

## New school year brings heightened censorship

It is no surprise to most students that their school would want to keep an eye on them; after all, they are trying to teach us how to become functional members of society. But how far is too far? By forcing us to dance differently and not allowing us to even shake hands the way we want, the school is censoring our actions and not allowing us to be individuals.

Last Sat., at the homecoming dance, students were told that there would be no juking, grinding, or dirty dancing at the dance. Furthermore, if students were caught dancing in this manner, administrators or policemen would escort them out of the dance. While their intentions were good, the administration overreacted to a simple form of dancing, labeling it as obscene and vulgar, while for many high school students it is just another way to unwind and have fun. The administration held true to their word, kicking out many students, including seniors who will not get to experience high school homecoming again.

It is the same story for the handshake rules. All the students

were told at the beginning of the year that doing a handshake other than a fist bump or a regular hand shake would result in an out of school suspension. This is ridiculous since most students connect with one another though a simple unique handshake. While the school is attempting to shelter us from gang activity, the majority of students are obviously not involved in gangs. Why should we be limited because of what a few select students have done in the past?

The school is in control of most all of our actions. While it seems that students get to choose what classes they take, what food they eat, and how they dress, the school provides those choices and they can just as easily decide not to let you do something.

The school is treating the students as a massive body, thinking what would be best for the majority of people while ignoring us as individuals. By controlling our actions in trying to protect us, they are limiting us by not letting us fully think for ourselves.

### Homecoming week disappoints students



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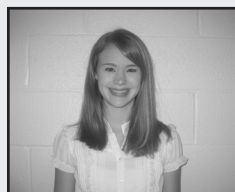
For the past couple of years, Bloomington High School students have been able to enjoy homecoming week, as five days filled with fun, exciting dress-up days and many after school activities. But this year, BHS students were disappointed to find that homecoming week fell on a week with only three days of school. Mon. of homecoming week fell on Columbus Day and Fri. of homecoming week fell on an Institute Day.

This three day homecoming week made each class lose two spirit days and cut back on some of the late night activities. The homecoming pep assembly also was on the night of the powder puff games instead of on the night of the homecoming football game, like it normally is.

Having three days in our homecoming week, really brought down a lot of the excitement and fun that the week is supposed to have. The loss of dress-up days caused there to be less school spirit and excitement, and the people who like to dress-up, which is a majority of the student body, we're very disappointed in losing two days. Also the homecoming pep assembly is meant to get the school pumped up for the homecoming game, but with there being no pep assembly on game day and no school on the day of the homecoming game as well, it made it less likely that people would be excited enough to go.

In the future we should never put homecoming week on a week where students have any days of school off. It makes a full week of school that is supposed to be a lot of fun and allows students to show off their pride for their school, less exciting.

### Sincerity of presidential candidates questioned



**Kaitlin Dunn**  
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Presidential candidates always say that they are going to make big changes in the United States if they are elected. But, are presidential candidates sincere when they say things like that, or are they just saying it to get elected?

Candidates have long debates and arguments over how the United States needs to be changed. They discuss things that range from issues like abortion to global warming to our economy. Has anything ever really been dramatically changed in a single term of presidency?

I know that Congress has to agree with the President to have issues made into laws, but candidates should not say things are going to change when they know that Congress will not agree. If the majority of Congress is Democratic, and the Republican nominee advocates change, most of the change will probably not happen so candidates need to think about that before they promise change.

Things said during debates and speeches will not be forgotten by the public and candidates need to make sure that they work to change everything they say they will. Things cannot be said for the sake of getting elected because what will happen when the candidate is elected? Nothing they say will ever be trusted if they do not live up to promises made during campaigns.

Even candidates of the same party question each others sincerity. If the same party is questioning it, then where should we as citizens, who do not know as much about politics, stand?

In Bush's 2000 campaign, for example, he promised to regulate carbon dioxide emissions. After he was elected, however, he decided that carbon dioxide was not a pollutant, and therefore, he was not going to follow through with his promise.

Candidates also need to think about and predict possible changes that may occur. Changes, for example, in the economy, may put a damper on their promises. Candidates are supposed to be well-educated on the issues surrounding the US and they should be able to predict if something may happen.

I, as well as many other American people, would like to see a campaign based on honesty and realistic expectations.

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