

FASHION FORECAST

The Mood Is Colorful And The Fashionable Are Happy

(NAPSA)—Here's news that may color your opinions: In a recent survey, 30 percent of respondents selected turquoise as their favorite color to wear in spring and summer 2004; white was the number two choice.

A beautiful color palette can be the basis for the season's incredibly wearable clothes and accessories, including mouth-watering sherbet tones of raspberry, lemon, lime and orange. Combine these flavorful colors with vivid brights such as turquoise, fuchsia, chartreuse and lavender for a fresh, fun look.

Among the best dresses this season: strapless with a high waist and full skirt. Consider geometric prints; bold florals and two-toned stripes. Don't ignore solids—they still look great.

Cropped pants can be an essential component to spring/summer fashion. There are a wide variety of lengths from which to choose, so select the most flattering and comfortable. Capris can go just about anywhere, especially with kitten heels, colorful cotton tees and fitted knit tops.

Off-the-shoulder, boat-neck tops are extremely popular, as are ruffled blouses with pouf sleeves, classic button-down striped blouses and polka dot knits. The tank is a versatile wardrobe piece; layer under, over or wear alone. Choose any bright color; white works equally well.

Shoes and bags are key to the best dressed looks—the brighter the better. Pastel colored bags—think peppermint pink or canary yellow—can make an outfit totally chic.

Bags in general are more struc-



tured. Gold and silver accents are particularly stylish.

For shoes, '50s style pumps are back but they're far from plain. What's new: lace-up ribboning, brilliant colors, cut-outs, appliqués, textured finishes. Slingbacks, platforms and strappy sandals look the best in metallics and brights.

The belt may be one of the best ways to update your wardrobe. Belting your cardigan over your dress or skirt looks new again. Look for belts of grosgrain ribbon and thin leather.

Color also prevails in jewelry, report the experts on high fashion at low cost at T.J. Maxx. Semi-precious stones can really perk up an outfit. Bracelets are big; earrings are long. Oversized sunglasses, flower pins and scarves provide a glamorous, retro touch.

To find a nearby store in the off-price retailer chain that sells brand name, designer merchandise and accessories for less, call 1-800-2TJ-MAXX, or visit tjmaxx.com.