

Playwear

Extreme outdoor sportswear emerges into trendy wardrobes

By Kindra Molin
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has a diverse and enlightened student population. This diversity spans a large range of interests and activities upon which the students are involved.

Styles differ from conservative yuppie-wear to vintage consignment clothing to grunge-band, cult-following attire to the technical outdoor clothing worn by athletes who participate in extreme sports.

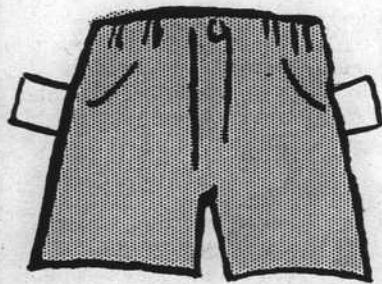
Extreme means only to exceed the ordinary, usual or expected, to take a sport to the highest degree — its maximum. These sports that seem to push the limits of sanity and sound mind include hiking, snow boarding, biking, mountain/ice climbing and rock repelling.

While the popularity of those sports has risen tremendously in the past three years, the clothing and accessories seem to have drifted beyond the interests of the athletes and into the wardrobes of fashion-conscious students.

Hiking boots, heavy ski parkas and insulated gloves are all pieces of clothing that are justifiable. It seems as if the chill of winter keeps holding on and specially developed clothing helps to combat the threat of that freeze.

According to Jeff White at The Moose's Tooth, companies such as Marmot, The North Face and Eddie Bauer are developing clothing that will stand up to nature's challenge by keeping the elements out and the heat in.

The North Face recently has committed itself to producing a special type of synthetic fabric called Ny-Cot Twill that is a completely non-cotton, synthetic fabric. It has the feel and comfort of cotton, but it is hydrophobic or "water-hating." This synthetic fabric is designed to pull perspiration and water away from the body, making heat loss because of evaporation impossible.



The practicalities of this type of fabric are evident for the athletes who will be exposed to extreme temperatures for extended amounts of time. According to White, however, "not many people in Nebraska are ice climbing." For students, the clothing keeps them warm and dry while they trek from building to building, rather than glacier to glacier, looking polar-protected and very stylish.

Hiking boots are another practical crossover from rigorous sporting to mainstream fashion. Their durability, warmth and gripping tread are all good reasons for students to invest in a pair. Durability is easy on a college budget because the shoes don't have to be replaced as often. Warmth is always a factor in the strange, but apparent, sub-zero Nebraska weather. The gripping helps students stay on their feet, defying the slick ice's ability to take them down at a moment's notice.

Another crossover piece of clothing is the shooting glove. Shooting gloves are fingerless gloves, usually lined with Thinsulate, an insulated thermal lining. Often, the gloves have pull-over mitten flaps that fasten with a patch of Velcro.

The gloves are specialized for hunters and ice fishermen who need warmth for their hands in cold weather, but also need the use of their fingers. It doesn't seem as though students are doing a lot of shooting on campus, but the gloves are useful for freeing up fingers for tasks such as zipping up zippers, tying shoes, etc ...

Cold weather clothing isn't the only type of fashion that has crossed to mainstream dressing. Cargo pants and shorts, Oakley sunglasses, Airwalk and Vans tennis shoes and rock climbing

carbiners have also sprouted up all over.

Cargo pants and shorts are usually used by hikers, backpackers and mountain climbers. Their many and easily accessible pockets and comfortable light fit make them necessary for terrain in which athletes frequently visit. They have, however, evolved into casual wear and can be found in fashion venues as common as the J. Crew catalog.

Carbiners have been seen used as key chains, backpack accessories and other miscellaneous things.

"I've seen carbiners used as key chains all over the place. They're very practical," said James Thompson of Lincoln Sports.

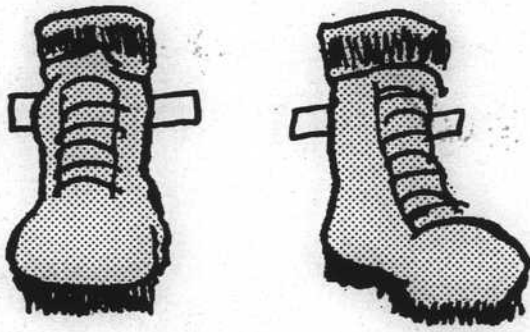
Cycling has made its own contribution to everyday fashion as well. Oakley sunglasses, which gained their popularity through cycling and skiing crowds, have become popular among young people.

According to Blue's Bike and Fitness Center, Oakley sunglasses are the biggest crossover fad from the biking world aside from Lycra shorts, which appear to have been an '80s phenomena.

Airwalk and Vans tennis shoes started out primarily as footwear accepted by skateboarders. Both brands now have floated into the common closets of people on campus.

Inspiration for new fashion is always in demand whether the spark of genius comes from an old movie, thrift shop or sport. The popularity and ability for these fashions to hold the attention of such a large and diverse generation is remarkable.

The technical outdoor clothing industry has expanded immensely, and the mark for this fashion is obviously and abundantly present.



Trendy apparel for spring features pastels, brights

By Heidi White
Staff Reporter

Spring is on the way and with warm weather sure to follow, it's time to ditch the heavy, dark clothes of winter in favor of lighter and brighter apparel.

Most students should be able to fit right in with spring fashion trends across the board, according to the Internet Fashion Mall (<http://fashionmall.com>).

Writers at this site recommend relaxed, comfortable clothes in light colors and natural fibers. Colors that top their list are crisp whites, tan and festive brights, especially yellow, green and blue. Fun novelty prints also will be in style.

Locally, Doug Ferrar, women's buyer for the Post and Nickel, said spring would be fun and easy with lots of choice for color.

Ferrar said dresses seemed to be a big thing this year, with a lot of A-line styles and flouncy bottoms. Short and long skirts also will be popular in all kinds of prints and colors, especially brights and pastels.

"Cotton things in fun colors and easy shapes, both body-conscious and relaxed, will be big in spring," he said.

Lucky brand denim shorts continue to be popular for the store, as well as other items that are comfortable and not necessarily expensive.

"We try to be a leading fashion store and interpret our customers' wants," Ferrar said.

Susan Dewey, assistant manager at Gadzooks, also a local store, has noticed definite trends for spring.

"The shorts are getting shorter for girls and longer for the guys," she said. Surfer shorts and board shorts would be big with both men and women this season, along with the usual denim, she said.

Dewey said that T-shirts with company logos altered slightly, such as "Fed Up" instead of "Fed Ex" also had been popular along with baby tees. Shirts will be very free with their wording and say things like "wow" and "hot chick" on them.

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DOUG FERRAR

women's buyer for the Post and Nickel

Red and white clothing and accessories have been big sellers at Gadzooks so far, and basic black is still an option.

Name brands like Redsand, Joe Boxer and Calvin Klein have been selling well in the store already, as well as Mossimo. This spring supposedly will be the last season for Mossimo to produce new clothing, Dewey said.

Doc Marten sandals, Hawaiian print clothing, retro and bright-colored backpacks were also trends for spring, she said.

Followers of the high fashion scene may want to check out Fashion Net, (<http://www.fashion.net/info.html>) the largest fashion site on the Internet, for advice on spring trends.

Elle magazine's site, a link from Fashion Net, included New York runway reports, by Harriet Mays Powell (<http://www.ellemag.com/member/trendreports/newyork/index.html>).

Mays Powell wrote, "The outstanding collections all promoted a new relaxed way to dress. Marc Jacobs and Richard Tyler created simple but ravishing clothes that allowed their personal message to shine through. Calvin Klein, the King of Clean, triumphed with sensuous matte jerseys and minimal details. His clothes were fresh and sexy."

Although Ferrar said magazines were sometimes a little extreme, even high fashion trends for spring seemed to be leaning toward the relaxed and comfortable clothes and fabrics of everyday life.



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