

# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3A • Thursday, April 8, 2004



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Dourina Farooq, a freshman general studies major, says she believes in upholding fashion while still staying modest and that people can dress how they want to at A&M.

## EXPRESS yourself

By Lauren Smith  
THE BATTALION

Humans, aside from chameleons and a few other animals, are the only animals who can change their external appearances. And we take every advantage of this luxury. We cut off our cherished long locks to be a new version of ourselves for an interview or beg for a new look from some TLC makeover show. The patients on MTV's "I Want a Famous Face" go so far as having painful plastic surgery to become the celebrity they wish they were. While most do not take their dissatisfaction with their looks to that level, many people simply express themselves through the clothes they wear, and as people change internally, the external often changes as well.

Edward Murguia, a sociology professor at Texas A&M, said people dress the way they believe they are.

"We no longer live in separated, tribal societies as we are now in large, urban settings. We make instant judgments on how each other look," Murguia said. "The way a person dresses tells us immensely about who they think they are."

Murguia said the best example on A&M's campus of clothing representing a person is in the Corps of Cadets.

"The cadets are not wearing their fatigues because it helps them learn, but because it gives them camaraderie," Murguia said.

Justin Woods, public relations coordinator for the Corps of Cadets and a senior communications and English major, said he feels differently when he is in uniform than when he is in regular clothes.

"To spend time every day getting my uniform on makes me feel both professional and confident," Woods said. "For me personally, my uniform reflects my career goals and what I value. I fix my appearance to look sharp and proud, and out of that comes professionalism."

Zach Vande Zande, a senior psychology major, said he also experiences changes in others' behavior depending on what he is wearing.

"I consider myself 'punk' and my clothes outwardly express that to a degree, but then at the same time my dress influences how people treat me. I remember when I used to dye my hair a lot of different colors this older man at a football game said 'I didn't think we did that kind of crap at Texas A&M.'" Vande Zande said. "I was treated like an outsider because of my ideas about fashion, but

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Will Newton's style speaks for itself. Newton, a senior biomedical sciences major, likes to wear his cowboy duds all around College Station.



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Zach Vande Zande, a senior psychology major, said he used to get taunted when he would dye his hair different colors.



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Senior communications and English major, Justin Woods, doesn't always wear his Corps uniform but says wearing it is an expression of his life.

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