

Editorials

Rules of taste outlaw affection

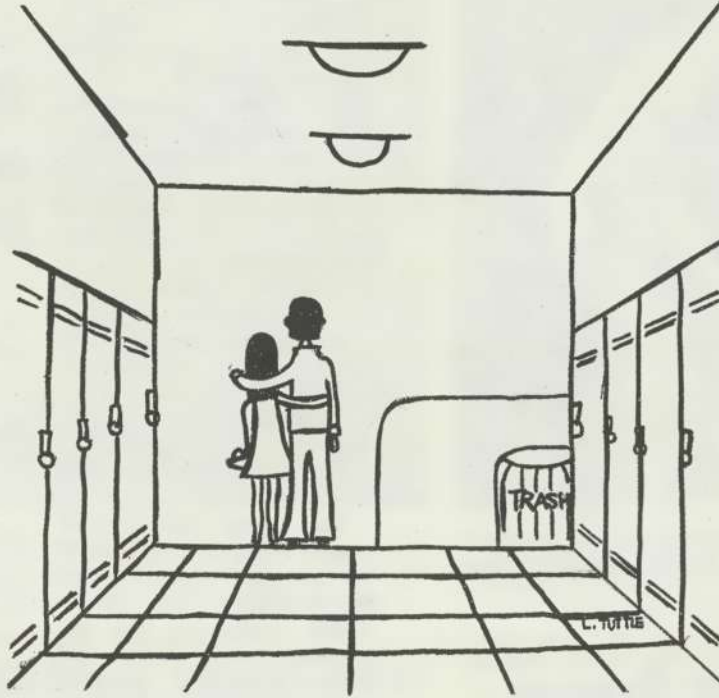
"Public signs of affection are never in good taste." Outdated or not? Obviously many students think this statement is obsolete.

Bundling, necking, or making out—under any title the same action—becomes more frequent in our halls every day. Why?

Is the basis of these expressions of affection the fact that students can't stand to be separated, even for as little as an hour? Is the exodus to a far-away math class that earthshaking? Is the encounter of a flame in the cafeteria so overwhelming that emotions are beyond control—or is the need for these exhibitions only to prove to others that those involved "belong"?

These scenes are created by students of all social circles and races with no distinctions as to student body officers, honor students, or athletes.

Besides being in conflict with school policy it is in conflict with the rules of good taste. Halls, assemblies, and school grounds can hardly be called the right time or place for such expressions of affection. Our morals are changing . . . but are they changing this fast?



There's a time . . .

Affection draws frowns

. . . and a place

Yuletide season said 'busiest' for shoplifters

by Carol Monroe

"Christmas is one of the busiest seasons for shoplifting: more than a billion dollars worth of merchandise is stolen throughout the nation each year," commented Sergeant Schwartz of the larceny department of the Portland Police Force.

"ITEMS SUCH as jewelry, makeup, scarfs, skirts, jackets and leather coats are being stolen constantly throughout our stores," he continued. "Security sources today estimate that more than 50 per cent of all shoplifters are ranging from ten to nineteen."

"Ten to fifteen shoplifters are caught a week, and a good share are teenagers. These people may be prosecuted and charged with a felony offense, which can cause colleges not to accept them, and usually none of these people are hired for governmental employment," Sergeant Schwartz concluded.

CONFIRMING THESE reports regarding teenage theft, clothes buyers and clerks maintain that the majority of their store thefts are by teenagers, because of the emphasis on stylish clothes and fashions today.

Thomas Mariconda, a New York City social agent, said that there appear to be two distinct stimuli for the trend. In the low-income teenage thief, often the drive represents a craving for possessions that the parents can't afford, or simply won't consider, buying.

During the Christmas season keep your eyes open for shoplifters and do your community a favor by reporting them to the proper authorities.

by Margaret Hadden and Mary Ann Hutton

To the dismay and disgust of many students, teachers and administrators; students have openly been expressing affection toward one another in the halls.



"These actions are in very poor taste," commented Mrs. Melva Anderson, girls' vice-principal. She continued, "The students merely reflect the training they have received at home."

"In our society expressions of affection are very private matters and should not be displayed in public," pronounced Mrs. Constance Person, faculty member. "These scenes are juvenile and immature. You never see adults engaging in these exhibitions in public," Mrs. Person continued. "Ironically though," she concluded, "the students may be trying to prove their maturity."

"Bleh!" gasped Miss June Peterson, junior girls' counselor, when asked her opinion of these students' actions. She went on to quote, "There's a time and a place for everything." The school halls are definitely not the correct time nor place for these actions," Miss Peterson explained.

In the past, Miss Peterson has confronted female offenders but she elaborated, "It's really up to the boy to stop it, once they have formed the habit." She concluded, "It certainly cheapens a girl."

"Standards may be changing but I'm still embarrassed when I see a couple being overly affectionate in the hall. I feel as though I'm intruding on something private," revealed a student.

"If you really respected a person, you wouldn't be 'draped' around them in the halls where everyone snickers at them," was another student comment.



"With regards to present moral standards, I would consider it in bad taste. However, with the recent sexual revolution sweeping college campuses and today's youth, we may soon be finding it acceptable," emphasized a student futurist.

Another opinion voiced was, "If someone wants to expose their feelings to the whole school, then that's their privilege—it's none of the school's business."

School policy does not state that disciplinary action will be taken but it relates that public expressions of affection are in very poor taste.

Grant Dress Code

Popcorn, possible suspension burden 'very humble pledges'

by Chris Hawes

Laden with bags of popcorn, love letters, and bearing last night's humiliation, "very humble pledges" enter Grant and become the lowest possible form of life.

ALL THROUGH the day pledges live in frustration and fear. At school they are made to do all sorts of "funny" things. But, many don't know that these "funny" things they do can result in suspension from school.

When questioned, vice-principal Mrs. Melva Anderson stated that, "Absolutely no pledging is to be allowed in school. People who are caught pledging at school may be suspended along with the pledg-

er and the club president."

IN PAST years there have been many people punished for violating this school rule and there will be more. The social clubs functioning around Grant used to belong to the school and were school sponsored.

Soon, things like pledging got out of hand and the school was forced to put these clubs out! Another main reason that clubs were suspended was the social pressure that was put on getting bids to these clubs.

So, for those who didn't know the rule or the consequence, they are strict and should be enforced.

Young smokers said not serious about hazards

by Jenni Raies

Caution: Cigarette Smoking May Be Hazardous to Your Health.

THIS EXPRESSION is frequently heard on television and is printed on cigarette packages. But whether it has been taken seriously by teenagers is another story. However, smoking among students is obviously common and brings up both legal and health factors.

But the law is very difficult to enforce and students take advantage of this situation. Thousands of teenagers all over the country smoke illegally every day and we see this demonstrated in our own school.

THERE IS no apparent solution to this problem because cigarette machines make no distinction as to age, and—unbelievably enough—some parents actually contribute to the delinquency of their children either by giving them cigarettes or permitting them to smoke without punishment.

There seems to be no one reason why students smoke. Each person is an individual and has his or her own private reason for smoking. Some smoke just to be "in with the crowd." It's difficult to pinpoint the basic thing that motivates smoking. Nobody is the same and no one has the same problem.

THE SCHOOL Administration is concerned about the smoking habit. They feel that students should stop smoking not only because of its illegal aspects, but because of the harmful effects.

In interviews with several Grant High staff members and students there were many interesting remarks made about teenage smoking.

MR. HUBERT Shovlin, boys' vice-principal, explained that the lungs, heart, and arteries aren't fully developed in the teen years so that smoking increases the possibility of a malignancy.

Usually, depending on the individual, girls' organs mature around the age of 18 or 19, Mr. Shovlin informed. Boys' organs aren't fully developed until about 21 years. These are the main reasons for the smoking law—"it is a health law," he asserted. The law was formed for protecting the health and not made to hinder their means of trying to show their maturity.

WHY DO teenagers smoke? Carol Monroe, a junior, observed: "I can't answer the question why people smoke, but I think everyone should realize that it is a proven fact that smoking leads to cancer and bad health." Carol further noted that smoking affects the lungs and makes one short-winded.

"**I THINK** that it's everybody's own decision whether they want to smoke or not," Laurie Tuttle, also a junior, declared.

Yet warnings are being stressed more and more now, especially since it has been confirmed that much damage can result to health from youthful use of tobacco.

If young smokers would only realize what they are actually doing to themselves, and not worry about what others would say if they didn't follow "the crowd" anymore, they might become much happier and healthier persons.

Enjoy life while you have it! Remember: Cigarettes cost money. And besides, the best things in life are free!

"Next time you think you're dying for a cigarette—you might be right," as the TV announcement goes!

Memorial fund nears goal; more names added to 'list'

According to Mrs. Fred Kempe, at least \$831.03 will have been paid towards the completed purchase of the Memorial Organ by January 1. "If more time is needed, an extension will be asked for," Mrs. Kempe elaborated.

She went on to say that the names of two more alumni have been added to the list of "gallant dead" who have given their lives in Vietnam. Air Force Major Thomas Laird Brattain, graduate of 1951, was killed on November 28, 1968 — Thanksgiving Day. Army Captain Arthur Eugene Lewis, graduate of 1955, was killed in action on May 17, 1966.

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