



Matt Abernathy

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Beware the Bandwagon! ***(or...when trendy fashion, isn't either)***

It's no secret that Snowboarding is a trendy sport. Every winter manufacturers introduce new styles and the latest and greatest must-have gear. It's hard to resist all the hype, and I'm as guilty as the next guy when it comes to wanting new stuff each season. Whether it's goggles, gloves, or a cool new coat, there's always something to put on the wish list. But not all trends appeal to me, and sometimes I'd just as soon avoid this bandwagon altogether. Here are a few trends I wouldn't mind saying goodbye to sooner rather than later.

Fluorescent flashbacks – Why do bad trends come back around? Fluorescents were all the rage once, but went out of style for a good reason. They're ugly! Some of the newest clothes and equipment look like they're straight out of the 80's. I'm not sure who decides these things, but highway safety colors just aren't my style, sorry.

Too much music – I like music as much as anyone, and I admit I've snowboarded with my iPod more than a couple of times. But when I see groups of people all wired for sound, I have to wonder, what's the point of hanging out with your buddies when none of you can hear each other? Also, it seems like headphones have become practically prerequisite for those riding alone. Again, I'm not saying it's a terrible idea to have tunes along, but I guess I just think it's polite to say hello to other people on the chairlift.

Extreme pants – Due to extremely large pants, we've all been threatened by overexposure to crack since snowboard fashion came of age. While we've gotten used to seeing briefs when packs of teenage boys pass by, I've noticed another equally alarming fashion trend the past few seasons. At several snowboard contests I've seen riders wearing pants so tight you can practically see the size of their wallets. I'm not sure which is worse – too baggy or too tight - but what's wrong with pants that fit?

Flat-billed ball hats – All the rage for several (too many) years now, New Era baseball hats are those flat-billed baseball hats that every snowboarder apparently must own several of. Sometimes they are made even more endearing by being worn turned to the side. These hats make grown men look ridiculous. I can't wait until it's OK to curve the brim of a ball cap again!

Some new styles are quickly fading fads, and I'm hoping that these are too. But if you happen to be one of those who loves your tight pink pants, before you go and bombard Bill, the magazine editor, with comments on this column, remember these are strictly my opinions – and you know what they say about opinions! ❄️

Kids!
Don't wear this at home... or anywhere else, for that matter



There's toothpaste that looks better than this