

Knit Picks

This year's sweater set knows how to look hip as well as comfortable

Sweaters have always been warm and cozy, but this winter they're also *haute*. Fashion designers have finally joined the sweater set, with a wide range of chic, affordable knits. Many offer new spins on fuzzy old favorites. Classic

turtles and crew necks, for example, dazzle in a kaleidoscope of colors and patterns. That spring/summer standby, the cotton pullover, goes year-round in assorted textures and hues. Matching skirt-and-sweater sets, especially from Esprit,

package convenience with pizzazz. And even the homely old cardigan—long exiled to the golf course—is hip once more. "It's the new collectible," says fashion forecaster Bernard Ozer of the Associated Merchandising Corp.

No matter the style, this season's sweaters are worn oversize. Shoulder seams droop nearly to the elbow, sleeves are pushed back from the wrist and hems hover somewhere around the thighs. The favorite student knits "look like something that fathers would wear," says Lydia Caffery, junior sportswear editor of the *Tobé Report*, an industry newsletter. Women accentuate the commodious tops with narrow, calf-length knit skirts and leggings or loose jeans with cuffs rolled up, accompanied by flat shoes and bulky

socks. College men also like their sweaters roomy so they can fit more layers underneath; perhaps a polo shirt or two, plus an oversize oxford button-down or a rugby shirt. (As anyone who has ever slogged from a chilly campus into an overheated classroom can testify, layers are a definite convenience.)

Dad's closet may be one cheap source for big-and-baggy sweaters, but on a recent scouting trip, *NEWSWEEK ON CAMPUS* also turned up a number of fashionable finds for less than \$100. The Gap stores carry a bright, rugby-striped cotton cardigan in six colors (list price, \$38). Esprit makes a smart black-and-white striped tube skirt with a matching knit top (\$92 for the set, plus \$5.50 for matching socks). Cambridge Dry Goods Co. supplies a cotton cardigan (\$65) and coordinated crew-neck pullover (\$58) in a striking black and fuchsia "bird's eye" pattern. In Design furnishes a Galápagos-size turtleneck in a snappy black-and-white acrylic herringbone (\$70). And Benetton provides a dash of down-under trendiness in a kangaroo-print cotton pullover (\$62) worn with coordinated T shirts and chinos.



Oversize and stylish:
The Gap's brightly striped cotton cardigan and In Design's acrylic turtleneck