

Forever 21- the fashionista's friend

by Leah Pearlman

As I was thinking of possible ideas for this week's article, the typical Leah pieces popped into my mind as they always do. I wanted to write about fashion, the latest fashion show, the newest weird trend that most people won't catch on to for another year or two, or something on a designer.

Then, after a wakeup call from my mother who begged me to stop talking to her about what Leandra Medine thinks about stripes I realized that the average New Trier girl needs to read something they can relate to.

You're walking through Old Orchard, you just got out of Akira and are walking towards Bloomies, and you see it, try to avoid it, until it drags you in: Forever 21, your hell, your worst nightmare, your middle school playground.

And yet, you find yourself drawn into the head ache inducing, loud music playing, polyester filled warehouse of a store.

You'll begrudgingly tug with all force at those really heavy doors and make your way inside where you are completely overwhelmed by the amount of clothing.

Most girls put the store down for selling cheap and ugly clothing. Well, they wouldn't be mostly wrong.

But, they continue to spend their hard earned babysitting money in there, to regret it and cry over the horrible return policy.

However, I am not embarrassed to say that I shop at Forever 21 for a portion of my closet, and I will tell you why. For what it is worth, you can find cute inexpensive pieces at Forever 21.

Because I am a teenager who is neither able nor completely interested in taking good care of her clothing yet, I especially enjoy owning pieces that I can ruin without getting upset.

You should ask my family about the "second carpet" that appears in my room after a stressful, late-night-filled week. I think nice clothing should be treated with respect; I just don't have the time in my life right now for that.

I am well educated in brands, in the upcoming trends, in the designers who created them. I just don't own them.

One day when I am older, I will buy these things, but for now I am okay with my occasional really nice pieces that I hang on the top bar of my closet.

Also, Forever 21 has taught me a few things as a high school girl.

First, you can always find the positive in the negative. Always.

Forever 21 is a fast-fashion retailer, meaning it provides the most recent runway trends at a much cheaper price than the designer originals.

Sometimes, I play the "guess which designer game" in my head as I walk through the aisles as everything really is a cheaper version of the runway show months and months prior.

The cheap prices obviously entail clothing that isn't made well, and with cheaper fabrics.

For example natural fibers like cotton and linen are way more durable than synthetic fibers like polyester. Most of the clothing at Forever 21 is made of poly-cotton blends.

If you check labels as you shop, you may stumble upon wool, linen,

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Staff Editorial

Don't let the pressure of a perfect prom ruin your experience

Before entering high school, we've all vicariously lived the ideal senior prom through classic high school flicks like "Mean Girls," "A Cinderella Story," "16 candles," and "Pretty in Pink." After perfectly cliché drama ensues, prom acts as a common setting for these characters to come together and restore peace among their posse. The girl and guy finally kiss, friendships are mended, and a perfectly orchestrated ending follows. Even Disney Channel shows and teen dramas prime viewers to expect their own senior prom to be nothing but magical. This is why it may come as an extreme disappointment to seniors who can't find the perfect dress, aren't in a group with all of their best friends, or don't even get asked.

Caught up in the whirlwind that is Senior Prom planning, not having an after party, or getting stuck with a date who is far from your soul mate seems like the end of the world. In reality, is this one night of pure high school perfection truly vital to the high school experience?

For students who enjoy attending school dances, Senior Prom is the last of nine opportunities to go to a dance. Although Prom is held in a posh location and includes dinner, the experience students take away from the dance is more about how much fun they had dancing and spending time with their friends. This experience can be gained from any Turnabout or Homecoming dance, so prom does not provide anything especially unique.

Senior prom is often more appealing at other schools because it is the only dance exclusively for seniors. New Trier allows students to attend their junior year, so there are two chances to attend prom. Because many have already gone their junior, or in some cases, sophomore year, there is not as much pressure to make Senior Prom into the perfect night.

What seems most clearly absent from real prom, but never fails to be highlighted in movies, is the idea of going to Prom with the perfect date. In classic high school flicks or shows, the two teens, who seem destined to be together throughout the movie, finally come together for their senior prom. While there are many couples who attend prom together, most people take a date who is either a friend or a random person they were set up with. The expectation of going with your true love to prom, which is commonly presented to us through the media, is not an accurate portrayal of what prom is actually like. It's less about the date and more about the group of friends you go with to the dance.

Similarly, girls often get caught up in searching for the perfect dress. Because the majority of New Trier dances require students to dress in theme, the formal attire of prom can cause a panic. A common debate is often whether girls should all wear short or long dresses. In actuality, does the length or color of the dress directly correlate to how great the dance experience is? Although it's fun to dress up, being the best dressed is not imperative to having a great time.

Although movies consistently portray the prom dress to be one of the most important parts of the night, in reality, it's just another dress girls will wear for a few hours and then probably never wear again. This is not an issue worthy of stressing over, even though the Disney Channel may portray it to be.

As fun as Senior Prom can be, it is not the end all be all of high school. If you do not attend Senior Prom or don't feel that it lived up to be everything you always expected, you can still graduate from high school knowing that the greatest night of your life has not passed you by. Although it is the last, Senior Prom is just another school dance where students get a chance to spend the night with their significant other or close friends. It doesn't have to be anything grander than that. We cannot all end up like Cadey Heron and Aaron Samuels of "Mean Girls." It's better to go in with an open mind and focus on having a good time instead of having a perfect night.

No better time for a job than summer

by Abby Burton

With the summer season around the corner, many students are in a frenzy to find summer jobs. Fortunately, on the North Shore, there is a surplus of opportunities for high schoolers. Whether it is lifeguarding, camp counseling, or even delivering food, there is something for everyone.

During the school year, it is a little harder to keep up with a job because of sports, extracurricular activities, and time-consuming school work. With all the free time of summer though, why not?

Not everyone takes advantage of these options, though. Some believe that summer is a time for pure relaxation with absolutely no worries in the world.

I completely understand the need to rest and recover from the tough school year, but I think that having a job only leads to positive outcomes.

Not only do you get a small glimpse of the working world, but jobs also help you grow as a person and learn more about yourself.

There are also options available that aren't very time consuming. Let's take my job for example. I lifeguard for a small pool club in Northfield and I get the option to choose my schedule based on what works for me.

So, if I am out of town or have a previous commitment, it is not a problem. I know that all jobs don't work like this, but it just shows that you can still find a job that can work with your schedule and have a fantastic, activity-filled summer as well.

Although having a summer job doesn't fully compare to the types of occupations that many strive for after their college experience, a job helps teenagers learn the ins and outs of a working environment.

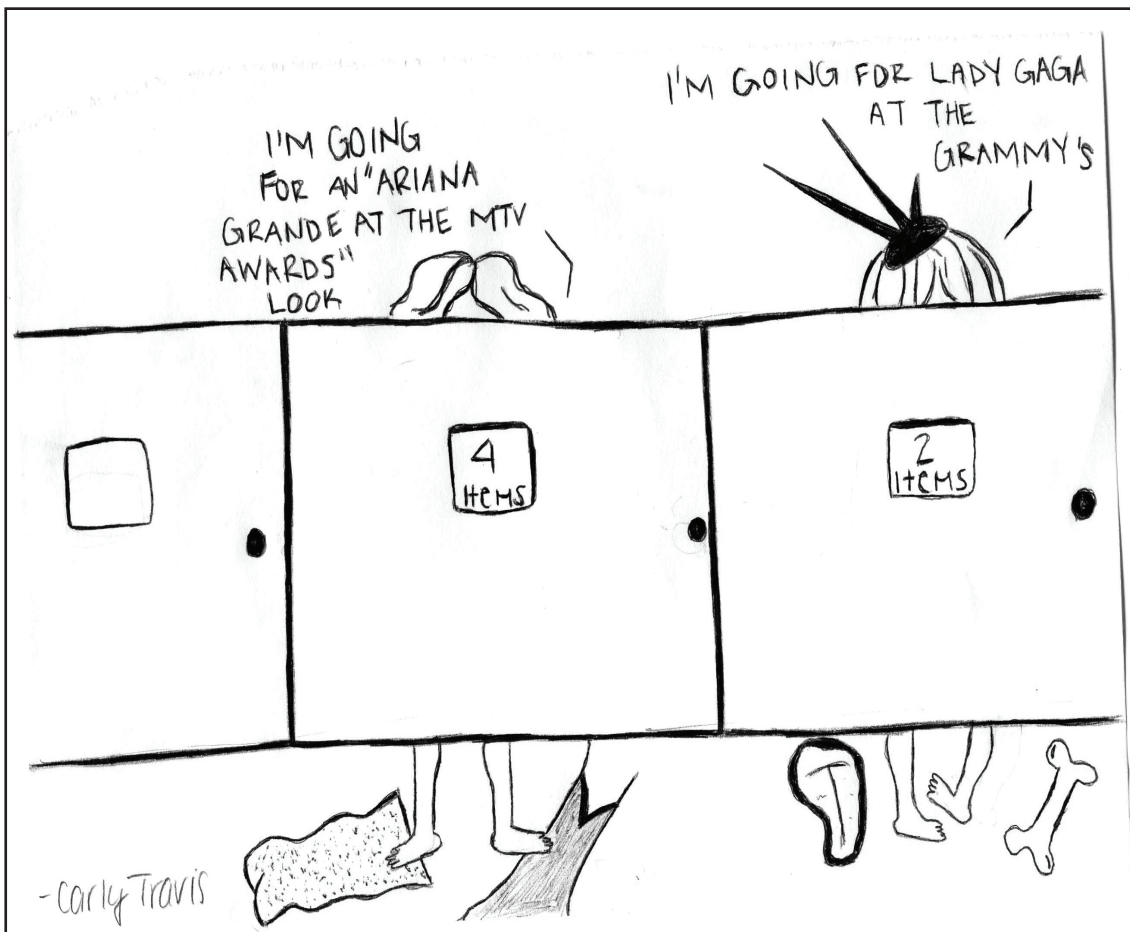
I think the biggest advantage in having your own job over the summer (and at any point in the year) is being able to manage your own money without your parents constantly reprimanding you about learning how to be independent.

Although most teenagers will likely spend a majority of the money they make on things like food and clothing, it's refreshing knowing that it is no longer necessary to rely on parents for everything.

I'm not sure how many more times my parents will put up with, "can I borrow twenty dollars?" from both my brother and myself.

I have also heard from some people that they get bored during the summer without any activities to fill up their time. Some people have sports, some have vacations, but many are left with nothing to do.

Sure, for the first two weeks sitting by the pool side with a drink in hand is a dream come true, the next month and a half is usually filled with free time. Jobs are a great option because you can make money while using your time productively.



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