

by Debbie Bell

Last year's grads tell: How college is different

Ming Shuie

Ming Shuie, now attending the Institute of Technology, finds school a lot more difficult than last year at Ramsey. "Homework -- they cram you full."

He's loaded with sixteen credits this quarter and finds the competition hard. "Grades are a lot tougher. There's nobody to bring the curve down."

The students in his math and chemistry classes are the cream of the high school crop and grades on a test are very high, often with perfect papers. "If you get a 99, that's pretty bad" compared with the rest of the class," he said.

"It's an entirely wrong idea that you have more freedom in college," Shuie comments. "You have to pick a major. In high school you have a little more choice."

"Ramsey is about the best you can get," Shuie says of the background Ramsey has given him. "It prepares you generally pretty well...just as good as any other place."

But Shuie feels more responsibility would have prepared him better for college. "Ramsey doesn't give you much personal freedom." As for transition from high school to college, "Snap, like that. Your strings are free. I just realized that I had to do something completely on my own."

Mark Gilquist

Mark Gilquist's most difficult adjustment to college was required Freshmen English. "Freshman English is slowing a lot of people down. From being on 'Blueprint' last year, I was used to a certain style of writing, and it was a complete turn-around."

He feels a writing class should be included in Ramsey's curriculum so that students can go through as little Freshman English as possible.

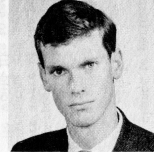
Gilquist, attending the University Institute of Technology, is taking physics, calculus, and computer courses. He feels Ramsey prepared him well in the math department, and said, it was excellent--probably too excellent. "I'm ahead."

Ramsey has basically good curriculum, he thinks, but college prep courses would be a great help to students. "Students get out of Ramsey and don't know where the hell they're at."

Another major problem in college is the expense. Tuition went up last year at the U, which makes it \$135 per quarter, plus a \$35 fee for incidentals such as the newspaper and health insurance. Then, there is the added expense of books, on which Gilquist said he spent about \$75 for the first quarter. And the technical classes such as his, the expenses are even greater.



Ming



Pat



John



Mark

Pat Maloney
"Macalester is kind of a liberal school," says Pat Maloney. "They're more progressive and have got things going on all the time."

One of the things she likes best about Macalester as opposed to a larger school is the student-teacher relationship.

"All my classes have about twenty people in them. The teachers are so great as far as if you've got problems. Like my first history paper wasn't so great, but the teacher was glad to help me."

Although Pat isn't under a great deal of pressure right now, there are some students at Macalester who are having a bad time. "It's hard after a while, plodding through classes, some kids really despair."

Many freshmen don't plan on finishing college because of the pressure. But she thinks her schedule makes it easier for her. She has no math or science to worry about, and her psychology courses have been repetitious of last year's course. "I took psychology last year and it was really good. This year I could have gone onto something more advanced."

John Rukavina

"The change is so total. Everything is put on you, and nobody tells you what to do in college. There's nobody standing over you with a club."

He said that some students drop out after the first quarter because they are used to being told exactly what to do, and can't adjust. "The studies are more in your hands. If you want to do it, you do it."

College teachers seem to Rukavina, to be less personal than high school teachers. "It depends on the size of the class, though. The larger the class, the more formal the teacher will be." With a class of about 300, as in Rukavina's history class, the teacher is quite formal.

Was Ramsey a good foundation for college? "Yes, as far as I can tell. One class which was best for preparation was Literature and Methods of Social Sciences, which Mr. Johnson taught."

He thought that this course was very similar to college as far as independent work was concerned.

"High schools really fall down as far as preparation goes. Students should be given more responsibility in their work."

