

Code Enforcement Causes Concern

To the dismay of some students, Foothill's dress code is being enforced this year. On July 24, the TUHS District Board of Trustees decided to uphold a strict dress code on the basis that it is necessary to insure an educational atmosphere free from distractions. Skirts no shorter than three inches from the floor when kneeling in an upright position are acceptable for girls, and boys must taper their hair in back and keep sideburns to the middle of the ear.

Strong controversy has arisen among students and parents. Arguments against the code are many. "Dresses which were allowed last year are sometimes sent home this year." "Many girls had already done most of their shopping before the code was sent home about two weeks before school started." "The code blocks individual expression." "It is difficult for tall girls, 5'6" and above, who wear small sizes to find appropriate clothing," and they remind the board that "short skirts are in fashion."

The trustees remain adamant, however, and the administration and faculty continue to enforce the code. One trustee pointed out that what fashion dictates is not always conducive to a good classroom environment. One reason is because it causes distraction, the other is that a person's clothing tends to influence the way he acts. Mr. Sours made this point by saying, "I'm a firm believer that students act as they are dressed . . . the manner in which they are dressed directly reflects the way they act whether its an adult or a student." Mr. Moffat also feels that the school is making positive gains from the enforcement. They feel that the campus is cleaner and that the students act in a more mature manner when dressed according to the code. Personality can be expressed within the code and therefore it does not affect their individuality.

Starting September 11, the first time a student is sent in for violating the code the parents are sent a letter. The second time, the student is suspended overnight pending a parent conference. A three day suspension and a parent conference are required after the third violation, and the fourth involves an indefinite stay in continuation school. This does not necessarily mean the rest of the year.

Students checked on Monday included approximately 12 percent of Foothill's student body. The percentage dropped to about 1.5 percent on Tuesday, 1 percent on Wednesday, 1.5 percent on Thursday, and .6 percent on Friday as students started to conform more closely to the code.