



"YouTube videos. I've been watching so many of them lately, namely of people on the streets in Thailand. I like to look at what people are wearing in other countries, and the internet makes it so easy to get inspired. I especially like edgy styles, like my skull shirt!"

**TAJAI PONTIP, 25,**  
FASHION  
STUDENT, FROM  
THAILAND



"Branding yourself—it's so important these days. I just came back from a Euro trip, and I want to incorporate the culture I saw into my designs. That way, my work represents what I love and who I am."

**JANA FREEMAN, 26,**  
JEWELRY  
DESIGNER, FROM  
HOUSTON, TEX.



"I'm a musician, but right now I'm walking dogs on the side to make extra cash because I'm trying to go to music school next year. This is Bodie—she's not mine! In fact, I'm late to walk another pup right now."

**JANEL BLESSING, 24,**  
MUSICIAN,  
FROM  
SARASOTA, FLA.

# What's on your mind?

COSMO READERS FROM  
AROUND THE WORLD SHARE  
WHAT THEY'RE THINKING  
ABOUT RIGHT NOW.



"I'm burning myself out right now, working 67 hours a week while I'm trying to find my dream job. It's made me realize how important our bodies are—they enable us to push on through—so I want to try to be healthier."

**PAULINA OLIVARES, 21,**  
RESTAURANT HOSTESS,  
FROM SANTIAGO, CHILE



"My job is one big cultural melting pot—I'm one of two Americans in my office. We've got people from Romania, Poland, Hong Kong, Haiti.... It's made me realize how people live life and communicate so differently. But I've learned that everyone understands positivity, so I try extra hard to be upbeat."

**ANNA HODGSON, 22,**  
MULTIMEDIA DESIGNER,  
FROM BOULDER, COLO.



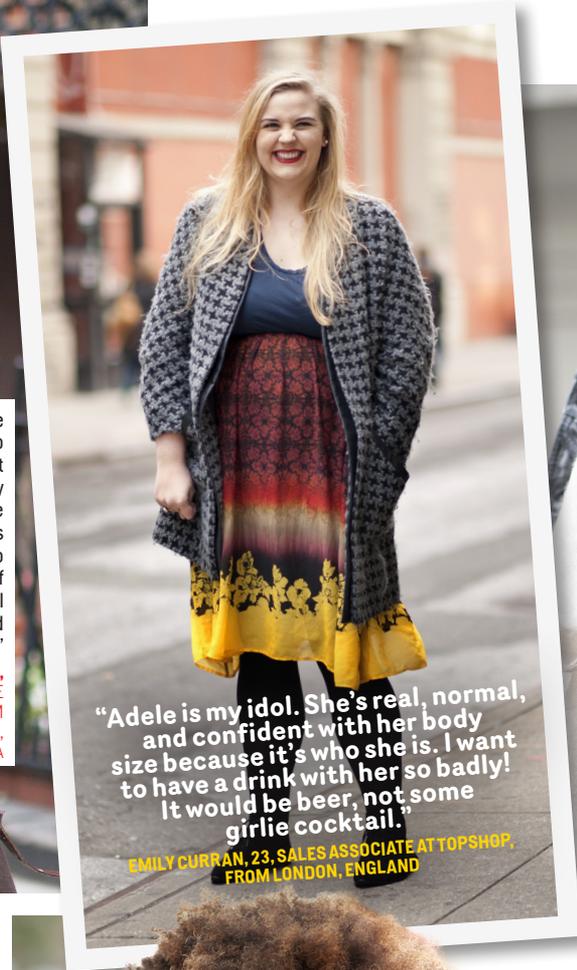
"I'm in the middle of moving apartments. Such a pain. Yesterday, I rode this very bike wearing gigantic heels while carrying a vacuum cleaner in the basket. Crazy, right? I swear, I'm half-child, half-lunatic."

**ANNA SHIMONIS, 34,**  
CREATIVE BRAND  
CONSULTANT, FROM HONOLULU, HAWAII



"Climate change—I'm so passionate about it. Our country needs to realize that it's real, it's happening. I go to tons of environmental events and protests!"

**MARIA HRISTOVA, 27, DEFENSE ATTORNEY, FROM STARA ZAGORA, BULGARIA**



"Adele is my idol. She's real, normal, and confident with her body size because it's who she is. I want to have a drink with her so badly! It would be beer, not some girlie cocktail."

**EMILY CURRAN, 23, SALES ASSOCIATE AT TOPSHOP, FROM LONDON, ENGLAND**



"My students are constantly on my brain. By the time they reach me in ninth grade, they're often already way behind. We really need to fix the schooling system so everyone is on point at grade level."

**YAKA YAMAGUCHI, 26, INNER-CITY HIGH SCHOOL SPECIAL-EDUCATION TEACHER, FROM DARIEN, CONN.**



"I'm in the middle of launching a food magazine, and I'm so excited about it. I was working at a big publication, but I realized that I had lots of my own ideas and was tired of working for someone else. So I thought, If I don't break off now, when? It's risky, but I'm thrilled."

**CLAUDIA WU, 36, MAGAZINE PUBLISHER, FROM BRIAR CLIFF MANOR, N.Y.**

MARCO SWINGLE



"Tomorrow I'm running a 13-mile race. But even though I'm into fitness and nutrition, I'm not a health nut 24/7. My life motto is 'Everything in moderation... including moderation!'"

**STACEY GRANT, 36, NUTRITIONIST, FROM LAKELAND, FLA.**



"I just moved here from Turkey, where I was on a Fulbright scholarship for teaching. It was amazing, but now I'm broke since I don't have a real job yet. It's hard to catch up with my friends because it always involves money—happy hour, brunch, movies... Why are social lives so expensive?"

**TAS AN JARWALLA, 24, FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR, FROM GREENVILLE, S.C.**

By Annie Daly

