Wear withal

A survey of what they're wearing and where, from our special campus fashion panel.

GEES differ from one portion of this story to the other—in curriculum, tradition, outlook. But there's an amazing uniformity to fashion. Informality is the keynote everywhere, with dress-up occasions taken a bit more seriously. Even geography doesn't make too much difference. For example, a report from Middlebury College, in the Green Mountains of Vermont, says: "We wear sports jackets and dress-up and sweaters and slacks for dates. There are very few dress-up dates, so sports clothes are the usual choice. Shirts, button-down and tab-collar are popular. Usually white or grey socks and white shoes. For class, corduroys or blue jeans are popular, worn with a sweater or sports shirt. Jackets are very rarely worn. SPECIAL fad at Middlebury is ski parkas, worn to class and athletic events." Ski-parkas bit has echoes everywhere. The same report reaches Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.; "many of us do wear ski parkas, but this is because we like to ski, not because we want to go." Colgate University, Hamilton, N.Y.; "The guys wear dark jackets and slacks, the girls dark jackets and dark sweaters. Furs are worn to the bars. Women—Dark skirt (straight or A-line) light sweater or blouse, blazer, dark brown, green, gold, black, Ties are very popular—varied colors with silk ones becoming popular. Unusual for the south, topcoats are becoming widespread in popularity, although hats aren't as popular as last year. In Classroom: Sports shirts with button down collars—loud and varied designs. Sweaters—bulky, light-weight, assorted colors. Dress slacks, blue jeans, and Ivy-league are all popular."

Moving up to Oregon State, in Corvallis, Oregon, a full report, not unexpected: "Most of our dates are dates to fraternity firesides, and a popular ensemble for the girls is a pastel pleated skirt and matching sweater, often the longer one. High waists and heels, and the fellows wear either suits or sport coats and trousers. The classroom dress on this campus is casual—pleated skirts and bulky sweaters, ski sweaters, matched sweaters and slacks, skirts and blazers. Tennis shoes in all colors are worn with the outfit. Campus coats in corduroy or twill, often with a fur collar, are very popular. The boys wear sport shirts, sweaters, and slacks. Everyone, men and women, carries umbrellas and wear tennis shoes, because of the rain. This is ski country, therefore students often wear ski jackets with sport clothes. The most popular colors are either rain coats or all weather coats with fur linings and fur collars or beige coats made of heavy wool."

The Midwest runs true to form, as MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Ill., tunes in: "The guys here prefer casual dress for dates. Wash pants, white or colored socks, sport shirts or sweaters. Some of the fellows prefer dress slacks. Dances call for shirt and tie. Sports coats are more popular than black or other dress suits except for really formal affairs. Sweaters are probably most popular for non-dance dates. Classrooms call for more casual dress. Still wash pants and shirts or sweaters. A few jeans make an appearance but not in any sort of numbers. No sports coats here. Car coats or jackets for outdoors. (Ivy league type all weather coats are the thing for evening outerwear."

Interesting point: At Northeast Louisiana State College, Monroe Louisiana, it sounds like an Ivy campus: "Suits are popular for the majority of dates. Button down and tab shirts are both popular. White socks are gradually changing over to an assortment of colors—brown, green, gold, black. Ties are very popular—varied colors with silk ones becoming popular. Unusual for the south, topcoats are becoming widespread in popularity, although hats aren't as popular as last year. In Classroom: Sports shirts with button down collars—loud and varied designs. Sweaters—bulky, light-weight, assorted colors. Dress slacks, blue jeans, and Ivy-league are all popular."

As for fads, the umbrella, which started some years ago hitting Southern campuses, now seems to be ubiquitous. Says Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon: "Two fashion fads which are new to our campus this year are the use of the black umbrella and the wearing of knee-length olive-drab raincoats."

And in far-away Pennsylvania State College, at State College, Pennsylvania: "Raincoats and umbrellas (the slim black variety) are almost the uniform of the day in the spring."

Other fads by the way: At Austin State College, Clarksville, N.C., the narrow tie, "never over ½" in width." At Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.—"Russian-type winter hats."

And finally, a surprising fashion-stroke in the field of academic-psychoLOGY, from Bakersfield College, Bakersfield, Cal. "A fashion fad which seems to be unique here is that although women are permitted during final exams to discard the usual skirt and sweater in favor of slim jeans, many of the men dress 'up' for finals with tie and suit or sports coat. This is not by any means universal here, but it is quite prevalent, and those who do so say it gives them an extra bit of confidence which helps a great deal."