

OPINION

Dress Without Apology

by Marquelle Turner

Many people find it difficult to understand what makes a person well dressed. The key is quite simple, to be well dressed you must have an understanding of who you are as a person. People who seek to follow the latest trends and fashions are not looking to express themselves, but rather to impress others. Attempting to deplete your checking (and savings account) to keep up with the Joneses (or the Kardashians) will find you broke and in an identity crisis. Begin the journey to crafting your look by understanding the difference between fashion and style.

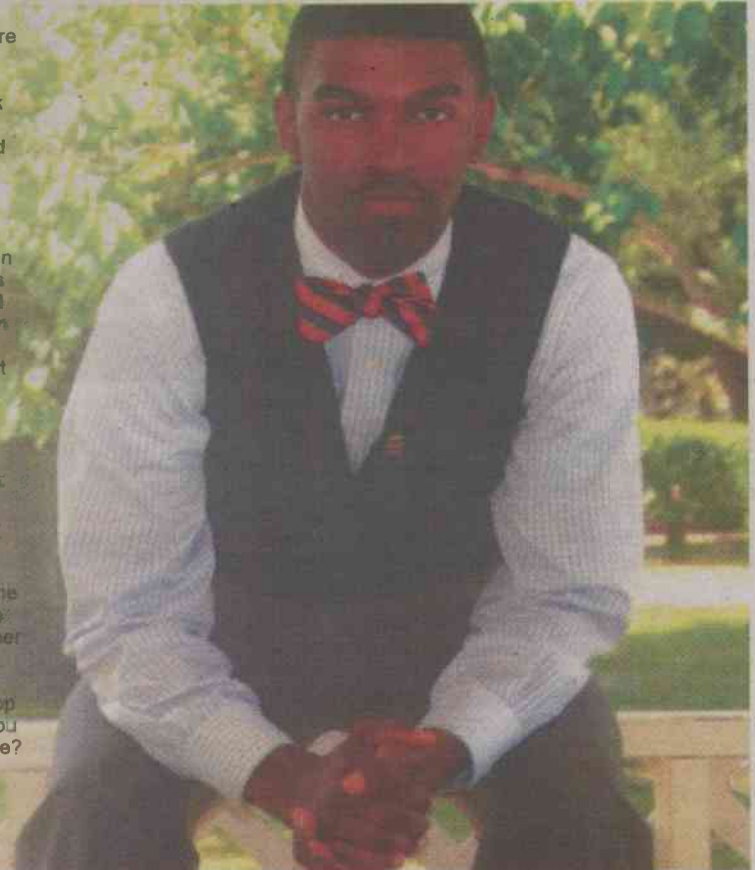
Fashion is what is expensive and then on sale, while style is an eternal illustration of your personality. Keep in mind that people often say things are "in style" not "in fashion." Growing up dressing well meant wearing matching colors from top to bottom and your shirt being the same brand as your jeans. As fashion has evolved, paisleys and polka dots have returned from the 70's to infiltrate the modern professional's wardrobe. The best way to find your style forte is to start with staples. Staples are basic pieces of clothing that you build from to complete your wardrobe. Think of getting dressed as an art form that allows us all to be a modern day Picasso. How do you feel today? What does your ensemble say about you? The first thing you should put on (even before your underwear) is your confidence!

Confidence is unique in many ways. It can't be purchased, yet once it's acquired it is quite valuable. There are many things we can buy to make us feel better about our lives. We buy luxury cars to drive through life's lanes like a model on the runway and we buy expensive homes to boost our social hierarchy. Some feel that these are mediums that inspire confidence, yet if you

remove these items the confidence depletes- therefore making it less like confidence and more like a sugar rush. When you are building your wardrobe remember it is shaped over time, not all at once? So spend your time wisely and look for timeless pieces! Start off with basic pieces that are simple in style, such as solid colors and items with no logos or design. Whenever you wear an item with a colored logo or elaborate designs, it sometimes limits your dressing options. The idea is to wear simple basics and to use vibrant accessories. To be conservative in dress will never go out of style. Not only will this principle serve you well over the years but it will also save you money. A good, crisp white button up will never be go out of style. A pair of black, polished shoes will never serve you wrong, be it a celebration, a church service, a date, or a job interview.

Once your wardrobe is complete with staples then you can begin to liberate it. Mix and match patterns, dress with color variations. Use the color spectrum as your guide to your newfound confidence, closet, and perspective. In the beginning people may view you differently but stand your ground and walk with optimism. At the end of the day it is you who must be expressive, without concerns of being impressive. Remember to live without regrets, dance like no one is watching, love like you've never been hurt, and dress without apology! Lastly, as London hip-hop artist Verbz so affectionately belted, how can you call it a lifestyle, if you don't have a life with style?

Marquelle Turner is a 2009 graduate of Fayetteville State University



A Long Time Ago in a District Far Away

by Sean Baker

Around this time last year, a good friend of mine told me about how he intended to support Kady-Ann Davy, then a candidate for Fayetteville's City Council District 2. I immediately assumed she was a typical candidate and one with no connections to Fayetteville State University (FSU); not exactly a plus in my book because I am a fiercely proud BRONCO and FSU is located in District 2.

Then, I had a chance to meet Kady-Ann, an attractive twenty-something from Oregon, who like me and many of my peers, had grown tired of seeing our community merely survive while others thrived. Davy also impressed even the most apathetic students at FSU by maintaining a presence and encouraging us all to "put-up or shut-up" about getting involved in civic processes. Even more, she was enthusiastic about the not-so-simple task that lay ahead of her should she win the seat on city council. Remember, District 2, much like the rest of Fayetteville, suffers from unemployment, crime that affects even our best neighborhoods, and most of all a conspicuously absent sense of community.

Fast forward a year and 100 days into the term...Davy, with the help of area high school students, a FSU Intern and D.C.A.T. (Davy Community Action Team: a group pioneered by Davy volunteers), is now Councilwoman Davy. Along with DCAT, she has gone about doing the good work of increasing the standard of living in District 2, by utilizing any available resources. She has scheduled office hours at city hall so that she will be able to better assist her constituents. She can also be reached at her home, 910.868.2950, something that proves very useful for pressing issues that cannot wait for office hours.

As noted earlier, resources and personnel may be limited- but passion and enthusiasm are in great supply; this is evidenced by Davy, or a designee from DCAT, making it a point to attend the majority of Community Watch meetings in District 2. In addition, she is exploring creating Community Watches where none currently exist. Noting that the sour economy has caused most of us to be more resourceful and that jobs are not as plentiful, DCAT is planning a 'Back2Work Fare', to be held in early June, to re-tool and reenergize people about heading back out into the workforce.

And as if all of this were not enough, Davy has been steadfast in encouraging the citizens of Fayetteville to be actively involved in increasing the overall appearance of our neighborhoods. She has been instrumental in organizing and implementing a Cross Creek Community Awareness Day on May 1st. This daylong event is slated to include presentations from the fire and police department, a cookout, entertainment, a clean-up service project, and health screenings all of which will be provided free of charge and all of Fayetteville, even those persons from outside of District 2, are invited to attend.

While there is still much work to do, the important lesson to learn from Councilwoman Davy is that if you stay focused and make every effort, you can achieve your goals. As the 100th day- of the 'One- Hundred Day Plan,' (a blueprint initiated by DCAT to guide their efforts) has come and gone, the reality is Councilwoman Davy continues to strive to make real progress in this Great City of Fayetteville.