

Versus smoky campus restrooms

Go-ahead to smoke weighed

by **BOB MELTON**
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Is possibly encouraging high school students to begin smoking too high a price to pay to clear miserable, smoke-filled school restrooms for the health and comfort of non-smoking youngsters?

That seems to be the crucial question as East County high

school students, their parents and school teachers, administrators and trustees debate the possibility of allowing on-campus smoking by students.

SENATE BILL 171, passed by the state legislature this year and effective Jan. 1, 1976, will allow local school boards to permit smoking on high school

campuses, as long as it is not in classrooms or other closed areas students are required to occupy.

Trustees of the Grossmont Union High School District, accounting for the nine of the 10 East County high schools, have scheduled a Dec. 15 public forum for considering predic-

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Go-ahead to smoke?

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tably heated debate from students and parents

The East County's 10th high school, Patrick Henry in San Carlos, is not quite so agog over the matter. San Diego Unified School District trustees who govern it have accepted a legal ruling that the bill will allow on-campus smoking only by students who have reached 18 (see accompanying stories).

WHILE MOST students, including many who don't smoke, indicate support for designated smoking areas, area parents seem more seriously divided over the issue.

To allow on-campus smoking would "fly in the face of all logic, considering the millions of dollars being spent to educate people to the fact that smoking is dangerous," said Dale Marriott, 45, of 5480 Connecticut Ave. in La Mesa.

Marriott, a deputy district attorney with two of his chil-



Life News photo

DR. ELAINE MCLEVIE For campus smoking

163 S. Stephanie Lane in El Cajon. She has one daughter attending Valhalla High School.

"I'm not a smoker myself, so it's a little ironic that I'm advocating smoking areas," she said. "It's not so much that I

closed place is a major concern. The smoking area they set up the next year cleared the bathrooms.

MRS. McLEVIE said smoking areas should be set up "without a great deal of fuss, or negativism.

"The problem is most critical from the non-smoker's point of view," she said. "It should be emphasized to those who need to smoke 'If there are things you have to do, do them where they don't bother other people.'

"As far as the question of whether smoking areas would reinforce smoking I think the real issue is that it's a bit hypocritical in a society to tell a group of people 'You can't smoke,' when their parents smoke."

MARRIOTT, on the other hand, disputed the notion that there are high school students who "have to" smoke.

"I think the idea that there are high school students addicted to tobacco is pop-pycock!" he said.

"It's not an addiction in the sense of a drug, it's just a question of learning what else to do with your hands.