

Students question need for restrictive dress code policy

GRAND ISLAND (AP) — Students are chafing at a new school policy against baggy clothing, saying it's too restrictive.

Grand Island Senior High School Principal Kent Mann said baggy pants could be used to hide all kinds of contraband — from pagers to dangerous weapons. The school also requires students to tuck in loose-fitting shirts to confirm that the waistband is where it should be.

Students Melanie Green and Johnny Garner think certain baggy clothes can be appropriate. They think the school district's safety concerns are overblown.

"You can hide a weapon in a book bag or a locker," said Garner, adding that students can hide weapons even when they wear more form-fitting clothes.

Garner said he had received detentions this school year because of his clothes. Although a critic of high school's clothing policy, Green said she complied with the rules.

For the most part, the bagging and sagging style is favored by male students, Mann said,

and is rarely an issue with female students.

Mann described sagging pants as "worn well below the waist. Boxer shorts are worn four or five inches above the belt line of the pants, so they're visible."

Green said the same conflict on baggy clothes occurred last fall when some students wore pants so low that the waist "was below their butts." She agreed that was not appropriate dress for school.

Both students said they think the school is safe, which is part of the reason they do not understand the alarm bells over baggy clothes.

Mann agreed, but he said safety is not an idle concern. He said that over the years, weapons such as brass knuckles and knives have been taken from students wearing all styles — but mostly baggy clothes.

Mann said he is trying to take a proactive stand on baggy clothes, rather than a reactive stand after a serious incident occurs.

"I won't compromise safety at Senior High," he said.

Auction's timing benefits Omaha

OMAHA (AP) — A three-day auction of a portion of the Omaha-owned Byron Reed coin and document collection will bring \$1.5 million more into Omaha city coffers than originally expected.

Last week's auction in New York City and London raised \$6.549 million, considerably more than the \$3 million to \$4 million Christie's auction house projected.

Use of the windfall has not yet been determined, Mayor Hal Daub said. But he has some ideas for a few lucky recipients.

Daub said the extra proceeds resulted from lucky timing and a strong market and not from the city putting too much of the collection on the block.

Daub estimated that about \$5.7 million to \$5.8 million in revenue would come to the city once a 10 percent buyer's premium on each lot is subtracted and appropriate auction fees are paid.

Of the city's proceeds, \$3 million has been pledged toward the renovation and expansion of Western Heritage Museum, where the Reed

collection is housed.

In addition, Daub said, another \$500,000 to \$800,000 of the revenue would be set aside to endow a curator to oversee the collection with the staff at the Western Heritage Museum.

After residual auction expenses, he said, more than \$1.5 million would be left for other purposes. It will go to the city's general fund.

Daub proposed three possible uses for all or part of the money:

— Offsetting the \$3 million from the general fund the city pledged to pay to Western Heritage in \$300,000 annual payments beginning in 1995. This figure is in addition to the \$3 million the museum will receive from auction revenue.

— Upgrading and developing the 75-acre Omaha Botanical Garden, which opened in 1993.

— Contributing to the construction of a long-discussed trolley along 10th Street, linking the Henry Doorly Zoo and Rosenblatt Stadium with the Western Heritage Museum and the Old Market.

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