

SIDETRACKS RETURNS

See Friday Scene for our teen section.



"It's a lot better this year because the girls aren't trying to look extremely adorable."

- Brittany Johnson, 15, Christian Brothers High School ▶

Public schools, such as those in Elk Grove, and private schools, such as Christian Brothers High School in Oak Park, have seen it all.

Christian Brothers amended its uniform policy last year and again this year. In 2004, the Catholic school began requiring all students who wear polo shirts to buy CB-monogrammed polos at the school bookstore because the girls' shirts were too tight-fitting.

This year, Steve Barsanti, dean of students, says the school instituted a couple of more subtle changes.

"For health and safety reasons, we are not allowing students to wear flip-flops or sandals," he says. "This is particularly important in science labs where something could get spilled."

Barsanti says the school now does not allow skirts or dresses. Girls can still wear shorts to their knees, capris or long pants.

"The skirts and dresses (on liturgy days) became a bit of a problem," he says, "because students were pushing the limits. They were too short."

Parochial schools set their