

Fashion Advice from the NCSSM Experts

Nerd Fashion

MICHAEL JERCH

Science and Math is undoubtedly a very special place, but it can also be very stressful. With so many tests, quizzes, homework assignments, and projects to worry about, fashion is rarely at the top of our minds. Well, never fear: your fashion consultant is here!

I've come up with a few simple ways to turn your fashion "no's" into fashion "yes's." After all, we're blessed to have some of the most fashion-conscious teachers here. While there's not enough space in this newspaper to discuss them all, I'll mention a few noteworthy ones. Ms. Moose and Ms. Skidmore aren't just experts on James Dean and the Holocaust, they're also experts on modern women's fashion. Another notable teacher resides on the physics floor. Dr. Keohane deserves praise simply for wearing those stylish black glasses (because, come on...).

Anyway, just what does it mean to be fashion conscious? Unfortunately, it's just a matter of common sense, and we all know how much we as students lack in that department. All is not lost, however. Here are a few of my most basic fashion tips. Keep in mind that these are strictly my opinions and do not reflect the views of the Stentorian staff.

1. If you can't color-coordinate by now, don't worry, because you can easily hide that malady. A nice pair of jeans will match with almost any top. Also, try to stay away from similar tones of the same color, and always shun brown and black in combination.

2. Try buying clothes off the sale racks as their season is ending. For example, now would be a great time to buy some of last year's winter clothes for next year. There is absolutely no point in buying pre-damaged clothes at high

prices. If you must have torn jeans, save \$20 and do it yourself. As fellow fashion consultant Holly Wantuch would say, "It's expensive to look cheap."

3. Stay away from fashion fads like patchwork fabric. No one should wear patchwork anything, especially if the stitches are showing. That's just wrong.

4. Buy clothes in your size. Just because it looks smaller on the rack doesn't mean it will make you look smaller.

5. Try being creative for some of your more casual clothes. Thrift stores are great places to find fun and interesting pieces at tiny prices. You could also be daring and screen-print your own designs.

6. Please, please don't wear white socks and sandals. You saw this one coming.

7. NCSSM apparel is nice to have, but if unicorns and flaming diapers become a regular part of your outfit routine, we've got a problem, folks.

8. Condition your hair. Ok, so that's not exactly a fashion tip, but it's just that important.

Lastly, I'd just like to stress the importance of being you. Disregard any advice I've given if it makes you uncomfortable. We don't wear clothes strictly out of practicality; one's clothes should reflect one's personality and above all make one feel good about oneself. We also shouldn't criticize people for wearing certain brands of clothing. For example, if one person likes wearing clothes from the Gap then there's nothing wrong with that. Clothes don't determine the person; the person determines the clothes. And if your name is Tara Zhang you can wear whatever you want. Let's face it, she could wear a trash bag and still pull it off.

CANDIS WATTS

Fashion is my passion. I love going to the mall, looking at the new styles of clothes and shoes and seeing how the color schemes of the outfits change with the seasons. But my favorite part of fashion is the way it reflects people's personalities and sometimes even their cultures and beliefs.

This article was initially intended to tell the reader the "dos and don'ts" of fashion, but after contemplating the idea, I realized that I have no right to tell people that they should not wear sandals and

clothes until I feel "good," but it is really important to me. Here's why: I feel that it is absolutely necessary to feel comfortable and confident about yourself, inside and out.

I truly believe that if you think you look darned fine, you will feel

darned fine (the same if you feel like you look like the stuff you scrapped off your shoes after coming from a park for dog walking). If you feel good, then you can have a

"Sounds kind of silly, stupid even, to risk being late for my 8:00 Kolena class just so I can change my clothes until I feel "good," but it is really important to me."

or four inches taller than I really am. That's my style, and I am comfortable with it. I admire people who can wear lime green flip-flops with everything or a sarong with a

T-shirt in mid-winter or a completely wrinkled outfit because those people do not care what other people think about what they have on and they are content with themselves.

If you buy jeans from American Eagle that already look worn or already worn jeans from the thrift store, it's all the same because in either case it is your self-confidence that is on the line, not your modeling career. Socks and sandals. Sweats everyday. Oh, yes, let's not forget pajamas at lunchtime. Whatever. To be quite frank, I do not understand why we even had to have had a "secret" Switch Day. In a truly fashionable world, everyone would wear what felt good to them even if it means some guys wearing form fitting tube dresses and high heels. Who really cares?

I digress. In short, being fashionable is not about wearing exactly what's on the mannequin at the store or looking like the starved women in the magazine or the buff guy on the Abercrombie bag. I hate to sound like the fashion editor out of Seventeen, but being fashionable is about feeling good in what you are wearing, creating your own style and letting your personality shine by way of the cloth that covers your birthday suit.

Disclaimer: The message of this article does not mean for the reader to wear wrinkled clothes or pajamas to college, job or scholarship interviews. Sometimes comfort must be compromised.



Annafrancesca Fuchs

Michael and Candis, (your very own fashion consultants), strike a Vanity Fair-esque pose.

wool skirts or stripes and polka-dots at the same time. The fact is that people should wear what makes them feel good.

Every morning I wake up, look in my closet, pick out a pair of pants (usually) and a shirt. If I do not like what I see, I try something else. If I do not like how I feel in a particular outfit, I do not leave my room. Sounds kind of silly, stupid even, to risk being late for my 8:00 Kolena class just so I can change my

great day. Think about it: you won't spend time thinking about what you look like, and thus you can concentrate on more important things like your upcoming math test, the presentation of your oral quiz or your extremely good looking date.

I know that most of you see me walking around in a leather jacket or super long black trench coat with dress slacks and a blouse or a well-fitted dress or jeans and a shirt with shoes that make me three

Review: DJ Spooky Comes to Cat's Cradle

JULIAN HIMES

On March 30, Paul D. Miller appeared in concert at Cat's Cradle in Carrboro, NC. Miller, better known by his moniker "DJ Spooky That Subliminal Kid," has released many full-length albums and singles, as well as a new mix CD, "Under The Influence."

A writer and artist as well as a musician, Miller has pub-

lished articles in The Village Voice, The Source, Artforum, Raygun, Rap Pages, and Paper Magazine, as well as in many other periodicals. His work as an artist has been displayed at the esteemed Ludwig Museum in Cologne, Germany; at the Venice Biennial for Architecture; and most recently at the John

Hope Franklin Center in Durham, in an exhibit entitled "Abstrakt Aggregate."

Despite the high sales of "Under The Influence," DJ Spooky's albums remain free of commercialism and pop influence - VH1 describes his work as "brain-bending" and "consciousness-raising," while Spin magazine calls it

"unexpectedly expressive." In an interview with the Harvard Advocate, Miller said, "For me it's all about dealing with the world as sound, so I guess you could say the entire planet is my mixing board.... Things should be wild. Anything else is boring."

DJ Spooky at the Earshot Jazz Festival in Seattle, 10/30/00 >>

