

BLUEPRINT OPINIONS

Walkouts- what is purpose?

By any reasonable standard, we consider the Monday walkout a failure.

Ramsey students were not a united student body. Many students interviewed did not seem to know why they were walking out. Some were concerned about their education, but others wanted a good time. A rock music group was the only thing that kept us together on the field. Students did not have solid leadership. There was no one with a strong sense of purpose and the ability to communicate that purpose. Again, students were "caught in the middle," not knowing who to turn to for leadership.

Probably little was done Monday to get our activities back. The parents knew we were dissatisfied Friday; as a result, the teachers and the school board had made considerable progress. The only positive aspect to the walkout was that most students returned to class after making their point.

Walkouts can have many undesirable effects. Besides the disruption of the educational process, there is a real potential for physical danger. It is fortunate that no students were killed as automobiles roared out of Ramsey for the Central Park free-for-all.

If walkouts are to happen, it is a time for leadership, unity, and a sense of purpose. These are the essentials that were missing for Monday's music festival.

Demagoguery subtle threat

Recent student demonstrations illustrate the tremendous power of the demagogue in a time of frustration and mob rule. Ramsey's encounter with demagoguery, while being thankfully mild, was nevertheless distasteful.

The source of a demagogue's power lies primarily in the irrationality, frustrations and prejudices of his audience. By skillfully playing upon these, he is able to incense and sway a crowd to irresponsible actions.

The actions of the crowd, however, are not the greatest threat represented by demagogues and their like. The real danger is far more subtle than this.

Under a situation of mob rule, a person no longer has an identity. He is merely another face in the crowd who cheers when he is told to and boos whenever anybody else does. He becomes a commodity; a unit in the leader's power structure.

Besides being denied his individuality, he is also denied acknowledgement of his possession of rational, reasoning facilities. The leader, as he appoints himself, is, in essence, saying, "You are not capable of making good decisions, so, I will make them for you."

There is no room for moderate dissent. Anyone representing a moderate or a different view is soon booed and jeered to silence or physically kept from speaking. All is either black or white; good or bad. Closed minds remain closed and prejudices remain intact.

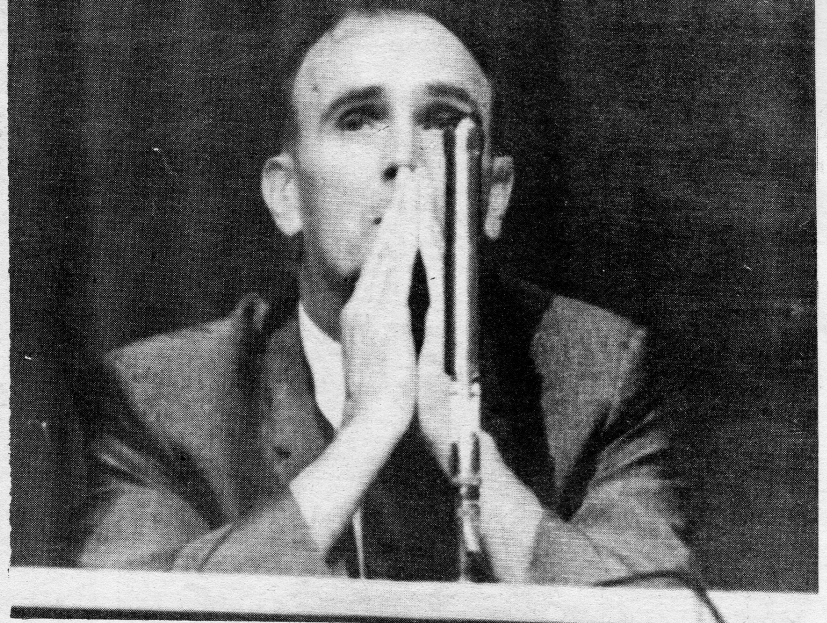
Fortunately, the grip of the demagogue is only temporary, for as soon as the individual's tension has been released, he loses interest in the whole affair.

In the future, students must learn to scrutinize their leaders with a more detached perspective rather than following anyone who professes the same frustrations.

Mini-Editorial

One thing about an activities strike. It gives students who don't do anything anyway a chance to complain about something.

PHOTO EDITORIAL



'... and deliver us from evil...'

Letters to the Editor

mob rule

As a student of Alexander Ramsey, I am very disgusted at the actions of the majority of the student body when our friendly instigator started talking to the students and turning them into a mob. I would have supported the walkout if I knew what they were taking action for.

This mob acted much in the way that the crowds did in World War II. The instigator in this case was Adolf Hitler. I am not trying to say that the student instigator was THE STEREOTYPE Adolf Hitler, but, to say that the students of Ramsey acted like the people of Germany and were taken in by an agitator.

We have lost the respect received in the past through this action.

Fred Wolf, senior

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animal rights

I am an animal. An animal has no rights, no liberty, no life.

I am an animal of labor, for I am used. I am used by ruling gods who reign above me and decree my fate and burden. These gods see fit to refuse, forbid, dissolve, obstruct, abolish, suspend, and deprive me of what I took for granted before. But I am an animal, to be used as they wish.

These lords are playing a game of endurance. One team whips and tortures me while the other team of gods ignores my suffering. The test is which team can hold the longest without stopping my beating. As my pain and frustration mount, I wonder how much longer can I bare my back to these gods? How long will they play this game? How long till they tire? But I remind myself that I am

an animal, to be used as they wish.

Once I thought I was free, and actually believed I was alive. I honestly took for granted that I had unalienable rights, that liberty and justice applied to me. But I am being used, so I must be an animal.

Carolyn Lee Muska, senior

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sit-in stupidity

For the past few days, the students of Alexander Ramsey have stood up and said that they are tired of being used between the school board and the teachers disputes. I can fully understand the point that the students are making. I too would like to see band, Rambler, and

other activities back in session. I am very glad that the students are standing up for what they themselves believe in. The fact that they show such an interest is highly important, but when they continue to proceed in protesting while at the same time losing an education, then I think that it's sheer stupidity. Sure, I want the student body to stand up and be counted, but is it not going too far?

Be it granted that the student body is more greatly affected than our parents, but, nevertheless, it SHOULD be left up to our parents. Our parents should be protesting, not us. Not only are we losing out on our fifth hour activities, but we are losing out in our education, which I feel is A HELL OF A LOT MORE IMPORTANT. At this rate we are losing out at both ends. It's nice to take a stand for what you believe in, but it's of more importance to watch WHERE you're standing.

Tony Olivier, senior

BLUEPRINT

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All letters to the editor are welcomed if signed and free from libelous material. Names will be withheld upon request.

This publication will not avoid dealing with controversial issues -- school, local or national.

All moves toward the betterment of the school will be promoted by this paper.

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