

# Word on the Hill

## What does your favorite pair of shoes say about you?

By Alejandra Rojas



"My favorite shoes would say that I am versatile."

**Aaron Pfingsten**  
English  
sophomore



"My shoes tell how unique I am, and how crazy I am."

**Eric Schmitz**  
political science  
freshman



"My shoes tell that I like wearing them a lot, and need new shoes."

**Kayla Hart**  
theatre  
sophomore



"My favorite pairs of shoes say that I am colorful and comfortable at the same time."

**Brandon Hessing**  
coordinator of student foundation



"My shoes just give me a unique way of life."

**George McNitt**  
sports management  
senior



"My favorite pair of shoes are my moccasins, and they make me feel lazy."

**Randi Dierksen**  
nursing  
senior



"First of all my favorite shoes are my indoor soccer shoes. I play soccer with my friends, so my shoes say that I am a fun person who likes to be social."

**Christian Hernandez**  
computer science  
junior



"That I'm sporty."

**Jordyn Cossman**  
physical education  
junior



"My favorite shoes are my sperry's and they say I'm on a boat."

**Jordan Unruh**  
nursing  
senior

# Foot fashion shoe-in for first impressions



**ERIN MORRIS**

It is said that you should never judge someone until you've walked a mile in their shoes. And while I would never tell anyone that this catchy phrase is false, I would argue that the exercise might be unnecessary.

Judgments happen. Within the first 30 seconds of meet-

ing someone, you have already formed an opinion about them. You obviously haven't known the person nearly long enough to get to know them, so the opinion is based largely on outward appearance. Shoes are no exception. They can tell you a lot about the person and actually impact your opinion of them.

Similar to clothing, shoes say something about the wearer. It can give hints about one's personality or show how someone's morning went. If the alarm didn't go off or the snooze was hit too many times, it is very unlikely that high heels will be the footwear choice of the day. On the other hand, the day of a speech or presentation will very likely result in a more classy or sophisticated pair of shoes.

Personality traits are visible in shoe choices. Tennis shoes can show athleticism or the desire for comfort and practicality. A couple things to consider are age and condition. If the shoes are obviously older and well-worn, one might assume that the individual prefers comfort to style. Like a good pair of jeans, shoes are also said to be most comfortable when worn out and well-loved.

When it comes to women's shoes, flats can be symbolic of a fun, more adventurous lifestyle. Flats are comfortable, but not sloppy. High heels can show high maintenance. The woman who wears high heels might have a stylish business suit to accompany

them, and is probably independent and very aggressive when it comes to getting what she wants in life. On the other hand, when matched with a party dress and cute smile, high heels can be fun and flirty.

When it comes to the men's side of things, I notice that the majority of shoes on campus are either tennis shoes or cowboy boots. The cowboy boots are sometimes thought to be synonymous with 'hick' or 'red-neck' culture. While it is often the case that those wearing cowboy boots come from a farming background, it isn't always true. Not only that, but boots do not automatically make the individual a "dumb hick." It is always

important to stay away from stereotypes. Shoes are personality indicators, yes, but so far, they have not been proven to give 100 percent accurate results.

You may have noticed that sometimes people wear different shoes on different days. Don't let that throw you for a loop or stop your analysis. Something to keep in mind is how often a particular pair of shoes is worn. When shoes are worn several times a week in preference to others, it is very probable that that particular pair is the favorite of the wearer. That being said, that pair will be more symbolic of the individual's personality.

Color and brand preferences can be deciphered from shoe choices too. Brands can be very revealing when it comes to per-

sonality. High-end brands show an expensive taste, which can mean that the person really cares about other people's opinions. The person who wears around Wal-Mart shoes thinks, "Yeah, those shoes are nice, but I got the same thing half price."

The next time you are drawn to a pair of shoes, think about why you like them so much and what they say about your personality. You can be sure people are judging you for your shoe choices, and that's just life. It shouldn't hinder you from buying what you like, but it could also be fun to choose something out of the ordinary and surprise people.

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### PERSONAL COLUMN

## PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE

*If you had an opportunity to respond to Sarah Palin about a statement in her new book 'America By Heart,' what would your reply be?*



**AARON DUELL**

Sure, there are forces in the university and media that set themselves against people of faith. Think about it, how many positive things have you heard people say about

"evangelicals"? There have always been those who oppose Christians, believing them to be intellectually weak and generally ignorant.

The problem is not that people in high places believe that Christians are uneducated and intellectually flabby. The problem is that we are uneducated and intellectually flabby. There was a day when the Church could outthink her critics, and in fact the Church was able to survive the early centuries by refuting the claims of the Agnostic thinkers of their day. Faith is not a blind leap into the dark hoping that some higher power might catch us. Faith is

an active trust based on what you know. There are plethora of legitimate reasons to believe in and worship the Christian God. The historic evidence for the resurrection of Christ, the historic accuracy of the earliest writings about Christ (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), the Moral Argument for God's existence, the Cosmological Argument for God's existence, and on and on and on.

So what if Palin is right? Christians, we must reclaim our intellectual heritage if we are to live in this society and honor our Lord.

*Aaron Duell is a philosophy & religious studies senior.*



**JOHN SCAGGS**

Implicit in Sarah Palin's statement is the assumption that university professors – in fact, everybody – should share the religious faith of their fellow Americans. At best, Palin's as-

sumption is inaccurate, because it is clear that religion is not the only way to teach people how to be good, and moral.

In many ways, a humanist education designed to cultivate independent thought, an awareness of our place in the world, and our responsibility to others, does it just as well, if not better. At worst, Palin's statement could be seen as manipulative, particularly when she says that university professors seem to regard people who attend church as being poor and uneducated. To whom do they seem this way? Who, exactly, is Palin

speaking for here? Not, I think, for the majority of university professors, and not, I hope, for the majority of Americans.

The United States is a nation that grew out of the desire for religious freedom, and Palin's statement, to me, has the ring of religious persecution to it, the sort of religious persecution that led the Pilgrims here in the first place. That Palin was once in the running to be the nation's Vice-President makes this all the more worrying.

*John Scaggs is an associate professor of English, and the coordinator of English program.*

## Author Palin publishes reflection on principles, Writer counters with opposing position viewpoint

**PAIGE CARSWELL**

When Sarah Palin wrote a book and titled it "America By Heart: Reflections on Faith, Family, and Flag," half of the people in the United States crowned over it and the other half threw up.

But, when she wrote this next gem, she crossed over the line of just sickeningly patriotic phrases into frightening terrain.

Palin wrote, "Most of those who write for the mainstream media and teach at universities and law schools don't share the religious faith of their fellow Americans. They seem to regard people who believe in God and regularly attend their church or synagogue as alien beings, people who are 'largely poor, uneducated and easy to command,' as the Washington Post once famously put it."

Wait—what religious faith? Which fellow Americans?

Not only is Palin's statement blatantly wrong (a poll done by Neil Gross and Solon Simmons states that 34.9 percent of professors surveyed have no doubts that there is a God, 16.6 percent believe that there is one despite having doubts and 19.2 percent believe in a higher power), but it insinuates that there is an "American" religion. "Most of" is a cop-out. "Most of" those who write for the mainstream media are not the same exact person, and "most of" the mainstream media don't enjoy being categorized.

But, who does? People are unique, and are allowed to believe what they want to. Just because they don't all believe the same thing doesn't make it wrong—in fact, that's the way it's supposed to work.

Sarah Palin has done an incredible job of marketing herself to the public, and taking advantage of her moments of fame. She has written books, said things that make people hope she's joking, and is gaining her own reality television show.

But, come on, Sarah. Too far is too far.

It's not as if she didn't know what she was writing, or that thousands upon thousands of people would read her every word, whether they were trying to find something wrong or to use it as their new weapon to bat the unpatriotic down with.

But, if she knew what she was saying, and knew that it was wrong, then why say it?

The whole point of the United States was to come and not be persecuted. We don't have a national religion or language, and suggesting that there is a religion

better than the rest is ridiculous and frightening.

On the other hand, the entire statement was a source of great humor and irony if she was simply stating that everyone thinks people of her religion aren't as smart as the rest.

We're hoping, and giving Palin a lot of credit that she may or may not deserve, that was the case. Perhaps down the line, there will be listings of Palinions. There is for everyone else.

And, hopefully there aren't many more like this one, or, for a higher power's sake, like, "We've got to stand with our North Korean allies."

Go make money, Sarah Palin, by all means. But, not by any means necessary. You're scaring the children.

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