

Second Clash On Grooming Rules

Farmington Coaches Apply Pressure To Board

By WYLLIE GERDES

Farmington School District faces its second major confrontation in as many years over its dress policy.

This time, however, its parents and teachers against the Board of Education.

ATHLETIC COACHES and their parent and student backers appeared at Monday night's meeting of the school board to protest a decision which held that athletes competing for Farmington schools are under the same grooming codes as any other student in the school.

Last spring, about a fifth of North Farmington's students picketed their school to protest the school's dress code. Almost 200 students were suspended for five days for staging a walkout during the controversy.

The North Farmington protest was touched off by an order from an administrator to a student that several days' growth of whiskers should be shaved.

The athletic grooming decision came when a long-haired North Farmington tennis player challenged the athletic code after being excluded from competition.

In their presentation Monday, the coaches stressed the voluntary aspect of athletics and what they felt would be the consequences of the decision.

THE COACHES, backed by more than 100 parents, presented a four-page statement to the school board.

The statement charged that the coaches were not represented in the grooming decision and gives the coaches' case for continuing the present policy of allowing each coach to decide grooming requirements.

The coaches' statement says because the athletic program is not required and because as coaches feel we are attempting to teach self-discipline through sacrifice and high standards, it seems desirable that should we abrogate the code to set standards.

Adding those on grooming, we would be doing these things more of a disservice than they at present.

As coaches lose the right to set rules and regulations, we shall have to do as we please which is not our desired end.

IN SUPPORT of their arguments, the coaches quoted professional football player Earl Stall, professional football coach George Allen and a University of Michigan professor.

Stall says attitude is the secret to success and "Sacrifice is necessary to achieve dedication."

Allen says: "The conformity to rules and regulations, personal sacrifice and individual discipline will be of great value to the individual throughout his life."

The third and longest quotation came from a controversial article by John Aldridge, a professor of English Literature at the University of Michigan. The article, entitled "In the Country of the Young" appeared in Harpers.

"But the parents of this generation were evidently so often bland, tolerant, well meaning and anxiously solicitous of their children that the only possible response to them was one of indifference or sad contempt."

Aldridge is a middle-aged professor whose views have been widely attacked by the young.

IN ADDITION, the coaches' statement includes quotations from rule books of two sports.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association rule book for wrestling says wrestlers must have hair trimmed and well groomed, sideburns trimmed at ear level and no mustaches or beards.

In gymnastics, the coaches say, officials have found points can be deducted from a performer's score for appearance which does not uphold the dignity of gymnastics.

Also, the coaches say probability of head injuries in football are increased in an individual with long hair because of a poorly fitted helmet. The possibility of heat prostration would also be increased by longer hair acting as an insulator, they say.

Jerry Young, who read the statement, told the school board that the coaches weren't primarily concerned with long hair but also with other grooming standards.

At the Monday meeting, board members disputed the coaches' claim that they were bypassed and seemed to base their stand on legal opinions.

In their statement, the coaches say a decision on the policy was reached April 6 at a closed board meeting. Board President Richard Peters said the April 6 meeting was one of the scheduled "study" meetings held Monday evenings when formal meetings are not scheduled. He said no vote was taken on the matter.

HOWEVER, Trustee Aldo Vagnozzi said the board members were "polled" at the study session.

Vagnozzi has been critical of the study sessions since being elected to the board. He said

"executive" sessions should be held only if personnel or salary negotiations are being discussed.

In addition, the board held another meeting with the assistant principals at North Farmington, who told board members they were speaking for the coaches.

The school board's decision seemed to be based on legal opinions given by their attorney and an assistant attorney general.

Civic Awareness

A Future Epidemic: What You Should Do

By MARY FISHER

In our complex society, syndrome is a common expression. Have you ever heard of the "Rubella Syndrome?"

You should know its meaning because during the last rubella epidemic in 1964 about 50,000 babies nationally were killed or crippled.

WHAT IT boils down to is that during a rubella epidemic at least 1% of all pregnant women will produce a "rubella casualty."

Rubella, when contracted by a woman in early pregnancy, can cause her baby to die or be born with crippling defects.

The most frequent defects are: hearing loss not usually discovered until the child reaches school age; vision loss (most common defects are cataracts, glaucoma, abnormally small eyeballs, lesions of the retina and clouding of the cornea); heart defects (a frequent cause of death during infancy because it is at this age apparent at birth); abnormalities of the central nervous system (including brain damage which results in cerebral palsy and mental retardation).

Another common deformity is abnormally small heads.

However, the decision had no effect on the case which caused the controversy. The athlete who challenged the regulation was in violation with the current dress policy.

"It was specifically indicated that the Board of Education cause of the length of his hair," says the memorandum from Jack Cotton, director of athletics, which related the decision to the coaches and principals.

IN THE SAME memorandum, the steps taken by the administration in making the decision are given.

The memo says the legal implications of the grooming rule were discussed with Eugene Krasicky of the state attorney general's office and with the Board of Education attorney.

It seems clear that the board took its stand on the advice of its lawyers. The Supreme Court has ruled that grooming may be regulated only when it disrupts the school process and that the burden of proof of disruption rests with school authorities.

Courts in Michigan have split on similar student grooming decisions. One factor in their decisions has been whether the district's administrative procedure includes the student's right of appeal.

THE FARMINGTON handbook for athletes provides for an appeal to the superintendent if an athlete is suspended.

However, the athlete who challenged the grooming rule apparently was never formally suspended.

In any case, Ron Holland, a spokesman for the coaches, said athletes have been suspended only for training rule violations such as smoking and drinking.

The controversy between the coaches and the official stance of the district reverts not only students' legal rights but also the changing position of athletics in public schools.

Public high school athletics in Michigan, as in some other states are controlled by the board of a private corporation. Public high schools have been placed in the incredible position of having part of their educational program influenced by a group of private individuals.

Frank Collier of Farmington alluded to this control at the board meeting. Speaking in support of the coaches, he said the athletic board in Michigan can penalize coaches if they don't meet the associations standards. He said coaches can be placed on probation for infractions.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has run into legal trouble defending its decisions. It ruled several Detroit high school athletes were ineligible for participating in sandlot basketball games. The association was soundly thrashed in court.

A COACH, who lives in Farmington benefited from another legal reverse of the association.

Hai Beardsley, who will become football coach at Farmington High, was football coach at Detroit's Redford High this year.

The state athletic board ruled Redford had used ineligible players and took away the Detroit City League title which the team had won.

However, a court overturned the decision on the grounds the association had no legal backing for its control of public education.

Discounting the legal issues involved, the coaches clearly

could not support an administrative decision which allowed dual requirement regarding dress of an athlete compared to non-athlete.

"Therefore, a student-athlete will not be denied the right to compete in athletics be-

cause of the length of his hair," says the memorandum from Jack Cotton, director of athletics, which related the decision to the coaches and principals.

IN THE SAME memorandum, the steps taken by the administration in making the decision are given.

The memo says the legal implications of the grooming rule were discussed with Eugene Krasicky of the state attorney general's office and with the Board of Education attorney.

It seems clear that the board took its stand on the advice of its lawyers. The Supreme Court has ruled that grooming may be regulated only when it disrupts the school process and that the burden of proof of disruption rests with school authorities.

Courts in Michigan have split on similar student grooming decisions. One factor in their decisions has been whether the district's administrative procedure includes the student's right of appeal.

THE FARMINGTON handbook for athletes provides for an appeal to the superintendent if an athlete is suspended.

However, the athlete who challenged the grooming rule apparently was never formally suspended.

In any case, Ron Holland, a spokesman for the coaches, said athletes have been suspended only for training rule violations such as smoking and drinking.

The controversy between the coaches and the official stance of the district reverts not only students' legal rights but also the changing position of athletics in public schools.

Public high school athletics in Michigan, as in some other states are controlled by the board of a private corporation. Public high schools have been placed in the incredible position of having part of their educational program influenced by a group of private individuals.

Frank Collier of Farmington alluded to this control at the board meeting. Speaking in support of the coaches, he said the athletic board in Michigan can penalize coaches if they don't meet the associations standards. He said coaches can be placed on probation for infractions.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has run into legal trouble defending its decisions. It ruled several Detroit high school athletes were ineligible for participating in sandlot basketball games. The association was soundly thrashed in court.

A COACH, who lives in Farmington benefited from another legal reverse of the association.

Hai Beardsley, who will become football coach at Farmington High, was football coach at Detroit's Redford High this year.

The state athletic board ruled Redford had used ineligible players and took away the Detroit City League title which the team had won.

However, a court overturned the decision on the grounds the association had no legal backing for its control of public education.

Discounting the legal issues involved, the coaches clearly

Reader Writes

Perrin Clarified SMC Stand

EDITOR:

An article in your April 13 issue would lead your readers to believe that I endorse the SMC student mobilization committee.

I neither agree with nor endorse this group. I can condone its presence at North Farmington High School only so long as it acts within the regulations established for all student organizations.

The statement in your paper implying that I felt the SMC "is doing a good job presenting both sides of the Vietnam argument" was taken out of context. It was taken from the following portion of my statement at the School Board meeting of April 13.

"I have expressed before a certain concern about the SMC as a concern more not how they are acting now - I think they are doing a fine job-but

what might possibly come in the future.

"I am pleased that they are presenting both sides of the question at the assembly scheduled for -- this Wednesday.

"At any point where they would try to present but one

side of this particular question. I would get extremely concerned because I do not think it is the function of our school system to present to its students a single side of any argument."

KEN PERRIN
Trustee

Thanks To The Kids

EDITOR:

In recent months much ado has been made over the behavior of the youth of today... most of this behavior has been of an unacceptable nature.

On Saturday, April 25, many of the youth of our community gave freely of their time and effort to assist the Farmington Association for Handicapped Children. Inc. present its third annual fun fair.

I would like to make our appreciation of the efforts of the pre-teen, and teenagers a matter of public record, as without their help in setting up, running, and dismantling the fair, we adults would have been hard pressed to have a fun fair.

The parents of these young eager-beavers, who are the

unsung silent majority of the youth in our community, can be very proud of their children!

JOE MARTIN
President
FACHC

Resident Sings In Spring Show

Wayne C. Krieger of 30160 Old Bedford in Farmington will participate in a special commemorative program of the Orpheus Club of Detroit May 6.

The club, a male choir, will celebrate 70 years of existence during its regular spring concert in the Scottish Rite Cathedral beginning at 8:30 p.m.

UNIQUE TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE

TAILORED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF YOUR BUSINESS
7 a.m. to 12 p.m.
DAILY - SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS
For Information 477-8656

BODI-ENDURE PERMANENT

INCLUDES SHAMPOO and SET \$10.00

CUSTOMIZED
• TINTING • FROSTING
• BLEACHING

We Service Hair Pieces

HAIRCUT \$175
Tuesday, Wednesday

CREST BEAUTY SALON

27434 West 8 Mile Road
1 Block W. of Inkster
474-9777
Tues., Wed., Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Open Evenings Thurs. and Fri. 'til 7 p.m.

LUSSENDEN'S PLUMBER

JUST ONE SHOWER? HAVE ANOTHER! SURELY COMES IN HANDY, BROTHER

ROBERT L. Lussenden
PLUMBING & HEATING
27434 West 8 Mile Road
Farmington, Mich.
474-9777

OIL PAINTINGS-ART OBJECTS

A wide selection of framed, original oils, statuary, metal sculpture and fine quality reproductions. Come in and browse.

Bon Ton GALLERY
33409 Grand River Avenue
Farmington
477-5191
Open Thurs. and Fri. nights 'til 9 p.m.

have emotions on their side. When Trustees Gary Lichtman and Vagnozzi attempted to tell the audience their positions at the school board meeting, both were harassed by the audience. Lichtman especially took verbal abuse from the crowd.

ALTHOUGH the coaches made a logical presentation of their reasoning and asked for a rehearing, they apparently were responsible for gathering the large and one-sided crowd.

Some of the coaches' supporters resorted to name-calling and shouting.

A woman from the audience asked the pointed question of how so many persons were informed that the issue would be discussed at the meeting.

Lichtman said he was pleased to see such a large crowd and added more would have attended the meeting if it had been publicized.

AFTER THE ISSUE had been discussed, all but a few of those in the audience left the meeting.

After the audience thinned, the board moved onto other subjects which included approving purchases requiring 11 pages to list.

Trustee Richard Franklin

commented: "You'll note there aren't anywhere near as many people here now when we're discussing this than when we discussed athletics."

He called the audience a "rather well-organized pressure group" and a lobby for the coaches.

ALTHOUGH the coaches made a logical presentation of their reasoning and asked for a rehearing, they apparently were responsible for gathering the large and one-sided crowd.

Some of the coaches' supporters resorted to name-calling and shouting.

A woman from the audience asked the pointed question of how so many persons were informed that the issue would be discussed at the meeting.

Lichtman said he was pleased to see such a large crowd and added more would have attended the meeting if it had been publicized.

AFTER THE ISSUE had been discussed, all but a few of those in the audience left the meeting.

After the audience thinned, the board moved onto other subjects which included approving purchases requiring 11 pages to list.

Trustee Richard Franklin

commented: "You'll note there aren't anywhere near as many people here now when we're discussing this than when we discussed athletics."

He called the audience a "rather well-organized pressure group" and a lobby for the coaches.

ALTHOUGH the coaches made a logical presentation of their reasoning and asked for a rehearing, they apparently were responsible for gathering the large and one-sided crowd.

Some of the coaches' supporters resorted to name-calling and shouting.

A woman from the audience asked the pointed question of how so many persons were informed that the issue would be discussed at the meeting.

Lichtman said he was pleased to see such a large crowd and added more would have attended the meeting if it had been publicized.

AFTER THE ISSUE had been discussed, all but a few of those in the audience left the meeting.

After the audience thinned, the board moved onto other subjects which included approving purchases requiring 11 pages to list.

Trustee Richard Franklin

commented: "You'll note there aren't anywhere near as many people here now when we're discussing this than when we discussed athletics."

He called the audience a "rather well-organized pressure group" and a lobby for the coaches.

ALTHOUGH the coaches made a logical presentation of their reasoning and asked for a rehearing, they apparently were responsible for gathering the large and one-sided crowd.

Some of the coaches' supporters resorted to name-calling and shouting.

A woman from the audience asked the pointed question of how so many persons were informed that the issue would be discussed at the meeting.

Lichtman said he was pleased to see such a large crowd and added more would have attended the meeting if it had been publicized.

AFTER THE ISSUE had been discussed, all but a few of those in the audience left the meeting.

After the audience thinned, the board moved onto other subjects which included approving purchases requiring 11 pages to list.

Trustee Richard Franklin

commented: "You'll note there aren't anywhere near as many people here now when we're discussing this than when we discussed athletics."

He called the audience a "rather well-organized pressure group" and a lobby for the coaches.

ALTHOUGH the coaches made a logical presentation of their reasoning and asked for a rehearing, they apparently were responsible for gathering the large and one-sided crowd.

Some of the coaches' supporters resorted to name-calling and shouting.

A woman from the audience asked the pointed question of how so many persons were informed that the issue would be discussed at the meeting.

Lichtman said he was pleased to see such a large crowd and added more would have attended the meeting if it had been publicized.

AFTER THE ISSUE had been discussed, all but a few of those in the audience left the meeting.

After the audience thinned, the board moved onto other subjects which included approving purchases requiring 11 pages to list.

Trustee Richard Franklin

commented: "You'll note there aren't anywhere near as many people here now when we're discussing this than when we discussed athletics."

He called the audience a "rather well-organized pressure group" and a lobby for the coaches.

ALTHOUGH the coaches made a logical presentation of their reasoning and asked for a rehearing, they apparently were responsible for gathering the large and one-sided crowd.

Some of the coaches' supporters resorted to name-calling and shouting.

A woman from the audience asked the pointed question of how so many persons were informed that the issue would be discussed at the meeting.

Lichtman said he was pleased to see such a large crowd and added more would have attended the meeting if it had been publicized.

AFTER THE ISSUE had been discussed, all but a few of those in the audience left the meeting.

After the audience thinned, the board moved onto other subjects which included approving purchases requiring 11 pages to list.

Trustee Richard Franklin

CLIP AND SAVE FARMINGTON LUNCH MENUS

MAY 4-8

MONDAY, MAY 4
COOK'S CHOICE

TUESDAY, MAY 5
Submarine Sandwich, Green Peas, Apple Sauce, Cookie, Milk

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6
Beef Macaroni Casserole, Green Beans, Cinnamon Roll, Fruit, Milk

THURSDAY, MAY 7
Hot Dog on Bun, Buttered Corn, Mixed Bean Salad, Banana Cake, Milk

FRIDAY, MAY 8
Fish Sticks with Tartar Sauce, Parsley Potatoes, Bread and Butter, Fruit Cup, Cookie, Milk

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE by the

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS of FARMINGTON

Clock Repair
• Antique Clock Specialists •
Sales and Service
Ashdown
Clock Service
33436 OAKLAND
GR 6-3333

HEY Mommy
DON'T FORGET TO
CALL LEO KNIGHT AND
MAKE APPOINTMENT
FOR MISS LIZAN TO
TAKE MY PICTURE.
FOR THE BABY
CONTEST. IT ENDS MAY
23 AND YOU PROMISED

BESIDES IT'S FUN
AND I MIGHT WIN
CAUSE YOU TELL ME
IM PRETTY!

Leo Knight
Photography
26571 12 MILE ROAD
Phone: 352-7030

All Metro Customers Enjoy
Free checking
&
SATURDAY BANKING
No Minimum Balance Requirement - No service Charge of Any Kind

METROPOLITAN NATIONAL BANK of Farmington
MAIN OFFICE 33205 Grand River Avenue, near Farmington Road
QUAKERTOWN 27500 Farmington Road, 12 Mile
REDFORD 25719 Grand River, near Beech Daly