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Despite the sayings, it is what's inside that counts

Even hairy, weak arms, jellyfish make statements

You've all heard it before. It goes something like, "It's what's on the inside that counts," or "Clothes do not a man make." "Smoke 'em if you got 'em." Something like that.

The clichés that Ma and Pa espouse as divine truths carry a pinch of common sense. Cary Grant was not his suits. Granted, they didn't hurt any, but they certainly weren't his only essentials in fashion. He sparkled in pajamas, too. Or muddy trousers. The magic originated in his grasp on the undefinable truth of beauty.

It's how you wear it. Wearing it is walking, pointing, sitting. The movements are your own. The suit is J.C. Penney.

Remember the distinction. The walk can be a jaunt or a sweeping gait. The look on your face is the secret. It's the look of, "I know where I'm going." The fact that there is a seeping wet spot on the front of your trousers while mumbling "Where is it? Where is it?" is secondary.

It's not where you're going. It's how you make it there.

Someone brilliant once conjectured that the shortest distance between two points is a footstep. Each step is a crucial one. Each determines the next puddle you will step in. The next puddle you step on.

It's not the pedigree of the puddle you step on. It's how much you giggle

afterwards. Pointing also is an effective communicative stance of power and confidence. Pointing tends to be an accusatory gesture. It carries both positive and negative connotations. "You are cool." "You are fuzzy."

Most importantly, pointing calls attention to the pointer. The pointer is

STOCK Michael

making the calls and exercising the confidence to do so. Pointing is ego. The fact that a person is wearing a T-shirt or a suit makes little difference in pointing. Unless the suit is a bad cut. Or the T-shirt's short sleeves expose too-hairy arms and weak, puny flesh.

Still, it's you. It's your hair, not wool. It's your muscles, not Stove Top Stuffing or any other commercially produced padding.

It's not who you're pointing at. It's the fact that you use real potatoes, not instant.

Sitting is one of the most important stances. Luckily you don't have to stand to do it. If I had to stand even while I was sitting, I don't know when I would get any rest. I'm sure that my posture would get progressively worse as well.

Posture is an integral part of sitting. A person without posture is spineless, by definition. Furthermore, spineless creatures are jellyfish. Therefore, if you don't have posture, you don't have lungs. You have gills.

Can you imagine how bad a cigarette must taste smoked through a set of gills? More importantly, can you imagine throwing a dinner party for all of your spineless friends? Luckily, couch throws are relatively inexpensive, and, therefore, disposable.

Sitting, however, is not. Sitting gives reason to the rhyme of the ironing board. Sitting gives a purpose to butts. Sitting makes it clear what is front and what is back. Sitting keeps the Nebraska Furniture Mart in business.

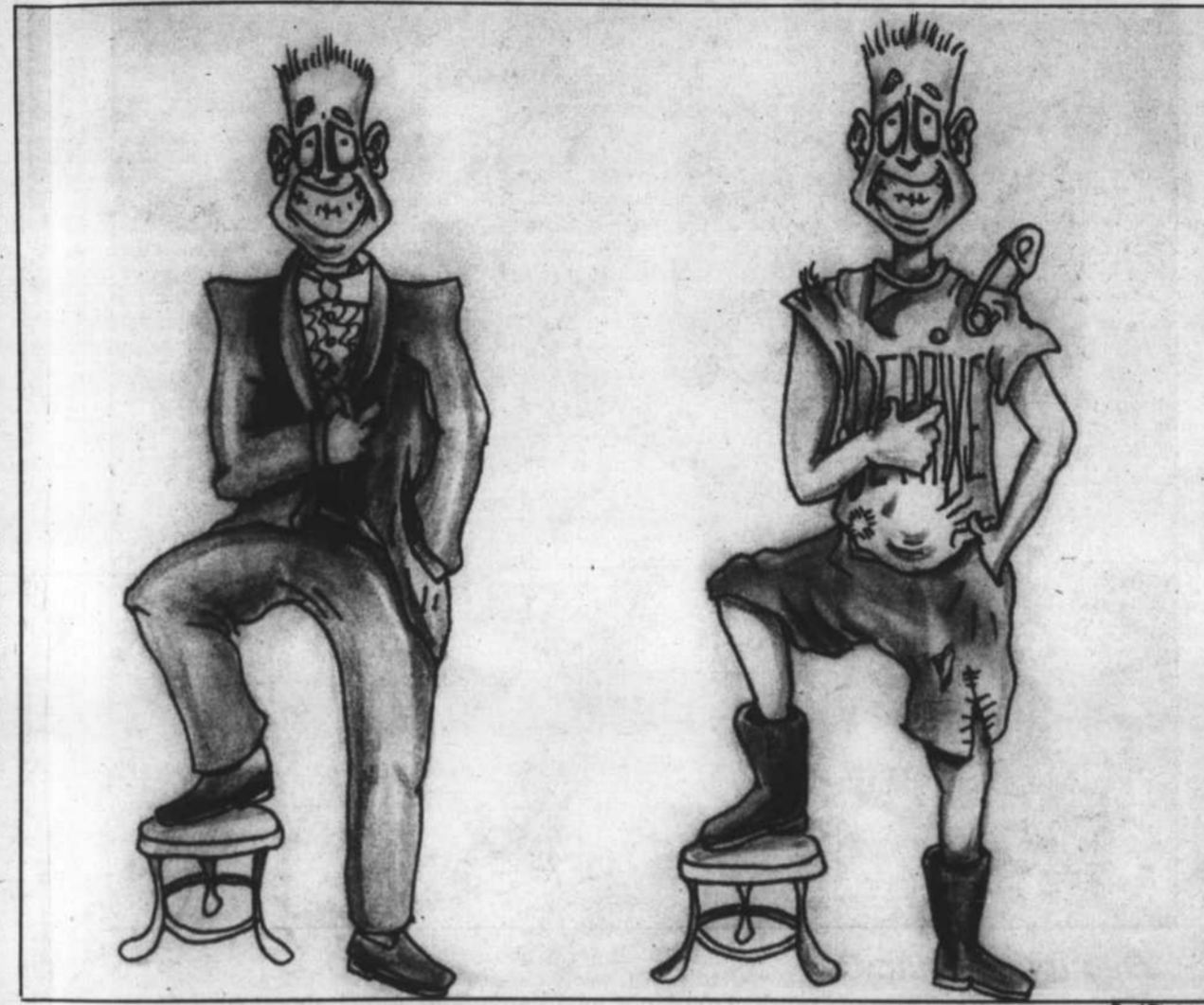
It's not where you're sitting. It's how you're sitting. And what you're sitting in. The crossed legs. The crossed eyes. Every facial expression is amplified because gestures are more limited. Unless you have really long arms. Or eight of them.

It's not the fact that you have more than the average number of arms. It's the fact that you use them to express yourself.

It's the fact that you do express yourself.

Now that's fashion!

Stock is a senior English major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and columnist.



Paul Tisdale/DN

On the Cover

Double take The two faces of Michele Hudson: Hudson, a senior advertising major, said she doesn't need makeup to feel good about herself but wears it as a way to experiment with new looks.

Photo by Michelle Paulman



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Beauty

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beauty.

That religion can be sad.

The United States has a \$33 billion-a-year diet industry and a 150,000 anorexia death count each year to go with it.

When women and men realize that supermodel-esque bodies are proba-

bly unattainable for them, not because of their exercise stamina but because of genetics, America will have a healthier society.

But even fashion magazines play with Americans' minds.

In the September issue of "Allure" magazine, Vogue's "Madonna Makeover" is shown. By computer retouching, Madonna loses a skunk-like stripe in her hair, has her legs and breasts removed (she's sitting in a

pool) and has her bathing suit straps thinned out — all to make the image more aesthetically pleasing.

As long as people are bombarded with images of unreality in the media, true reality will be harsh. People who go overboard will go into debt buying Soloflex machines, numerous cosmetic miracle-products and diet pills.

Wolf says today's heroine must "keep on being beautiful." But what if a woman never feels beautiful?

Will she unhappily pursue beauty until she's broke and even more insecure?

At what point will women stop and say, "I've had enough, I'll never look like Linda Evangelista or Naomi Campbell — not even with plastic surgery."

When a woman or man can say that and look into the mirror and smile, zits and all with split ends flying away — that's inner beauty.

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