

# Student defends idealism



"You know, sometimes I feel like telling George to stick his 'youthful idealism' and go back to Boston"

by Robert Jenkins

In a recent article an ex-Ramsyite, David Hearing, asked the younger generation to use logic and reason with respect to current important issues. He also said that each person should think for himself and not follow the crowd, and that idealism in youth is admirable. As far as this goes he and I are in agreement, but from here on the union is dissolved.

David's counsel to youth is not based on hope but on despair. He believes you can't change the world or stop wars or prevent hate or make people less selfish. This is not the idealistic view.

## youth

The idealistic position is that man can better himself and change the world around him. There are many examples of idealism providing the base for change. Slavery is no longer common; capital punishment is disappearing in the Western world; living standards are better than they have ever been before. We have changed the structures of society to limit the evil that is supposedly inherent in man. Idealistic evolution has taken over where biological evolution has left off.

A second point of his is that we should "accept guidance and

advice from the elder generation." He is saying that we should accept advice and I say we should listen to it.

To him it appears that there are two polar strategies. One is refusing advice merely because it comes from the older generation and the other is accepting advice for the same reason.

The best course of action is neither of these extremes but lies in a truly thoughtful tactic: weighing advice and considering many alternatives. One shouldn't blindly commit himself to any one view but should think it through before acting on it. A good attitude toward advice is to ask why you should follow that advice. Don't accept it only on faith.

Listen to your elders. Socrates, an adult, said in Plato's "Republic" . . . " . . . They will rediscover rules of behavior which their predecessors have let fall into disuse, including matters supposed to be of little importance: how the young should be silent in the presence of their elders, give up their seats to them, and take dutiful care of their parents; not to mention details of personal appearance, such as the way their hair is cut and the clothes and shoes they wear. It would be silly, I think, to make laws on these matters; such habits cannot be established or kept up by written legislation. It is probable, at any rate, that the best

given by education will determine the quality for one another, till they finally mount up to one imposing result, whether for good or ill. For that reason I should not myself be inclined to push legislation to that length."

## idealism

Here's what one adult has to say in SCIENCE, March 1970, "Student Unrest; Sources and Consequences," by Leon Eisenberg, Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School "The energy, idealism, and intelligence of youth are the prime resources of each nation; if those resources are to be wisely spent our youth must be involved in the mainstream of national life. Youth is impatient--as it should be--with excuses for perpetuating evil. In the excess of its zeal, it sometimes abandons reason. But he who does not lose his mind over certain things has no mind to lose."

Change depends on people taking unpopular stands. There will always be a resistance to change, but change we will and change we must. We must not stop now but keep on trying to improve the human condition. Let us not cast aside idealistic goals, but instead use them along with the council of our elders and our intelligence to preserve the noble in man and stifle the base and ignoble.

mcj

by Mark Johnson



## and the winner is...

I am sitting in front of the tube, eating a piece of Sarah Lee cheesecake, being intellectually affronted by the Academy Awards program.

Okay, let's assume that John Wayne IS an actor. Okay, let's assume that "Hello, Dolly!" WAS one of the year's five best pictures. Okay, let's assume that someone STILL believes in all that ceremonial baloney. There is still nothing, from my point of view, that elevates this from the average high school letter assembly except, perhaps, for the fact that at least you can turn off the TV. At any rate, it seems that the absurdity and magnitude of these awards seem to grow with each year. Each year the endless procession of Max Factored faces seem to grow longer.

As I sit my mind begins to wander and my TV picture begins to blur. . . and soon. . .

## ramsey presents...

"Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is Bob Hope speaking to you from Alexander Ramsey High School and I'm here for this year's annual "Academy of All-Around Everything Award Show."

It's a tense moment in the gymnasium, it's the social bash of the year and everyone is in formal dress (for athletes that means black socks). Even the gym is decorated (Canteen Council so wisely chose "Your Neighborhood YMCA" as the theme).

"Our first award today is for 'Best Administrator,'" said Hope. "The nominees are Mr. Curtis Johnson for 'They Cream Cheese, Don't They?'" and Mr. Richard St. Germain for 'The Sterile Cuckoo Clock.' And the winner is .....(gaspl)..... MR. CURTIS JOHNSON!!"

There is an uproar. Mr. Johnson receives his award (the "Wilber") amid thunderous applause.

## mcsweat pulls 1st

"Our next category is for 'Best Student,'" continues Hope, "The nominees are Gloryfeet MCSweat for 'Easy Jogger,' Renee kah-Rah for 'Paint Your Homecoming Float' and Penny Pep in 'Ram of a Thousand Days.' And the winner is .....(gaspl gaspl)..... GLORYFEET MCSWEAT!!"

Thunderous applause. Gloryfeet jogs to the stage to get his Wilber. He stumbles on the top step leading to the stage. Coach Ben "Pile Driver" Gay assists the hysterical youth from the stage. More applause as MCSweat limps off the stage.

"Our final category is for 'Best Radical in a Supporting Role' and the nominees are Bud 'Stokely' Krammitt for 'Midnight Fascist,' Murray Molotov for 'The Reivers,' and Gloria Muckmind for 'The Wild Bunch? And the winner is . . . ."

But, before he got to announce the winner, the bell rang and the place emptied faster than a Koshers delicatessen on Yom Kipur and Hope was left alone facing a group of gangly sophomores vainly trying to master the Teeton Mountain Stompto the cracking of an antique record player and the instructions of an irate gym teacher.

Mother woke me and informed me that it was three o'clock and that I had been smiling mindlessly at a test pattern for four hours.

Believe it or not, the test pattern was the best part of the show.

# What Chuck hath wrought FORWARD TOGETHER

by Steve Judge

It seems this year we have had the misfortune of a Student Council that hasn't worked to its fullest potential. This article is not a defense of the Council but an attempt to shed some light on the subject. This then could be called an analysis of the Council.

One problem of the Student Council is the student who doesn't seem to care. The reason he doesn't care is because he feels the Council hasn't done and won't do anything for the student.

For this type of attitude to develop, both the student and the Council must have made some mistakes. These mistakes were made by the Council as well as by the student. The student made the mistake of believing the Council hasn't done anything with him. The Council has worked on several worthwhile projects.

1. Mini-Courses. This year Council implemented the Mini-Courses. It is something that each student can get involved in.

2. Voluntary Lyceums. The students complained that they shouldn't be forced to go to the lyceums. Now, because of the work of the Council there are alternative studies.

3. School Exchange. This was successful in its primary goal of getting ideas from other schools. But it also got students involved in Council work who wouldn't have become involved otherwise.

4. Forum. This was a great program last year, the students asked for it again. This year we have two days.

5. Earth Day Forum. The idea for this project was obtained from Council sponsored activities and many people got involved in it through the Council.

6. Flick In. Each of these have been fun as well as a good money making project.

The student who says that the Council has done nothing with them is mistaken.

If the students feel alienated from the Council then there must have been actions or attitudes on the part of the Council and mem-

bers that have alienated them. Here the Council is at fault.

When you find fault in something then you can change it. The rest of next year must be spent correcting this fault.

Arthur's portraiture

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