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with Lauren Smith

Madonna may not be able to act on screen, but the material girl does have some wise words to share: "Express yourself." And many people do this through the clothes they wear. You do not know everyone you meet, so you use what you see to understand a new person. Clothes are your first option. The world finds inspiration for what we put on everywhere from the media to our parents. The girls who were in the 11- to 13-year-old age group when Britney Spears first came out were quick to bare their bellies in a sad attempt to imitate the pop princess. As trends come and go, the clothes we choose always tell something about who we are.

There are reasons why clothing is a billion dollar industry; everyone always needs something new. We have all had to say goodbye to some of our most prized possessions, whether it was our Keds shoes or Girbaud jeans. Growing up calls for these tearful goodbyes with our favorite clothes. In college, you must trade some of your favorite jeans for smarter, more professional business-like pants. As graduation approaches, I am not sure what will be more difficult, parting ways

with my roommates or buying a sensible business suit.

For women, our memories are often tied to our favorite clothes. That nerdy "Senior Girls" high school T-shirt and brown, Brighton belt reminds us of the day we moved on to college. Men have it easier than women, as men's fashion does not change as drastically as women's does.

There are people out there who stick to what works and refuse to go anywhere else but the trusty Gap. It is hard not to admire those who can somehow make an old, tapered pair of jeans look good or that person in your class who can pull polka dots and Hawaiian print together. Most people at A&M are happy with themselves and will wear what feels comfortable, no matter what anyone says. Like my best friend, who no matter how many times I tell, "Boys don't make passes at girls who wear glasses," continues to protest against contacts.

Behind the outfits of every person is an individual waiting to teach you something about not only themselves, but you as well. Before making a snap judgment about the eccentric person sitting next to you in history, say hi and discover why they are the way they are.

Expression

Continued from page 3A

that was five years ago and my style has kind of become passé in the interim."

Vande Zande said his idea of fashion is primarily one of "no fashion."

"Almost everything I own is indicative of me, whether it's showing what band I like, something I believe in or something I just think is funny," he said. "Also I'm a pack rat so I still have a lot of clothes from junior high and earlier that I still wear when I can get away with it."

Even though Vande Zande watches his fair share of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" with his wife, he said he would rather just take it easy and do his own thing. And he said the only person with permission to complain about his fashion sense is his wife.

Many expressions in the form of fashion come out of opposition to mainstream culture, such as the hippies of the 1960s and 1970s.

"Hippies wore old jeans that were falling apart for a reason, because they were showing they were not materialistic. The patch became honorable in their culture," Murguia said. "The

longer hair of the hippies was a symbol of breaking rules, while short hair was a sign of being controlled and obeying order."

When asked about her creative fashion sense, Daarina Farooq, a freshman general studies major, said it shows that she is different from everyone else.

**"Express yourself,
 So you can respect
 yourself"**

from "Express Yourself"

"I feel you can still look good, have a distinct fashion sense and uphold modesty at the same time," Farooq said. "Everyone has their own styles at A&M, and I think people dress how they feel."

Vande Zande sees A&M fashion as more "one-dimensional."

"It's not really a bad thing, but it just seems that jeans and T-shirt is the standard and nobody is really trying to express themselves through clothing except by telling you they went to Chilifest, Cross Canadian Ragweed or what sorority they belong to," Vande Zande said. "I am not absolving myself of the blame, because it fit snugly into that tradition. I think that if a fashion magazine came to this campus to do a story, they'd come back empty-handed."

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