

Strict dress codes relax over time

By TARA VOTAPKA

Our parents probably remember the bell bottoms and tie dye from the past, but can anyone remember the knickers and aprons that students wore?

While researching how the school has changed from its beginning, we came across something we found very interesting — how the school dress requirements have changed. Today's students should feel quite fortunate.

The grade school boys wore knee pants, boots and cowboy hats while the girls wore print and calico dresses and braids in 1881. By the late 1880s high school girls wore all-wool dresses with white aprons and boys wore dress suits with high collars. How times have changed.

In the 1965-66 student handbook, the dress code stated, "It is generally recognized that slacks, blue jeans, etc. are not in good tastes as school wear for young ladies."

It is also assumed that all young men want to keep their hair cut neatly and that they may realize they should keep their shirt tails tucked in and maintain their trousers at the proper level by using a belt." Girls have to wear dresses? And boys have to wear a belt? It's certainly not that way today.

In 1969-70, the girls wore dresses or skirts with a blouse or sweater as stated in the handbook. These were to be of "suitable" length. Jeans, trousers, shorts, and pant dresses were not "considered appropriate classroom dress."

The boys at this day wore slacks or jeans with a belt. Their shirt had to be buttoned to within one button of the collar, and all shirts, with the exception of knit shirts with square bottoms, had to be tucked in. All shirts also had to have at least quarter length sleeves. Plain T-shirts and sweatshirts were not appropriate. Tank tops were added to the list of inappropriate attire in 1971.

All boys' jewelry also had to be tucked inside their shirts, with the exception of senior keys which could be worn outside.

The student handbook also addressed the students' hair. "Extreme

haircuts and bleaches, for either boys or girls, that attract attention to the point of disrupting classroom work and considered to be sloppy will be prohibited."

Up until 1971-72, the handbooks explain the purpose of a dress code: "To create a more favorable learning situation," "to stress neatness and good taste," "to improve student manners through causing greater self-respect," and "to encourage school pride through raising school standards."

In August of 1971, the Board of Education adopted a new policy.

"The Board of Education believes there is a close relationship between proper dress, good grooming and student conduct. In an endeavor to promote a desirable learning situation within the schools, the Board has authorized guidelines for student grooming and dress."

"The Board of Education further believes proper student grooming and dress are primarily the responsibilities of the student and his parents." The guidelines that year were still pretty much the same. Girls, however, could wear pant suits, but not blue jeans, stretch slacks, tank tops, sweatshirts, shorts, or cut-offs.

The boys in 1972-73 could wear pants without a belt if their trousers were tailored to be beltless.

Shoes are also addressed in the 1972-73 handbook: "Students must wear shoes or sandals, and boys are to wear socks with shoes." Today the handbook just says that "shoes must be worn." Thongs, however, were not appropriate.

The dress code was then revised in August 1982. It begins the same way it did 10 years earlier but with the following additions:

"It is expected that each student will conduct himself in a manner

DCHS History



tutes proper wearing apparel in the classroom and on other occasions.

"Changing styles in dress and grooming make it difficult to provide strict guidance from the school on these subjects."

However, it is felt that appropriate dress and grooming that shuns the extreme contributes to a good learning atmosphere.

While the school district does not set rigid standards of acceptable dress and grooming, the parent and the pupil should develop standards that reflect appropriateness for the occasion and are not a disturbing influence to the education setting or contrary to good public taste.

"Questions seldom arise on appropriateness of dress when girls wear dresses, suits, slacks, or skirts with blouses or sweaters; and boys wear slacks and shirts worn as intended by their design. Shoes are to be worn at all times. The school, the parent, and the student must share the responsibility of appropriate dress and grooming to reduce points of conflict on what is accepted by the school, the parent, and the student. The school authorities do reserve the prerogative

on counseling students in the matter of dress and grooming."

The following were not acceptable attire in 1982-83: shorts, cut-offs, thong sandals, or shirts advertising alcohol, drugs, or tobacco. Furthermore, "wearing of any garment that depicts or in anyway suggests obscenity, vulgarity, or otherwise is in bad taste will be considered sufficient reason for suspension or expulsion."

Mesh shirts without appropriate undergarments were added to the list of inappropriate attire in 1988-89. But for the first time in 1991-92, students were able to wear shorts. "Shorts may be worn between May 1 to Sept. 15 when school is in session. Shorts must be dress shorts and reach the middle of the thigh to be worn. Cut-off jeans, sweats, athletic shorts and/or spandex biking shorts will not be allowed. Denim dress shorts will be allowed if they are hemmed and meet length requirements."

Today the dress code in the student handbook reads pretty much as it did in 1982 with a few exceptions.

Shorts, of course, are still allowed, but caps, hats, wind pants, thong sandals, mesh shirts without an undershirt, or shirts advertising alcohol, drugs, or tobacco are not acceptable.

Shorts now may be worn from April 1 to Oct. 1 when school is in session, but they still must be dress shorts that reach the middle of the thigh.

Cut-off jeans, sweats, athletic shorts, and/or spandex shorts are still not allowed.

Looking back, it seems that teenagers of today don't have it so bad after all. Maybe we can't wear hats, thongs, or wind pants, but we can wear shorts, T-shirts, and sweatshirts. That's more than some of our parents can say.

School Menus

March 12-16
OBERLIN HIGH
Monday through Friday: Spring Break.

OBERLIN ELEMENTARY
Monday through Friday: Spring Break.

PRAIRIE HEIGHTS
Monday—Super nachos, corn, tropical fruit. **Tuesday**—Chicken supreme, green beans, hot rolls, pears. **Wednesday**—McRibbs, French fries, fruit cocktail, cookies. **Thursday**—Cavatini, peas, plain and garlic bread, peaches. **Friday**—Macaroni and

cheese, green beans, hot rolls, grapes. All meals are served with milk and salad bar.

HERNDON
Monday: Chicken strips, whipped spuds, gravy, corn, hot biscuit, lazy peach pie. **Tuesday:** Hot dog/bun, tater smiles, green beans, fruity Jell-o, cookie. **Wednesday:** Lasagna, tossed salad, break stix, fruit, cookie. **Thursday:** Cheeseburger/macaroni casserole, peas, tossed salad, fruit, cookie. **Friday:** Grilled cheese, tomato soup, tossed salad, pickles, grape juice, cookie. All meals served with milk.

Comedy play to start Friday

By KIMIA BUNDGARD

The production of The Pink Panther Strikes Again is coming soon.

If you want to laugh, come see this comical play Friday and Saturday in the Decatur Community High School Auditorium.

Here is the scoop on why you should come.

Senior Andrea Bailey said Jess

Elwood is hilarious.

"The play is extremely funny," said Andrea Marshall.

"You may see your first cross dresser," said Zach Scott.

"You will have a good time," said Brent Smith.

The play is directed by Leigh Davis. Show time is 7:30 p.m. both nights.

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Notice of Personal Property Assessment

Personal property renditions must be filed between January 1 and March 15. Renditions filed after March 15 will have a penalty for late filing. Taxable personal property includes: business and shop equipment, computers and printer, boats, motor and trailers, aircraft, mobile homes, camping and travel trailers, flatbed and car trailers, mopeds, ATV's, golf cars, trucks, non-tagged and non-highway vehicles and improvements on leased land.

The Decatur County Appraiser's office needs to be notified of the sale of any personal property during 2000. All taxpayers must file before the March 15 deadline.

All new businesses in Decatur County are required to contact the Decatur County Appraiser's Office to report business equipment for tax purposes.

If you have no personal property to report, please call us to verify that you are in the county for census purposes.

Personal Property Penalties:

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By the DCHS Dictator Staff

Forensic club takes second

The speech team is on a roll. The Oberlin forensic squad brought home a second-place trophy from the re-scheduled Dighton speech tournament and qualified three events for the State Championship Tournament.

"We were short a full team by two original orations — a minimum of six points down to start with," said Coach Leigh Davis. "I'm very proud of this team. They earned every point they made."

Qualifying for state were Theresa Smith and Jess Elwood in duet acting. They placed first overall. Theresa also placed first in prose interpretation which qualified her for state also.

Jess and Greta Wendelin placed second in improvised duet acting and qualified for state.

Qualifying for State Festival by

placing third were Ben Bryan and Joy Eldridge in improvised duet acting, and Katie Malone in poetry interpretation.

Brent Smith also qualified for state festival by placing fourth in humorous solo acting.

Greta also placed fifth in humorous solo acting, and Dane Anderson placed sixth in extemporaneous speaking.

High team score was Theresa Smith who scored 44 points.

Other team members participating and adding points were Corey Fortin and Andrea Bailey, duet acting; Ramsey Meitl, prose; Quintin Cundiff, poetry; Ramsey and Kelsey Jackson, informative speaking; Wendy Fossum, extemporaneous speaking; and Wendy Fossum and Andrea Marshall, serious solo acting.

Speech team places at Wheatland

By KIMIA BUNDGARD

Speech members were thankful there was no snow to cancel the Wheatland Invitational meet on Feb. 24. Sixteen schools were in the re-scheduled tournament and Oberlin placed 4th with 189 points.

Theresa Smith and Jess Elwood placed first in duet acting and qualified for the Championship Tournament. Greta Wendelin also took first place in humorous solo acting and qualified for the Championship Tournament.

Jess and Greta have also qualified for state champs by placing second in

improvised duet acting.

Freshman Brent Smith took third in humorous solo acting and qualified for the State Festival.

In improvised duet acting, Corey Fortin and Theresa placed fourth, and also qualified for State Festival. Jantje Kramer placed fourth and qualified for the State Festival in poetry interpretation.

"This was my first speech tournament," said Jantje, who is our foreign exchange student from Germany. "It was so exciting and so much fun."

Jess Elwood was the team's high scorer with 50 points.

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