

**"I wear heels because it is a part of who I am, and I shouldn't deny it," Daniel Hott (11) said.**

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# TRUE SELF

## FINDING MY PATH

True self means being yourself, no matter what other people may think. It isn't easy to be comfortable letting the world see who you are. However, in the evolving world that we live in today, more people are feeling comfortable expressing that identity. Daniel Hott (11) embraced such freedom with open arms. In previous years, it would have been unheard of to see a teenage boy walking the halls of a Texas high school in high heels. Even today, it is still an unorthodox occurrence. Society has certain rules that are gradually changing as more people break free of tradition. Hott considers himself to be one of those people who is trying to break free of the boxes that American culture has tried to place him in. "I don't want to say that I compare myself to people like Caitlyn Jenner, but people like her that are trailblazers in something that people aren't used to. They throw it in people's faces and say 'hey this is happening whether you agree with it or not.' People think other people should be a certain way based on certain attributes, whether that be sex, hair color, skin color, anything, and I just feel like what I was doing was just one more step towards breaking all those rules and saying 'people can be whoever they want to be and no one

else should have the right to judge them for it," Hott said.

People who change the world don't often set out to do so. Hott didn't set out to change anything, he just wanted to be himself. Hott wanted to feel comfortable with who he was as a person, and wearing heels has given him this comfortability in life. With a more conservative atmosphere in northern Texas, Hott was worried about being ostracized for his self-expression. With the love and support of his family and friends, Hott has learned to embrace this true version of himself that he had hidden for so long. By being accepted by the people important to him, Hott has found his true self and his path. "Wearing heels makes me the truest version of myself because I used to be afraid of who I am. I used to be tentative about being gay. I would cry and pray every night 'please take it away,' but then I realized that this is who I am. I grew to love myself, and a part of myself is that I like heels, I like wearing them, and they make me feel good. I wear heels because it is part of who I am, and I shouldn't deny it," Hott said.

By: D. Burnett and B. Dedman