

From faddish fads to classy classics



Patty's outfit is made up of extremely versatile and durable pieces. She starts with probably the most prominent trendy feature — the "ripped" sweatshirt. Oversized and made of 100% cotton, this item is first in comfort. Buy it in basic gray and coordination is no problem. Black is the latest color in jeans. Crop them to mid-calf, wash out most of the dye and tailor them to hug every inch to get this very-French look. Too much trouble? You can buy this style nearly everywhere. For shoes, Patty borrowed a great pair of soft plastic sandals in bright red. They look outrageous, but they're really very comfortable she told me. The rest of this outfit is made up of accessories — a skinny red belt, red and black bangle bracelets and dangly black earrings. Don't forget to add a few touches of pink, though. Pink Vuarnets, a plastic laundry/shopping bag, and a ripped cotton tank underneath the sweatshirt complete this faddish extreme. Special thanks to the women of Delta Gamma for their contributions to this outfit.

Part of the fun of returning to school every year is seeing some of the great clothes people put together. Some are pretty scary, regular Halloween garb. Other outfits, though definitely trendy, have a fun appeal — you wish you had the guts to wear 'em. Then there's preppy dressing; you'd have a closetful if you could afford it.

Finally there's the attire you don't notice, even though three-fourths of the student population diligently wears it. You know, Nikes, 501's, and whatever shirt or sweater is clean.

This fall, however, is a real exception; in fact it's downright disappointing. The walks to and from class that used to be 10 minutes of fashion are now dull and uneventful. Sure, there are a few faddish costumes, just as there are the ultra-fashionable ones. It's just that they aren't wild or objectionably extreme in style.

Story by Julie Shippen
Photos by Mark Pynes

The qualities that made a fad a fad (such as shocking colors, little or no durability, and utter discomfort when worn for more than an hour) aren't present. The vibrant colors are still around, but now they're toned down and tastefully coordinated.

Instead of polyesters and plastics, the faddish outfits are made up of 100% cotton and wool fabrics that rate highest in comfort, and that last forever.

And what is supposed to be the really fashionable stuff is less practical than ever for everyday campus wear.

I don't mean to come down on this year's designers. There are some beautiful new patterns and graceful lines in the new styles. I just wonder how they're going to make a buck; the latest looks can be made up of items most of us already have in our wardrobe.



Patty's elegant ensemble is one example of the 'updated casual' look. Its simplicity is its success.

The black pants are elegantly tailored with pleating at the top and straight legging. Made of 100% wool broadcloth, they are a lifetime addition to any wardrobe. The knee-length charcoal sweatercoat is also of 100% wool and luxuriously thick. Designed by Anne Klein, its styling is long and flowing. It will always be fashionable, making it truly a classic.

Her ivory turtleneck is very representative of how designers have altered the upper-half of fashion this year. Blouses and sweaters are larger and looser, with more detail going to the neckline and shoulder area. Patty's geometrically-ribbed sweater, in an easy-care blend of 70% acrylic and 30% wool, is eye-catching and can be worn with pants or skirts.

Patty added another current touch: shaded stockings and pumps, both in black. A final addition is an interesting abalone clasp belt with thin leather straps.

Clothes courtesy of Caprice in the Fifth Street Public Market. Special thanks to Kris King and Marty Bryles.

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