

# SOLE

## Shoe stampede

thongs, wide leather thongs with cut outs edged in metal, and the basic leather thong. Mallam said that he's hoping that sandals will be big for men. He said that huaraches will be strong as soon as the weather gets warm.

"People are going to want to wear shoes that are going to be cool on their feet," Mallam said.

Comfort may not always be first priority for those who have to dress up. Williams said that heels will still be popular for business women and listed several different heel shapes from slender to blocky. He said mid to low heels are big.

"In summer, flats are always more important than heels because summer's more casual," Sup said.

As styles change and revert to the past, shoe styles are following them with a 1980s update. Mallam said that more pointed styles are showing up, even some beetle boots. He said that some companies such as Zodiac are showing bits and pieces of the past. For women, Williams cited baby-doll heels as the only reflection.

Most shoes don't last decades or even an entire season, depending on how they're treated and worn. Williams said that shoes that are worn barefoot don't last as long because of perspiration. Mallam suggested wearing socks or rotating the shoes worn daily so they can dry out. He said that he's hoping that footies will be big this summer with canvas shoes. He also suggested buying more than one pair.

"A lot of shoes are being made better, though because the industry is constantly researching," Williams said.

For the consumer seeking comfort more than style, Birkenstocks offer a comfortable alternative. Marla McCabe, owner of Footloose and Fancy, said that she has a complete range of customers, from children to elderly people to football players.

The most popular style continues to be the two-strap, neutral sandals. She said they're easy to slip in and out of. Three new styles are taking a different approach for spring with cut outs, no backs and ties. Light gray, peach and yellow add to the wide array of colors.

By Joeth Zucco  
Staff Reporter

Animalism seems to be the new trend in men's and women's shoes for spring as buffalo leather, pony hair, croco-mocko, snake skin, feathers, safari looks and the ever-classic leather stampede the market.

"In open weave shoes, leather is going to be big," said Greg Mallam, men's shoe buyer at the Post and Nickel. "Multi-colored shoes with different textures like snake skin, broken glass-prints and salt and pepper looks are big."

In addition to animal looks, metallics will continue their appeal as the Southwest influence and chambray looks grow in popularity. Silver will be the strongest, accompanied by gold, pewter, rose and bronze.

Susie Sup, women's shoe buyer at the Post and Nickel said that there will be a definite pastel influence. She cited flats, pumps, sandals and Sperry Topsiders as major styles. Pat Williams, fashion consultant at Centerstage Shoes, said that pale yellow and neutrals will be big "according to Calvin."

Spring boots for women are a new trend, not because Nebraska gets snow in May, but because of the Santa Fe and safari looks. Major colors will be white and natural. Sup said that a lot of fringe and hardware plus cut outs add accents.

At the other extreme, sandals will continue their prevalence as the favored shoe. Sup said that the Southwest Indian feeling will affect their popularity. New styles show metallic beaded

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