

# CAMPUS LIFE

## Talk Nerdy To Me

### Curiosity Killed the Cat?

By Christine Yu  
STAFF COLUMNIST

Sex is full of trial and error. No one will ever claim that the best sex they ever had was when they lost their virginity, well, unless that was the only sex they ever had. Each person is different, and it usually takes a lot of experimentation to figure out just what works. However, do we reach a point where we get too comfortable and cease to experiment?

I'm referring specifically to the notion of types — even more specifically genders. Lately, one of the top songs on iTunes is Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl," except she's publicly stated she's never even kissed a girl. How can you write about it if you've never done it? See, I've avoided the topic of experimentation for this reason — I've never tried the same gender.

However, I don't identify as purely heterosexual — I don't think anyone really does. We've all found members of the same gender attractive, it's just were told not to act on this attraction. The number one Facebook prank

is to change someone's "Interested In" to the same gender. Except, is it really that funny? Honestly, it's just like the come back, "you're so gay." I thought that line was done after middle school.

Our society finds it sexy when a girl fools around with another girl, so long as she doesn't identify as purely a lesbian. Yet, if a guy fools around with another guy, he's considered gay, which is not considered "attractive." Maybe this can be justified by Darwinian principles that men just want to spread their sperm, and thus the more girls the merrier! Yet, women only have one egg — so, having multiple men isn't really going to do anything. Except, I don't want to justify this with evolution — I think it's because homophobia is ingrained from such a young age into children. Even during Sex Ed, you never heard about how to have gay sex.

Actually, Sex Ed will tell you that sex is love. Well, this might be a shock to you, but it's college. People get horny. You're not going to love everyone you sleep with, and

you're not going to sleep with everyone you love. Plus, are you really going to fall in love at MIT? It seems like everyone's too damn busy relying on some sort of formula.

Love isn't about chemistry, but really math! You get A amount of points for this gender, B amount for this race, C amount for this socioeconomic background. Then, if you make it with one standard deviation, you get another function. You have to know someone for X amount of time, do Y amount of things together, and then, maybe, you can make it Facebook official.

Doesn't this all sound just a little ridiculous — relying on logic over feelings for love? What ever happened to just liking people — regardless of gender? Besides, don't we know our own gender the best when it comes to

sex? Maybe. Maybe not. Since I haven't experimented, I can't say. However, I will say that by identifying as purely straight — or purely gay — you're closing off options. It's best to keep an open mind.

College is the perfect place to experiment. Conservatives will argue that it's better to identify as either straight or gay — nothing in the middle — however, it's that grey period where we really define ourselves. I'm not saying that I'm going to go out and sleep with a girl this weekend, but I'm saying if I met one that I really connected with, I wouldn't let my preconceptions control me. Sex is about experimenting, and college is the place to do it.

Curiosity killed the cat, but according to Schrödinger, the cat might already be dead.

*Our society finds it sexy when a girl fools around with another girl, so long as she doesn't identify as purely as lesbian.*

## IHTFO(utfit)

### FASH.101

#### Top Five Signs This Series Is For You

1. You own a t-shirt for more than 50 percent of the software you run.
2. People ask you if you go to MIT before you say anything.
3. There are more words/pictures in your wardrobe than buttons.
4. Your lab mates taped this article to your monitor or fume hood.
5. You have a casual and a dress xkcd hoodie.

By Brandon Russell

As a graduate student at MIT, I am consistently amazed at the insight and intelligence of my classmates. Sadly, not a day goes by that I'm not simultaneously shocked by the cluelessness that my fellow males seem to have regarding basic fashion.

Now, I realize this is MIT, and I'm not expecting anyone here to be recruited to revive *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*. But a basic knowledge of how to look good will do wonders to improve all aspects of your life: academic, professional, and social. So as a service to my colleagues, I've penned a short series of articles for a crash-course on fashion. Think of me as your TA for FASH.101.

Like any good syllabus, this piece starts with the basics. This series is written with no assumptions about prior knowledge, so if you already subscribe to *GQ* or own more pairs of shoes than you do pants, these articles probably aren't for you. Likewise, most of my advice will be aimed at graduate students. That's not to say that undergrads can't use the tips here, but I'm not going to break into Simmons Hall and steal your MATLAB/Simulink t-shirts. Sidney-Pacific, on the other hand, is a different story. Older undergrads that are closer to the career world will likely find these beneficial, as well. If you're unsure if this series is for you, check out my handy guide (inset).

The flow of this "course" is very straightforward. Today's column will serve as a brief introduction to fashion in general and a list of the essentials that every man should

own. Afterward, you'll see me every other Tuesday for an in-depth study of shoes, pants, shirts, outerwear, and accessories. Finally, we'll tie everything together with a shopping and outfit assembly guide.

Sound good? Then let's dive in!

Why should you care about fashion? Because other people do, and those people very often fall into the category of "potentials": potential employers, potential advisers, potential significant others, etc. Now I'm not going to tell you that you'll become an auto-include for every lab on campus just because you look fabulous; if that were true, I'd already have a research adviser. I will tell you that the social scientists (see, they have their uses!) tell us that first impressions are formed in roughly 30 seconds, and appearance is a significant percentage of that impression. Who doesn't like starting out on top?

Now we know that you should care about fashion, let's look at the mechanics (don't you just love that word?). What should you be wearing? The photo in the middle of this page is a prime example of an outfit that every guy should own. Period. What makes this outfit so essential? Modularity.

As engineers, we all understand the revolution ushered in by the concept of interchangeable parts. Fashion works the same way. By buying simple, timeless pieces in classic colors, you maximize your wardrobe options without minimizing your credit score. What are those pieces? Let's go through ...

1. A good pair of sleek, genuine leather shoes, in dark brown or black, will go with every pair of pants you own. Great fashion is a bottom-up process.

2. A pair of flat-front, slim-legged slacks in a neutral color (khaki, charcoal, gray, brown, etc.) can

be dressed up to a 10 or down to a 3 (see Russell's Equation).

3. A heavy cotton button-up shirt (known as an Oxford) in a catchy color (pink, light blue, and French blue are great first options, as is a bold stripe pattern) pairs with absolutely anything.

4. A dark skinny tie with a subtle pattern or texture is the perfect bridge between clubbing loose and shoddy with the top button or two

undone) and conferencing (tied higher with a symmetrical knot).

5. A dark blue or gray blazer (without the faux gold buttons) pulls together any outfit with a hint of pizzazz.

6. A slim watch, a dark leather belt, and one unique piece of "flair" (an earring, a bracelet, a necklace, etc.) — it's like your signature for your outfit.

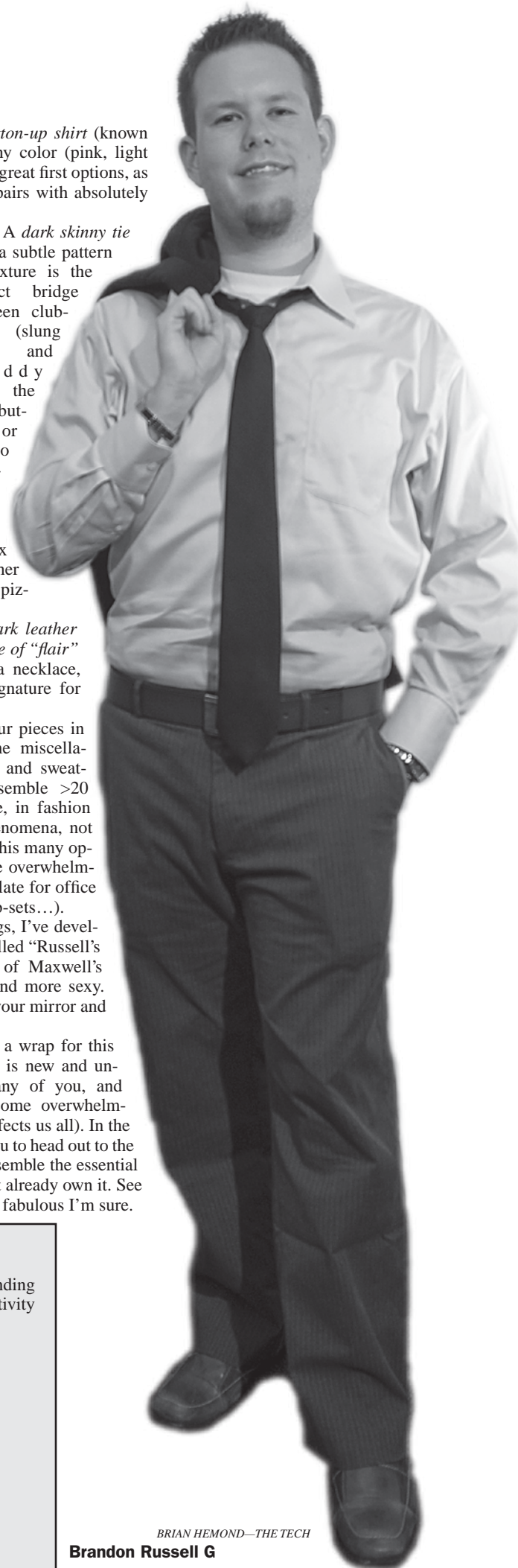
With only three or four pieces in each category, plus some miscellaneous items like t-shirts and sweaters, you can easily assemble >20 unique outfits. Of course, in fashion just like in transport phenomena, not everything is linear, and this many options can quickly become overwhelming when you're running late for office hours (damn ambiguous p-sets...).

So, to streamline things, I've developed a simple formula called "Russell's Equation"; it's like one of Maxwell's Equations with less  $\nabla$  and more sexy. Clip it out and tape it on your mirror and you'll never go wrong.

I'm going to call that a wrap for this week folks. I realize this is new and uncharted territory for many of you, and fashion can quickly become overwhelming (firehose syndrome affects us all). In the mean time, I urge all of you to head out to the mall this weekend and assemble the essential outfit, assuming you don't already own it. See you all next time, looking fabulous I'm sure.

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BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Brandon Russell G

#### Russell's Equation

Outfits are divided into three components: bottom, top, and accessories. Each piece is given an integer value corresponding to its "dressiness." Summing the values of your outfit yields your "dressy index,"  $\Delta i$ , which can then be matched to the activity you're participating in.

Shorts: 1	T-shirt: 1	Tie: 2
Jeans: 1	Polo: 2	Jacket: 2
Slacks: 2	Oxford: 3	Sweater: 1

- $0 \leq \Delta i \leq 2$  having sex, playing sports, sleeping
- $3 \leq \Delta i \leq 6$  class, lunch/brunch dates, general purpose
- $7 \leq \Delta i \leq 10$  dinner dates, clubbing, job interview
- $\Delta i > 10$  fashion kitteh sez yur doin it rong