



by KYLIE BRONCHICK

Brandy Melville and the oatmeal problem

Brandy Melville makes clothing that is like a bowl of toasty oatmeal. The fabrics are incredibly soft, and their oversized, chunky cardigans give you a warm, cozy feeling...but they're also very bland and not that special--no offense to oatmeal everywhere. While their soft T-shirts are certainly comfortable, I'd rather turn to other stores to buy my basics for a number of reasons:

1. I am not a bowl of oatmeal

That's right. And I would prefer not to look like one either. I don't wear the same five neutral colors: beige, light gray, light pink, white and navy. The store seems to exclusively carry these colors, with the rare exceptions of dark gray and a slightly different shade of beige.

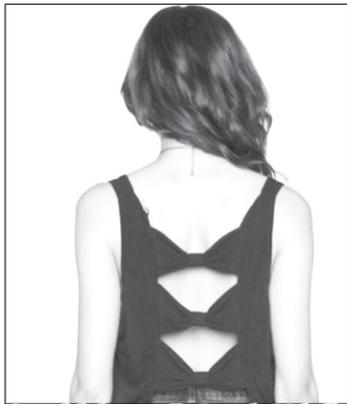
If you're looking for something unique or different, you're out of luck. It can be difficult to wear more than one item of Brandy Melville clothing at a time because you end up looking like, well, a bowl of oatmeal. Essentially, your wardrobe becomes a sea of

beige cotton, rayon and polyester.

2. The majority of the female population are not Middle School girls

Most women and teenage girls grew out of their 23-inch waist after leaving Middle School, yet Brandy Melville seems to think otherwise, carrying only one size for most of its products, and excluding a large portion of the retail market.

The average woman in America wears a size 14, and Brandy Melville's clothes clearly are not



A model shows off a Brandy Melville T-shirt with cutouts.

designed for her. Brandy Melville's clothing is even rather form-fitting on me...and I'm a mere 5 feet tall and 103 pounds.

3. Terrible quality

After just a few wears, Brandy Melville's clothing begins to fall apart. The seams come undone, and soon enough the ends of their shirts are eliminated completely, leaving a sad, destitute, not-ideal, frayed look...much like that of historical literature character Huckleberry Finn.

4. No returns, only store credit

If I decide that I don't love the loose threads in my twice-worn T-shirt, there is nothing I can do about it besides returning it to the store for store credit, so I can purchase yet another crummy T-shirt that will also have unfinished hems after two wears. Gr8. Can't wait to come back and fuel this institution of violently depreciated sewing thread.

5. Poor customer service

I don't care if their employees



A Brandy Melville model wears a Mean Girls reminder.

are beautiful; they need to do their job.

6. I like it when my shirt is a whole shirt

I was quite disappointed to find out that my options are limited if I don't want the back of my "shirt" to consist only of a halter tie at the neck and one more tie in the center of my back, leaving the side-boob to be real and my abdomen almost completely uncovered. If I'm going to pay \$18 for a low-quality shirt, I prefer it not resem-

ble a mere scrap of fabric adorned with string.

7. Inconsistent pricing

For some reason, depending on the color of a shirt, the price can fluctuate by at least \$5. For example, currently listed on Brandy Melville's website is the "Mary Tank."

Should gray be your desired color, you're in luck: It's only \$12. However, should you wish to purchase the exact same design but in black, you have the misfortune of being charged \$20.

What's so special about the black shirt? Did Brandy Melville outsource their dye process to Mongolian fishermen who raise Atlantic pygmy octopodes in order to harvest their precious and highly valued black ink? Is that it???

8. They sell a beanie with "You Can't Sit With Us" scrawled across it

I shouldn't even have to explain this one. I understand that it's a Mean Girls reference, but shut it down already!



by LINDSEY WALLER

The Class of 2015 ponders: Are we loved?

What is wrong with the senior class? That's easy. Nothing is wrong with the senior class.

But obviously, every single Chadwick faculty member hates our entire class. They hate us for no reason. The faculty and administrators hate us because they are a bunch of fascists, and they don't like it when we speak our minds. We don't have to stand for this tyranny. This is a call-to-arms to all seniors: Let's rebel and escape this prison!

Just kidding.

Maybe a better question would be: Is there something wrong with the senior class? Are we really the ugly stepchild of the Chadwick classes? There seems to be a common feeling among seniors that the faculty and administration dislike our class. I love Chadwick, and I love my teachers. In general I have extremely positive sentiments about Chadwick. But even I cannot deny that I feel like the faculty regards our class as somehow inferior to other classes. In December, I heard many of my outspoken classmates expressing these same sentiments, and I started to wonder if this feeling came internally from our class or directly from the faculty.

I sent a survey to seniors and asked them how they think the faculty feels about our class, and then I asked them to justify their reasoning. Many seniors cited "senior ditch day" as evidence that the administration does not like our class. I understand and respect

the point of view of the administration that we should not get another ditch day because we did get the day off, but I couldn't help but feel a little cheated. It was very frustrating to see my sister walk into my room blasting music and dancing because she got the day off, while I worked on college applications and homework.

I do not think, though, that this reason serves as proof that the administration has something against this senior class specifically. Their decision had to do with their definition of a ditch day, and nothing to do with our class.

Other than the ditch day, several seniors say that they believe the administration does not like us because we are the "experiment class." Our class had been the first class to start many projects, including the PCB science curriculum and the notorious APEX project.

Similar to the senior ditch day, I feel as though these projects have nothing to do with our class. Moreover, I do not believe that teachers create these projects in a malicious attempt to make us suffer. Actually, they attempt to allow us to better succeed. I understand that some of my classmates do not like these projects, but even so, it seems evident that the intentions of the faculty and administrators

who create these projects are all positive.

The most commonly cited reason for why seniors believe that the faculty dislikes our class is the way they talk about our class compared to the way they talked about other senior classes.

“The faculty and administrators hate us because they are a bunch of fascists, and they don't like when we speak our minds.”

Specifically, students said that the faculty often compares the Class of 2015 to the Class of 2014 in a way that portrays us as inferior.

On numerous occasions, faculty and administrators have told our class that we have "big shoes to fill." On its own, this statement seems pretty harmless. But with the tone in which it's delivered, it seems as though the faculty doubt that our class will be able to live up to the legacy set by last year's seniors.

In addition, many seniors say that they constantly hear the faculty praising the 2014 seniors, but more often than not, those same faculty members complain about our class. I acknowledge that all of

these claims are very general, and I do not speak for the entire senior class. I am simply sharing the impression I get from speaking to my classmates and reading survey results.

One important exception to some faculty members' portrayal of last year's seniors as the "golden children" is their disappointment with the severe senioritis outbreak last year. At orientation, the college counselors read us letters from colleges to which students had been accepted that threatened to revoke acceptances if individuals from last year's senior class did not improve their academic performance.

I have also had two of my five teachers give up class time to talk about how terrible the senioritis was during second semester last year. Both of my teachers said they did not think that they had anything to worry about with our class, but the intensity of the meeting at the beginning of the year and the follow-up meeting this year makes seniors feel like the faculty and administrators do not have faith in our class--whether that is their intention or not.

When asked how the faculty

and administration feel about the Class of 2015, only 1 out of 30 seniors surveyed said that the faculty "adores" our class. When asked how the faculty/administration felt about the Class of 2014, on the other hand, 13 out of 30 seniors said that they thought the faculty and administration "loves" the class. This discrepancy reveals an underlying cause of the sentiment that the class of 2015 is "unloved."

Granted, these survey results do not at all capture the sentiments of our class as a whole since the majority did not complete the survey. Moreover, students who felt strongly about this issue are more likely to answer a survey called "Are we loved?" than those students with more neutral perspectives.

Certainly, some of these feelings of inferiority come from us comparing ourselves to the 2014 class, but the frequency in which the faculty and administration rave about last year's seniors makes it difficult not to feel like our value goes unrecognized.

In addition, in contrast to the seniors' perception of how the faculty feels about our class, 21 of the 30 seniors said that they "adore" or "love" our class.

The only call to action I want to make is for the seniors to recognize that some of the excuses that we use are not entirely valid, and for the faculty to realize the impact of some seemingly benign comments.