

CODE

and daring attempt she once made to slip
ney High School.

witnessed too many classmates being told
ers. It wasn't likely she'd get through a
ought an extra pair of khaki pants that

me the final bell rang, the jeans were

her. Khaki pants, in her estimation, are
clothing she grudgingly wore while at
y school.

impers!,"

the Kearney dress code, it has some-
nd Vercruysse, CFC, the school presi-

E got it hard
the boys had to wear a blue blazer with
name tags," said Brother Vercruysse, a

ation, the students usually shuffle quickly
's office.

recruitment and public relations, said
rmatives than when she was a student
he said, all students were

logos.
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y or tan slacks;
re ear lobe. For
; white blouses;

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nan Stephanie
have been repri-
hereof. They're sup-

s don't make them
oted that dress codes

ced in, and in baseball I
ook more like a team,"

ess code, students inter-
t have any major gripes

and put it on. It's not really

class," said Aquinas junior

ou feel better about yourself,"

inted out that variations can
able limits.
re ways to go about it," she re-

t a little *too* much in the Kearney

Dan Tytler

hallways: "I've got a younger sister (Katie) who goes
here, and she'll say, 'Your tie doesn't match your shirt.'"

Dan said his wardrobe isn't quite as complicated
away from campus: "In the winter, jeans and a T-shirt
or flannel shirt. In the summer, khaki shorts, T-shirt,
and white hat with (logos of) different sports
teams."

Dan enjoys making most of his in-school fash-
ion statements with ties: Tasteful floral patterns
are his personal favorites.

"They match my personality. I like the laid-
back, not flashy, low-key look," Dan ex-
plained. "You should have some freedom of
expression. If you wear the same thing, it
gets a little monotonous."

Steve shares Dan's viewpoint, saying, for
instance, he'd balk at a code requiring
male students to wear similarly colored
jackets.

"I don't want it to be a set uniform," Steve said.

Steve and Stephanie — who both attended public school in
Greece prior to Aquinas — admit their friends who aren't in Catholic
schools get a big kick out of the dress code.

"They rip on us pretty hard," Steve remarked.

Stephanie noted that the dress code is a convenient way for oth-
ers to put down Catholic education. "That's the only fact they had about
my coming to Aquinas," she said.

Obviously, a school dress code would not be everybody's cup of tea.
Case in point: Williamson residents Sarah Gordinier and Beth Clancy.

"When people tell me how to dress, I feel constricted," Sarah stated.

Sarah and her close friend Beth, both 14, are youth-group members
at St. Mary's of the Lake Church in Ontario. Both have naturally
blond hair, but they currently opt for the redhead look. Sarah said
she's also experimented with blue- and green-dyed hair in the past.
In addition, the two Williamson High School freshmen frequently
show up at school in torn blue jeans.

In the same way that Catholic-school students are questioned for
their dress codes, Sarah and Beth must be on guard for queries
about their lack of conformity.

"People think that just because you dress like that, you're into
drugs," Sarah commented.

However, Beth said, her top concern is expressing her individ-
uality — regardless of what people think.

"When you dress the way you want, you tell them, this is who
you are and this is where you come from," Beth stated. "I dress
by what's pleasing to my eye. It's really a mood thing."

No matter what fashion mood they're in, Sarah and Beth
say they're affirmed by the people most important to them —
their friends and family.

"They accept us for our spirit," Sarah said. "They know
we're good people inside."

In this vein, Andrea of Bishop Kearney agrees: Whether
it be a Catholic or public school student, clothes don't
make the whole person.

"People don't see me for a uniform," she declared. "They see me for me."



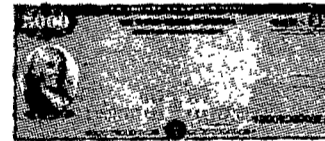
(left)
Sarah
Gordinier
(right)
Beth
Clancy



Story by
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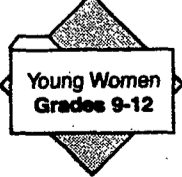
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