

CANCEL CULTURE: THE BEGINNING OF THE END

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When referring to next week's math quiz or an impending reading check, "cancelling" may bring a positive emotion. However, for celebrities and regular people alike, getting cancelled on the internet can end careers, friendships and any opportunity to improve. "Cancel" refers to making a person irrelevant due to past actions. Fake "woke" individuals take it upon themselves to determine what is worth getting cancelled over or not. This can lead to mass overreactions. Not only does this create an unfair scale reached by a minimal amount of people, but it also stops humans from doing what humans do best: evolving.

Since at times only one person determines cancellation, cancel culture creates an imbalanced scale for justice. Humanity, as a whole, is diverse in opinion and judgment, thus, morality is something that cannot be decided in one fell swoop; instead, it's fluid.

Morality exists as a fluid concept; it is the reason why our political system uses checks and balances and court cases use juries. Working off only one person's depiction of morality allows people to get "cancelled" for small actions.

The worst part about cancelling is it completely destroys any ability for growth. Many celebrities and influencers are cancelled on the premise of something they did when they were younger. While this successfully shows a higher moral code for the community and general growth of society, it rejects a second perspective: What if the person grew since then?

"When people [in their teens] make a mistake and now they are 50 years old, and it has leaked, I feel like they should apologize for their actions and address what they did is wrong and it is just not accepted by society now. But, at the same time, we shouldn't hold that one thing against them and cancel them," junior Lily-Rose Sheedy

said. "I know influencers, and I will unsubscribe from them if they do something I disagree with."

Beauty influencer James Charles lost more than 1 million subscribers after an outcry on how he treated men. However, allegations against him were proven false. Cancel culture can end careers before they even begin. In a world of immediate gratification, checking the facts becomes second to cancelling others.

"I guess people have to be more cautious of what they say or do, especially if you are in the public eye," Sheedy said. "Especially now with technology, everyone can catch everything—you can be at a party and someone will videotape something you did or said. You really have to watch yourself."

While we now have to live in a world of cancel culture, we should not perpetuate it. Allow room for growth and check your facts before eliminating artists, celebrities and friends.

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A common saying is often considered when it comes to buying almost anything: You get what you pay for. While this holds true for purchases of most items, this does not apply to buying designer brands.

Whether it be Gucci, Prada, Balenciaga, Versace, or any other on the long list of designer brands, all of them are extremely overpriced.

Not only do the prices for designer clothes or accessories typically reach quadruple digits, but the quality of these products is not even better than that of items hundreds of dollars cheaper. A study conducted by the University

NOT SO **SUPREME**

Elevated prices do not always equate to elevated style

of Leeds tested whether cheap clothing would outlast more expensive items. The results concluded that fast-fashion shirts and jeans typically out-performed their luxury counterparts in terms of wear and tear.

"Jeans from one fashion brand lasted twice as long as a designer label jeans, cost one-tenth of the price," head researcher Dr. Mark Sumner said.

The same outcome held true but to an even greater extent with T-shirts. According to Dr. Sumner, T-shirts were the worst performing in all of the durability of clothing tests. On the contrary, he explained fast fashion T-shirts held up the best.

So if designer brands don't even mean the clothing's quality is better while being far more expensive, why do people continue to pay so much for them? It's all because of the brand name.

Designer brands have developed a name of such prestige that just the name itself can turn people onto the clothing.

When people are impressed by somebody wearing designer, not only are they considering the artwork of the clothing,

but, more importantly, they look at the clothing's brand.

The brand name itself promotes social status and a sign of wealth. Researchers who looked at "Social benefits of luxury brands" conducted multiple tests on the social effects of wearing high-end brands. They found that people wearing luxury clothing were given favorable status in social interactions. They conducted two experiments to obtain that conclusion, and both of them allowed the researchers to state, "people treat the same person better when he or she wears more expensive clothing."

Although studies suggest that designer brands give an individual a favorable appearance to their peers, wearing these clothes is still overrated. Unless you really like the artwork of a shirt, do not buy it just because of the name.

Designer clothing is extremely overpriced for something of low quality, and you should wear something rather than you think looks good and represents your persona. Wearing clothes you think look cool seems like a much better way to spend your money rather than wearing overpriced clothes for the sake of a name.



DRESSED TO IMPRESS: Junior Joseph Jorge shows off his outfit before going out to a party. "I just enjoy having limited items," Joseph said. (Photo/Joseph Jorge)

