For X-mas: accessorize, accessorize

The holidays are the time you can jazz up your wardrobe and wear something fun and different from the sweats and T-shirts you wore during dead and finals week.

This holiday season the colors are bright and the styles are flattering and sexy. If you are on a tight budget — as most college students are — there is hope that you too can find a style that expresses your holiday spirit and still leaves you money for Christmas presents.

To start off, the accessories are a must to make any outfit festive for the occasion. At Valley River Center's Etcetera is a wide selection of holiday earrings that start at about \$10.00. The earrings are in posts or wires that have festive designs like Christmas trees, mice, reindeer, wreaths, presents, and the most popular Christmas bulbs.

"If you put on the right accessories on anything it can really dress it up," said Pam Halseth, manager of Jay Jacobs.

Big, bright Christmas tree earrings can make your every-day wear take on a Christmas spirit for not much money. For a more glamourous look, rhinestone or sequin earrings can accent your holiday wear to create a special touch.

When you think of Christmas, big, warm, and cozy sweaters top your list in holiday attire. At Place Two, also at the Valley River Center, sweaters come with pearls,



Earrings and sweaters can be found in abundance at local stores to spruce up anyone's Christmas look.

sequins, and gold or silver accents. The prices start at about \$6.00. The earrings match the decorations on the sweaters creating a unique and fun combination.

Lambswool sweaters with decorations create a very elegant look. They are a bit more costly but are warmer and better quality.

Of course you cannot forget the traditional cotton knit sweater with snowmen, Christmas trees, snowflakes and or/wreaths on them. Put a cotton turtleneck with little holiday designs on it, and you have got a comfortable, Christmasy look.

Washable silk in an array of colors is ideal for the holiday traveler. It is light and can be easily packed for parties away from home.

But for special parties that you want to make an impression at, the little black dress is essential. Traditional velvet is much more creative this year with deep jeweled V-neck backs.

The velvet swing dresses are a very popular style. Black and white are the predominate colors. Also, touches of metallic on the velvet adds color and fun.

Lycra is an important part of the glamourous sequin dresses to give it the perfect shape. There are even velvet lycra leggings that can be worn under your favorite sweater to dress it up.

Now is the time to branch out a bit and see what fun you can have dressing up for the holidays. Enjoy!

-Mia Bertelsen





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