

# SAVVY!

## Colors, prints in full bloom for spring '86

By SUZY STREET  
Staff Writer

Leafing through current fashion magazines and wandering through local boutiques, students may notice how spring clothes seem to jump out from their confinements. The colors and wild prints compete fiercely for a buyer's attention, and nothing can be too bright or too tight.

According to Joanne Greer of Blue Heaven at 171 E. Franklin St., this season's fashions can be characterized by an "explosion of color." Deep pinks, vivid purples and bright yellows are everywhere, she said.

Greer was quick to point out, however, that feminine pastels and muted colors were also strong.

"There are definitely two distinct color groups this year," she said, and all colors are appropriate for both sexes. Greer said pastels like peach, mint green and pale yellow are now popular for men.

By far the most demanded color, however, continues to be black, said store manager Janice Lowery. She said the color's versatility and the slimming effect have made black "the biggest color all year."

Popular again this year is the crisp-looking black and white combination. Its clean lines are easy to accessorize, Greer said, and reds, pinks and yellows are often added for a dash of color.

Greer said she has seen little red or navy blue for this season, and traditional neutrals have given way to a grey-tan color popular in the Esprit fashions.

Prints are also big news this season, and they're not for the conservative dresser.

"Paisley (last fall's best seller) is on the way out," Lowery said, and its scarcity in magazine advertisements attests to this. Taking its place are zoo prints, cartoon characters and flowers.

Esprit's spring line includes shirts adorned with large, bright dinosaurs. And fish are another unique print for spring, Greer said.

Mickey Mouse continues to be the rage, Lowery said, but other comic strip characters have begun to establish themselves in the fashion arena. Some fabric manufacturers are even printing material with entire, but randomly dispersed, "Sunday edition" comic strips.

Greer also noted the resurgence of ethnic and Indian prints. Although it is not as common as other motifs, this look has added a new dimension to the ever-popular neutrals, like khaki, tan and beige.

The shapes of spring clothes are also noteworthy. For men, Lowery said, the look is "long and baggy." Jams and oversized shirts are a mainstay in this wardrobe, she said.

While men's clothes are "baggy," women's styles include new closely-fitting shapes that look anything but comfortable. These clothes are "body conscious," Greer said.

But Lowery added that designers had adapted their styles accordingly. "The clothes are cut to make you look feminine," she said, so curvier women can still look as good as thinner figures.

A staple this season, Greer said, is the sleeveless, turtleneck shirt. Paired with a body-hugging skirt, the top creates a "flattering, but slightly racy, long line." It's "playing it safe while still being sexy," she said.

Sleeveless turtlenecks, crewneck and criss-cross halter dresses are also part of this look. Jennifer Riegall, a women's wear associate for the Ralph Lauren Company in New York, said the spring was especially suited for this style. "Dresses are very, very important for spring for (women)," she said.

Other notable spring fashion trends include "stirrupless" pants which retain the stirrup pants shape; cotton sweaters (for men, too!) oversized tops paired with snug bottoms; simple styles with wild accessories (especially rhinestones and hearts); skirts of all lengths (especially denim minis); ankle-length crop pants; pastel madras separates; sunglasses (particularly if they are on a cord); hats (especially baseball caps and "rum-runners"); bustiers for women; and most important . . . COLOR!



## Women's swimsuits bright; men's baggy

By KATHY PETERS  
Staff Writer

Swimsuits are going Hawaiian. If there is one word to describe the styles for both men and women's suits this summer, it is prints — any and all types of prints.

Tropical designs are fashionable for men, while floral and geometric styles are "in" for women.

Cartoon prints, like Mickey Mouse, are also making a big splash, especially in juniors' departments, according to Debbie Coryell, assistant manager for the misses division of the Jantzen company.

"The brighter the better" is the motto for men's suits this season, according to Bob Black, men's department manager at South Square Mall's Belk-Leggett store. Jams, baggy, colorful suits reaching at least to mid-thigh, are back and even longer this year — just a few inches above the knee.

And prints are taking a step back 10 years to the tropical patterns of the 60s and early 70s. Second in popularity is the stratified look which combines

dots on one half with stripes on the other, according to Patti McGrats, assistant to Jantzen's advertising manager.

For women, bikinis are back, and, judging from the looks of it, this year's style is not a far cry from the itchy-bitsy-teeny-weeny yellow polka-dot bikini of years past. The Shrunken Head at 155 E. Franklin St. sells 60 percent of its suits to bikini-wearers, according to owner Shelton Henderson.

Although Europeans will be sporting wider bikinis this summer, American women are sticking with small bandeaus. "The tiny bikini is still going strong," said Gillian Mitchell, owner of Twins, a women's bathing suit manufacturer in Hialeah, Fla.

Despite the resurgence of the bikini, one-piece suits are still fashionable. Only this year, designer artistry is changing the one-piece. In some styles, the traditional line of the suit is practically abandoned in favor of cuts in untraditional places. Designers are creating maillots with tummy regions cut out,

reminiscent of the one-piece "cosmo suit" that swept the industry in 1978.

Tummies are not the only bare areas on some suits. Twins has created a "C-suit," which leaves both the tummy and half of the back bare.

No longer is it taboo to wear functional suits, even with other styles appearing on the market. Maillots sport wide straps and moderately high-cut legs with a focus in wearability and simplicity. In fact, the low-backed tank suit is predicted to pick up where it left off last summer as one of the top sellers on the market.

Replacing the bows and ruffles of last year are the cover-ups. Both skirts and oversized shirts are "a big business" for Jantzen, according to Coryell.

On the women's market, color, especially for prints, is headed toward a softer look, according to Coryell. Neon is slowly fading from the scene.

Even so, hot pink will not relinquish its hold on the market, according to Mitchell. And black-color combina-

tions such as black accentuated with yellow or hot pink are selling well, according to Whitney Cork, sales associate at Belk Leggett.

But if shoppers can't decide which color to wear, the Twins company offers the "Magic Ink" suit, a light-activated suit which changes colors when the wearer moves from inside to outside. Macy's department store in New York has bought the suit. They plan to sell the one-piece style for \$39 and the bikini for \$32.

Color and texture merge in one particular style suit that is getting noticed. Mitchell calls this high-sheen combination "the foil look." Gold and silver, its primary colors, are toned down slightly with a blend of hues, and the result is almost snake-like.

Ocean Pacific has come out with some tricks of its own, too. Their new line of men's suits includes some made with a process called reverse printing in which the suits are printed inside out for a shadowy effect. The suits brighten up when they get wet.

Photographs by Charlotte Cannon



## Shoes make the perfect fashion finish

By MARTHA WALLACE  
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At last. It's finally time to go. You've spent hours figuring out what to wear, and it's not until you're making that final check in the mirror that you notice one thing is missing — shoes.

There you are, wriggling your toes and trying to decide between your two pairs of flats and wishing they matched. Why didn't you think of this sooner?

"People don't tend to put as much emphasis on their shoes as they do on their outfits," said Patsy Turner of Separate Quarters specialty store at 1819 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd. "Most people just want something basic that they can wear with everything."

The bottom line, it seems, is often forgotten; but this spring, shoe fashions are making more of a statement than ever.

"The new cropped pants, or clam-diggers, give special attention to the feet, and sporty shoes and boots look great with them," says Melissa Rousset, fashion consultant for Unisa Shoes in Manhattan, N.Y.

Leather boots come in every color of the rainbow and can be found at almost any shoe store this spring. The boots look especially good when worn with bobby socks, another fashion trend.

"Bobby socks come in a variety of colors this year," Rousset said, "and are not only being worn with tennis shoes and boots, but also with pumps."

Popular pumps this year are quite different from the uniform color two-inch heel shoe of 1985. And colored hose or the thin colorful bobby socks are a real accent to the new look.

"This year's pump is bringing the Chanel look back for the first time in

years," Turner said. "The spectator pump is back now — a white pump with a colored toe or heel. The heel is medium height and very thin this year."

One may also opt for the new flats, however.

"This year flats are really in," Turner said. She added that sling-back open heel shoes with a closed toe were also fashionable this season.

Popular shoes in Chapel Hill are the more sporty, fun shoes, according to the salespeople at Separate Quarters. The demand for avant-garde is diminishing, Turner said.

What is selling in New York City? At Unisa, the basic shoe is also in, but their idea of basic is a tad different.

"Our metallic shoes are selling very well this season," Rousset said. "Silver is more popular than gold in shoe fabrics, and we've sold a lot of the shoes with chains on them."