

Toxic Dress Code Endangers Students

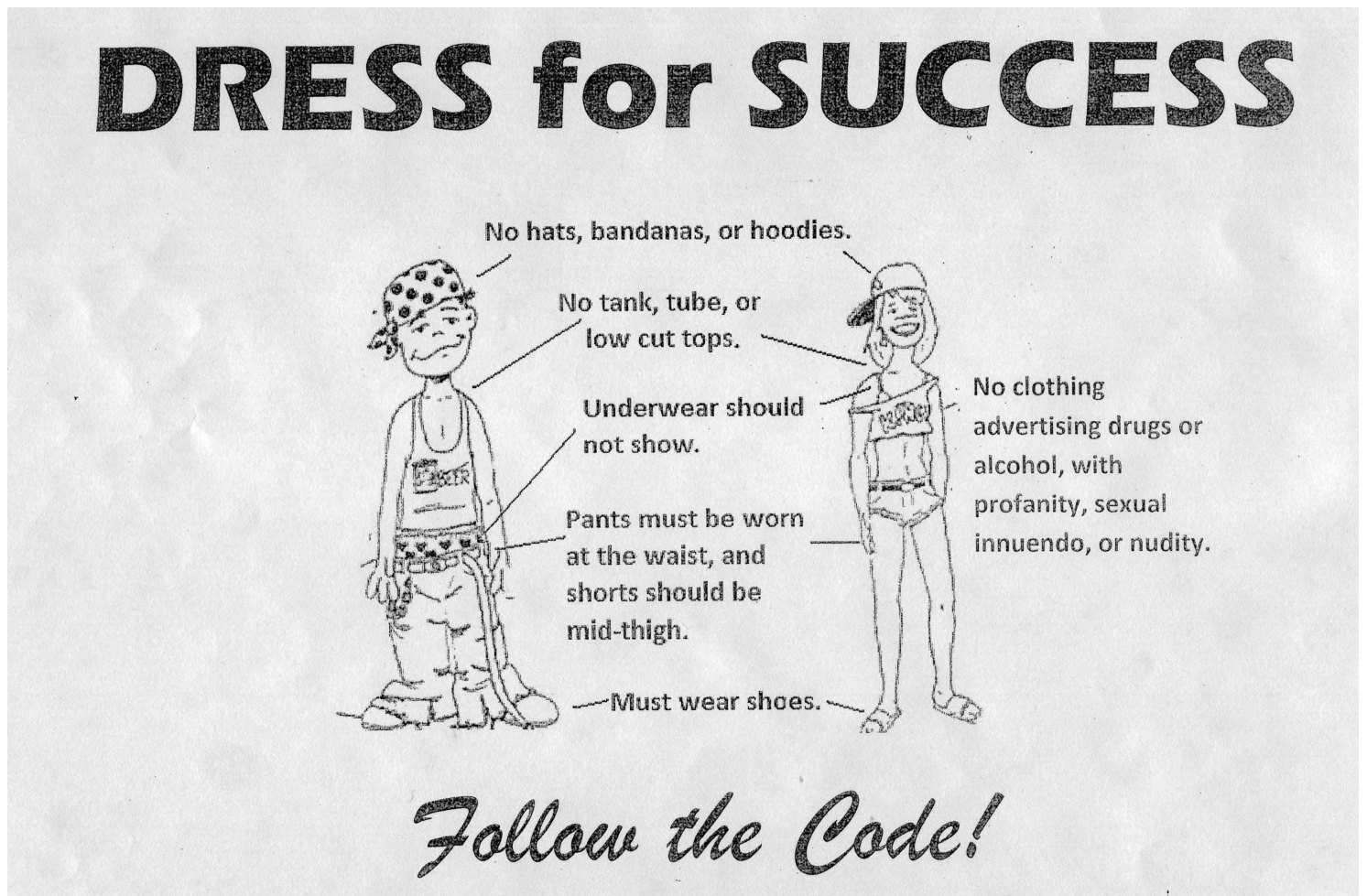
CHS' outdated dress code encourages objectification of female students

Lexi Halsted
Editorial

When I wake up every morning and get dressed for the school day, I throw something on that I feel good in. Yet, when I look in the mirror and see my reflection, after mine and other young women's experiences that I've heard of at Chariton High, I think of not what my peers will think, but of how the teachers and staff will judge me.

Most young women in high school that I've spoken to wholeheartedly understand and relate to that sentiment. We are judged and made to feel like we are disgusting for the skin on our bones. We are told, "You need to cover up. That is not appropriate." Yet when I ask "Why?" the administration stumbles over their words and says something that adds up to, "What you are wearing is distracting."

My question for the CCSD school board, or any other readers, would be: What do you think this teaches our youth? What did this sexist code teach you, or make you feel when you were our age? Because I know what it's taught me. That our bodies are something to be ashamed of, something to cover up so we don't get "hurt". Curious, though, how I've never heard a young man share our experiences. Dress codes that only apply to women are in place because our society sees women and little girls as sexual objects. And yet, young women are the ones to suffer for it,



CHS DRESS CODE (ABOVE): Dress code graphic posted in various classrooms and hallways at CHS.

we are the ones who have to cover up so the grown adults can more easily ignore their backwards, perverted minds.

Not only does the dress code teach young women that we are sexual objects to be desired, not respected, it teaches young men the very same. When male students witness a girl being verbally degraded and publically humiliated for her crop top and low rise pants, they

may not have a conscious thought, but subconsciously, they are being made to think that women are simply skin and bones, something for others to see, enjoy, and when they decide, police. Some young men can see exactly how wrong the dress code is, but most young men, since the dress code doesn't affect them, start to see women as simple objects. This is exactly why I believe the dress code to be dangerous.

The Charger Ink

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