

See Need For New School Dress Code

Short skirts and long hair among high school girls and boys, respectively, is a hot topic raging throughout our nation today.

The situation is no different in Livonia. Recently, student council members from local junior high and high schools met with the School Board Advisory Council to air their views along with those of the council and adults in the audience.

ALTHOUGH OPINIONS expressed ranged from here to there, some agreement was reached that the local school code on dress adopted in 1967 was "outdated" and in need of revision.

Viewpoint of the Livonia Observer was clouded by rumors, "letters to the editor" and conversation with parents and pupils.

The Observer decided to find out what high school students were wearing, how they were groomed overall and their degree of behavior.

Arrangements were made with school officials for a casual stroll through Franklin and Stevenson High schools by this editor and a photographer.

Photographs were taken in the halls and several classes. Students were observed go-



editorial

ing to and from classes and in school cafeterias during lunch.

IN THIS REPORTER'S opinion, at least 95 per cent of students observed were well groomed, properly attired and behaved in a normal teenage manner. Only a few extreme examples of very short skirts or long, unkempt hair were noticed in the several hundred pupils observed at the two schools.

These far-out examples were not confined to the area of dress or hair length, but to immodesty displayed by female students sitting in study halls, libraries, cafeterias and classrooms.

The Observer believes that the majority of parents desire their children to be well dressed, well groomed and to evidence good taste and manners taught in the home. It is also our opinion that most parents do not want their offspring to be regarded as extreme examples of nonconformity to uni-

versal codes of dress and behavior.

From talking with teachers and school personnel, this editor received the impression that the school system feels supervision over dress and grooming lies with the parents.

THE OBSERVER AGREES that primary responsibility is up to parents. However, some students go to school while parents are still asleep or who have already left for work. Thus, many parents do not see what their children are wearing to classes.

Under these circumstances, the Observer believes the teacher, principal or both should take measures in hand. A boy with extremely long hair should be sent home with the admonition that he will not be permitted to re-enter school until his hair is shortened. Or, sending a girl home with instructions to wear a longer dress or skirt before she will be permitted to come back to classes.

The Observer leaves the question of wearing culottes by girls to school officials. It is true that they are modest and less revealing, but so are slacks. So, where does one draw the line?

UNWARRANTED DISPLAY of thighs, girdles and panties certainly are not con-

ducive to study. Neither is hair on boys worn two or three inches below the ears or a shock of unruly hair being flung from side to side every few minutes.

All of these devices, on the part of boys and girls alike, are attention-getters for both students and teachers, whether intended as such or not.

They succeed in distracting and shortening attention spans and interfere with the discipline, order and authority which must be maintained by our school system. Otherwise, disorders such as those raging on university campuses from coast to coast will become the order of the day.

Children are sent to school to acquire an education which will better enable them to carry on in a world which is becoming more complex with each passing generation. The energies, drive and concentration of these students should be directed to pursue that education.

With the thought of possibly helping parents and school officials see the need for a new code of dress and grooming, the Observer is printing the photographs shown below.

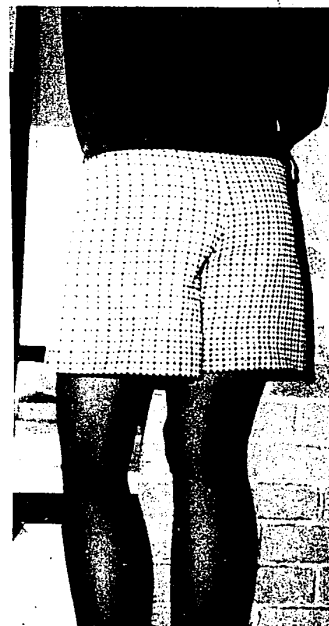
—Bob Ameen



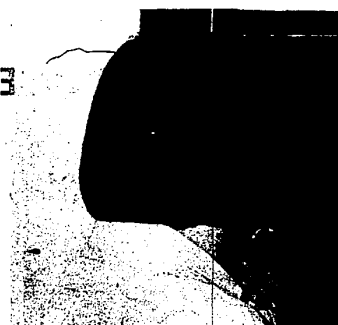
NOT CONDUCTIVE TO STUDY



LIBRARY CHEESECAKE

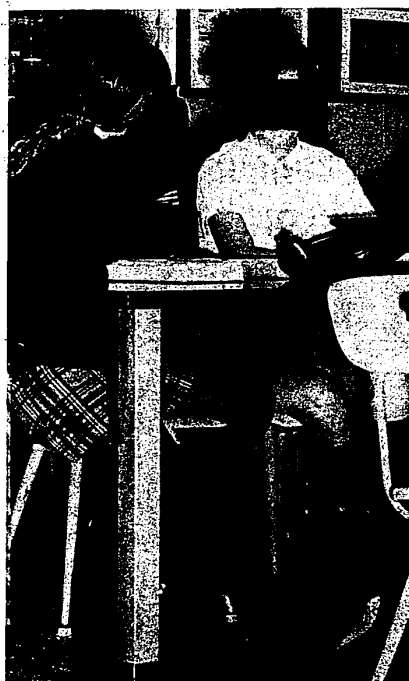


NEW VOGUE



IT'S A BOY!

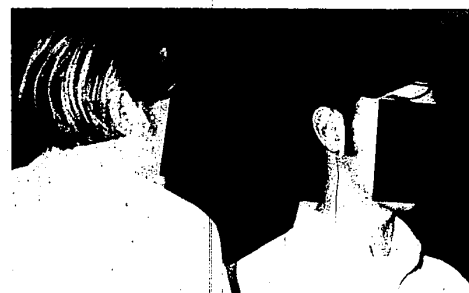
PHOTOS:
Frances Evert



LAB OR TENNIS ANYONE?



PAR FOR THE COURSE



TREND FOR THE FUTURE?