

Appearance reveals attitudes

By TRICIA PARKER
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It's the year of androgyny all over the world. Annie Lennox and David Bowie dominate music, menswear, the fashion page, and Boy George just about everything else. But at Texas A&M, men still dress like men and women dress like women. Everyone, that is, except a small group of near-androgynous people here who brave popular opinion to be different.

The dictionary definition of androgyny is one who has characteristics of both sexes, but the definition has been stretched to include everything from transsexuals to the avant-garde. Some deny the definition applies to them but, undeniably, they have a special flair which makes them different.

Clothes are an essential part of their androgynous image.

"When you dress as differently as some of us do, funny looks are inevitable," says Ann Robbins, a senior psychology major. "But if you dress to make people look at you and they look, you shouldn't get hostile."

Ann, whose Corps-cut brown hair and prep-school khakis make her look like a lanky schoolboy, says she dresses the way she does because it's comfortable and she's lazy.

"It's a personal style I've found more comfortable," she says. "This is not the height of fashion. I do own dresses but I just don't feel comfortable in them."

Ann says her style of dressing came from necessity. She says she was too tall and thin to wear the styles popular when she was in high school and found the uncluttered lines of menswear looked better and felt better. She says she dresses for comfort, not fashion.

Ginger Hudson is premeditatedly unique. Her hair is mostly long and blond except for where it is shaved in terraces like an Incan farm on one side, and cut in a chin length blunt cut on the other, and growing out pink at one ear.

"I can't do a thing with it," Hudson says. "I cut it myself so I was really scared. I could barely see over there. But I've had little kids come up to me in the grocery store in Houston and call me Boy George."

Her baggy olive pants and shirt obviously didn't come from Foley's.

Where does she shop?

"I go to the Mission a lot," she says, "and I look for sales. If something is on sale and it's

been marked down and it's still there, then I buy it. That means no one else wants it. That way I save a lot of money and I have something I know no one else will be wearing."

Ginger says she dresses the way she does because it is progressive and something she thinks will come into style in a few years.

"In high school I was never part of a little group," she says. "I always tried to do my best to look the most opposite from the groups as I could. Now I really like the way I look. I don't understand how people can go around dressed alike.

"I remember when I was a little kid seeing a T.V. show called 'Be Yourself' and that's something I've always wanted to be."

Emily Lee's hair is her most unique fea-

ture. It is a blunt cut which spirals up from below chin length to razor cut on the other side and is easily identifiable at 100 yards.

"The owner of the place that cut my hair got so mad at the guy who cut it," Emily, a junior psychology ma-

major, says. "He said 'Why would anyone want their hair cut like that'. The hair's a mistake."

Her hair and baggy unisex clothes cause a stir when she walks across campus.

"They can stare all they want," she says, "it's my hair."

Mike Tagaras, a sophomore aerospace engineering major, gets his fair share of stares. His neatly cut hair and baggy European-style clothes attract attention, and not always of the right kind.

"I feel good about the way I dress," he says. "I'd hate to look like everyone else. I feel a lot of people here are fairly ignorant, mostly country boys who think if you dress different you're some kind of weirdo. Androgyny is just a word someone came up with, but I don't feel it applies to me."

Mike says he too dresses for comfort but fashion is still very important.

"You can't say you dress for comfort only," he says. "Do you wake up and say 'I'm going to dress for comfort today' or do you wake up and say, 'Wow, these pants really look great.' If you dressed purely for comfort you'd wear sweats everyday."

Mike says fashion is what each person feels comfortable with.

"If you're brought up to be yourself and you're brought up to be a cowboy and dress

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