

▲According to societal reference, the average ▲merican is one who holds the idea of conformity and the middle class income level. I see myself as the in between ▲merican. Some of the characteristics I possess are ▲merican while some are not. ▲According to the ▲merican cultural configuration an ▲merican is one who is "...primarily concerned with what other people of our social position or age set have, think or do..."▲As a teenager I did feel the need to conform and have whatever it was the media was selling, but as I grew older I grew out of this phase. It seems to me though I do but I don't fit in with the ▲merican cultures. When it comes to always being on the run, being part of the middle class, and living in a residential area I would have to say, in those aspects, I am an average ▲merican. When speaking on the basis in my values, what I consider the "norm" and what I consider right and wrong I would not be of an average ▲merican. To be normal is set by the standard of living of the middle class. To me normal is being yourself regardless of the expectations set for you. Normal is everyone being natural and not hiding their true colors and trying to buy their way into a fairy tale life. The average "...young middle class ▲merican has returned to professional education careers leaving the philosophy, world religions, and literary criticism courses to the more well-to-do or the more impractical of their peers." Philosophy, world religion, literary criticism, and other non traditional fields seem to draw to me. So considering what the typical young ▲merican takes interest in, I would not be considered the average.

▲Another topic I found very appealing was conformity and the way ▲merican families seek for individuality and cherishing that quality greatly yet when it comes to us being individually unique some ▲mericans are not so quick to follow. Our reference guide on what to wear and say and how to bash all things cultural and different is the

media. The American society has gone so far to go against individuality that there is even a magazine (STYLE) to inform young men and women about what is in style and what isn't. What you should wear and what you shouldn't.

As Americans we preach right and wrong and what kind of lifestyle is good yet we do not follow what we preach. For example we tell our children "not to hit others", or "treat others the way you would like to be treated". I think what some of us meant to tell our children is treat others well to a certain extent. Treat others well as long as they are not Asian, black, gay, Arab, biracial, bisexual, handicapped, poor, Muslim, ugly, Buddhist and anything else that is otherwise "perfect". It sometimes seems overwhelmingly amazing that we were not able to elect an African American president until the year 2009. We are advanced in our society to cure diseases, invent cloning, travel in airplanes, invent phones that are computers and so many other things yet conquering tolerance and accepting all people regardless of who and what they are seems to be the hardest task for the most advanced country in the world to handle. Seems a little farfetched, but it is in fact reality. Many of my peers, colleagues' neighbors and even friends have treated me very kindly in the past because they mistook me for a Caucasian woman. But when the truth unraveled of who I really am the greetings began to stop and the smiles always frowned. Suddenly I saw the America for what it truly was. An assimilation of cultures that are convenient and the dismissal of cultures that are not "normal". That is the America I see every day when my neighbors don't smile at me and I am "randomly" checked at the airport. That is my America.