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Whatever happened to mood rings?

By CARRIE AHRENS

Have you ever wondered what happened to that old mood ring that you used to wear in grade school? Is it stuck in some far corner of your baby brother's toy box? Do you ever wonder if it still changes color as your mood changes?

Probably you've never thought of it at all. Why? Because mood rings were a fad. Like most fads, the rings were a passing fancy that people throw their passions into, and then soon forget. People don't talk about pet rocks as often as they used to — they were simply another fad of the '70s.

Here we are in the '80s, and fashion fads are just as prevalent now as they were 10 years ago. Depending on who you speak with, the definition of a fashion fad changes. So, the handy Webster's dictionary was consulted. The definition for "fad" reads, "a practice or interest followed for a time with exaggerated zeal: craze."

Maureen Odoherty and Gayle DeBrie of the Wooden Nickel, 144 N. 14th St. talked about some of the clothing and accessories they consider current fads. At the top of their list of fads were short cropped jeans and painted shirts. High-top tennis shoes are a big seller this season, and ear cuffs also are popular. They said the mini-skirt craze is not as wild this year, and that they don't sell as many fad items as other stores.

Ragstock, 1324 P St., tries to carry some current

fads — the basic fads, such as the *Flashdance* look, according to Kim Mumford of Ragstock.

"The cut-off sweatshirts — the *Flashdance* style — is still popular, but they don't sell as quickly anymore," she said. But, when the store gets a shipment of 24 sweatshirts, they usually are gone within seven days. So, this fad certainly is not dead.

What generally constitutes a fad is a contemporary idea. An image of the moment lends itself to fads. Music and emotion often create fads. Thus, currently, the fad-buying consumer can purchase an over-sized Boy George T-shirt dress, or along T-shirt with a Marilyn Monroe portrait plastered across the front of it — in full color!

According to Karen Jordan, an employee at Blondie's, 335 N. 12th St., "Clothing trends tend to repeat every 20 years." Therefore, some fashions sometimes considered fads have been around for many years and aren't a speedy passion.

Jordan said she considers some of the true contemporary fads to be camouflage scarfs, Capri pants, hammered, dangling earrings and barbed wire earrings.

In the '80s, you can get your fingernails painted with pictures of purple eagles, wear earrings with feathers that reach your shoulders, and show off striped hair. But, the fad craze of today can never reach the fun that the world had with the mood ring. Didn't you ever rub your mood ring until it was hot enough to reach the passion color?

Modmen and English Togs

By Dan Wondra



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