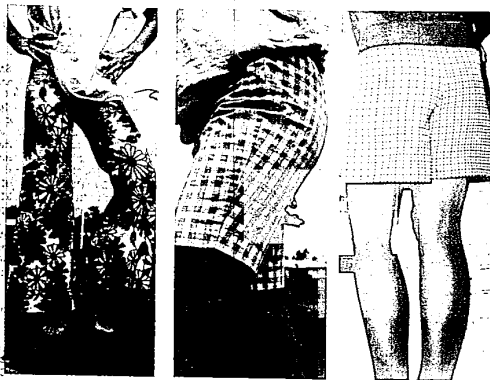


Wednesday, August 20, 1969

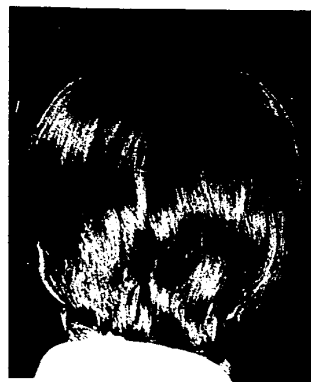
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A COMMITTEE of parents, students and teachers has proposed a new dress code. If approved, the code would permit women's slacks, shorts and culottes and men's mustaches, beards, sideburns and long hair.

The code would outlaw bare midriffs, bare feet, see-through blouses and cut-out dresses.

The code, however, does leave some dress items to individual discretion. Questionable items would be judged on whether they interfere with the effectiveness of classroom operation.



## THE CODE: Dressings Of Discontent?

### Questionable

By HOWARD KOHN

Judging from Madison Avenue figures, only your broker knows for sure what you really look like under your Nehru jacket or tee-shirt.

Of course, you might think it doesn't matter whether your hair is cropped or mopped, whether you wear drastic elastic or fabric plastic.

But for those of you who smirk and scoff because high school students make a fuss about dress codes, here's a quickie quiz. All of these questions are engendered in the dress dispute: Legal—is it indecent exposure to sunbath nude on your back lawn?

Cultural—would an army still be an army if it didn't wear uniforms?

Social—are you a social climber if you're the first to copy a Paris original?

Philosophical—if you don't judge a book by its cover, can you judge a man by the way he dresses?

Moral—how much money should you spend on a wardrobe when thousands die daily from starvation?

Psychological—if dress helps determine your attitudes and actions, does wearing a collar make you a cleric?

Constitutional—if equality doesn't mean conformity, why do federal agencies regulate mini-skirt length on their secretaries?

LAST YEAR 60 per cent of the nation's high schools hosted student demonstrations. A common denominator among student complaints was the grooming code.

More than 300 North Farmington High School (NFHS) students walked a picket line in March of this year protesting dress rules and law enforcement. Nearly 100 were suspended.

The board of education supported the discipline. And despite scattered mutterings of an investigation into student allegations, the board quietly dropped the issue.

Now two weeks from school reopening, the board is facing the dress dilemma again.

A NFHS student-teacher-parent committee has worked out a compromise code after four months of debate. But the board must give the go-ahead or the code will stay dormant and picket signs may be rewritten.

"The March protest was a surprise," says Bob Hughes, NFHS student president. "But I wouldn't be surprised this fall to see it happen again if the code isn't passed."

THE BOARD has promised to take action on the proposed code.

"Most kids have already heard about it and expect it to be

(Proper dress has been a topic of debate between generations since Noah's sons first discovered their father naked. Today, students are calling for the suspension of dress rules while parents generally feel dress codes are necessary. Tomorrow's student always present a "new look" from that worn by yesterday's students. But the board of education must decide whether and where it should draw the line.

With this article on the dress dispute, The Enterprise and Observer begins a lengthy series on school problems and issues.)

In force in the fall," he adds. Hughes did not demonstrate in March. But he did engineer the committee for architecting a new code.

According to the committee's code, slacks, shorts and culottes would be all right. So would beards, mustaches and long hair. On the other hand, the code would outlaw bare feet, bare midriffs and see-through blouses.

The code also has an escape clause barring anything "that actually interferes with the

code. The NFHS parent association has reserved comment.

And Clayton Graham, NFHS principal, has passed it on to the school board.

"If I had my druthers, all the kids would come to school neat and clean," Graham explains. "Students should go to school groomed for study."

Graham follows the line of Dr. Roderick Smith, superintendent of schools, who believes "an individual is conditioned in his actions and attitudes by the way he dresses."

Smith argues that men behave differently if they're dressed in business suits rather than casual clothes.

Hughes is anxious to settle the dispute. "It's like a black cloud hanging over everything," he says. "It fudds up relationships with teachers because teachers will play on students who dress differently and then will try to get them kicked out."

GRAHAM AGREES something should be done.

He says he will abide by the code if the school board approves it. But he will not endorse the code.

"Students have to realize that just because they recommend something doesn't mean it'll be accepted," he adds.

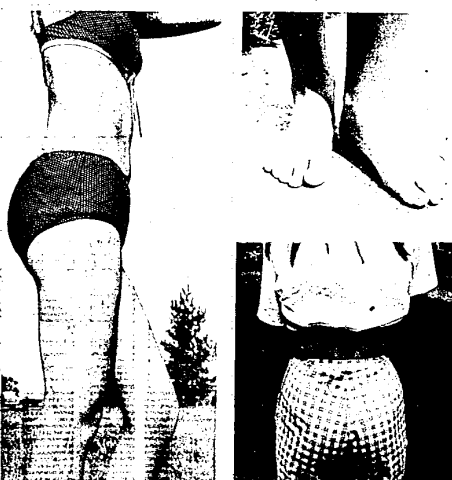
At the same time he admits many students assumed the code would be passed because it was designed by a legitimate parent-teacher-student committee.

The board of education is in the unenviable position of resolving a hydra-headed controversy. Because of wide philosophical differences among trustees, the board may end up equivocating.

Trustees John Washburn and Ken Perrin have already criticized the new code. Perrin says slacks would give the schools a "picnic atmosphere." And Washburn says he won't vote for a code "that doesn't measure up

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### Outlawed



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