

Dancing ban grinds my gears
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By Rick Snee

Normally, I don't report the news. I find it depressing at best and downright scary more often. However, every so often, a story – nay, a cause – will catch my attention, and I feel that it is my journalistic duty to report on it and tell you exactly what to think. It's not spinach, Israel or even marriage amendments: it's our right to grind at school dances.

I'm not a dancer. In elementary school, I made MC Hammer record shrivel up in shame. In high school, my neck was stuck for a week after attempting to head bang while listening to Nine Inch Nails cassette. I left sweaty palm prints on several prom dresses, broke two toes and concealed at least 10 erections while slow dancing. I even tried swing dancing for a bit, but only learned that I can yank arms out of sockets. Gene Kelly I most certainly was not by a long shot.

But at every dance and socially awkward scene involving music, a hip-hop song would slip past the school censors. I only had to move a little to the left, a little to the right (erection optional), while ladies would poke their butt into me. The grind was a gift to my generation that postponed my inevitable suicide (until I finally choose a cult out of the bunch).

Imagine my horror when I read “High school dances grind to a halt” in New Hampshire's *Concord Monitor*. The story detailed Concord High School's attempts to ban grinding or, as Principle Gene Connolly calls it, “feigning a sex act.”

There is no listed date for the first dance pair that grinded or freak-danced, but Wikipedia.org (a source never to be questioned) commonly associates it with hip-hop and house music. In other words, grinding is one of the many positive developments in American culture since minorities were allowed to sing in public.

Before the development of the blues and jazz, which evolved into hip-hop, white kids had square dancing and the chicken dance. It was a dark time, when elderly men with mouth harps would bark orders and expect revelers to obey every command. I've even heard rumors of couples who were shot for performing the Allemande Left instead of promenading.

The chicken dance, however, was the most suggestive dance Caucasians could come up with. Modeled after chicken mating rituals, men would sexually flap their “wings” to demonstrate their inability to fly. Med with the most athletic flapping patterns and largest wingspan won the chance to breed, which is reflected in the butt-shaking/roosting part in the dance. The pinching motion was added in the 19th century to demonstrate groping ability.

If Concord wants to ban freak dancing, then they had better ban the totalitarian square – and sexual chicken dances, as well.

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