

OCTOBER 2, 2012, 2:06 PM

Intersection: An Affection for Punk Style in Astoria

By *SIMONE S. OLIVER*

When you hop off the N train in Astoria, Queens, smoke from grilled souvlaki blankets your nose and eyes within seconds. If you make your way down Steinway Street, a busy strip packed with mom-and-pop stores, restaurants, boutiques and beauty salons, you can't help but feel nostalgic for an older, pre-Starbucks New York.

"Astoria is one of those few areas you'll find where its still just families living in neighborhoods, tree-lined neighborhoods," said Andrew McCoy, a resident who described his style as classic Americana. "It's safe," he said.

One of Astoria's shining attributes is its ethnically diverse makeup, which is true for much of Queens. If you're walking down Broadway, Ditmars Boulevard or any other main block in Astoria, you're likely to hear Greek, Italian, Spanish, Romanian, Korean, Chinese and a few other languages before you can pick what you want for dinner. And the street style is as assorted as the cultures.

We met Zachary Gayle, 18, on the corner of 36th Street and 30th Avenue on a recent evening. Wearing a gloriously grungy trucker hat that seemed older than he was, [Mr. Gayle talked about being an art student at Frank Sinatra School of Arts High School in Astoria, all the places his hat had seen and why he identifies with punk style and culture.](#)