

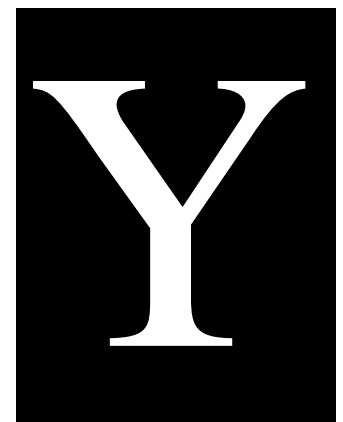
**“You see us as you want to see us
most convenient.”**

-The Breakers



“I do not dress for anyone. I dress how I want to, and I wear what I like.”

-Anna Lindstrom '09



You got preps, jocks, burnouts

This quote from the popular movie, *Mean Girls* depicts how prevalent stereotypes and labels are in today's high schools. While teens enjoy dressing to show their individual style and personality, sometimes they have to suffer the undesirable results of looking "different," even here at H-F.

"Due to the fact that H-F is so diverse, there are many different cultures, ideas, and styles present. [Because of this], there is a huge labeling problem at H-F," said Junior Candace Roberts, who says she dresses to present a conservative image but often times is labeled as being, "preppy, stuck-up, and spoiled."

While most students enjoy the freedom H-F gives them to wear almost anything they want, students can suffer negative consequences of being labeled in high school.

According to AP Psychology teacher Maura Doornkaat, stereotypes can follow teens into adulthood. "Once [a teen] is given a negative label, it takes a lot of hard work to convince them, and others, that they are worth more than [the stereotype] they are given," said Doornkaat.

All labels, especially negative ones, have lasting affects on teens. "Stereotypes have a large effect of how teens view themselves. It is human nature to internalize what we believe others think about us. We have a tendency to take what others feel about us and make it part of our self-concept. If we think other people like us, we tend to like ourselves, and

“I do not really dress to present a certain image.”

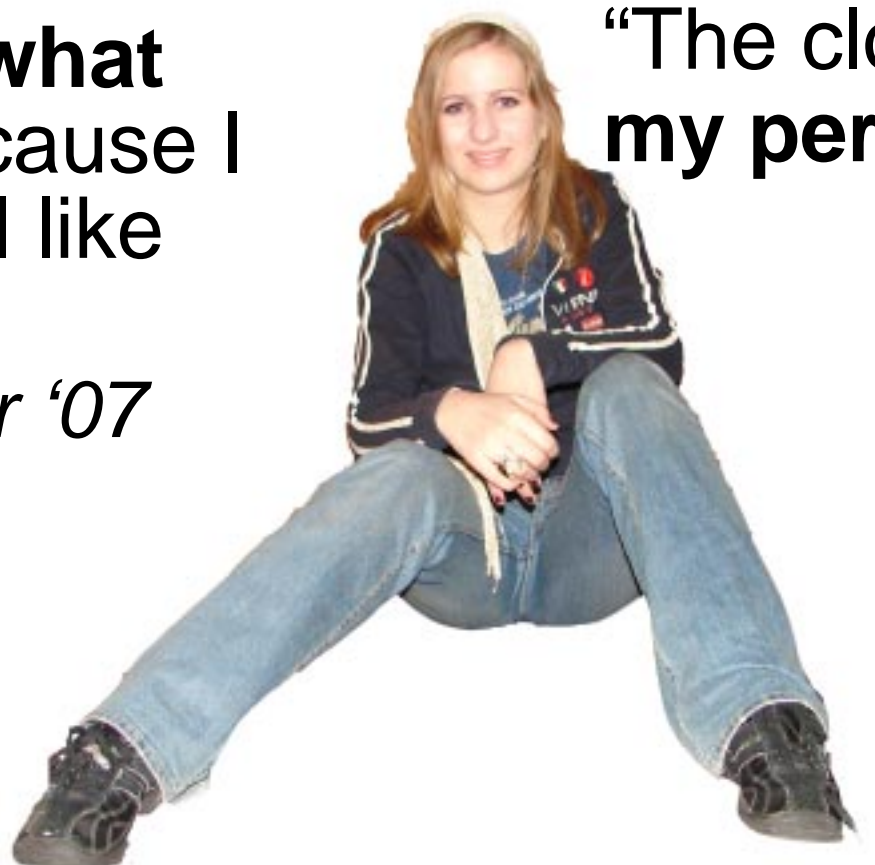
-Austin Neely '08



“I do not care what people say because I am doing what I like to do.”

-Nick Pounder '07

“The clothes are my person”



us... In the simplest terms, in the nt definitions.”

fast Club

your freshmen,
JV jocks, varsity
desperate wannabes,
S...”

vice versa,” said Doornkaat.
While some students experience harmless labels like being called rich or preppy, Sophomore Austin Neely says some labels are not always so nice.

“Oh yeah [there is a labeling problem at H-F]. If you do not dress a certain way, you are ‘gay’ or ‘lame.’ If labeling is negative, it can hurt people’s feelings and make them feel excluded. If it is good, though, then it is really not a problem,” said Neely.

At times, uniforms can be a way to solve the problem of labeling in schools. “Often times, the stigma of class and group identity issues are removed when everyone is wearing the same thing,” said AP Psychology teacher Lauren Chasey.

While many can agree that labeling is not desirable, Neely says it is still common and admits he is guilty of it at times. “When I first look at someone, I ask myself if I would want to be friends with them or associate with them. That is usually based on what they are wearing and how they present themselves,” said Neely.

Labeling will always be present in society, especially in high schools where there are such large groups of diverse people. “It is really difficult to stop people from labeling others. It is human nature to compare ourselves to others. Teens tend to stick with people that are similar to themselves and stereotype people that are different,” said Doornkaat.

“I have been labeled by others once or twice before, usually because of the pants or shirt I am wearing. I usually just brush it off. I mean it is going to happen so you just have to deal with it,” said Neely.



STORY BY AMELIA KANE

“If people judge others, then they do not **value the individual** in others.”

-Trent Wexler ‘08



“People call me the **rich girl.**”

-Hailey Lofton ‘09

s I wear reflect
ality”

Sara Wernicke ‘06

“The only person that I dress for is myself because I feel like I have my own **style** and **taste.**”

-Eric Murphy ‘07

