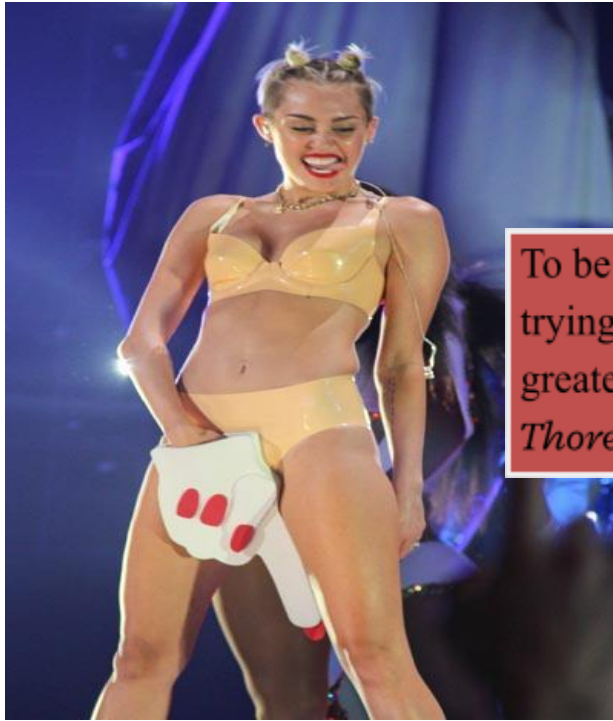


NON-CONFORMITY



To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment – *Henry David Thoreau*

Transcendentalists believe that everyone should be themselves no matter what. Being who you are and being proud of who you is a huge deal then considering the strict rules from the government and other people.

Non-conformity is shown through celebrities in today's pop culture, for an example Miley Cyrus. Miley Cyrus has been one of the most recent and intriguing examples of non-conformity in the past two years. Miley Cyrus performs and does many other things other people think of as "wrong" but she does what she wants to express and show herself. She doesn't care what people think of her anymore. She once was an innocent person who was an actress on Hannah Montana and now she is rebelling against her old self. Her music videos have gone being decent and proper to now having a bad image. Many of her performances and music videos are disapproved by society. She went against society by changing

her image and look such as her hair and the way she dresses. She has also been releasing songs, videos and acting in ways that go against the safe culture she used to be part of. She is a person who does what she wants to do and ignores all trends. Then, kids used to look up to people like her very much as a role model but now that she does all these kinds of things, parents even stop their kids from looking at her.

Chris McCandless was also a strong believer in individualism and nonconformity to the society. He rejected conforming to society and hated authority. He always wanted to be different and do things on his own without people bossing him around. "Hell no, how I feed myself is none of the government's business. Fuck their stupid rules" (Krakauer 6). With this statement, Chris shows that he is the ultimate non-conformist and his use of words show how much he hated government authority.

Miley Cyrus and Chris McCandless both live their lives without conforming by refusing to follow the rules of society and doing everything for their own self preservation. The quote above by Ralph Waldo Emerson accurately portrays non-conformity. This quote means that staying true to oneself through any difficulty is the best thing one could possibly do, which is the kind of the central idea of non-conformity.

Thoreau once said, "things do not change; we change".