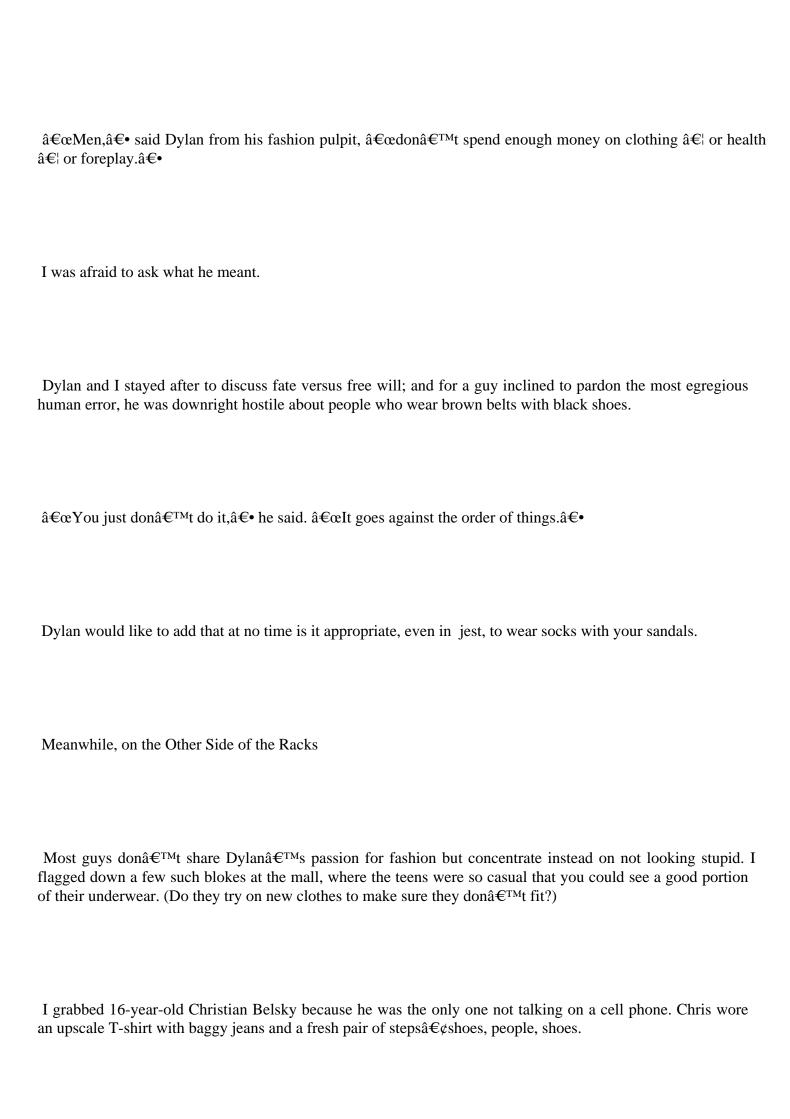
Fashion . . . So it Goes by Jason_Love In junior high I was named "best dressed― in drama class, which immediately concerned my father. Fortunately, the testosterone kicked in and by twelfth grade my taste had so declined that "matching― merely meant that all my clothes were wrinkled. For whatever reason•cultural, spiritual, X-chromosome deficiency•men are clumsy dressers. Most days it looks like we get dressed in the dark. While intoxicated. When a woman stands in the closet, she is planning, inventing, dreaming. When a man stands there, he is wondering what time the game starts. So we keep things simple•three or four outfits max. Compare to women, who may wear that many outfits IN THE SAME DAY. Men's fashion woes date back to the beginning, when Eve took one look at Adam's covering and said, "No, that bougainvillea just doesn't work for you. It's so last season.― What men could really use is Garanimals for Adults so all we have to do is match the giraffe tops with the giraffe bottoms, the lion belts with the lion shoes â€ The question is, Can men be taught to dress, or is it simply their nature to mismatch? We go In Search of: Fashion and a Peril for Men.

Meet Bob Carriere, owner of Carriere Menswear and guru to all who climb his mountain. Bob's store smelled like the inside of a Ferrari; and as with Ferraris, I tried not to touch anything. Bob deals in dressy garb from Italy•Zenga, Etro, and some you can't pronounce so don't even try.







symbol or the Hooters owl?
Katie says that too much style is also a turn-off because then you run the risk of looking metrosexual (when a man sleeps with women but is, for all intents and purposes, gay).
"Never dress better than your girlfriend,― says Katie. "Ever.―
Back in the Closet
When I returned home, I couldn't look my clothing in the eye. The shirts seemed to slouch on their hangers, and my shoe rack smelled like the seventies. Sliding through the hodgepodge, I realized that my only hope was a closet fire.
They say that fashion takes only common sense, but that begs a question: Who the heck are "they,― and why are they making our lives miserable? Is there a round table where They decide what is in like the Cool Committee from high school?
I suspect that They have been in the business so long that, like Roger Ebert at the movies, they're no longer qualified to judge. How else can you explain those faded-thigh jeans that make it look like you've been dragged behind a horse for several miles?
If you ask this frumpy dresser, fashion is whatever makes you feel more like you. As good as it feels to gussy up, I myself am tired of being profiled by the fashion police. If I followed their instructions, my wardrobe would finally dwindle down to one article of clothing•a straitjacket.

Remember, guys: Todayâ \in TMs fashion is tomorrowâ \in TMs dirty laundry, and thereâ \in TMs nothing as stylish as owning what youâ \in TMve got. Just donâ \in TMt outdress your girlfriend.

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