year of oversized clothing in menswear influenced fashions, according to three local retailers.

The menswear influence has brought out many ties and suits which are "really fun," said Susie Sup, co-owner and buyer for the Wooden Nickel, 144 N. 14th St. Tops have deep-cut arm holes and shoulder seams are lower than normal, she said.

"I see it (menswear) as a very strong influence," Sup said.

Similar to the menswear look is the "industrial revolution" or street look where layering plays a role, said Kris Kramer, manager of The Closet, 245 N. 13th St.

"Everything is real loose, not really fitted," Kramer said.

In addition to menswear, the European look is "in," said Pam Ostrand, co-manager of The Limited in the Atrium. Big and baggy, this clothing is the type you'd see people wearing in Italy or France, she said.

The European look consists of big, oversized sweaters and below pocket pants, Ostrand said. Bright colors are worn on top while darker colors are worn on the bottom, she said.

"Just about everything goes," Ostrand said. "Things are pretty open these days."

Ostrand said that The Limited has moved away from the preppy look to the European look. Both Ostrand and Kramer said they thought this fall's fashions are new and have only recently emerged. In contrast, Sup said she thinks this fall's fashions have been building for a while.

There are many choices in pant lengths this fall. Pants range from cropped to the anklebone for trousers, Kramer said.

"Basically, this is the year of the pant," Ostrand said.

And the American classic, blue jeans, seems to have undergone a change. Basic blue jeans are out, Sup said, while stonewashed jeans are in. This year's jeans are void of lots of pockets and stitching, Ostrand said.

Colors are also playing an im-

portant role in fashions. Egg plant, french blue and charcoal gray are among the popular colors sold at The Closet, Kramer said. Pink is being paired with darker colors rather than the usual neutrals, she said.

"Pink is supposed to be popular this fall and winter," Kramer said.

Sup said she is seeing darker, muddier colors because of the menswear. Patterns are muted, she said.

"There's a lot of mixing of textures with stripes, plaids and tweeds," Ostrand said.

For sweaters, the natural fibers are the ones to look for. Many sweaters are 100 percent cotton, Sup said, which makes them cooler and more natural-looking. Some sweaters also contain linen or silk, Kramer said.

In the footwear arena, flat shoes seem to dominate the fashion scene. Flats are important from the standpoint of comfort, Ostrand said. The Wooden Nickel has a hard time keeping flats in stock, Sup said.

"Flats are very important," Sup said. "They go with the ankle pant well."

Ankle boots and penny loafers are popular, Kramer said. Ostrand said she has seen black loafers paired with white socks. She said perhaps this could be a Michael Jackson or James Dean type of influence.

"There's a lot of different things meshed together," Ostrand said. Socks are colorful and heavier this year, she said.

On the dressier side of fashion, dresses without shape and dresses that are free-floating from the shoulders down are popular, Sup said. In addition, she said, there is an influence of tail red dresses. Skirts are fuller this year, Sup said.

Underneath all these fashions still lie more — menswear underwear. These consist of little panties or boxer shorts and tank t-shirts designed after the men's briefs and undershirts. They are all cotton and come in all sorts of colors, Sup said. This underwear goes along with the menswear influence, Ostrand said.

To accessorize your outfit, dangly earrings and scarves draped around the neck will top it off, said Ostrand.

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