

### Senate Report On Slacks

The issue of girl's dress has been of much interest to the students of this school recently. The Senate has decided to present this report to the administration and staff to help them reach a decision. The main freedom we desire is the right for girls to wear pants or slacks.

First, our arguments advocating this right:

1. The main desirability of slacks is their comfort and convenience. While in class, a girl can sit in any position, not constantly pulling down a skirt, and making sure her legs are in a prudent position, allowing better concentration on the subject she is learning. Homework is nearly always done in slack, when a girl has a choice to wear what she feels most efficient in.
2. The most often quoted argument for slacks is their warmth in windy or rainy weather.
3. The cost of nylon stockings, with their weak tear-resistance, can average \$2.00 a week.
4. Surely you must pity (and also find unsightly) the girl whose legs are not suited to open display, but is forced by rule from above to expose them.
5. Pants, though once thought of as only for very casual outdoor wear, are becoming acceptable in many formal

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situations. A glance through recent fashion magazines will show this.

6. An other point made frequently is that girls are legislated against in their dress, but male students do not bear such restrictions.
7. Pants can be less suggestive and distracting than mini-skirts. You all know how much thigh they expose especially when the wearer is in a seated position.
8. A small gain would be faster changing after P.E. classes, as nylons can be quite difficult to put on in a hurry.

For a balanced report, here is a biased presentation of some of the arguments against wearing slacks:

1. It has been alleged that casual dress is inducive to casual work habits. Perhaps this is because of the novelty of wearing slacks, and would wear off after a few weeks. I seriously doubt that what shape of clothing a student wears below her waist could affect what is going on inside her head during an interesting lecture. You teachers had an opportunity to observe this point during the morning before the last track meet, and can draw your own conclusions.
2. Commerce teachers may say that their students should be in a working situation during their training, but I do not see that a 17 year old 'young adult' needs

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to spend two years of training to learn how to wear a skirt.

3. School is a formal place, and students should dress accordingly. School has come from the authoritarian hickory-stick rule, of a century ago, and is headed for a non-graded, informal method of learning, of which Simon Fraser University is a futuristic example. Therefore, I feel this attitude is breaking down.

New rules are needed to replace the old. We propose that blue jeans, shorts, and stretch pants be banned on the girls if slacks are permitted.

On the strength of these arguments, the Senate proposes that slacks be permitted in regular classes.

Of the school in general, most of the boys are indifferent on the issue, and about half the girls want this reform, the other half being indifferent.

Dress habits, like other attitudes and philosophies, must be learned, not imposed arbitrarily from above.

Bruce Mackenzie  
Senate Chairman