

Series Of Profiles

We Dress to Embrace Who We Are Now

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Wearing a white collared shirt with a Texas Wesleyan Logo on the chest, Brooks Wallace was by far the best-dressed player as the baseball team made its way to Louisiana for a busy weekend of games against LSU Shreveport and Ecclesia. Brooks is a well-mannered, respected, faithful, and fashionable junior at here at Texas Wesleyan. He is the starting left fielder for the Rams, a manager for an up and coming artist, and a great guy to be around. When profiling some of the most fashionable people on campus, Brooks has to be one the list.

“I don’t have favorite brands, I just buy the clothes, shoes, or accessories that I like.”

–Brooks Wallace

Brooks and I have a lot in common. We are both from Flower Mound, we both go to Texas Wesleyan, we both play baseball, and we both care about our style choices. Brooks is on a different level though. Brook’s wardrobe is impressive, to say the least. He has all kinds of different clothes, shoes, and accessories. “I don’t have favorite brands, I just buy the clothes, shoes, or accessories that I like. I wear big brands like Nike, Adidas, Vans, and those kinds of bigger companies, but I also don’t mind wearing smaller brands.” Brooks often decides how he is going to dress based on what he has on his schedule that day. For class, he keeps usually keeps things simple with cozy sweats and a hoodie on a cold winter day, or athletic shorts and a printed t-shirt on a hot summer day. One point Brooks added was that you never know who you are going to meet on any given day. “No matter what I decide to wear that day I always make sure that I look presentable.” Said Brooks.

“...I think the way I dress can do some of the talking for me.”

–Brooks Wallace

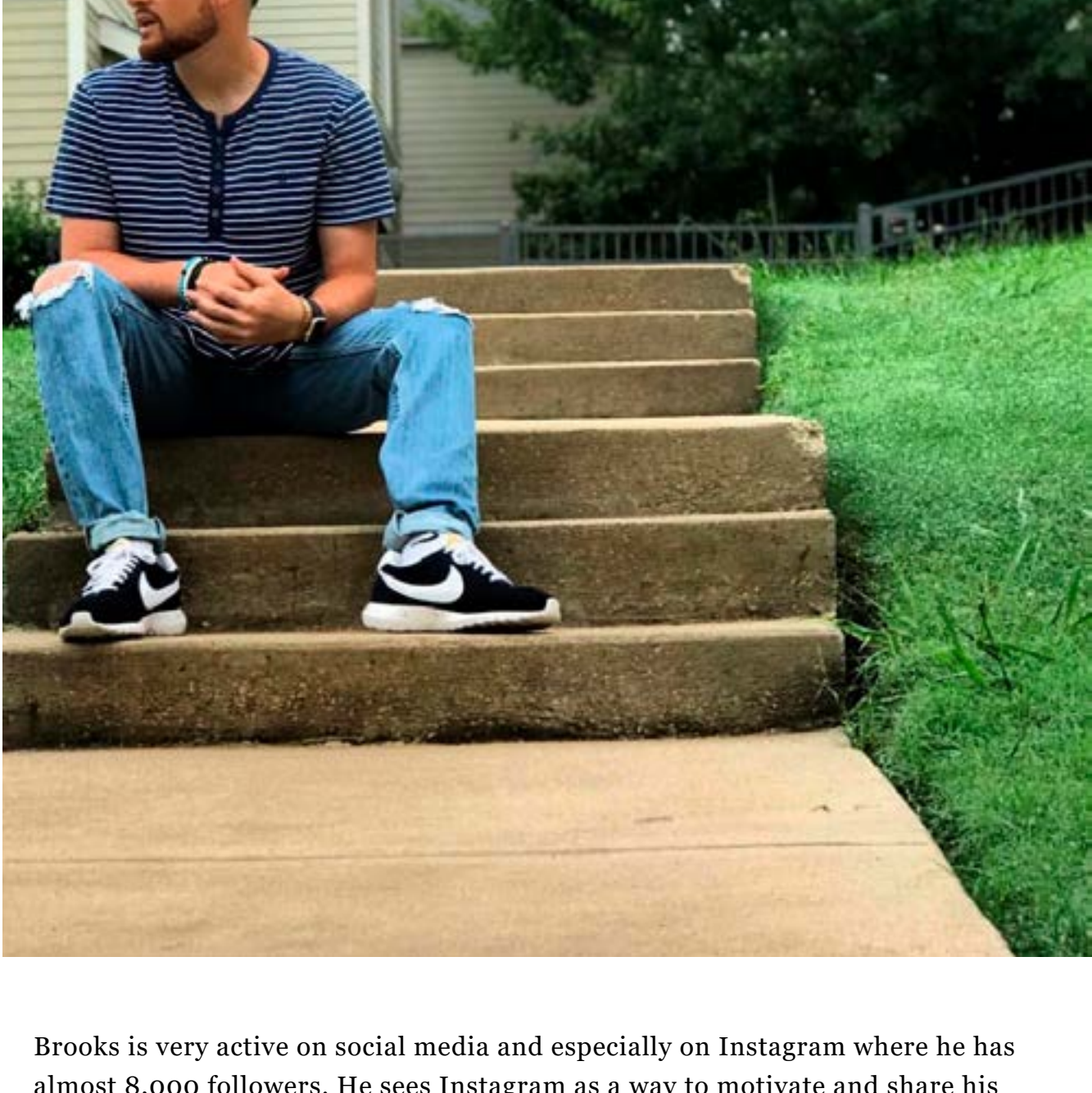
The first time you meet someone is an important moment in any kind of relationship. “The first encounter between two people always leaves a lasting impression on the two of them.” You never want to leave a bad impression, especially the first time you meet someone. “Personally, I think the way I dress can do some of the talking for me.” Said Brooks. The way we dress can say things about our personality or even the mood we are in. Someone who’s appears like they just rolled out of bed is most likely tired, and they may not be feeling it that day. On the other hand, someone who is well dressed and looks presentable could be more prepared for the day ahead. Being able to look presentable is something Brooks has no problem with. Whether headed to a workout, going to class, or out with friends, he is always dressed in a presentable way. “I don’t get caught up in what I’m wearing, in fact, I’d rather there be an interesting meaning or idea behind the clothing or brand then it just be some big name.”



“For me, it’s just a way to help people. I try to keep it as positive as possible.”

–Brooks Wallace

When scrolling through Brooks Instagram, it’s hard not to notice the fact that his outfits are usually color coordinated. Whether it be the mustard yellow hat and equally as yellow sweatshirt reading “DAYDREAM”, or the white and black checkerboard vans to go with his white shirt and black jeans combination. “I think [shoes] are where a lot of people go wrong.” We then went into his room where he keeps all of his shoes. “I basically have any color I need for any given day.” He then began to show me his favorites. Royal Blue Old Skool Vans, Maroon Jordan Trainers, Light grey suede Chelsea boots, etc. He has any type or color of shoe for any type of outfit. One place you can see his wide variety of shoes is his Instagram.



Brooks is very active on social media and especially on Instagram where he has almost 8,000 followers. He sees Instagram as a way to motivate and share his experiences with friends, family, and the rest of his following. His account is not intended to be fashion oriented. But there isn’t a picture where he is poorly dressed either. “For me, it’s just a way to help people. I try to keep it as positive as possible.” Says Brooks. In most of his pictures, Brooks is wearing outfits best described as “Streetwear.” Which is a trend that in the past couple years has become more and more common. “The pictures aren’t meant to be the main point of my post’s. They’re just meant to grab people’s attention; my captions are where I try to leave advice or positivity...” Brooks also uses social media as an inspiration for new clothing and styles. He uses the style section of the explore page or the people he’s following to find new ideas or clothes he likes.

“I definitely think that [Street Wear] is the best description of how I dress.”

–Brooks Wallace

Everybody dresses in their own way. Some people prefer comfy clothing, others like professional or dressy attire, many enjoying athletic clothing, and so many more. Like many others, Brooks dresses in what is most easily described as “Street Wear”. “I definitely think that [Street Wear] is the best description of how I dress. It’s a combination of all different styles.” There are certain things Brooks would or wouldn’t wear to certain places. Dressing for a trip to the grocery store or class is different from dressing for a night out with friends or Church. “Like I mentioned earlier I do care about looking presentable in front of people. What other people may see as dressy I see more as casual.”



“...My relationship with Jesus is very important to me.”

–Brooks Wallace

“...My relationship with Jesus is very important to me.” Brooks is a devout Christian, and often he is seen wearing clothes or accessories made by “The House”, the Church he attends and even helped start. He is always trying to share God’s message with people and is very good at doing so. Wearing clothes with quotes from the Bible or just “The House” merchandise is just one way he does so. “I’m always trying to bring people closer to Jesus. One way I do that is by wearing my Church’s clothing.” He went on to say that people can ask where he got his shirt or hat and he tells them he bought it at church. It was inspiring and eye-opening to see just how important it was to Brooks to try and bring people to Christ. It again showed me the kind of person he is.

When we decided to profile students at Texas Wesleyan who were fashionable, Brook’s name immediately was at the top of my list. Brooks is not just a well-dressed individual however, he is much more than that. He is an all around great guy, who represents the university well, and someone I’m lucky to call a friend.

Justin Ward is a freshman in Business major. He’s in the baseball team.



BY HUY GIA LE

Yongqi Zhou Cares about What People Are Thinking

She has an impressive collection of luxury fashion, which was the dream of many young people or even adults.

Fashion, the word that you see on your magazine, you heard on your TV everyday. You may already known that what is it, basically, fashion is a popular, especially in clothing, footwear, accessories, hairstyles, makeup, and body. But for me, I can say that it was like a culture, a culture that almost everybody in the world can follow, there are no barrier in fashion, and it can be used to connect people to each other. Fashion is a distinctive and often constant trend in the style in which people present themselves. Especially, I think it is also a way people can express themselves, they can tell a person personality, characteristics on just looking what are they wearing. And today, you will meet someone that in the “culture”.

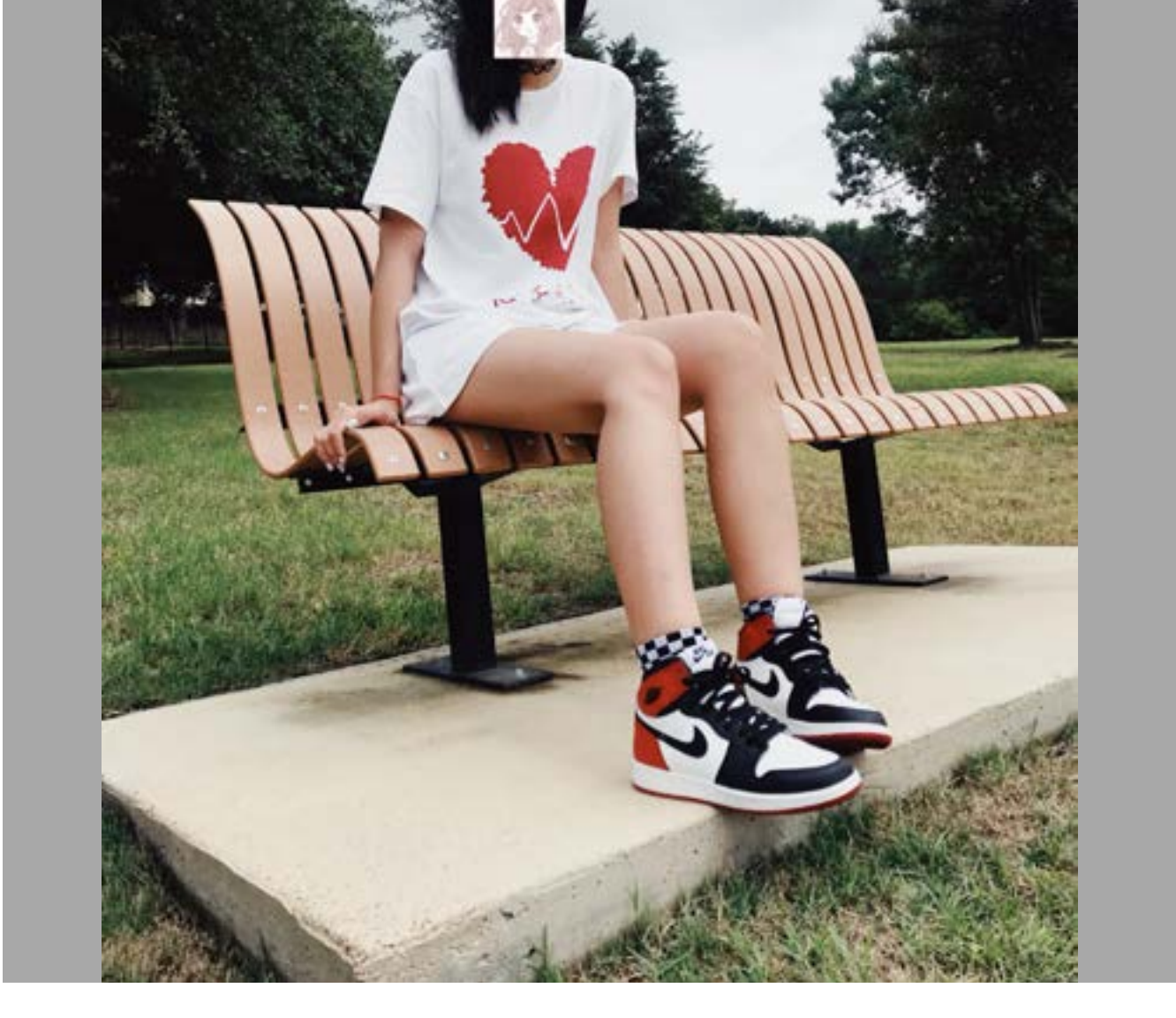


Gucci jacket, Gucci shirt, Gucci loafer, Gucci everything, Yongqi Zhou, a “Hot Instagram” with 11.6k followers, the one who is always get on trend with high-end fashion with a good sense of fashion.

“My first pick always are Chanel, Dior, or just street wear brand like Supreme.”
-Yongqi Zhou

She has an impressive collection of luxury fashion, which was the dream of many young people or even adults. But not only consist of luxury clothes, her collection also has a lot of streetwear brands in it like Bape, Fear of god, Supreme. I must said that I made me overwhelming just looking at her collection.

Born in China, but came to the US since she was in High school, she have encountered the Western culture from a long time ago and it affected her a lot on her fashion style. Back then when she was still in China she usually being caught wearing fancy clothes like long evening dress, dressy suit or formal cocktail-length dress, but when she got here and after an amount of times she spent in the US, she had a new style with more “street” appeared in it. Even in the time she lived here alone, leaving her comfort zone made her developed a new character, from a shy girl to herself today and this process affects a lot to the clothes she had in her closet.



With me today, in her casual clothing, she is wearing an oversized t-shirt, and with an Air Jordan 1 Retro High OG ‘Bred toe’ which has the price of about \$760 per pair. But when she wears that “normal outfit”, it is not just “normal”, her outfit consists a combination of colors and accessories and i must admit that she can using color very good, choosing accessories to match with your outfit is also very important, she is wearing a black heart choker necklace, a checkered pair of socks to wear with her Jordan. This is just one of her everyday outfit. Simple but not too simple.

“My mother is the one that affected to most on my style.”
–Yongqi Zhou

When I asked her about the person, the thing that affected most on her style, I was very surprised that she and I has this common thing. Everyone always have a person that they admired, the inspiration to complete the way they looked, for mostly everyone it usually, a singer, a rapper, an actor, or fashionistas . But in Yongqi’s case the one who inspired her with fashion is her mother, “My mom, she is a dressmaker before I was born, at she is extremely good at matching color, and especially she can catch on luxury trends very fast despite that she isn’t at her young age anymore, sometimes she even gives me some advices”. Both of our mothers are dressmaker so I understand her mother attitude toward fashion and how she want her children to look good.

Majoring in psychology, she cares and knows a lot about what people are thinking, especially she cares about what people are thinking about her, the way that people usually see her. So with her, it is extremely to give the other person a good first impression in her first meeting and seen considered that is a polite thing to do, “ Looking good is very important when you first-met someone because that might affect how they think about you and can give them some impressions about you” . From her opinion about the first impression I can say that she is quite picky in term of choosing friends, but about it I can agreed with her, the one care about you is the one who try to dress good to impress you when they meet you that means that they have some respects for you, it make her feel important in the other person’s eyes. “First impression decide I like this person or not. If I feel bad, I won’t talk with this guy anymore, but if I like this person, I will continue talking with that person” from this saying you can see how is it important to her, the first impression is the vital point in the meeting.

“I think everyone wants their friends to be fashionable, so they can talk about fashion stuffs, and that is my squad goal.”
–Yongqi Zhou

She and I have a common in this opinion. No one wants their friends look bad, and at least, having that 1 common sense of fashion may get them closer, I knew that the relationship between her and her friends are very good. “I have a few friends who are not very fashion-conscious, but I like giving them fashion advice tips, and that is actually one of my hobbies” I think Everyone even me want to have a friend like her, the person who highly concerned about how their looked will always be a good friend to have when you want to look good and I think it is a good thing.



It is quite late when I asked her about this question and this is the last question I asked her during our interview, last but not least, I asked her to give us some fashion advice tips, and this is also her rules in dressing. “Black is always right” if you met her outside you usually see her wearing mostly black, from my opinion, I cannot disagree with her, you can wear black on almost every occasion, every time, unlike the other colors, black can be formal or informal depend on just what you choose to wear. “Do not use to many colors on your outfit if you don’t know how to use it” honestly, I think some people will not like this, but I think it is true, hurt but true, you always see somebody in the mall who try to wear a lot of colors but they just don’t know how to combine the color and it looks really messy on them, and it looks very bad, and finally, her last rule “Make sure your shoes color is match with your top color” this can be apply when you don’t know how to use colors, or just don’t know what to wear today, at least do that, it will make your outfit connect to each other, it will not have that messy look on your body. And this is the end of our interview, thank to this project I make a new friend that have the same hobby with me.

Huy Gia Le is an international student. He’s a freshman, majoring in Computer Science.



Ted O Maxie Proudly Sports His Character

BY THAO THANH TRAN

Well-disciplined Ted is just fit and on-trend. With well-trimmed beard, diamond stud earrings, and all.



“The way I dress will let you know that I am a hard-working person. I don’t forget important things to do.”

–Ted O Maxie



Ted and I, we’re in the same math class. I’m sitting with distractions, back-row slouching, I see Ted’s... dusty grey Mickey Mouse Vans Old Skool II backpack, silver shiny Beats By Dre Solo2 Wireless headphones, some random pencils, class notes, all left on the desk. Tapping his feet, Air More Uptempo University Blue rare kicks. Eye-catching. Looking bold and energetic, yet he’s trying hard to focus, head-shaking, confusingly taking notes.

Basic dark blue Nike joggers, bright yellow Wesleyan tee, colorful swag. But I see none levels of chills, I see a strong sense of self-discipline in a guy that just fit and on-trend with well-trimmed beard, diamond stud earrings, and all.

So like everyone else, Ted doesn’t enjoy this math lecture, and we all gotta be here. Time’s up, we’re all leaving. Ted stays to talk to the professor. He is the last student to leave the classroom. He takes his study seriously. He seems to care much for the fact that he needs to pass the class.

Again, I see Ted, he always sits next to the entrance, in an open space. That’s a big table, but only him and his stuffs, all over, here at the library. ‘Rams Football’ tight short sleeve tee with an all-black set of sportwear Nike, Ted is puzzling over a great deal of head-scratching, of whatever that is, equation or inequation.

He just wants to get it right – it’s his style – he works things out from memory or simply that he can just go for it. He would not mind how many trials and errors, he’s willing to do it over and over again...

And it’s obvious now that math is no fun to him, he’s switching position, taking another deep breath, still his eyes are clued to the paper. Furrowing his brows, he slightly slides backward, lifts up then puts down that black-red-yellow fire-like Nike Air Max Plus sneakers, he’s just so damn stuck.

We’re studying for the upcoming exam together, and a casual chat may just break this heavy bore right here. Away from these problems on papers, Ted appears with overall preparation and he speaks with great confidence. He is friendly with his strong-willed smiling eyes. He has a swaggering assertiveness and he is easy to talk to, “I would say that my character really reflected on the way I dress. The way I dress will let you know that I am a hard-working person and I don’t forget important things to do.” Sure enough what Ted’s wearing is an honest representation of who he is, not a mere matter of clothing.



Ted works hard to get ready for the game. “It’s just that my family is a sport family, so sport is life to us,” that is the big why Ted is here at Texas Wesleyan University. “All of the sports we have up here, not just football, are real easy to play. You can just put your name out there.” And he just loves this quote by Kelly Holmes, who is now a retired middle-distance female athlete: *‘I’m pretty emotional... Athletics has been my life, my passion.’*

Ted believes in physical strength, and the strength to believe, and God.



“I pray and fight that one day I will make a dream come to reality. God is always on time never late.”

–Ted O Maxie



Ted trains hard. He hits the gym till late. The other day he came back to dorm after working out about 10.10 pm, “It makes me feel good and all my troubles go away when I’m doing it.” On his “private” 6-thousand followers Instagram, in which people can only see his posts after he accepted their requests, he wrote on a video of him training at the football field, “I pray and fight that one day I will make a dream come to reality. God is always on time never late... I thank you [God] for giving me strength.”

Only 38 posts since 2014, Ted’s Instagram, *‘t_soproudkid_’*, is all about family, faith, friends, football and fitness. Not clothing. Not what he bought. Not trophies. Just see what he has pride in.



“We just embrace who we are now.” Ted is not a hypebeast. It’s not necessarily about what’s trending, Ted dresses for himself as the way he feels. His style is highly individualistic and quite random, he thinks that when the way we dress is coded in specific, it ultimately “leads to bad mood.” Ted doesn’t pay much attention about how to style one damn well, he “just put something on this day and that day,” clearly that it’s all about his feeling and his feeling for the day.



“The first impression is everything. Because if your first impression is bad, you probably will not get a second choice at it.”

–Ted O Maxie



The sneakers game is part of life now, Ted’s. Custom Timberland Boots Ralph Lauren 2019, Air Jordan 12 Bull 2018, Nike Air Force 1 Louis Vuitton Supreme, adidas NMD R1 Cloud White, and Vans Authentic Rosin Gum, these are Ted’s top five favorites in his massive sneakers collection. Three out of them are just red. “I’m just a color person,” Ted jokes, “all colors.”

Brands that I often see Ted in are TXWES and Nike, Vans and Hollister, Jordan and Timberland. Popular. He sticks to unimpeachable classics. Then he pluses something of his own character.

A sky-blue afro comb, he sports it all day, right on his head. Culture much! “You can just say it is for style,” he laughs and replies. Actually, that afro comb seems to me is a cultural icon, rather than an accessory, which dates back to ancient Egypt. The comb has long been associated with counter culture and civil rights, its symbol seems bigger than its basic function as to serve those whose hair grows up and out, not down. Ted sports it all day with the fun sky-blue color, freshening off modernity. And Criminal Justice is his major. Maybe that’s a fun fact.

Ted is well-dressed, not necessarily best-dressed like ‘The Flyest Must-haves’ or ‘Best New Items This Week’ from magazines. He’s a sneakerhead that wants to cop the latest rare Nikes the moment they drop.

The thing is that, look at Ted, the guy dresses for himself and he just thinks like that. And of course, our appearance-for-Others in all of its richness and complexity is now much about choices. “The first impression is everything. Because if your first impression is bad, you probably will not get a second choice at it,” we are now appearing-as-clothed rather than being-clothed. Yup.

Ted is a great guy. He’s a friend of mine. It’s just lovely how I get to know him at Texas Wesleyan University.

Thao Thanh Tran is an international student. She’s a freshman, majoring in Mass Communication.