

Fashion and Individualism

-Mady VanDussen

Do you ever wonder what you would wear if there were no such thing as judgment?

There are hundreds of ways to express oneself. Whether it is writing, music, art, or food, individuals find unique ways to express who they are, what they believe in, and whatever else they want to tell the world. One form of expression is fashion. Fashion has been around for as long as anyone can remember. It never fails to be a prominent part of most cultures, permeating many communities.

In some cultures it is vital to a community. It is a timeless form of creativity, for fashion itself never goes out of style. It often plays an important role in how people are viewed, treated and most important of all, accepted. Often times the pressure of acceptance proves to be so great that individualism through fashion is stifled or suppressed.

Anything that an individual wears on his or her body is fashion. Fashion is a statement, whether they are aware of it or not. Keep in mind that not everything a person wears is fashionable, or currently trendy. For example, take my Dad's favorite white New Balance sneakers. They are a type of fashion, although not fashionable, contrary to what he may believe. Nevertheless, his sneakers are a statement. Some choose to take advantage of this and others do not.

What I find interesting is why some individuals do not take more advantage of this easy opportunity. It is necessary (for most of us) to dress ourselves in order to present ourselves to the world. In this case why not wear what you truly like, even if it is something that may not be popular?

I have begun to observe a few common trends in Marblehead High School. To name a few, there is a plethora of cozy Ugg boots, fuzzy North Face jackets, sleek Lulu Lemon pants, and wayfarer Ray Bans. To remind you, I have nothing against these popular trends. The problem is the community that surrounds teens.

People are constantly going through changes. High school is harsh. Judgment of peers and oneself has proven to be prevalent and ruthless, even if unintentional. Due to this, a "norm" is developed. Something outside that norm may be looked upon differently, sometimes with criticism. I believe that this idea of "norm" can hinder creative dressing for people, myself included.

Oftentimes, looking on a peer's Instagram or Tumblr, high fashion photos are "liked" or "reblogged." Yet the individuals' style proves to be fairly simple and or different to what they may post. This may be nitpicking. Don't get me wrong, I do not in any way suggest or expect the students of Marblehead High to come to school dressed head to toe in Marc Jacobs or Miu Miu. Nor am I asking people to keep up with the newest trends. I simply want to encourage and remind others to wear what they please, regardless of what others may think. This is cliché, I know. Yet, in order to realize the wonderful individualism inside fashion, one must go crazy with it.