

Do Clothes Make the Man?

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Tax free weekend. Besides the mass crowds and the really not that great prices (seemed like everything was marked up to offset the tax cut), I noticed a pretty interesting social phenomenon.

Being that school is right around the corner, many parents and teens were out to stock their wardrobes for the upcoming year. Coincidentally, Miley Cyrus and Max Azria introduced a clothing line at Wal-Mart at the same time.

Anyhow, it was all very interesting to me. When I was in high school, the need to buy new clothes for school didn't exist. In Australia, we had the convenience of the nationwide fashion line called the "School Uniform." (This is my excuse for my poor fashion sense.)

Sure, kids would accessorize as much as they could. But in reality, we were all the same. All on the same level. Powerless kids all stuck in our shared school uniform. Here in America, it seems like the expression of individuality and a social identity is much more overt, much more deliberate. Teenagers essentially must decide which social group they belong in by the style of clothes they buy; jock athlete or goth? Nerd or prep? Are you going to be good enough with the clothes you wear?

I wonder how much extra stress or self-esteem issues this no-uniform thing creates for the young people of America?

And we all know at that age, none of them really have an idea of who they are and what they stand for. They don't understand that just because they can't afford the nicest things, doesn't mean they aren't good enough. They don't know that the truth is found on the inside; the only thing that matters is your character, your integrity and the way you treat others. They don't realize that at the end of the day, they're not going to look in the mirror and be content with the clothes they wore or the things they bought, but whether they helped others, and whether they dealt with life's challenges with integrity and courage.

Peace.

Any debate on the school uniform issue? Hit me up at yyau@moc.edu and humor me.