

# Fashion tidal wave washes 'everything' on shore in '84

By Mark Holt  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

"Fashion, turn to the left. Fashion, turn to the right," David Bowie says.

Although he was probably referring to politics, the idea applies equally well to the tumultuous world of men's attire. With a broad range of styles to choose from, the public's views on just what exactly is "in" are quite diverse.

"Everything is in. There really isn't any style that's not in style," said Joan McWilliams, of Ben Simons in downtown Lincoln said. "The layered look is in, especially in jackets. Polo shirts are still in, now with long sleeves. Penny loafers and topsiders are around this year, too."

In pants, pleated fronts and cuffs are coming back, McWilliams said.

Fashion moves in waves. Some of the styles that were big went the way of dinosaurs, never to be heard from again. Others, however, seem to never die and resurface from time to time. Big Men on campus today wear the loafers and letter-sweater look of their '50s predecessors.

"Everything goes in cycles. Things are like the '50s now," said Bruce Demaro of the Hitching Post. "People are buying less faddy clothes and things that go out quickly: Vans, designer jeans, oriental and breaker clothes. They're buying more quality," DeMaro said.

High prices cause problems for consumers.

Struggling college students can find ways to save. Taking advantage of sales and buying coordinating separates seem to be common ways to cut costs.

"Buyers should stick with the bieges, blacks and tans. They can be coordinated with everything else," McWilliams said.

"Buy a lot of things you can put together with others, like the khakis and greys," DeMaro said. "It's also good to buy brands like Generra which are a little bit

cheaper."

The necktie has remained a fairly stable element of the male wardrobe. The strip of cloth itself has changed in width and length, but still adds the finishing touch to a suit after centuries of use.

While skinny- and regular-width ties haven't completely lost their popularity, semi-narrow ties are responsible for the most recent surge in the industry. Semi-narrows can add maturity to young men's wardrobes and shave years from the 40-plus group.

"People who want to pick out the best ties for them should bring in their suits, and try to pick out a few good ones that go with everything," said Tina Reintz, of Ties and Accessories at East Park Plaza.

"The tie is the most important part of a suit," Reintz said. "The tie is the centerpiece, the first thing anyone notices about a man's suit."

Whether the object is to look casual, formal, mainstream or extraordinary, the chances of finding something to fit the bill are great. The only thing that seems to be out of style this year — is being out of style.

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