

Professional, but not safe



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Guest Writer

Harding's Friendly Markets may not be all its cracked up to be. While on the outside it looks like a quaint little grocery store, the inside is a land of many rules that employees must follow to the finest of details; specifically, the dress code for males that requires neckties.

The dress code requires men to wear dress pants, a dress shirt, a tie, apron and nametag at all times. Sure, this dress code does make employees look professional, but the jobs at Harding's are not the type that should require a professional look.

"I think its unnecessary to wear formal attire [ties] in a setting that is not formal," said Loy Norrix senior and Harding's employee Ricardo Escamilla.

While customers may believe that the main aspect of a job at Harding's is to interact with customers, in reality much more goes on. Employees must clean bathrooms, mop floors, empty and care for bottle machines, create and stack shelves, and move large containers, along with many more janitorial tasks.

The fact is, the job is dirty, and the strict dress code not only interferes with an employees

ability to complete these jobs but also to complete them safely. Ties constantly bob around an employees torso, such as when workers are emptying bottle machines or throwing boxes into the bailer, and then distract workers from tasks that are potentially dangerous. Heavy machinery is present in Harding's and attention must be paid in order to prevent injury. Therefore, this petty rule should be disregarded so that a safer environment can be created for employees.

Instead of ties, most male employees agree that a simple polo would suffice for the work environment. Employees of other businesses remark that polo's have advantages in their profession.

"We wear polo's at Burger King and they work great because they look nice and don't hinder our ability to complete jobs safely," said BK employee and Loy Norrix senior Enrico Montalvo.

Polo's are a great way to look nice at work and keep employees from becoming distracted by their attire. The light material they are made of would also help keep employees cool during the summer season when temperature can reach over ninety degrees.

While I may disagree with the current dress code, Harding's has been a great first job for me and many other local teenagers. It has provided many real-world experiences that will be useful in the future and also a great environment to become acquainted with the work ethic needed in future careers.