

# SCHS Dress Code Faces Court Test

By Mel Baughman  
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A court test of the new dress code in the Santa Cruz High School District appears imminent today in the wake of Tuesday's suspension of Alan Smith, 16-year-old junior at Santa Cruz High School.

Today the youth's mother,

Mrs. Arthur Dale Smith, 211 Surfside, said her son was suspended for three days because his shoulder length blond hair did not comply with the provisions of the code.

Alan will return to school tomorrow, she said, "ready to be educated." But he hasn't received a hair cut and does not

plan to get one, Mrs. Smith added.

She explained that the youth, who is a singer with "The Bubble," a rock and roll band, believes the issue is one of individual rights and that he may wear his hair as he chooses.

"We have taught Alan to be an individual, not a sheep that follows the rest of the crowd," Mrs. Smith said.

The Smith case may be only the first of several court tests, the youth's mother indicated, she stated that a number of parents are planning to test the code. She also stated that the San Francisco office of the American Civil Liberties Union has been contacted for legal assistance.

Mrs. Smith said the ACLU's help will be needed if court action becomes necessary, because the Smiths cannot afford all of the legal expenses that would be involved. The boy's father is a former warrant officer in the U.S. Army who retired after 21 years of service.

Disclosure of the Smith case came indirectly with the announcement that a public meeting will be held tomorrow night at 7:30 in the Santa Cruz High School Auditorium to protest the code and its enforcement.

The meeting will be sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Central Committee of the Peace and Freedom Party, according to Bob Lowman. Speakers will include Robert Bennett, Watsonville attorney who last spring defended Richard Smiley following the youth's suspension from Soquel High School, Lowman said.

The meeting will include a question and answer period and an open forum in which all interested persons will be invited to voice their views.

Lowman also disclosed that a leaflet protesting the code which was distributed at the three city high schools on opening day was drafted at a meeting of students at the Peace Center on September 9.

He said opposition to the code is centered at Santa Cruz High.