

Spotlight

Group recreates the sound, look of the Beatles

By NOAH BARTOLUCCI
Staff Writer

They've traveled the long and winding road, but the Beatles are finally here. Almost.

Modeled after the 1960s British rock group, 1964 As The Beatles will launch a '60s revival month at North Carolina State University this weekend. The concert, which will begin at 8 p.m. Friday, will be the first feature in a four-part series titled "Flashback To The '60s ... When The Music Mattered."

The Beatles' contemporary counterparts have done exhaustive research into the costumes, speaking and singing voices, stage movements, facial expressions and music of their forefathers. They've even studied the haircuts.

"I've been told not to look for them when I pick them up at the airport. I'm supposed to carry a sign, and they'll find me," said Mike Wallace, assistant director of N.C. State's Student Activities Center and coordinator of the event. "But when they get on stage you won't believe your eyes — they are the Beatles."

Mark Benson (John Lennon), Gary Grimes (Paul McCartney), Tom Work (George Harrison) and Greg George (Ringo Starr), all from Akron, Ohio, organized five years ago after beginning their musical careers in different groups. Now they tour the country keeping the Beatles' spirit alive.

"We're trying to live up to the sacred notion of who the Beatles were," Benson said. "It's an image we can't let die. The Beatles changed so much of our culture. They came to the United States with long haircuts and a different kind

of music — their art form was new. It wasn't just music; it was a culture.

"We're the only show where people can relive the energy of the Beatles' experience."

The band performs 52 of the Beatles' tunes, each from the touring era of 1963 to 1966. Those hits include high-energy songs such as "Twist and Shout" and "Can't Buy Me Love," and ballads like "Yesterday."

"These guys are way better than Beatlemania," Wallace said. And he got the information from a reliable source. Louise Harrison, George Harrison's sister, was so moved after seeing a "1964" performance that she hosted a party at her home in the group's honor.

1964 As the Beatles has been acclaimed by Alistair Taylor, former president of Apple Records for the Beatles, who described them as "born-again Beatles." Even former Beatle Pete Best has praised the group.

The three other acts in "Flashback to the 1960s" include performing artist Denny Dent, a multimedia presentation by Barry Drake on the history of '60s rock 'n' roll, and the beach music band Chairmen of the Board.

Dent paints portraits of rock 'n' roll artists as he dances to their music. He uses six brushes at a time and may do up to 10 portraits in one show. His performance is scheduled for Sept. 21 at the N.C. State Student Center Plaza. Woodstock the Film will follow Dent's act.

Drake's presentation is scheduled for Oct. 11. Chairmen of the Board will play Oct. 19.

Western fall fashion comes East

By DIANA FLORENCE
Staff Writer

Last year it was tie-dye mania. Now it's the wild, wild West.

Western-style bolo ties and vests are among the newest fashion trends at UNC this year. The Western influence, seen last spring with the return of the jodhpur pant and patterned vest, is stronger than ever this fall, local fashion experts say.

According to Heidi Jones, co-manager at The Limited in South Square Mall in Durham, "The Western look is probably our biggest theme this year. We're showing patterned vests, bolo ties, straight split riding skirts and a ton of jodhpurs in deep harvest colors like gold, burgundy, pumpkin and chestnut."

The Western look seems to be one of the most popular looks for college students, agreed Heather Lantz, a sales associate at The Limited. This is because many of the traditional college favorites such as denim shirts, jeans, bandannas and sweaters easily coordinate with Western-inspired accessories like vests, tooled belts and cowboy boots, she said.

For women, the Western spirit comes through in embroideries, pleats, a bow-tied collar and plenty of chambray, a representative for The Gap said. "A white dobby pleat front shirt with an embroidered collar, coupled with a Western style belt and a long straight skirt, creates a Western sophistication that can go from class to a party," said Sara Meseloff, a sales associate at The Gap.

The Western look also works well for guys because of its comfortable, casual style, Meseloff said. A long-sleeved three button shirt called The Jersey Henley layered under a chambray button-down and a leather aviator jacket creates a Western image without a lot of effort.

For those who prefer clothes with

a more European flair, Limited Express has devoted its entire fall line to clothing reminiscent of the French Revolution and its recent bicentennial.

According to manager Tammy Cheek, Limited Express is taking basics, like a cotton sweater, and adding a French twist. "We're seeing a real departure from the flashy, unkempt street looks of past years."

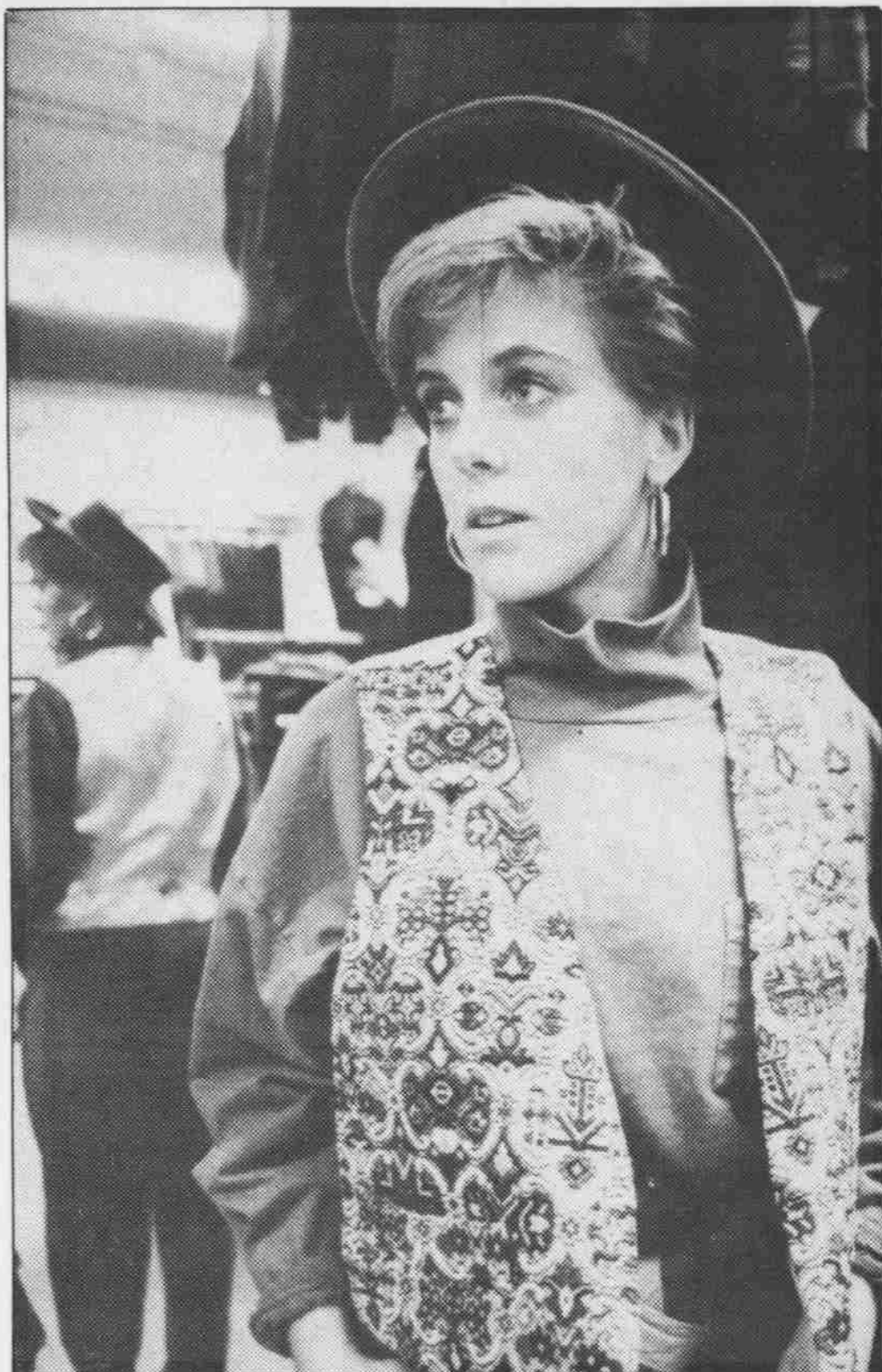
Replacing the whimsical cropped military jackets and sloppy tie-dyes are tapestried vests, shoes, belts and suspenders, draped rayon pullovers, skirts and harem pants as well as drop-waist dresses, menswear-inspired trousers and straight twill skirts, Cheek said.

One of the most exciting looks Limited Express is showcasing is wearable art. Wearable art includes reproductions of famous French neoclassicist paintings featured on cotton sweat-shirts, sweaters and T-shirts. In addition, famous French landmarks such as the Champs-Elysees and the Eiffel Tower are turning up on pendants, earrings and charm bracelets.

Classic looks this fall are bigger than ever. The Lodge on Franklin Street has enough khakis and thick cotton sweaters to keep any preppy happy. They are also showing twill pants, long straight skirts, rayon separates, turtle-necks and some vests in harvest colors, muted earth tones, paisleys and florals.

"Our cotton sweaters and twills of this year work well with many of the things we sold last year because The Lodge look is a timeless one," said manager Keeley Merritt.

The most important thing to remember when putting together a fall wardrobe is to accessorize, Cheek said. "A new scarf or necklace gives what you're wearing a personal flair and can make the difference between OK and dynamite. This year's accessories can also update last year's looks without spending a lot of money."



DTH/Tracey Langhorne

Fall fashion at The Lodge

New features make VCRs even more attractive to students

By CHERYL ALLEN
Staff Writer

In order to give a dorm room or apartment a touch of home, many students are exploring their electronic options and buying or renting video cassette recorders (VCRs).

"There is a larger percentage of students buying VCRs and renting movies every year," said Mike Weiner, a manager at Electronics Unlimited.

Though student customers don't make up the bulk of the video market, the number is substantial and increasing, he said.

According to Scott Leazer, floor manager at Show and Tell Video on Franklin Street, the majority of the store's business comes from students,

though that doesn't hold true for their other locations. Show and Tell rents VCRs, camcorders and movies.

VCRs range in price from \$250 to \$1,000, Weiner said. Electronics Unlimited's least expensive model has remote control and bar code programming features. It costs about \$300.

Added features allow for more advanced programming. A model with four heads that allows for freeze-frame and slow-motion capabilities costs around \$400, Weiner said.

The next step up includes the addition of hi-fi stereo sound for models ranging from \$500 to \$700.

The top of the line units include new super VHS systems with a multitude of capabilities, he said. Those cost more

than \$800.

Renting a VCR is a less expensive alternative to buying one. During the week, a VCR is \$10 a night with a movie included at no extra charge, and on the weekend it is \$15 a night with two free movies, Leazer said.

Show and Tell offers yearlong memberships for \$15 and lifetime memberships for \$25, he said. With a coupon now circulating, students can rent three movies and receive a year's membership free. Movie rental ranges from \$1.75 to \$3 with specials on Tuesday nights (\$2 rental) and Sundays (\$1.75 rental).

These expenses have apparently not prevented students from adding a VCR to their audio and video component

systems.

"It's nice having an alternative to watching regular television," said Kristen Griffin, a junior from Fayetteville. "Besides being able to catch up on movies I never had the chance to see, with a VCR there are no commercials."

Devon Gambrell, a sophomore from Monroe, Ga., decided to bring a VCR back to school last semester. "I wanted to be able to watch movies in my own room whenever I felt like it."

Steve Bass, a junior from Raleigh, chose to have a VCR in order to "give us a greater variety of entertainment opportunities."

Griffin noted that having a VCR gave her a break from going out all the time. She likes to be able to stay in and

relax when she gets tired of the bar scene, she said.

Students with VCRs seem to use them an average of two to three times a week, and most agree that it doesn't interfere with studying. Gambrell said

that if she didn't have a VCR, she would be watching television anyway.

Dennis McGorty, a sophomore from Westfield, N.J., agreed. "If you're not going to study, you're not going to study, whether you have a VCR or not."

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