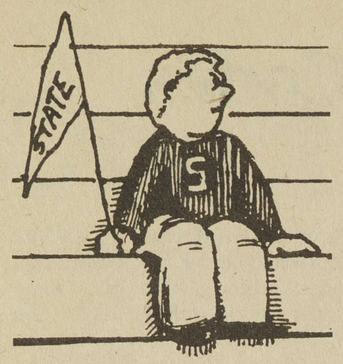

Any code violations here?: Not unless "State" is short for "Smash the State U."

the board voted it down.

I am not asking for (when I say "I", I am speaking as an elected representative of the senior class, and many other students, parents, and taxpayers) abolition of the dress code. Instead I ask for only a few revisions, that I believe will be well within state and federal guidelines, the Constitution, and student rights.

. . . .

[by Terry Eberhart, in **Liberator II**, from Canton, Ohio.]

A Short History of Education

(Or Why Some People Wanted to Go to School)

The high schools as we know them haven't been around all that long. In the 1880s, only 15% of the high school age people were in school. Most young people were workers back then. Education used to be only for the rich. Today most of us fight to get out of school because they're more like prisons. But there was a time when masses of people fought to get into schools.

EDUCATION FOR THE RICH

We've all seen pictures in our history books of young people going to "school" in Egypt, Rome, Greece, etc. But these schools were only for a select few, the rich and the people on top. While each of these countries taught school differently, they all had the same purpose. To train and prepare the future rulers and their helpers.

On the bottom were the ruled, who made up 99% of the people. These were the people who grew and made everything for themselves and their rulers. The peasants, the slaves and the common people didn't go to school. By denying them an education, the rulers could keep using the masses as slaves.

EARLY AMERICAN SCHOOLS

For hundreds and hundreds of years schools were for the elite. Let's take a look at schools in early America. In the South was slavery. It was against the law for slaves to attend school or be educated.

In the North there were three types of schools. Rich Northerners went to private schools. Some towns set up their own local schools that taught reading, writing and religion a couple of months out of the year. In the bigger cities some church groups set up schools to "civilize the poor," but they were more like reform schools. School was still something that few people attended.

A NEW RULING CLASS

Meanwhile, a new group of people called "capitalists" became powerful. These were mostly new factory owners and other rich slime that made a lot of money off the slave trade, and paying shit wages to their workers. Until then, wealthy landowners ran everything. But the capitalists, with all their money, power and modern technology, kicked ass on the landowners and took over.

SOCIETY CHANGES

Two things happened under capitalism that changed the way that most people had been getting their education. Both the church and family started losing their importance. The Catholic Church, rewards in the "next life," was discouraged. The capitalists began pushing the new Protestant church that promised rewards in this world (by hard work). The "hard work" idea was good for business.

An early schoolhouse; In earlier times some people fought for the right to go to school.

WORKERS DIDN'T DIG IT

The result was riots and strikes. Workers started demanding their rights, forming unions and joining revolutionary groups.

What's all this got to do with schools? All these things: strikes, factory life, immigrants and so on made things very shaky and dangerous for the capitalist. They had to keep people in line. First they set up police forces and national guards. That didn't solve the problem. The answer they found was mass education. It just so happened that when all this was happening public schools were set up in almost every capitalist country. Some of the smartest capitalists explained to the others that school would not only cut down on poverty and crime but would make better workers.

Most of the time, capitalists began supporting public schools as soon as the workers won the right to vote.

WORKERS' RESISTANCE

The capitalists weren't the only people who were for public education. Many workers and workers' organizations were for public education also. But they had a different idea of what school should be. They wanted it under the control and power of the people, not the rulers. But with their power, the capitalists won, and set up schools the way they wanted. A lot of people still weren't satisfied with the way schools were run, so they fought back. In 1856 in Norwich, Connecticut and a lot of other places the working class voted to get rid of their high school even though it was against the law. Many just cut school and never went. So they started passing laws saying everyone had to go to school. Soon

No Kids or Pets Allowed!

Recently my sister, who has been my guardian every since my mom passed away, and I were looking for a new apartment. We weren't very successful, and my young age was one reason.

At one apartment building, the woman who was the owner asked how old I was because "It's not that I'm a cranky old fogey, but you know how kids that age are. They bring all their friends over and make noise and everything." What did she expect kids my age to be like — hermits?

A man and his daughter, who was about my same age, were also looking for an apartment in the building. The girl was fairly nice and quiet, and she was wearing some makeup — which to this lady automatically calssified her as a rowdy tenant. She told the man about kids my age the way she told my sister. He could tell that the woman didn't want them to move in.

The man didn't care for her attitude much, and got understandably angry.

At another building, a woman pulled my sister to the side and asked about my age.

The same rings true in ads that say "no kids."

Kids can be noisy, but there are plenty of noisier adults. I know. I've lived in apartments all my life.

Of course an ad wouldn't say "no adults." I realize it's the adult who pays the rent, but what about kids. Let them sleep in the park?

If you would tell a kid to go home, where would, or rather **could** he go?

[by Corinne Newman, from **Kid's Lib**, Manhattan Beach, Ca.]