

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450



Thursday, September 29, 1983 O&E

(F)18

The Look

Dressing up is students' priority

Whether wearing faded jeans and jean jacket, a mini-skirt, parachute pants, or a colorful plaid kilt uniform, students in the Farmington area's five high schools say they dress to present a "look."

"You have to look good, not like a slob," said North Farmington 11th grader Bayda Jarbo.

Comfort and style are the two most important elements in fashion for high school students.

Many students, particularly at North, Harrison and Farmington, the three public high schools, spend a lot of money on clothes, preferring to buy expensive, well-made clothing.

Although students still wear blue jeans, the high-priced designer jeans

are considered out-of-date mostly because of their tight fit, said Natalie Newton, a 10th grader at Harrison High School. Instead, the trend dictates wearing loosely fitting jeans with bold or subtle pinstripes.

For the dresser types, just about anything goes, particularly "the sophisticated look," which most students claim means coordinating an entire outfit from ties for both men and women down to flat shoes also for both men and women.

Ties and vests with tailored slacks, mini-skirts, and knickers with matching short jackets are popular among the women.

MOST OF the men are wearing the

classic-styled crew neck sweaters, corduroys, parachute pants and military-style pants.

Calling his baggies and dress shirt "the style," North Farmington senior Bill Stom said men have moved away from "the same old dirty kid with sneakers" fashion.

But blue jeans nonetheless are still the popular item for men, complete with high-topped tennis shoes.

But in the parochial Mercy and Lutheran Northwest high schools, conservatism dictates style.

Although the women at Mercy are required to wear uniforms, they do have a choice in the color of plaid kilt and matching slacks, and crew or cardigan style sweater.

"It's a lot easier in the morning than having to decide what you're going to wear," said Lisa Van Camp, a junior at Mercy. Students and faculty at Mercy admit the uniforms are cheaper than having to buy everyday clothes for school. The uniforms, they say, also tend to cut down on the fashion competition between students.

At Lutheran Northwest, where all students are required to follow a dress code, both men and women dress conservatively in sweaters and slacks, topped off with flat shoes.

"I say people in this school dress up more than in other schools because we have the dress code," said Julie Noetti, a 10th grader at Lutheran Northwest. "I think it looks better."



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Natalie Newton, a sophomore at Harrison says students are following the "sophisticated look" with ties, mini-skirts, Oxford-type and flat shoes. Even when wearing a dress or skirt, most girls wear low to medium heels, she says.



Paul Garcia, a Farmington freshman, wears shorts and a cut-off T-shirt in preparation for cross country.



Blue jeans are out for both Marie Dabrowski and Bill Stom of North Farmington High School. "It makes me feel better

to dress up," says Marie. Bill prefers the "fresh look" — dress shirts and slacks.



Diane Summers, a Mercy High School student, wears a brown kilt, a sign of her rank as a senior. Students in each grade wear a different color kilt.



Julie Noetti, a 10th grader at Lutheran High School Northwest, says she likes the dress code at her school because students tend to dress better when asked to conform to styles that exclude jeans and other faddish clothes. Here she is dressed in khaki-colored slacks with narrow cuffs and a light brown sweater with a tucked-in collar and flat loafer-type shoes.