
Sensible shopping saves money on style

by Kelsey Rone, *Smoke Signal* Staff Writer

If there is one thing that burns a hole in student wallets, it is the price of clothing. Whether one is spending money earned at a part-time job, or money provided by parents or gifts, buying ridiculously over-priced clothing is a problem.

Why must a simple T-shirt cost \$30 and up? Brand name clothes are usually the ones getting a bad rep, but why pay an arm and a leg for a shirt with an iron-on ironed onto it? On the other hand, stores such as F21 and Rue21 carry items marked with cheap prices, but poorly made clothes. So the real question is, where can consumers find reliable clothes that also fit a teenager's budget?

Students should look for upcoming sales or discounts for their favorite stores or check out the sale prices wherever the big sale sign is up. Kohl's and Target provide great sales on nice clothes. Their clothes are stylish and may leave students with more green in their pockets. Check out coupon websites or the stores website to see if there are any discounts for your purchase. Websites usually have promo codes to use for a percentage off—some can be used either online or in the store.

Don't settle for the first item displayed to catch the eye. Check the price and look for the same item made by a knock-off company or one suspiciously similar on a rack toward the back of the department--most likely a dress or shirt that is similar for a cheaper price.

Finally, don't overlook the secondhand stores in Murfreesboro. Basic items are available for a fraction of the price at Goodwill, Plato's Closet, Carolyn's Consignment, Outreach Thrift Store, and All Things Possible. Whether the target is vintage clothes or just basics, the money goes so much farther in these venues.

Take some time, make a little effort, and spend fewer dollars on every day fashion.