

CALIFORNIA Apparel News

THE VOICE OF THE INDUSTRY FOR **73** YEARS

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RED FLAIR

Santa Monica College students held their year-end fashion show, called LA Mode, on June 11. For more looks from the show, see page 5.

JEFF BYNUM

Iris Peihan Lee

How Missteps in Trade Could Flip the U.S. Economy

By Deborah Belgum *Executive Editor*

Trade and tariffs could be the make-or-break factors when it comes to growth of the U.S. economy.

Experts at the UCLA Anderson Forecast, who released their second-quarter economic report for the country on June 13, were upbeat about the future but noted that President Trump was playing with fire when it came to restrictive trade measures and tariffs.

"We can sleepwalk into a serious economic accident," wrote David Shulman, a senior economist with the UCLA Anderson Forecast.

The dustup over tariffs took center stage following the recent meeting of the G-7 in Canada, where President Trump wouldn't back down on his aluminum and steel tariffs against longtime allies including Canada and Mexico. The G-7 comprises U.S. allies France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and Canada.

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Digital Commerce Looks for Clearer View in Net-Neutrality Fight

By Andrew Asch *Reta² Editor*

Obama-era net-neutrality Internet rules have been officially repealed, leaving businesses and average Internet users wondering what will happen next when they go online.

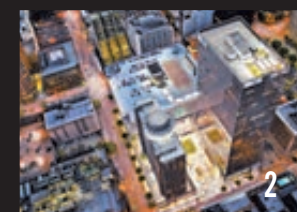
Ajit Pai, the Republican-appointed chairman of the **Federal Communications Commission**, said the repeal, which went into effect on June 11, would help pave the way for "better, faster, cheaper Internet access" by dropping cumbersome restrictions.

Jessica Rosenworcel, an FCC commissioner nominated by President Barack Obama, said the repeal would damage the online experience. "Internet service providers now have the power to block websites, throttle services and censor online content. They will have the right to discriminate and favor the Internet traffic of those companies with whom they have pay-for-play arrangements and the right to consign all others to a slow and bumpy road," she said.

After the net-neutrality repeal, business chiefs such as

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Where fashion gets down to businessSM

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Paul Marciano to Resign as Guess Executive

Paul Marciano, the cofounder of **Guess? Inc.** and the subject of sexual-harassment allegations, announced he will be stepping down as chief creative officer and executive chairman of the Los Angeles company he helped found with his brothers in 1981.

The decision was announced on June 11 after the special committee in charge of investigating allegations lodged by model Kate Upton concluded its investigations. The results were presented to the board of directors on June 7 and June 11.

It was decided that Marciano will remain on the board until his employment contract expires early next year, but his brother Maurice Marciano will take over as chairman of the board.

Paul Marciano, according to filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission,

has started to transition his duties to Victor Herrero, the current chief executive of Guess who came on board three years ago. Marciano plans to fulfill the remainder of his employment contract, which expires Jan. 30, 2019, to ensure an orderly transition.

Marciano's decision to leave his executive positions was voluntary, the SEC filing said.

On Jan. 31, supermodel Kate Upton posted accusations of improper conduct against Marciano, saying he abused his power at the denim and fashion company where she once modeled.

Three weeks later, it was announced that Marciano would relinquish his day-to-day responsibilities on an unpaid basis while the investigation was being conducted.

"I have pledged my full cooperation to the company, and I have the utmost confidence

in our CEO, Victor Herrero, to continue leading the company during this time," Marciano said in a statement at the time. Marciano was the chief executive until 2015.

Results by the investigation undertaken by law firm **Glaser Weil** noted that allegations against Marciano included claims of inappropriate comments and texts and unwanted advances including kissing and groping. Investigators interviewed more than 40 people and reviewed approximately 1.5 million pages of documents—including emails, human-resources and legal-department files, social-media messages, video and audio recordings, photographs, travel itineraries, calendar entries, agreements, invoices, and financial records—the SEC documents said.

Many of the allegations could not be corroborated. In some cases, no conclusion

could be reached because the individuals either declined to be interviewed or provided insufficient information to the investigators. And, in other cases, the investigation found that credible accounts were given by both sides.

The investigation found that on certain occasions Marciano exercised poor judgment in his communications with models and photographers and in placing himself in situations in which plausible allegations of improper conduct could, and did, arise.

To avoid the cost of litigation and without admitting liability or fault, Guess and Paul Marciano entered into nonconfidential settlement agreements totaling \$500,000 to resolve claims by five individuals who made allegations of inappropriate conduct by Paul Marciano.—*Deborah Belgun*

Eddie Bauer and PacSun Tie the Knot

Rumors of a merger between outdoor retailer **Eddie Bauer** and surfwear and streetwear retailer **Pacific Sunwear of California** have been circulating for the last few weeks.

As preposterous as it sounded, the rumors turned out to be true. **Golden Gate Capital**, the San Francisco-based private-equity investment company that owns both retailers, announced on June 7 that it was forming a new operating company, called **PSEB**, which will be the umbrella organization for Eddie Bauer and PacSun.

On the front end, the two retailers will operate as usual, but on the back end, the two will share services and enhanced economies of scale to save money.

Eddie Bauer Chief Executive Officer and President Mike Egeck will serve as the CEO of PSEB, overseeing both brands.

"PacSun's curation of youth culture and brands through the lens of the California lifestyle permeates its brand in the same way Eddie Bauer's heritage of outdoor innovation underpins its nearly 100-year history," Egeck said. "While customers and fans of Eddie Bauer and PacSun won't see any change in their store or online experience as a result of the creation of PSEB, they too will benefit as the brands are powered by a larger and stronger platform."

There was no news about what role interim PacSun CEO James Gulmi will play. Last year,

he replaced Gary Schoenfeld, who had been PacSun's chief executive for eight years, starting in 2009. Schoenfeld guided the Anaheim, Calif.-based retailer through a Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization.

PacSun emerged from bankruptcy in 2016 after reducing its debt and shedding stores. It was then acquired by Golden Gate Capital, which agreed to infuse the struggling retailer with \$20 million in capital.

Last year, reports said that Golden Gate

Capital had enlisted **Financo** and **Guggenheim Partners** to explore selling Eddie Bauer as a large debt came due.

At the time, Eddie Bauer was seeking relief from a \$225 million term loan due in 2020 and a \$200 million revolving-credit line that comes due in 2019.

Eddie Bauer's past is also laden with a bankruptcy, which was in 2009; a delisting from the NASDAQ; and subsequent sale to Golden Gate Capital for \$286 million.—*D.B.*

CBRE Named as Property Manager at The Bloc

CBRE's portfolio at **The Bloc** mixed-use retail and business center in downtown Los Angeles has expanded.

CBRE, one of the largest commercial real-estate services in the world, will handle property management and office leasing for The Bloc, which wrapped up a \$180 million remodel in 2017. CBRE formerly handled only office leasing for the 1.8 million-square-foot development, which offers shopping, dining and a **Sheraton** hotel, said Meg A. Byrne, The Bloc's branding and marketing manager.

"The retail, office and hospitality components are now positioned to work together, benefiting our office tenants, retailers and hotel guests as well as delivering an exceptional amenity for local workers and downtown residents," she said in

a statement.

Retail leasing will continue to be handled by **National Real Estate Development**. The Washington, D.C.-headquartered company owns The Bloc. Its specialty is developing mixed-use projects.

The Bloc made news in April when **The Ratkovich Co.** sold its interest in the business to National Real Estate Development for an unspecified amount. **Blue Vista Capital** continues to serve as a partner in this venture.

Since the departure of Ratkovich, news was broken that Japanese fast-fashion brand

Uniqlo signed a lease for a two-story space at The Bloc. The debut of the Bloc's luxe cinema chain, **Alamo Drafthouse**, has been delayed several times. The cinema chain's website said it will open soon.—*Andrew Asch*

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Gap Inc. Names New Head of Gap Brand

Neil Fiske, who has held top executive positions at **Billabong International** and **Eddie Bauer**, has been named the new president and chief executive officer of the **Gap** brand, a role he will assume at the San Francisco company on June 20.

Gap Inc. President and Chief Executive Officer Art Peck said Fiske's extensive career in the retail apparel industry and experience repositioning brands would be an asset to the clothing retailer.

"Neil brings significant retail and apparel experience to Gap Inc. and a track record of transforming and repositioning brands," Peck said in a statement. "He is an experienced leader who deeply understands the mechanics of this business."

Fiske most recently served as the chief executive of Billabong International. Earlier this year, he helped navigate a merger with the surfwear company's rival **Boardriders**

Inc., formerly called **Quiksilver**, based in Huntington Beach, Calif.

As the president and chief executive officer at Eddie Bauer, based outside of Seattle, Fiske repositioned the company by concentrating on the brand's roots as America's original outdoor outfitter.

"Gap is a truly iconic brand that is loved by its customers across the globe, and I am excited about the significant opportunity ahead for us," Fiske said in a statement. "The brand has made some important progress, and I look forward to working with the team to drive improved performance, operational excellence, great merchandising, and distinctive and powerful marketing."

Fiske replaces Jeff Kirwan, who was fired earlier this year after Peck said he started seeing operational missteps that were hindering inventory and causing late product deliveries.—*Dorothy Crouch*

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Forecast *Continued from page 1*

The aluminum and steel tariffs prompted Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to stand before a phalanx of TV cameras and announce that his country's citizens are polite but won't be pushed around by the Trump Administration. Trudeau then threatened tariffs on U.S. products exported to Canada, one of our largest export trading partners. In 2017, the U.S. exported \$341.2 billion in goods to Canada and imported \$332.8 billion in goods from Canada, giving the U.S. an \$8.4 billion surplus.

A trade war is bad for business, as seen in the fluctuating stock market reacting to the uncertain trade future. "This is not good," Shulman said. "If it is broad based enough, you can make a recession."

On top of tariffs, the United States still hasn't wrapped up negotiations with Mexico and Canada over an updated North American Free Trade Agreement. UCLA economists fear the left-leaning candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador will win the presidential election in Mexico this July, which would threaten a renewed agreement.

"A trade war implies higher tariffs and non-tariff barriers that work as a tax on the American people and would raise prices and restrict output," Shulman wrote. "This is hardly the recipe for economic growth."

Still, without major disruption, the economy will continue to expand at a measured pace through 2020. Gross domestic product is expected to rise 3 percent for the balance of this year when measured from the fourth quarter of 2017, but then it will take on a more moderate pace with GDP growing 2 percent in 2019 and 1 percent in 2020.

The slowdown will be because the country is nearing full employment and the economy does not grow as quickly if there is not a rise in productivity. "The current strong job growth, which averaged 200,000 jobs per month in 2017 [in the United States], is not sustainable in a full-employment economy," the UCLA Anderson economists wrote in their report.

They predicted that job growth would average 133,000 a month for the rest of 2018 and then decline to 85,000 per month in 2019 and 60,000 a month in 2020.

The current U.S. unemployment rate of 3.8 percent is expected to dip to 3.4 percent by mid-2019 and then move back up to 3.8 percent by the end of 2020.

For several years, California has been adding more jobs as a percentage of the workforce than the rest of the country, but being the most populous state with 39.5 million residents, the state's unemployment rate is a bit higher at 4.3 percent. It should hold steady at 4.3 percent by 2020.

One interesting fact about California is the state continues to shed more manufacturing jobs in areas including durable goods and apparel but is bulking up on technology jobs in Silicon Valley in Northern California and Silicon Beach in seaside communities around Los Angeles.

The UCLA Anderson Forecast predicts that total employment growth in California will be 1.7 percent in 2018, 1.8 percent in 2019 and 0.8 percent in 2020.

While unemployment rates will remain lower,

interest rates will go higher. The Federal Reserve raised the benchmark interest rate by a quarter of a percent on June 13 to between 1.75 percent and 2 percent.

"The consensus is there will be two more raises in interest rates this year—one in September and one in December," Shulman said.

The rise in interest rates is being propelled by higher inflation, higher wages and an exploding federal deficit, Shulman wrote in the forecast. Inflation on a year over year basis measured by the consumer price index already exceeds 2 percent and should go up to 3 percent by 2020. Wage increases, which recently rose by 2.5 percent over last year, could rise by 4 percent year over year in 2020.

Higher interest rates will have a major effect on housing construction because borrowing by real estate developers will become more expensive and cut into project developments.

Housing starts across the country remain well below their long-term average and are a far cry from earlier boom periods. U.S. housing starts will increase in 2019 to 1.4 million units but decline to 1.36 million units in 2020. That is below the 59-year annual average of 1.435 million units between 1959 and 2017.

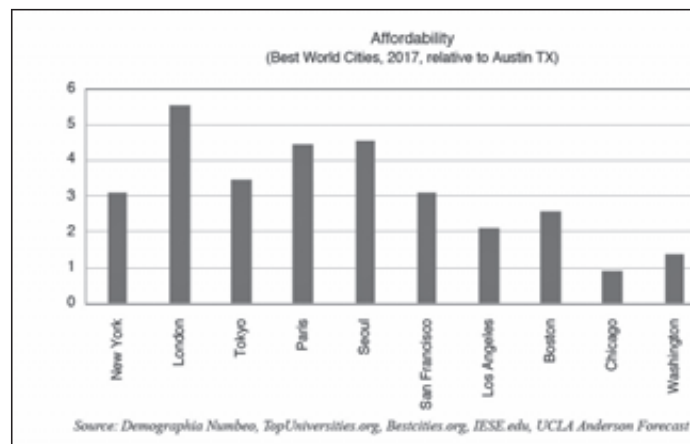
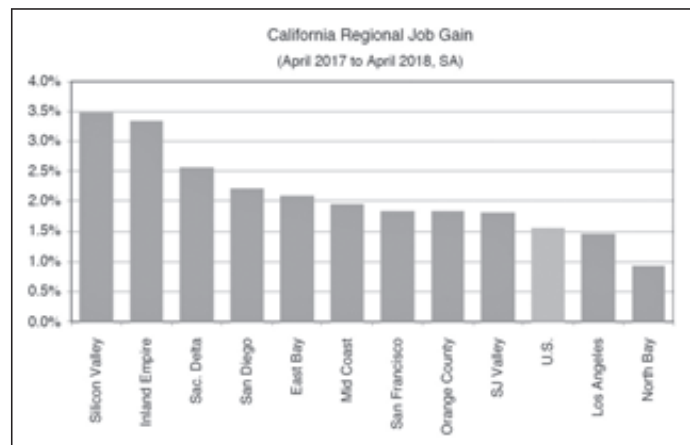
The UCLA economists wrote that housing starts have been the greatest disappointment of the economic recovery and expansion, which began in 2009.

This lack of housing will only exacerbate the growing affordability problem in the urban areas of California. And that will continue, with housing prices expected to continue their upward march.

Part of this is due to the fact that California's coastal cities remain desirable places to live for local residents and wealthy foreigners looking for a second home in which to invest.

Since 2000, housing prices across the country have risen 97 percent, but in Los Angeles they were up 178 percent above 2000 prices. Chicago and Atlanta housing prices have grown only 42 percent in the last 18 years.

"Robust job creation [in California] has been and will continue to put pressure on housing demand," wrote economist Jerry Nickelsburg. ●

Net Neutrality *Continued from page 1*

Dave Watson, chief executive officer of **Comcast Cable**, insisted the business of watching a video on a computer or selling a dress online has not changed.

"I want to make sure our customers have the facts about their Internet service with all the recent news about an open Internet and net neutrality. Nothing about Comcast's broadband service changes as the FCC's recent net-neutrality order goes into effect today. Your Comcast service isn't different today. And it won't be different tomorrow," he wrote in a blog.

Verizon said the FCC policy won't cause rate changes. "Product and service rates are subject to change at all times, but a potential change has nothing to do with open Internet rules," said Richard J. Young, a Verizon spokesman.

But some businesses and consumers are worried that changes are on the horizon. These include "zero rating," or the policy of some sites being exempt from higher costs and extra fees being charged for visiting other sites. Internet service providers (ISPs) might "throttle" some sites or cause them to load slowly, which would make many people avoid the site.

In a fashion business that increasingly relies on digital commerce, changes to the Internet create confusion, said Syama Meagher, the owner and chief retail strategist of **Scaling Retail**, a Los Angeles-based consultancy. "There's a lot of uncertain-

ty," she said. "It leaves a lot of brands in the dark."

Some of her clients have asked how the repeal will affect posting content-rich media such as videos. But the majority of digital content for most fashion brands comprise still pictures on shopping sites, and these pictures don't take up as much bandwidth, she said.

But many are concerned about how possible changes will play out. "Small to medium-sized companies have to push harder to get visibility in general. This will make it harder," Meagher said.

Jeff Van Sinderen, an analyst for **B.Riley FBR**, said the repeal could favor bigger companies. "Some of the larger retailers arguably have the wherewithal to strike deals with ISPs to pay for fast access. Smaller retailers that do not have the resources could be at a disadvantage. We will see how it plays out, but the new rules certainly bring up some concerns," he said.

Judah Phillips of the data and analytics consultancy **SmartCurrent** said the new rules can gnaw at a company's bottom line. "For example, ISPs could charge retailers additional costs for making their sites work quickly on the ISP's network. This cost could be passed through to consumers in the form of increased prices or reduced margins to shareholders. Additional costs could act as barriers to entry for new entrants in e-commerce where margins are already thin," he said.

There's enough concern about the repeal that state and local governments are exploring laws to preserve Obama-era rules. Mayors of 108 U.S.

cities and Santa Cruz County, south of San Francisco, have vowed to require groups working with their cities or using city services to uphold net-neutrality rules, according to the **National Regulatory Research Institute**, a research division in Washington, D.C., for the **National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners**.

About 35 states have sought to preserve net-neutrality rules. The California Senate passed one such bill, Senate Bill 822, by a 23-12 vote on May 30. On June 20, a hearing is scheduled in the state Assembly on the bill, which could be voted on by August.

"Specifically, SB 822 prohibits any practice that hinders or manipulates consumer access to the Internet to favor certain types of content, services or devices over others," Wiener said.

State and local laws, however, conflict with the FCC. A provision in the FCC's repeal exempts states from making their own net-neutrality laws. Supporters of state and local measures contend that their laws will hold up on judicial review. In May, the U.S. Senate passed a measure to uphold net neutrality in a 52-47 vote. A similar bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. No vote has been taken on it.

The brewing legislative fight and the shifting ground has some apparel executives who rely on e-commerce in a quandary. One of those is Jeff Shafer of **Bluer Denim**, who is taking a wait-and-see attitude to see how it plays out. "It's too hard to predict," he said. ●





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NEWS

High-End Stores Opening on Robertson Blvd.

Robertson Boulevard used to be one of Los Angeles' high-flying retail corridors but started to suffer once the economy took a tumble in 2008. But a couple of high-end stores have recently signed leases for space on the street.

Ryan & Walter, a bridal store co-owned by designer Walter Mendez, opened quietly in January on 120 S. Robertson Blvd. where once there was a **Sky Boutique**. Mendez—who has made gowns for stars such as Beyoncé, Jennifer Lopez and Britney Spears—plans to hold a grand opening for the store later this year.

The 2,000-square-foot Ryan & Walter will feature some ready-to-wear bridal styles, but it will specialize in made-to-measure gowns with prices starting at \$7,500.

Also new to Robertson Boulevard is an upcoming **James Perse** furniture and home accessories flagship, which is scheduled to open this fall, according to a statement on the company's website. The Los Angeles-headquartered brand runs a clothing store a few blocks away at 8914 Melrose Ave. The company did not return requests by press time to comment on its soon-to-open store.

There are around 11 store vacancies on the once-bustling street, near the intersection of Robertson with Alden Drive. But new tenants moving to the street show that Robertson Boulevard is making a rebound, said Chuck Dembo, a partner in the retail-real-estate firm

Dembo Realty.

"It's going to take a little while for it to come back," Dembo said. "It's an important street. It's surrounded by a great neighborhood. It's got all of the right ingredients."

Since 2015, Mendez has been running a self-named atelier called **Walter Collection** in Los Angeles' Fashion District, where he has operated the Ryan & Walter bridal line with business partner Ryan Patros. But with demand growing for the bridal line, Mendez and Patros thought the consumer for bridal and eveningwear lines was different enough to warrant having separate retail spaces.

They chose a Robertson space because it was located down the street from fashionable restaurants such as **The Ivy**, still a popular spot for celebrities to eat. Robertson also is a short drive from many affluent Los Angeles neighborhoods, Mendez said.

"For us, it's about catering to the more fashionable bride with runway couture," Mendez said of the line's looks. "It balances the right amount of sexy with the right amount of traditional. It balances modern styles with romantic looks."

Mendez and Patros designed the interior of their store with a palette of golds and silvers, which they said brings out the colors and finer points of the bespoke dresses.

Store services include styling appointments with Mendez and Patros.—*Andrew Asch*

Calendar

June 18

Los Angeles Fashion Market

California Market Center

The New Mart

Cooper Design Space

Gerry Building

Lady Liberty Building

Academy Awards Building

Primrose Design Building

824 Building

Los Angeles

Through June 20

Designers and Agents

The New Mart

Los Angeles

Through June 20

Brand Assembly

Cooper Design Space

Los Angeles

Through June 20

LA Kids' Market

Select

Transit

California Market Center

Los Angeles

Through June 20

June 23

Los Angeles Professional

Services presents the Black &

White Ball, benefiting National

Jewish Health

The Langham Huntington

Pasadena, Calif.

June 24

Midwest Apparel Trade Show

Embassy Suites

Deerfield, Ill.

Through June 25

Fashion Market Northern

California

San Mateo Event Center

San Mateo, Calif.

Through June 26

There's more
on ApparelNews.net.

For calendar details and contact information, visit ApparelNews.net/calendar.

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The Way of Fashion at Santa Monica College's Student Show

Global looks were on the runway at **Santa Monica College's** annual student fashion show, called LA Mode 2018.

The runway production of 19 collections was an eclectic mix of casual, cocktail, club and creative styles reflecting the international backgrounds of the students.

The June 11 event, held at **Santa Monica High School**, was organized by SMC fashion-show-production students, and photography was provided by the college's photography students.

—Deborah Belgum



Felicia Berntzon

Emilie Geldreich

Abby Kahan

Yu Jiang

Linda Celine Ekbaeck



Praphinsri Twiss




Reina Laceste




Emilie Geldreich


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JUNE 18-21



JUNE 18-20

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Top 10 Items for Juniors Fall/Winter '19 Forecast

The juniors customer, always ready for something fresh yet wearable, will have plenty of new items to choose from for next fall. Below are the top 10 picks from **MintModa**, an innovative online subscription trend service led by noted forecaster Sharon Graubard.

The Exploded-Image Pullover



Adam Selman



Marques Almeida

Graphics for tees are no longer confined to a small mid-chest motif or a subtle back placement. The newest imagery for cut-and-sew knits is magnified and printed over every inch of a garment, from neckline to hem and from shoulder to banded-trim wrist.

Wearers can express themselves and their passions with imagery ranging from endangered-species photo prints to graffiti slogans. Digitally printed grounds imitate watercolor blurs, tie-dye or marbled “notebook” textures. Some designers show mixed effects, as in a pop art–printed sleeve. Sweat-shirt silhouettes are key and often extra large.



Marco de Vincenzo

The Big Cardigan



Miu Miu

Sweater knits are always a must-have for fall. Some of the newest sweaters are cardigans—especially oversized, slouchy ones. Juniors can wear these over everything from jeans-and-tee ensembles to flowered dresses or lacy slips, evoking a kind of grunge-era Courtney Love non-chalant glam.

Fluffy mohair yarns provide a textural update. A wide, floppy collar like the ones Miuccia Prada did for her Miu Miu collection brings freshness to the silhouette. Other desirable design details are button-off sleeves, placed intarsia patterns and highly dimensional cables. Extra-long sleeves emphasize the too-big fit.

The Performance Base Layer



Marine Serre



Prada

For a more body-con approach to cut-and-sew, juniors can opt for a performance knit. These are in lightweight, stretchy jerseys, smooth or micro-ribbed and in a blend of fibers, including nylon, polyester, bamboo and elastane. These fabrics may have value-added capabilities such as moisture-wicking or anti-microbial properties.

Visible seams or contrast stitching emphasize a contoured fit, and crew or band necklines key into the new covered-up aesthetic. Placed chest stripes, zipped turtle-necks, branding appliqués and graphic color blocking add more interest. Many of these new knits are longer, perfect for tucking into pants or wearing over a soft skirt.

The Modern Bustier



Christian Siriano



John Galliano

The bustier evolves from undergarment to standalone top to layering piece, worn under or over other garments. For next fall, look for techno-sport interpretations such as a strapless nylon bustier with zip pockets, making it a hands-free option for street- or clubwear. There are also shiny patent looks and satin versions with boning or underwires. All are meant to peek out from under an open shirt or be worn on top of a more oversized piece, bringing a bit of structure to fluid silhouettes. Closures include tech zips, metal lingerie hooks, corset lacing and Velcro.

The Heroine Blouse



Bock



Isa Arfen

Female power is expressed with romantic blouses. Many of these have Victorian overtones, bringing a bit of femininity to juniors ensembles, which often include androgynous items such as baggy jeans, rave pants or tech cargos.

Details make the difference: There are high necks, lace insets and placed gathers at the shoulders that give way to special sleeves. Peplum effects look new again, often defined with smocking or grosgrain-ribbon trim. Tiny covered buttons or button-and-loop closures work well here. Fabrics for these tops include bleached muslin, supple or stretch velvets and plaid taffetas, making this item holiday appropriate.

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The '80s Mini-dress



Adam Selman

Isabel Marant

There is an old saying in fashion: "If you are old enough to remember it, you are too old to wear it." If that is true, then the current interest in '80s-era fashion is perfect for young customers who have never had the pleasure of synthetic shine, extended shoulders, frankly fake animal prints and up-to-there lengths.

The newest dresses are body skimming and short, with interest at the top. There are puff sleeves, one-shoulder cuts, sweetheart necklines and high-banded necks. A shapely torso is emphasized with a bit of gathering or princess seaming. Prints work well here, especially leopard spots, tiger or zebra stripes, and lush florals. Shimmery jacquards or sequins add more gritty glam.

The Liquid-Liner Pant



No. 21

Olivier Theyskens

Another '80s-flavored item is the super-shiny pant. The finish can be ultra high gloss, satiny smooth or oil-slick iridescent. With current technology, it's impossible to tell at a glance whether today's shiny fabrics are glazed wovens, lacquered jerseys, vinyl or even patent leather. The wet-look effect can also be achieved with pavé sequins for a clubbier take. These glossy trousers can be skinny or pegged, with most hitting just above the ankle. Hems are accented with narrow cuffs or zippers. Slits or undone zips give the silhouette a slight flare.

Something Plaid



Rick Owens

Marco de Vincenzo

Plaid is shorthand for so many fall-related references—think back-to-school uniforms, preppy jackets, swingy kilts, grunge flannel shirts and woody vintage blankets. All of the above are inspirations for next fall's cozy looks. Any kind of plaid will work, from traditional tartans to boxy buffalo checks and tweedy Prince of Wales layouts. Plaids are renewed in unexpected color combos and over-scaled layouts, perfect for outerwear or skirts, pleated minis, elevated shirt-jackets or fun, flare-leg pants. Plaid items are often styled with other (mismatched) plaids or with camouflage prints or leopard motifs for an irreverent pattern-on-pattern effect.

The Playful Puffer



Burberry

Marco de Vincenzo

Puffer outerwear is a juniors staple. For next fall, these cold-weather favorites move from neutral active-wear items to eye-catching statement pieces. Rainbow stripes—symbol of the key juniors value of "inclusivity"—uptrend for knits and accessories and work perfectly for horizontally quilted vests and coats. The stripes can be clear and graphic or have a blurred ombre effect. Next fall's unexpected explosion of florals have a place on puffers as well; when printed on fluffy duvet jackets, these traditionally springtime motifs take on a decidedly autumnal spin.

The Collectible Bomber



Dolce & Gabbana



Miu Miu

The bomber jacket is still relevant, updated with surface treatments and fresh proportions. Oversized versions emerge, with voluminous bodies and full sleeves; dropped shoulder seams add to the roomy feel. At the opposite end of the fit spectrum are abbreviated jackets with cropped lengths and snug fits. Embellishments include embroideries and sequined appliques for fanciful interpretations or buffalo-checked patches for a more casual look. Tweeds and nubby plaids are key, often accented with leather. Wide rib-knit trims, channel elastic or sporty toggle drawstrings provide the all-important gathered effects that give these blouson jackets their signature rounded shape.

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➔ New Lines page 10

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1: Accumulation of Microplastic on Shorelines Worldwide: Sources and Sinks. Mark Anthony Browne, et al. Environmental Science & Technology 2011 45 (21), 9175-9179. DOI: 10.1021/es201811s

2: THE GENERATION AND AQUATIC BIODEGRADATION OF MICROFIBERES PRODUCED FROM LAUNDERING FABRICS. Zambrano, M., et al. NC State University, Raleigh, NC, USA. Cotton Incorporated, Cary, NC, USA
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