

Trying Too Hard

As appeared in The Mount Olive Messenger, a Goldsboro News Argus Publication.

I was watching MTV in my hotel room the other day, and one of my guilty pleasures was on: MADE. I don't know, just something about that show, seeing these silly kids try to be something that they're not amuses me. I was probably the same way in high school. In fact, I'm sure I was the same way in high school.

On this particular episode, this girl who apparently did not have a single athletic bone in her body was attempting to try out for the varsity volleyball team. Of course she complained at every corner and made repeated attempts to quit...and...I didn't bother watching the end of the show. Harshly, but truthfully, she was quite pathetic.

Well, that's rather cruel isn't it Yeeka? Aren't you being a little judgmental here? Yes, maybe. But I call her pathetic not because she may not be good at volleyball, but the fact that she wants to be on the volleyball team because she wants to be 'popular.' If you've ever watched MADE, there is always an unreasonable love interest, that they think they'll score a date with (which they never do).

From my experience, doing anything because of what other people may think or for some sort of social status is never a good idea and almost always ends in failure. The problem with setting goals or judging your achievements based on the feelings or perceptions of other people is that inevitably, they are out of your control. Therefore, your "success" is only momentary and lies in the hands of other people. And for the most part, people probably don't nearly care as much as you think they do.

I guess in my perfect world, this MTV girl should want to play volleyball because, well maybe she thinks its fun and that it's a good way to stay fit. Not because Ken Barbie may pay more attention to her.

My father likes to tell me, "You may think you know everything at your age, but trust me, you really don't." So I'm not telling, just saying.

Well, time to get off the soapbox.

Peace in the Middle East.