

STUDENT LIFE

As purses grow, so does the backlash

By De'Adra Walker
contributing writer

As fall begins and the new school year starts, I am always eager to watch the emergence of the season's latest trends, as well as the revival and renewal of those past. While many trends gain popularity simply due to the physical appearance of the article of clothing, haircut or accessory in question, I am quite pleased to see the coming of a trend that is proving to be fashionable, as well as practical in a few ways—oversized purses and fashion bags.

In an unnamed, but representative sample of the female student population on the Behrend campus, it was found that a woman's purse is her sanctuary, claiming that any and everything of importance to her can be found there.

In previous years, however, the hierarchy deciding exactly what to carry in one's purse has been a difficult task due to the size of purses. The smaller the bag, the more selective one must be with its contents. Many women (myself included) have become accustomed to smaller purses through the process of assimilation. Thus, "essentials" and "everything important including the kitchen sink" have simply become minimized to a cell phone, a debit card, lip gloss and chewing gum. However, with this blossoming of oversized purses and bags, freedom has been restored and the trend of small bags and not enough space to carry what is needed is no longer a problem.

Most recently, I have witnessed these bags doubling as bookbags. These particular bags are about the size of an average backpack, and allow young women to have space for not only their academic essentials, but also their feminine essentials—lip gloss, cell phone and any other make-up/monetary/mp3 player-like

needs.

However, the balance between practicality and outrageousness is shifted when these already oversized bags begin to grow. A bag the size of a backpack used to carry books and binders in addition to the contents of an average-sized purse is practical and useful. When a bag crosses the line between being large enough to hold books and being large enough to fit a Ford Focus inside, then we have a problem. If one feels the need to coordinate her school bag with her new denim jacket by way of a fashion bag, by all means. These bags come in multiple shapes and colors and are made of everything from canvas to fake leather.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
This Marc Jacobs bag may one day knock you over.

The other day, while walking between the Kochel Building and the Reed Union Building, I was smacked in the side with a bag the size of a small child. Bumpings into such as this are not uncommon in the move of traffic between classes. The oddity of this occurrence was the fact that the young lady whose shoulder this bag was on was walking literally a foot away from me. Her bag protruded that far from her body. I glanced at my own small pink bag under my left arm, which housed my notebooks and binders, and then at hers pondering exactly what she was hiding in it; judging from the bump, it may have been a small child.

I think that we as a female population should probably take a step back and examine our choice in accessories, if bags have grown to the point where bags do in fact have space to include everything and the kitchen sink... and the stove... and the shower... and the pull out couch... and then that Focus.

Transferring files made easy

By Logan Stack
staff writer

Dear ASCII,

My friend has a lot of stuff on his computer, and I want a copy. What would be the best way to move many gigabytes (GB) of files?

- Jerry Pohl, Journalism 07

Dear Jerry,

There are many ways you could do this. If you have a large thumb drive, you can make a lot of trips between your dorm rooms, but that's terribly inconvenient.

Your friend could burn the files to a bunch of DVDs. But you could run into problems if your friend has a copy of the 7.2 GB "Pirates.avi". It would require software to break the file into chunks small enough to burn to disk, or a comparatively expensive double-layer DVD-R. If your friend doesn't have a DVD burner, or doesn't want to spend the time burning a pile of disks for you, fear not! There are other options.

Far more convenient are external hard drives. For about \$100, you can get 200 GB worth of external hard disks. These work exactly the same as thumb drives, but require an electrical outlet, so you plug them in for both AC power and USB. You could loan this to your friend, and get it back when he fills it.

If you don't have the money, or don't want to spend it, you can transfer it directly. Take your computer to his room, and you can then transfer the files through a wire. There are all sorts of wires you can use: parallel, serial (both very slow), Firewire (you both may not have this), Ethernet, etc.

The easiest and cheapest mode is Ethernet. Anyone living in the dorms has an Ethernet wire

going from their computer to the jack in the wall to get their Internet connection. To connect the two computers over Ethernet, you'll need either a special wire called a "crossover cable" (about \$10), or a switch/hub.

With the crossover cable, you just plug one end into each computer, and look for each other in "Network Neighborhood". Your friend will have to share the folder with all the content. Secondary click on the folder and select the "sharing" tab. Change "Do not share this folder" to "Share this folder," and click "ok."

With a hub or a switch, you can use the Ethernet wires you already have. These devices cost more than a crossover cable (about \$20), but allow more than one person to get the files at once, as you can have many people plug their computers into a switch. You could also use this to play video games with each other, or for many other things. Also, you don't have the risk of accidentally using the crossover cable when you plug your computer into the wall next year. Crossover cables aren't compatible with normal ones and it won't work.

According to ResCom, you are not allowed to connect to your friend's Internet connection in his dorm. So he has to unplug himself while using the switch. You can't actually use his connection through the switch anyway. It takes a router (about the same price) to let multiple computers (like a laptop and a desktop) share the sort of Internet connection that Penn State provides. They can't tell if you do it, but it's against the rules, so don't do it.

Be sure that the file transfer is legal too. Not all files are freely redistributable, so you may be a pirate if you copy it.

Do you have a computer question? Ask ASCII! Send an e-mail to ascii@psu.edu, and you will probably have it answered in the next week's column.

Student Life weekly snippet

What the Bellhop Saw set to debut



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

What the Bellhop Saw debuts this Saturday night at the North East Cultural Center.

By Sean Mihlo
student life editor

What happens when a slew of goofy guests descend upon the same hotel room at the same time? Confusion, craziness and hilarity. On Friday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the North East Cultural Center, the North East Community Players will present *What the Bellhop Saw*. Directed by Chris Bucci, the slapstick-comedy is the story of Wally Leech, a bellhop in one of New York City's fanciest hotels. Wally (Bucci), ever the caring and gentle human being, promises his brother George a "free" suite for the day so that George (Dave Yosten) can live out his fantasy of having an affair with his secretary. Everything is grand and dandy until Wally, unbeknownst to him, finds out that the suite has been overbooked, to say the least. The nightmare ensues as a cast chock-full of quirky characters including an incompetent C.I.A. agent, an author, an Iranian terrorist who wants the author dead, the author's daughter, a celebrity-obsessed maid, an angry wife and a pig-tailed little girl

descend upon the hotel room.

The farce also stars NECP regulars Pat Devlin, Lynn Kessler, Linda Lewis, Bev Walz, Sam Dzuricky, Stephen Vitron, Peggy Hauser and newcomer Jamie Pryber. Three young actors will play the part of the pig-tailed girl throughout the play's run, including Liz Keddie, Gina DiBuono and Brittany Rogers. Sally Abata serves as Assistant Director for this production.

What the Bellhop Saw will begin its two week-plus run today, Friday the 6 at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the North East Cultural Center, located at 25 Vine Street in North East. After today, the show runs as follows, with all show times at 7:30 (unless otherwise noted): October 7, 8 (2:00 p.m.), 12, 15 (2:00 p.m.), 19, 20, 21 and 22 (2:00 p.m.). Tickets, priced at \$8 for adults and \$6 for students, can be purchased at the venue itself or via telephone, 814-725-5055. For more information about the play, visit the North East Community Player's website at www.myspace.com/necp.

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