

Freedom of the press abridged when principals become editors

by April Woods

Question: Do students in public schools have the same constitutional rights as adults?

Answer: Not by a long shot.

Dress Codes, closed campuses, punishment without a trial, search of student possessions without a warrant, these are just a few of the ways student rights are curtailed in order to maintain an orderly school environment. According to past Supreme Court decisions, all of these things are legal.

However, up to a certain point, student freedom of expression has been upheld by the courts. So far as that expression did not interfere with school work or discipline, it was to be tolerated.

Recently, the Supreme Court overturned a decision which could severely shortchange students' rights for free expression.

In January, the Supreme Court ruled in the Hazelwood School District vs. Kuhlmeier case that high school plays and publications can be censored at the discretion of the school principal.

As a result, high school students will no longer be in a position to decide what is and what is not newsworthy; that decision will no longer be theirs to make.

It is conceivable that ethical reporting may no longer have to be taught at the high school level since controversial issues can simply be banned from publication. Distasteful plays about whatever the school principal decides are distasteful issues that may no longer be performed. America's youth may grow up in a school environment which refuses to face real issues, and the students may follow suit.

There are several possible outcomes. One is that America's children may grow up misinformed because of the absence of a media at school to focus on informing them properly. Another possibility is that they will grow up disillusioned; automatically dismissing from their thoughts anything of a negative nature. A possibility foreseen by several people is a surge in a so-called "underground" newspapers since these do not fall into the Supreme Court decision's category.

Choices: Disillusionment or rebellion. History is forced to repeat itself.

In December, the Brevard Middle School principal forbade the sale of one issue of the high school paper, *The Broadcaster*, in the Middle School. The reason? Unacceptable language. The staff of *The Broadcaster* was outraged and believed it was within its rights to protest the situation. They were right—they were within their rights to protest, but now, it appears the principal's decision was perfectly acceptable legally.

According to Brevard College President Billy Greer, BC students don't need to worry about the Supreme Court decision. Greer says he "can't imagine a situation where the copy had to cross my desk first." He feels that taking away decisions from the student editors and writers would be a defeatist measure since he believes very strongly that "you learn by doing", and that's what we're trying to do here—to make journalists out of these people."

It is doubtful any College or University has anything to fear from this decision. No precedent has been set applying this ruling to a college or university. This is strictly a high school case. In the past, decisions affecting high schools have not usually held for colleges or universities since most college students, unlike high school students, are not minors.

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The Mellon Patch

In praise of women

by Pat Mellon

Well, another Valentine's Day has come and gone, and in honor of the Day of Hearts, I'd like to pay a special tribute to a group of individuals who make that day, and every day, wonderful.

Women.

What would Valentine's Day be without women? Women, women, women. Girls, chicks, broads, dames, babes — whatever. I'm talkin' females. You gotta love 'em. I know I do.

The purpose of this article is not just to praise the female sex, and recognize women as the beautiful individuals they really are, and kiss-up to the girls of society, hoping one of them will be moved by my literature and want to go out with me because she thinks I'm a sweet, sensitive guy. I'm going to offer some constructive criticism as well.

First of all, ladies, why does it take girls so long to get ready to go out?! I'm speaking mainly of high-school days, when picking a girl up for a date meant going to her house, going inside, meeting her parents, feeling awkward, sitting down in the living-room, telling some strange couple what my father does for a living, and trying to reason with a poodle named Cocoa, all because my date can't decide what to wear.

And speaking of clothes, why do girls like to wear other girls' clothes? Guys would never do that. I was dating a girl in high school, and she refused to wear my class ring, but she was wearing someone else's dress when she said "no." I'm still trying to figure that out.

I'm still looking for a girl who can play a video game besides Centipede or Ms. Pacman. For some reason, girls can't play video games. Hey, but guys can't fold shirts with collars or make up beds, so I guess it's even.

If you think about it, guys, we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for girls. Mothers are girls, sort of, right? I can't remember back that far, but I'm sure my mother played an instrumental role in my birth.

I do, however, remember that it was a girl (a nurse) who delivered the first stinging slap of life to my behind. I think girls



have a slapping-gene; the same gene that makes it impossible to roll a good fist.

Pregnancy is a facet of womanhood that I, personally, am happy I don't have to deal with. That's why I can't figure this surrogate mother stuff out. All the burdens of pregnancy for money and nothing else? Nothing could be worth that.

Marriage is a thought that creeps into my mind every now and then as I'm growing older. Just me and one girl — forever — for better or for worse — for richer or for poorer — until death do us part — to tell you the truth, I think the whole marriage idea is way too strict. They ought to change the rules a little and maybe the divorce rate wouldn't be so high. That "richer or poorer" concept may work in marriage, but not in divorce. Just look at the word ALIMONY. It's obviously some ancient (female) tribe's translation of ALL THE MONEY, that evolved throughout the years but was never changed, for purposes of deception.

Somebody must have paid my sister to be the proverbial pain in the unprintable posterior place when we were growing up. Ann, two years older, was angered greatly by the biological rule of nature that boys are taller than girls, regardless of their age, and retaliated by constantly introducing me to her friends as her "baby brother."

If you look back through history, you'll see that majority of mishaps were because of women.

John Hinkley, the guy who shot Reagan, attributed his actions to actress Jodi Foster.

Jessica Hahn had more than a hand in the collapse of Jim Bakker and PTL.

Now, I'm sure some guys declared some wars and sank some ships, but women have had their share of disaster — provocation, too.

Well, it seems that I've drifted from the theme I started with. Don't misunderstand me — I really do love women, but I just don't understand them sometimes. Anybody wanna wear my class ring?

Poets Corner

To Dust

Power over all
And the cold is to the bone
To the bone —
Humane structure
Soulbound
By faith
In the air we breathe
— Can be warm in the house
Of Goliath
's
Young Killer,
But winter
Is the real giant
The beast.

So close to the death
Lived for
The words now
Were once unheard
Oh!
The things that are finally revealed —
Power over all
Yes
And the cold is to the bone
No matter though —
The soul is gone.

W.D. Newton