

Dress for success, but be conservative

By Jane Hirt
Staff Reporter

In the rush for resume and portfolio material, many students don't stop to think about how they dress for interviews.

Dressing appropriately is a part of the interview process, and according to Christine Funkhauser, a business placement adviser at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln internship office, the key to dressing for success is to dress conservatively.

Funkhauser said no matter what position a person is applying for, whether it's for a desk job or to be a bus driver, it is important that he or she dress conservatively. She said for both men and women, dressing conservatively means a suit with a white shirt or blouse.

Funkhauser, who said she has attended many seminars on dressing

for interviews, said the best suit colors are navy, gray and pinstripe. She said it is not necessary for a student to buy an expensive suit, and she recommended Ben Simon's or Younkers for students with limited budgets.

"Invest in quality," Funkhauser said.

Doug McDaniel, assistant director of human resources at Bryan Hospital, said the attire of the person being interviewed should match the level of the job for which he or she is applying. He said for an office or business job, the person should appear conservative and businesslike, and sportscoats for men are appropriate.

He said that although a person's outfit shouldn't enter into the bias of interviewing, it does subconsciously. He said what he really looks for in a person's appearance is cleanliness and neatness.

Sally Schneider, assistant vice president and employee manager at FirstTier Bank, said that in an interview for any kind of financial institution, a nice suit—either gray or navy for both men and women—is appropriate.

She said that although a person's dress doesn't determine whether he or she gets the job, it sets the tone for the interview.

Kate Smith, manager of the Tailored Woman for four years, said that since she's worked there, she has seen no changes in the conservative business suit, and she doesn't foresee any.

She said the top color in business suits is navy blue, followed by gray and pinstripe.

Smith said white and off-white blouses with bow ties or a pin or pearls are the most appropriate to complement a conservative suit. Smith said the suits in her store begin at \$195. Don Steward, buyer of men's clothing at Ben Simon's for 30 years, said the "power look" colors for men are navy, charcoal and medium gray.

He said the "power look" has traditionally indicated a man of power. He said brown is not a power look.

There is a definite "accepted corporate look," he said. This look, he said, is a suit with a burgundy or yellow tie, a white shirt, and lace-up or wing-tip shoes. Steward said that if a student's budget limits him to a sportscoat, it should be navy.

Steward said a student buying an entire outfit, including shoes, could expect to pay about \$470 at Ben Simon's. He said the store's suit prices range from \$250 to \$695.



Dave Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Steppin' out

By Lisa Donovan
Staff Reporter

Shoe styles this season have taken a step back.

Many popular shoes resemble styles from the 1950s and 1960s, said Lowran Schroeder, manager of Baker's Shoe Store.

"We're seeing a lot of pointed toes, boat shoes and loafers, which were popular at that time," he said.

Raetha Smith, manager of J. Bragg's shoe department, said the high, thin-heeled women's shoes resemble those popular in the 1940s.

Men's canvas high-tops, wing-tipped shoes and women's crocodile-type shoes are reminiscent of the 1950s and 1960s, said Stephanie Nimmer, salesperson at Famous Footwear.

"A lot of people have come in and asked about saddle shoes," she said.

Even the 200-year-old Birkenstocks, which made their debut in the United States in the 1960s, are gaining popularity with people who don't necessarily have foot ailments.

"It's being recognized more as a real healthy shoe," said Pat Lee, salesperson at Footloose and Fancy.

Lee said some of the comfort shoe's popularity is due to trend, but much it is because people realize "it has good support and allows the body to be in balance."

Traditional, preppy styles remain popular. Boat shoes, white canvas shoes with navy trim and plain, white, canvas shoes are still big sellers, Nimmer said.

The camp moc, a brown or tan top-sider with dark brown soles, is still popular, she said.

Schroeder said many conventional shoe styles never go out, but there are always a few trendy styles.


"This year, the Spuds MacKenzie tennis shoes are really big. Last year it was the metallic shoes," he said.


The style for both men and women this year is dressy, Smith said.

"There's a lot of textures, a lot more details, combining leather and canvas, and two-tones are popular, too," said Dawn Allen, a salesperson at Backstage Ltd.

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