

BYU dress code forces students to cover up

(CPS)—A list of "don'ts" in Brigham Young University's dress code recently drew national media attention to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints school, where short shorts and miniskirts are not allowed.

"Our honor code has drawn attention in the past. We're used to it," said Brent Harker. "We expect high standards. When someone finds an exception it makes the news. But the standards are important. A large majority of the faculty and students support it."

Few colleges and universities in the United States have official dress codes. But for the handful that do, watch out if you try to wear a short skirt or shorts to classes. At BYU, for instance, you can be refused service at the library or campus-run eateries if your clothing isn't up to code.

While many students, faculty members and administra-

tors may think that a student dress code is anachronistic, Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. and BYU in Provo, Utah, take it very seriously.

"It's a Christian school," said a Liberty University spokesman. "So they believe students should dress like a Christian school."

At Brigham Young, men and women "must have a clean and well-taken care of appearance. They must avoid extreme hairstyles," said Harker. "We don't have punkers with orange hair."

What brought BYU to national attention recently was an Associated Press story that referred to students wearing shorts on campus. Provo can be hot in September and October, and after the administration approved the wearing of shorts a couple of years ago, suddenly there was an impression that the hemline started moving up the thigh a little too much.

Coupled with the story was

a picture of a female student wearing shorts that were a few inches higher than her knees.

However, no action was taken against the student. "We don't want a repressive, police-like atmosphere on campus," Harker said.

The restrictive dress code was enacted at BYU in the early 1960s. "There were a lot of variations in clothing at that time," Harker said. "Certain ways of dressing such as beards, beads and bangles reflected the counter-culture message that was not acceptable at a church-run school."

Skirts were required for women and slacks for men. Additionally, men couldn't have beards or long hair. "It was quite a visible contrast to what was going on," he said.

In the early 1980s the rules were relaxed somewhat: Men and women were allowed to wear jeans—but not grubby jeans.

And beards were still banned. And finally, in 1990, the shorts were added to the list of approved attire, provided they were around knee length. Beards were still banned. So were earrings for men.

All but 2 percent of BYU's 29,000 students are Mormons, and all students must sign an honor pledge that they will abstain from liquor, drugs, tobacco, sex, tea and coffee.

"They must demonstrate in daily living the morals of a chaste and virtuous life," Harker said. "Our dress code has to do with a chaste and virtuous life. It's different at BYU. That's the general point: We're different. We're a minority."

At Liberty University, a conservative Christian school, male students must wear dress slacks, shirts and ties to class, and women must wear dresses. No shorts are allowed unless a student is going to a physical

education class or to work out. Students also aren't allowed to use drugs, alcohol or tobacco, curse or have sex.

But these schools are the exceptions, not the rule. At the University of St. Thomas, a Catholic institution in St. Paul, Minn., there is no written policy for a dress code. "There used to be a sign at the grill that said, 'No shirt, no shoes, no service.' But it's now gone," said spokesman Jim Winterer. "If someone came to class dressed inappropriately, they would be asked to change."

He said the school has an open atmosphere, and there is rarely a problem with how students dress.

"It doesn't even come up. Most of the time you have to wear clothes in Minnesota," he said. "You can't go without shoes in winter. You'd freeze your toes off."

Miss. State paper draws NAACP ire

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STARKVILLE, Miss. (CPS)—Officials at Mississippi State University are sponsoring a series of forums on race relations after a cartoon published by the school newspaper was denounced as racist.

The *Reflector* published a cartoon in late September of a white man watching black characters playing basketball and making music on a television.

The cartoon caption made references to children born out of wedlock and America's social ills, with the final statement blaming blacks for the majority of the country's problems.

Outraged members of the MSU National Association for the Advancement of Colored People demanded that editor Byron Clarke be suspended from his newspaper duties. Hundreds of blacks marched to protest against the newspaper.

Clarke, who insisted that there was a misunderstanding concerning the intent of the cartoon, printed an apology in the newspaper and later apologized at an assembly of black students.

"It was meant to be satire," said a *Reflector* reporter, who asked to remain anonymous. "It was an Archie Bunker-type thing. And though after it was explained to people, some people were still offended by it."

Clarke and his staff have been retained at *The Reflector*.

BUDGET

pone their merit raises.

"Number two, we need to restore all the positions that were cut in the budget cuts of the past." The administration blamed the cuts for the slowness of support services as well as having fewer new and freshman classes.

"Number three, we need three million dollars in planning money for a new library. This is for planning alone. The library will cost \$40 million but we will ask for that money in the next legislative session."

Maxson has designated this the year of the library in an attempt to highlight the university's need for a larger facility.

"I would hope that we would get those three things," Maxson said, "I'm optimistic about that. That's a no frills, bare bones request."

Ralston's warnings aside, Maxson's wish list has at least one friend in the legislature, in the person of Bob Coffin the

Democratic State Senator from District 3.

Coffin was on the Senate subcommittee for higher education and said he was in favor of Maxson's proposals. "The first thing I want to say is that I support Maxson's goals," Coffin said, "although it maybe that there are additional goals we want that he did not mention."

Mike Kennedy is the director of Nevada Student Affairs and often travels to Carson City and talks with the legislators about student's concerns and agreed with Ralston's appraisal of the budget.

"I've heard it from all angles that the chance for UNLV to get more money is slim to none," Kennedy said. "If the economy turns around then the state will have more revenue to use. How does anybody expect the state to maintain services without any extra money?"

Kennedy predicted that the cuts caused by the recession will

be restored but he has little hope for anything else.

"I would think that the first priority would be to restore the cuts. Anything beyond that will be a miracle," Kennedy said.

Ralston seems to think that chances a politician would make a risky political move, like increasing taxes to benefit UNLV are unlikely.

Kennedy, however, said that tax increases might be a solution the state turns to.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see some minor tax increases to fill the gaps," he said.

Coffin did not rule out the possibility either. "Only one incumbent lost, that was Vergiels," Coffin said. "That means that taxation is not the issue it seems to be."

Whatever happens in the legislature, the direct affects of a continuation or a respite from the recession on UNLV, will be decided by the Board of Regents.

Both Coffin and Kennedy

MAXSON

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that were lost due to budget cuts, Maxson said, "It hurts enrollment, and we are asking people to do more for less."

He also said the \$3 million allocated for architectural fees for the new library, "is an investment in the future."

The new library is projected to cost \$40 million from start to finish, \$37 million of which, Maxson expects, would be committed to UNLV by the state legislature in two years.

Maxson said no decisions have been made yet, but the current facility, the James Dickinson Library, will eventually be remodeled and utilized for housing research centers and for office and classroom space.

One faculty member asked Maxson what is being done to prevent recent proposed health insurance hikes.

Maxson said he is continuing to work on the health insurance issue and that he is devastated over what it will do to lower paid faculty and staff.

stressed the importance of the Regents in the funding of UNLV. Coffin said the state only decides what money the university system as a whole gets and the regents make the decision for UNLV individually.

Coffin said that a lot depends on the Board of Regents. "I hope the Board of Regents strongly pursues what they need without regards to the cost. If they don't tell us what they need then we can't fight for it in the Senate."

"The regents are without a doubt the most important part of the funding process," said Kennedy.

They also decide how much tuition will cost and in light of the anti-tax mood Kennedy raised a red flag on the future of that issue.

"If we don't get the money we need we may have to go back and raise fees again," said Kennedy.



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