



This couple shows the similarity in mens' and womens' fashions. Many girls prefer to dress casually for classes. Pants have been accepted dress for a relatively short time. (Photo by Lee Dunkelberg)

Originality counts

# Girls fancy pants, prefer casual look

By SUE DAVIS  
Battalion Women's Editor

Fashion has made it easy on those who are trying so desperately to establish their individuality. For perhaps the first time since high fashion became popular, women can choose to wear just about anything they want and not have to worry about being "out of style."

The fashionable thing to do now is not to be fashionable. Everyone should dress the way he or she prefers, without being dictated to by foreign designers.

A girl's originality can be determined by the type of pants she wears. Every conceivable variety, from expensive pantsuits to bell-bottom jeans, can be seen on the A&M campus.

The first high fashion pantsuits developed in the wake of the mini skirt, that phenomenal success. The mini was readily accepted by women everywhere and because of this, its newness quickly faded.

Realizing the importance of originality and, yes, shock value, designers had to search for something to follow up the mini. They began creating elegant pantsuits as semi-formal and formal attire. Needless to say, women flocked to this new fashion and were at first refused admittance to many

places, as men wearing turtleneck shirts were not allowed.

But the pressure was too great. Pants are now accepted in most restaurants and clubs. They are also considered proper dress for many saleswomen and secretaries, such as those who work on the White House staff.

Nurses, whose uniform style has hardly changed since the days of Florence Nightingale, now wear pantsuits to work in. Pick up an issue of Bride's Magazine and you can see advertisements for formal bridal pantsuits.

Naturally not too many women dress this elegantly every day. For more informal occasions, the preferred styles are less expensive pantsuits, the basic shirt and slacks outfit, and good ol' T-shirts and jeans, all of which are popular with women at A&M. Few girls wear knickers or gaucho pants, which are the latest pant style. Italian designers have now come up with shorts outfits, that they hope will take the place of the mini skirt.

Most girls prefer a mix-and-match style of their favorite blouse and pants. Jeans in bright colors or patterns are also popular.

"Some days I just don't feel like getting all dressed up," Joyce Cooksey, a freshman Chemistry major, said. "It's nice to be able to just put on a pair of pants and not worry about how you look."

"The pantsuits are very attractive," Mrs. Patricia Self, Counselor for Women, commented. "I like to see the kids relaxed and comfortable."

Mrs. Self, however, expressed concern over some of the students becoming sloppy in their dress. T-shirts, jeans and bare feet are fine in their place, she said, but they should not be worn to class.

Comfort is the reason most girls give for wearing pants to class. Miss Cooksey wears pants to her labs because they are easier to work in.



Jeans are popular with many girls at A&M because they are comfortable and easy to relax in. Most girls prefer to make their own outfits by mixing and matching favorite blouses and pants. (Photo by Lee Dunkelberg)

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