

ATTITUDES

On Dressing: Reasoning style

"Clothes are an art-form," said a friend once, justifying her latest sweater purchase. "I'm expressing myself here." We all laughed, knowing she was simply trying to ease her own conscience, but none of us disagreed. It was as if she was saying "my style (or expression) is wearing expensive wool," and who could refute that?

Indeed if Joan's premise is valid, as many are convinced it is, then anyone who wears clothes is an artist, exhibiting his or her work nonstop.

In the United States and many countries, clothes and accessories are considered a sort of packaging; our own individual tags. Like the Campbell's soup labels that catch our attention before we even consider the mushy noodles inside, clothing on strangers often attracts or repels us.

Indeed, we are impressed by what one is wearing before having the chance to listen to what that person is saying; we often evaluate people we don't know by how they are dressed... no matter how many times our mothers told us not to "judge a book by its cover."

Is it a fair assessment? Sometimes. Rarely.

Mislead by art, we may inadvertently disregard the artist — an unfortunate oversight, but one that's not easily avoided.

The best and most honest style is that which is individualized, which reflects a unique personality and lifestyle.

No single designer or clothing company should assume to dictate what others wear, just as no one should allow himself or herself to be coerced by group thought into wearing something that doesn't fit — a style that doesn't belong on his or her particular torso.

Body shapes are as unique as thumbprints. Some clothes can only be worn on long, lean bodies, while others are necessarily more versatile and pragmatic... created for the rest of us. Not everyone looks good in stick-leg jeans or clinging sweater-dresses. The best-dressed students are varying what they wear to project their individual personalities, goals, attitudes and experiences.

What is important is that we do indeed say what we feel about ourselves, our environ-

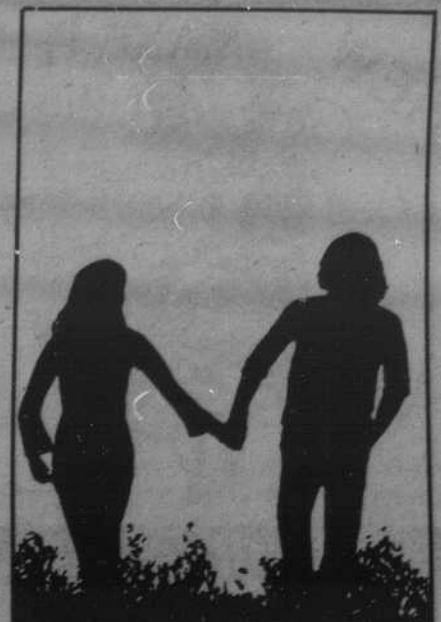
ment and the way we spend our time, by the way we dress — whether we like it or not. Although we care in varying degrees about what we as individuals put on in the morning, each of us has the power to control the image we project.

And at a University where we're all being taught to think for ourselves, it's refreshing to see people dressing as individuals... instead of catalogue carbon copies.

Kim Carlson



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EXTRAS: All Kinds, Unitards (do they look good) leg warmers (ankle warmers, too) for kids and adults, rip stop pants, jackets and jump suits; dance sweaters, body warmers, jazz pants, dance skirts, bags, duffles, lambswool, dance and jog bras, ribbons, toe pads, dance belts, grips, records, chalk, etc., etc., etc.

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