

THROWBACK TO 2007

10

November 2007



OPINIONS



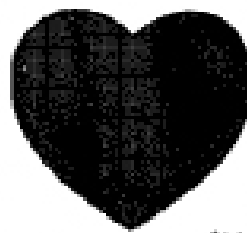
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Learning to Love Yourself

Melanie Bechtel: *WRITTEN*

I started thinking the other day when I was listening to the song "Live Like You Were Dying" and I began to wonder what I want most in this whole world. What should everyone experience at least once in their lives? It made me think. I mean, of course, there's the typical skydiving or traveling the world, but I think the one thing that everyone should experience in his or her lifetime is to be comfortable in his or her own skin. Most people will never have the perfect body and smile or be able to own all the clothes they want or get the \$900 purse that's just so adorable that you must have it or else you won't feel that you fit in. You don't need material objects or perfect

features for people to like you as you are and that's what really matters. If someone likes you because you let them borrow your designer clothes that they can't afford, but you hear them talk about you behind your back all the time, you don't need them. People should be comfortable enough with themselves that they can be themselves all the time and I guarantee there will be people that like the real you. Learning to be comfortable is a long process and I know that I am not always perfectly okay with the way I look, or the clothes I wear, but I'm trying and I'm already happier. Just be yourself and never change just to fit in because that's altering the beautiful person that you truly are.



The Hugging Ban

Jacqueline Brown: *WRITTEN*

Imagine living in a place where showing affection by hugging is considered wrong, and can get you into a whole lot of trouble. Well that's what it's like for many students across the country. Some schools, such as Fossil Hills Middle School in Texas, have banned hugging because of issues with tardiness. Dr. Victoria Sharts, principal of Percy Julian Middle School in Oak Park, IL, says "When groups of students -usually girls- exchange hugs during classes, it clogs hallways and makes kids late class."

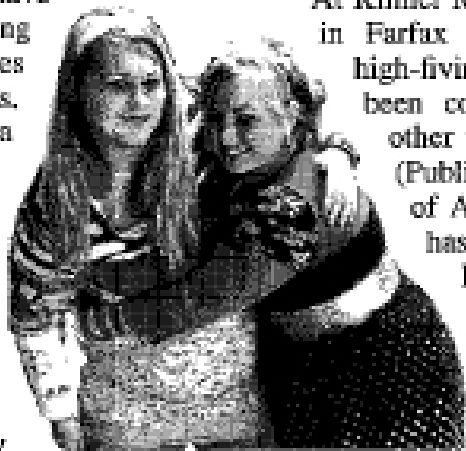
While the teachers may be happy about this, the students are outraged. Many students are complaining because hugging is their way of displaying friendship. Some students believe that it is awkward to just say hello or goodbye each day. Also, when another person feels bad, I know that someone

would probably hug them. If students are unable to hug, then they cannot show compassion. This could lead to depression of some people, because not showing compassion towards another could make the sad person feel worse.

At Kilmer Middle School in Fairfax Country, Va, high-fiving has also been considered another form of PDA (Public Displays of Affection) that has been banned.

I have never seen anyone who does not appreciate a high-five. High-fives

are used as a form of congratulation, and are completely harmless. I see absolutely nothing wrong with someone high-fiving another person. I think that this ban is going to lead to more students in detention, because they will revolt against the ban. Also, it will lead to a lot more drama, because people will get angry at their friends when they won't risk detention to hug or high-five them.



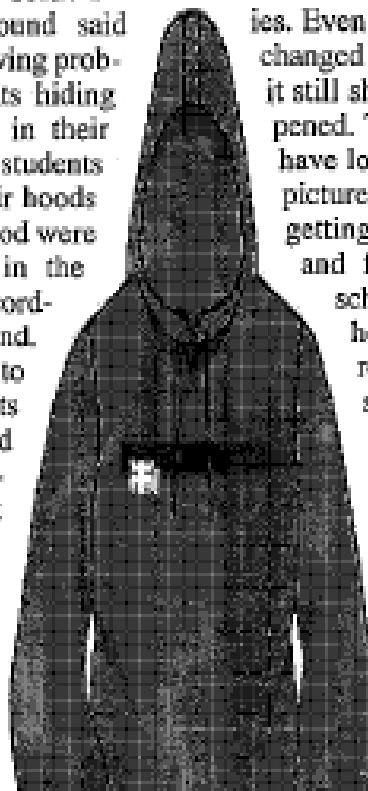
Ban on Hoodies

Nikki Kamp: *WRITTEN*

Grant Park high school students were told in mid-October that they could no longer wear hoodies in class. Grant Park principal Mr. Gound said the school was having problems with students hiding food and IPODs in their hoodies. Also, students were wearing their hoods up. IPODs and food were repeatedly left in the classrooms, according to Mr. Gound. However, due to several complaints from parents and students, the ruling was never put into effect.

Mr. Gound now feels that the school is on the right track because he's talking to the school board

about having stricter consequences for students who wear their hoods up or try to hide IPODs and foods in their hoodies. Even though the school changed their original ban, it still shouldn't have happened. The school should have looked at the bigger picture and focused on getting rid of the IPODs and food. Instead, the school chose to ban hoodies. "The ban really upset me," said Mrs. Cousin, whose daughter is a sophomore at GPHS, said "I spent a lot of money on my daughter's wardrobe, and to be told the money is wasted is just wrong."



TALES FROM THE CRIB ANSWERS:

- Freshman: David Arroyo
- Sophomore: Eddie Fernandez
- Junior: Katelyn Berkley
- Senior: Frank "Frosted Tips" Eckhardt