

# 2 Opinion/Editorial

December 5, 2011

The Shield

Volume 55 No. 2

## Our Opinion

### Sagging pants? How about a sagging relationship between the students and the administration?

As finals approach, students and teachers alike are bracing themselves for the hectic weeks to come. However, for a large part of this year, students and teachers have had to brace the bad behavior that rankles teachers at best and annoys other students at worst.

Misbehavior in the halls translates to misbehavior in the classroom. A poor classroom atmosphere then, results in a poor education.

We have seen an increase in cell phone and mp3 usage in the halls and in the classroom. We have also seen a rather lax dress code enforcement, thus students are able to wear pretty much whatever they please.

This seems to be contradictory to what the district has constantly expected from its students. On the surface, these rather minor infractions wouldn't seem to be terribly bothersome. A few sagging pants, a couple of too short skirts, a little bit of cleavage, some texts sent in class, and Facebook updates during school, it's all part of the twenty first century high school, right?

However, these infractions only help create an atmosphere of "I can do as I please and not get caught." This atmosphere fosters a disconnection between the administration and the students.

Students feel they have the ability to push the limits of misbehavior. Such acts have been witnessed dur-

ing lunch and in the hallways.

For example, a group of students placed a young lady in an empty trash can during A lunch and pushed the trash can down part of the terrazzo.

They only faced a light verbal chastisement. Yes, no student was physically harmed, but the fact that these students faced no consequence for what could have been very dangerous horseplay is something to take note of.

In the beginning of the school year, there was a positive start to discipline. At the freshmen orientation, the incoming students were guided towards becoming a more disciplined, respectful, well-dressed class.

Yet, quite the opposite is taking place. The halls are rowdy, and, quite honestly, a scary place to be, where our survival instincts are brought to the forefront amidst the madness.

If we are to trust our administration, we should be able to trust the policies they put forth will be consistently enforced.

So far, the administration has been strict on handling the tardy policy. Although there were modifications throughout the beginning of the year, it has been set in stone that

for every tardy a student receives, twenty-five demerits accompanying

will be able to trust the guidelines put forth.

With a strong trust-based relationship, students will know the boundaries and the limits of misbehavior at Richwoods High School. Unfortunately, these limits are constantly being pushed and pushed by students who do not have a clear understanding of their consequences.

If there is a problem or an act of misbehavior, everyone, students and staff members should be aware of what the established consequences are.

How does misbehavior affect classroom performance? For one, students

may be thinking about what happened in the halls and will not focus on what is going on in the classroom.

For another matter, disruptive students obviously distract the students who are truly trying to better themselves through learning. The

vast majority of us want a good education, which we know is a keystone to our success in post-secondary lives. An unstable classroom and overall school environment may hinder some students from reaching their full potential to succeed.

Some students genuinely fear for their safety at school. School is supposed to be a caring environment, where growth is fostered. Growth is stunted by fear of physical or psychological harm.

Yes, there should be stricter policies to curb the rise in texting, dress code violations, fights, rowdy hallway behavior, and plain rude behavior in classes. However,

students should also be aware that it is their education they are jeopardizing by making foolish decisions. We must know how to discipline ourselves, we can't always be dependent. We've got to grow up. And so should the standards that we are bound by. The administration needs to lay down the law and enforce it well. Students need to abide by the rules that are set forth, and common sense.

## Editorial: Responsibility and Its Consequences

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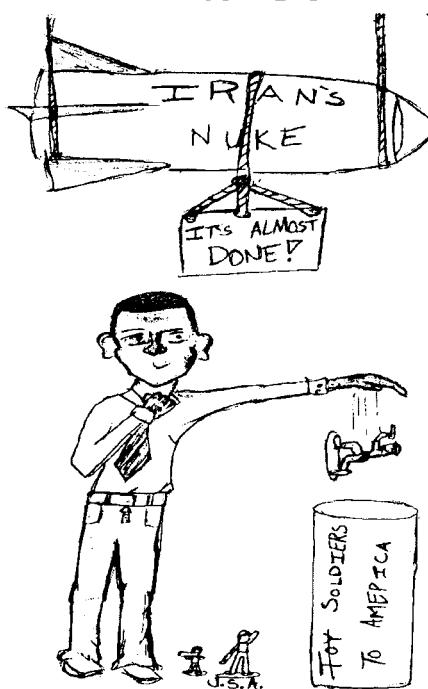
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by Mitchell Griffith

President Obama recently announced that his plan to withdraw the troops might actually be taking place in the near future. While this is an obvious relief to family members of soldiers, there is concern for the safety of our nation. My want is not for anyone to have to die for their country; however, it is key that our country, itself, not die. With Iran soon to release its first functional nuclear bomb, the world should be ill at ease. Though

it's not America's responsibility to keep world peace, I do find it quite obvious that this new weapon may be the lead in to a new nuclear war in the Middle East. Such a cataclysm would end up reverberating in America. So, I ask you, is it time to bring our men home?

Questions? Comments?  
Write a letter to the editor. Drop it off it 309.