

paisley shirts.

Tonight, however, Cal Poly will get its first real taste of the psychedelic revival. Two Los Angeles-based bands, each a product of the burgeoning paisley underground in that city, will appear at the Cal Poly Mustang Lounge at 9 p.m. The Things and Threw the Looking Glass come to San Luis Obispo complete with a trippy light show and music to match.

So for better or worse, the psychedelic revival has reached Cal Poly. The next question, inevitably, is "why?"

Jason Weil, host of the KCPR show "120-Minute Technicolor Dream" and better known as the Paisley Warrior, has pondered

was also something very special.

"People were growing their hair long and wearing comfortable clothes," Taylor said. "The music was fun, but it was filled with social commentary. And you could dance to it, too."

Psychedelia burned its brightest during the summer of 1967. The Haight soon became overcrowded as runaways, tourists and curiosity-seekers lined its streets. Hard drugs such as heroin and speed began to replace hallucinogenic drugs. "The Summer of Love" turned sour.

"By the late '60s, and it is reflected in the music, drugs stop-

Drug-influenced '60s music makes its mark in the 1980s

By Chris Counts

that question.

"There is virtually nothing that our generation can identify with," Weil said. "Many college students are looking back to the past. And it's not just college students, but high school students, too."

Psychedelia, in its heyday, was quite a spectacle. The roots of the music can be traced back to the Haight Ashbury district in San Francisco, an aging neighborhood of Victorian homes located just west of the large Fillmore ghetto.

In the summer of 1965, students from UC Berkeley and San Francisco State began to drift toward the Haight. Bored with formal education and radical politics, they began to experiment with hallucinogenic drugs and alternative lifestyles. Urged on by LSD guru Timothy Leary, these students became the first of countless thousands to "tune in, turn on and drop out."

About the same time, the British Invasion of rock 'n' roll was in full swing. America had fallen in love with a generation of mop-tops.

It was only a matter of time before psychedelia and rock 'n' roll would meet. And when they did, the resulting cultural explosion sent

ped enhancing reality and began distorting it," Taylor said.

Although most Cal Poly students were still toddlers when psychedelia met its fate, many absorbed its influence through older family members.

Kris Beal, a Cal Poly student, wasn't born until August 1967, but felt the influence of psychedelia nevertheless.

"I grew up in a 1960s atmosphere," Beal said. I listened to so much 1960s music when I was growing up that I was completely out of touch with contemporary music. One day when I was 9 years old I was listening to the Top 40 countdown and was shocked to learn that the Beatles' "Hey Jude" wasn't the number-one song.

The pop world, quick to pick up on a new trend or even a recycled one, sensed a goldmine with the second coming of psychedelia. In recent years, Hollywood has made more than its share of movies set in the 1960s. And no film captured the spirit of the 1960s or the imagination and box office dollar of the public better than "The Big Chill."

"The Big Chill" showed record companies just how financially rewarding 1960s music

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PSYCHEDELIA

The band, each member dressed in paisley clothes and sporting shoulder-length hair, drifts off into a long and distorted instrumental solo.

The crowd, a swarm of day-glo mini-skirts and fringed suede jackets, is locked in a trance, twisting and turning to the music.

The music is vintage 1967 — a strange but familiar brew of jangling 12-string guitars, fuzztone, feedback and nonsense lyrics. It reeks of flower power. The flower children in this scene, however, were still in diapers when the first wave of psychedelia captured a generation's imagination nearly two decades ago.

Remarkably, a new generation of flower children is trading in their polo shirts for paisley shirts and the joys of yuppie-dom for the promise of psychedelic salvation.

Even Cal Poly, a virtual breeding ground for the yuppies of tomorrow, has been touched by the psychedelic revival. A stroll through the University Union reveals more than just a few

shock waves that are still being felt.

By summer 1967, dubbed by the media as "Summer of Love," the Haight became a mecca for a generation growing long hair, wearing strange clothes and taking even stranger drugs.

Going hand in hand with psychedelic drugs, of course, was rock 'n' roll, reinvented as psychedelic music.

"Psychedelic music is a sound that attempts to recreate the psychedelic drug experience," Weil said.

"Psychedelic music definitely had a different effect upon people who used drugs as opposed to people who didn't," said Boo Boo Records co-owner Ed Taylor.

Taylor remembers the summer of 1967 with great fondness.

"You could go to the Fillmore Auditorium to see the Jefferson Airplane or the Grateful Dead and get a feeling of total liberation," Taylor said. "You would be overwhelmed by the scene's complete expression of love."

The music, Taylor recalls, was an extension of new lifestyles. It