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Education

Midriffs, torn jeans banned at SDSS

By JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

Bare bellybuttons, holey jeans, T-shirts featuring beer and marijuana leaves, toy guns and racial slurs are not allowed at Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS).

While some students support the school's dress code, others don't.

Grade 10 student Vanessa Barnett and Grade 13 student Sue Robertson are among those lending their names to a petition asking education officials to drop the dress code.

The challengers hope to get more than 100 signatures before presenting it to the school principal and to the York Region Board of Education.

Petitioners told *The Tribune* they especially want a "hands off" approach when it comes to

tops revealing midriffs and jeans with holes or rips in the backside.

"There's nothing wrong with the ripped jeans," said Barnett. "I expect lots of students and parents will sign the petition."

Barnett has not, as yet, won her mother over. Beate Barnett said she needs to explore the issue further. While the senior Barnett supports a dress code in general, she's not sold on this code.

"Everything can be taken to the extreme. That's what the school is facing," said Barnett, the mother of three. "You have to have something in place. My daughter wears these (midriff) tops. I'm amazed at

her courage. But no, I don't have a problem with the tops," she added.

Newly appointed SDSS principal Rod Leonard pointed out that the board of education expects schools to have dress codes.

Leonard said "most students and 95 per cent of parents" would, if asked, back the code.

The principal stressed that he has no objection to a petition being circulated at school. (Please see page 3)



LEONARD

The ripped look is out: Flare

Ripped jeans and pop tops fail the fashion test, two editors at Flare magazine told *The Tribune*.

Suzanne Boyd, Flare's associate editor, said when it comes to what's "in" and what's "out," ripped jeans are definitely on the wane, while we can expect pop

tops, including shrunken sweaters, to follow suit very soon.

The crystal ball suggests "we will not be seeing a lot of skin," said Boyd.

Ian Hylton, Flare's fashion editor, is not impressed with torn jeans or bare (Please see page 3)

Police vow to crack down on field parties

The York Regional Police are taking a "zero tolerance" approach to rowdy field parties.

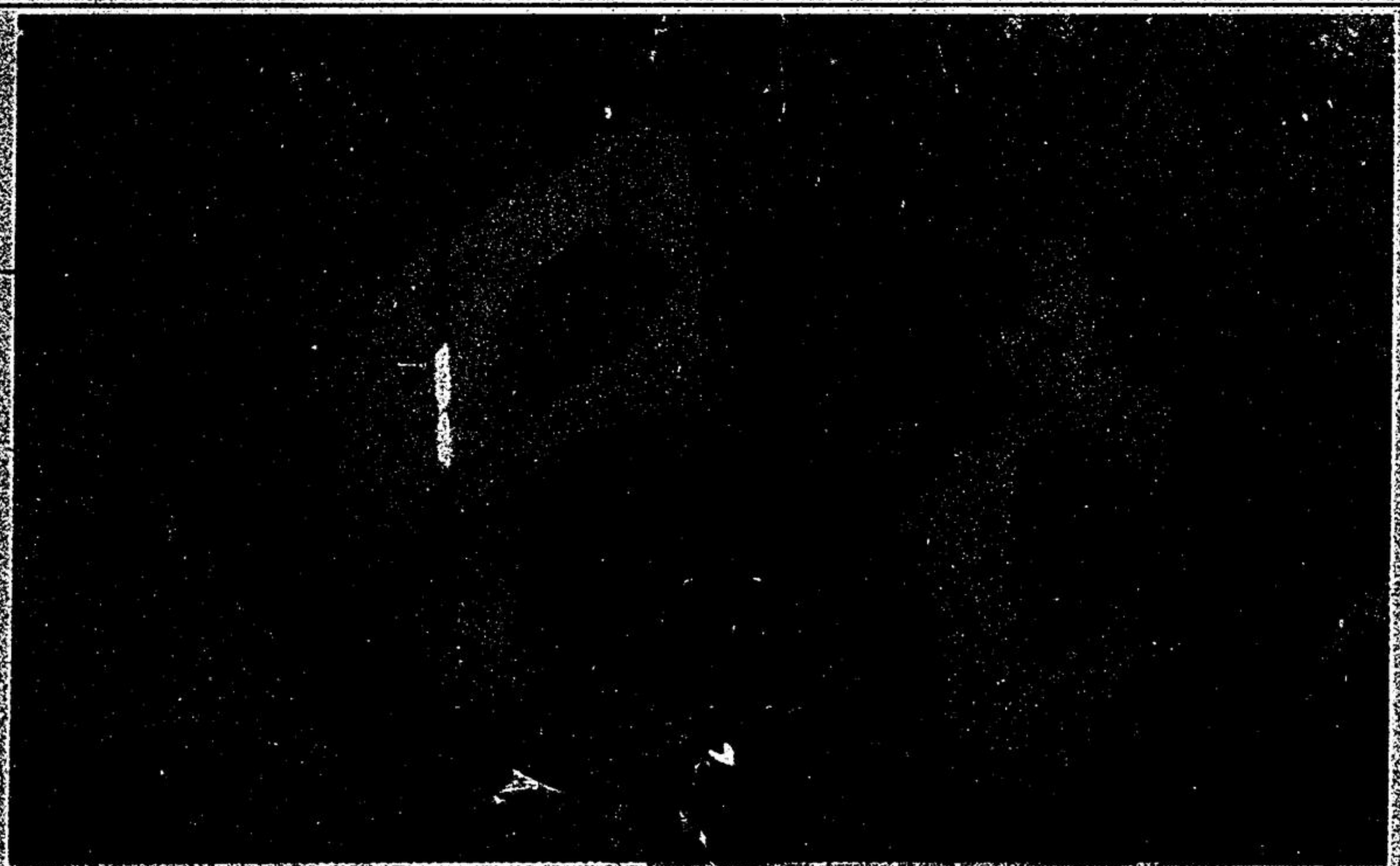
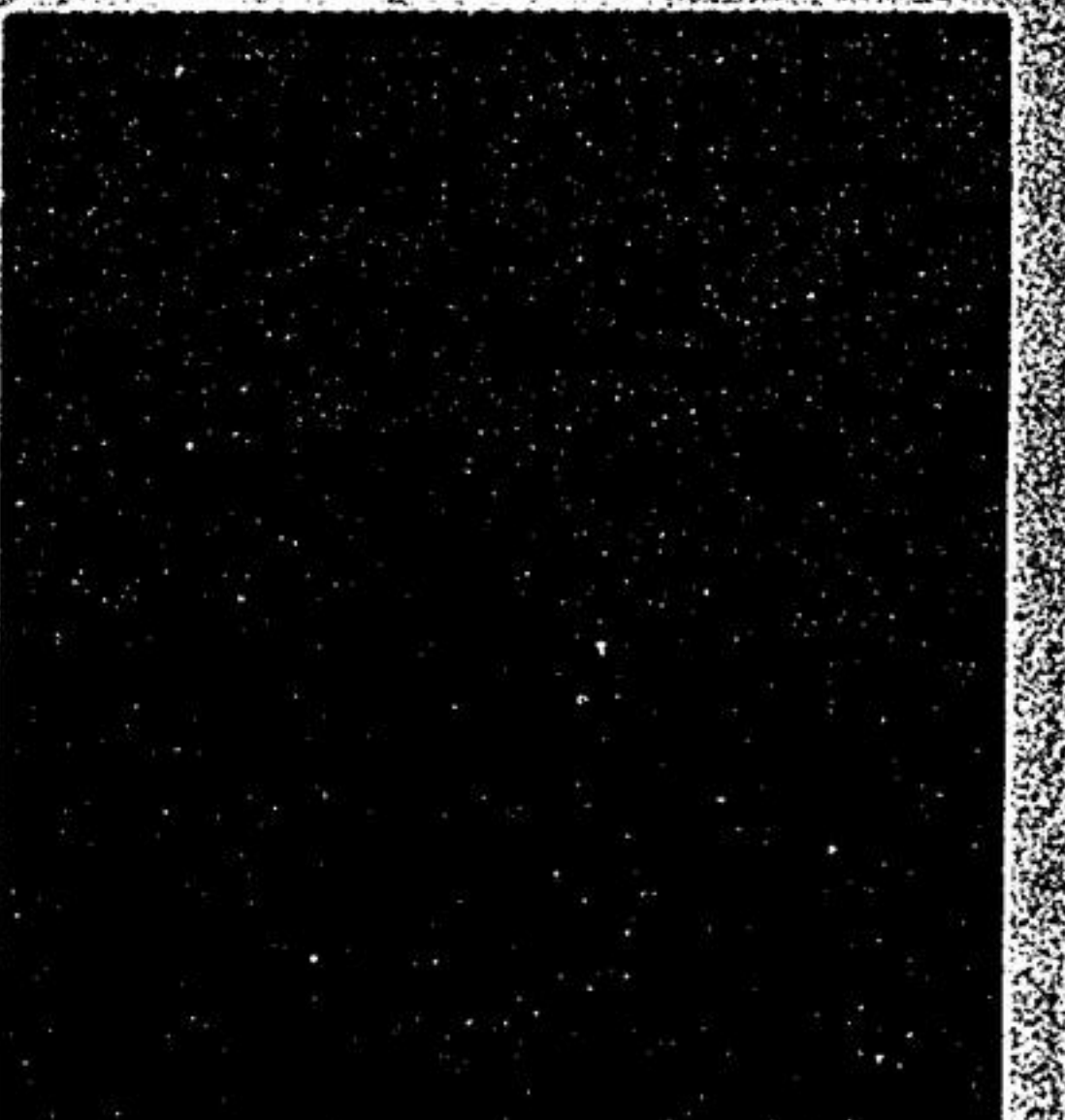
A year ago, the public was put on notice: field parties will be monitored by the police.

Police sergeant Bruce Powley reported that last year, area field parties lead to death and injury.

"These parties have resulted in numerous fights, assaults, stabbings, impaired driving, drug offenses and motor vehicle accidents causing serious injury and in some cases fatality," said Powley. In late September, two Newmarket men were killed and a Keswick teen was seriously injured in a collision following a field party near Newmarket.

A few days before, a man was

stabbed in the neck and chest with a broken beer bottle at a Stouffville field party. Meanwhile, in East Gwillimbury, police broke up a field party which attracted 2,000 people. At this particular party, a woman was stabbed.



Funny faces

Bobbie Radford and mom Jo Ann Radford were clowns for a day at the St. Mark's Fall Fair last weekend.

Photo STEVE SOMERVILLE

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