

mcj

by Mark Johnson

Of mice and demagogues

In the past few weeks, our school has seen more than its share of demonstration and student unrest. There has been chaos, hatred and ill-will. However, make no mistake about it. These past weeks haven't been all fun and games. Someone had to put in the time, effort and prejudice to make our walk-outs such a resounding success. Yes, in this column I salute

Kellogg High School's Bud "Stokely" Crammit: The one who made it all possible!!!

leadership

Crammit's individualistic sense of ethics and leadership were noticeable from the very beginning, when, as an infant in the maternity ward, he organized the world's first babies' walk-out in protest of doctor brutality at birth. Crammit's aversion to being spanked continued through his childhood and into his early teens. He persisted, however, in his fight against violence and successfully organized a sit-in at the "Lucky Whip" factory in protest of the overt ferocity in their television advertising. Fresh from a two week personal appearance in the Selby-Dale area, where he was voted "Most Likely to Secede," he immediately began to organize a protest against the loss of activities upon his return to school this fall.

he planned his demonstration.

"At 9:05 we're gonna talk out of da school, proceed to march down B-2, meet the Ramsey students at Lexington and then continue to Central Park where we will have a peaceful human sacrifice." At this point Debbie Dinglefelt, pseudo intellectual and member of Ramsey's beautiful people, rasped, "You know what we really oughta do, Bud," Debbie said, "Is set fire to the district offices and sing, "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" as it goes down in flames."

"Boy, are you ever stupid," Crammit snapped, "That's for HALLOWEEN!!! Can't you get nuthin' straight?"

why demonstrate?

"But why even have a demonstration at all?" I asked. "Why not simply talk to the board?"

"WHAT!!!!???" cried Crammit and Dinglefelt in unison. "After all this build-up, just talking to the board would be an anticlimax! It would be like getting the hiccups after making love!" Words were beginning to come little easier now to Crammit.

Debbie gave Crammit another rest and took the conversation over for a while.

great plan

"We got a great plan for a walkout," she said. "First we let Bud address the teachers. We then quietly slip the students out of the school while the teachers are laughing. It's fool-proof." Bud had stopped wheezing and looked able to talk once again.

"One last thing," I said, "have you got any thought for future demonstrators to live by?"

"Yes," Crammit replied, "Remember, peaceful demonstration can be a powerful and moving force--especially if it's used violently!"

good will

Crammit, a good will ambassador from Kellogg high school and part-time demagogue, spoke with me before the Ramsey sit-in of September 12.

"Make no mistake about it," he said, "We ain't gonna take no shi-er-what I mean is, no cra-er-none o' that garba-er-what I really mean is, we have simple needs because we are simple-er-no, that isn't right. What I really mean is that we are merely simple folks with simple wants and all we want is our simple activities."

I paused for a moment, giving Crammit a chance to recuperate as it seemed to have mentally exhausted him to get the last sentence out. After giving Crammit a moment to catch his breath and a chance for his cronies to congratulate him on his perseverance with the language, I then asked him how

Quotable Quotes

"A true teacher defends his pupils against his own personal influence."
Amos Bronson Alcott
(1799-1888)
from "Orphic Sayings"



caught playing with fire

Messiah exchange causes many problems

by Craig Eckert

The first official mention of a strike or walk-out, during the "student leader" meetings came from members of Kellogg and, for all practical purposes, was without authority.

Granted, they were activists in the Kellogg Student Council but, keep that statement in mind-the KELLOGG Student Council, not Ramsey and not District 623.

Their apparent leader, Bob Cravitt, was given the right to speak to the students and he said that Kellogg and Ramsey would walk out in protest of the teacher-board negotiations.

The important point here is not Cravitt's attitude or manner of presentation but the fact that he was let in, unquestioned, to the school and, finally, the meeting.

Another incident occurred when a couple of Ramseyites transported themselves over to Fairview Junior High and proceeded to encourage a walk-out there.

I convey yet another instance when, again, Kellogg and Ramsey students set out to raise a little proverbial hell. Monday, Sept. 15, after about 700 Ramsey people left the building for the football field, between 100 and 200 "Kelloggians" also dropped in and encouraged a march on Central Park.

Apparently some of Ramsey's "concerned" students felt obliged to return the gesture and drove to Kellogg to try and get

the majority of their students worked up, since it was reported that only a small minority of Kellogg's students left class.

Ramsey struck again at 12:30 that very same day when some of our "official representatives" arrived for a Kellogg Student Council meeting.

Whether I or anyone else, is in favor of, or lividly against student walk-outs is totally irrelevant in these instances. What I am trying to point out is the fact that the actions taken by students of Kellogg, Ramsey, and surrounding Junior High Schools may not have been, and probably weren't, planned by the individual schools themselves.

In almost every case, outsiders brought out more emotion and furor than was present before their arrival.

It isn't that people shouldn't be allowed to speak or exercise their right to protest. We have to consider the fact that the environment at one school is not entirely the same as that at another.

School administrations are as different as night and day as well as the students who attended the schools.

More peaceful, more effective and more organized protests could quite possibly have been carried out if they were "tailor made," so to speak, for each individual school.

It's about time someone realized that people worked up about a common problem are incapable of choosing a truly effective leader who can carry

the student wishes, not only during a walk-out or rally, but also when rational talks are required.

New people from different locales always seem to represent a new, more appealing solution to the situation and because of this, serious problems, such as that of personal safety in a mob situation, develop.

This free exchange of messiahs should be stopped by students - intelligent students who will question the motives of these people and make sure that if these people are allowed to speak that what they say is in a responsible, rational vein.

If students won't stop the emotion mongers, then the administrations of the school should wipe their noses and send them back to class.

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