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Raising money one outfit at a time

By Whitney Slightham

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It's 10 p.m. at Rouge on Saturday night and "Black and Yellow" reverberates through the club as guests wait patiently. The bass becomes more energetic as the first model struts down the runway wearing a chic-looking black, cropped jacket, an exposed chest and white tapered pants with black wedge booties. The show has begun.

The UWO Fashion and Lifestyle Society's fashion show titled "Timeless Fashion" raised money for Rethink Breast Cancer this past Saturday. The society met their goal of raising \$500. The show featured seven different sets that presented modern interpretations of distinct looks from each of the eras. These eras included military, '50s glam, '60s mod, '70s Woodstock, women's empowerment, lingerie, '90s grunge and a prediction for the future of fashion.

"Fashion and style are two very different things," says Katherine Hope, co-head fashion stylist. "Fashion is an art, while style is an expression of who you are and what makes you feel beautiful."

Both were exhibited at the show on Saturday.

The military set featured neutral and navy tones, crisp lines, collared shirts and loose linen fabrics, while the '60s Twiggy-inspired set exhibited vibrant warm hues, bold jewelry and feminine contours. Each model in the '70s hippie-themed set tossed handfuls of fresh rose petals at the audience as they posed in baggy clothing, bare legs, head wraps, thick belts and earthy tones – a unique and organic touch.

The "women's empowerment" set consisted of tailored power suits with deep V-neck button-downs and pencil skirts. One of the most notable looks featured a half tucked-in over-sized cropped lace top, a pencil skirt, a vintage leather detailed belt, and a backwards pendant necklace which hung gently down the model's back. A distinguished look for men included olive green pants, a light blue checkered button-down and a red tie – innovative, bold and classy.

But according to Sarah Prince, the Fashion and Lifestyle Society's vice-president of communications, the show wasn't easy to put together.

"[It was] a huge success, even though seven of the models dropped out of the project within the week prior to the show," says Prince.

The models' hair and makeup were neutral and subdued, consisting of smoky eyes, nude lips, high ballet buns and loose wavy curls. Caitlin Herold and Carolyn Beaudry, the co-ordinators of the show, noted the neutral hair and makeup styling was meant to be "versatile for the ages."

The clothing was contributed by Mesh, American Apparel, Winners, Value Village, Talize and the stylists.