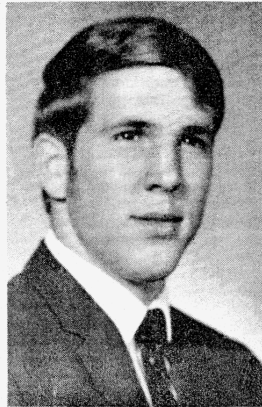
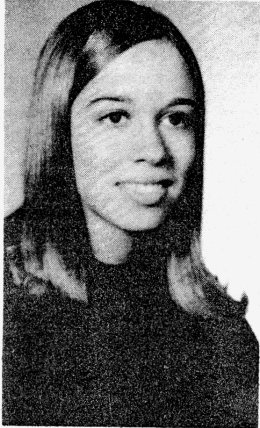


Abilene sends two exchange students



by Kathy Haggerty

Paul Hettenback and Anne Morse, both seniors from Abilene, Kansas, will arrive tomorrow,

April 4, for a two-week visit to Ramsey, and St. Paul.

Abilene is a city of less than 8000 people, about a fourth of the size of Roseville. The high school in Abilene contains about 600 kids from grades 9-12.

Paul and Anne are the second phase of an exchange program with Abilene. Linda Kampff and Tim Heil, both Ramsey seniors, were sent to Abilene in early March.

The reactions of Tim and Linda on return from their exchange

trip to Abilene, Kansas, could easily be mistaken as the review of a fantastic play, rock festival or anything you would consider "fabulous."

"Super!", "Really great!", "A gas!", and an emphatic "Sure did!" in answer to "Did you feel it was worth while?," head the list of exclamations Tim and Linda used while reminiscing their stay in Abilene.

be shown the sights in St. Paul, although Tim wants to keep that kind of activity to a minimum. Tim and Linda hope Ramsey can give the Abilene students a good taste of the social life we have.

Tim and Linda's trip to Abilene was sponsored by Canteen Council

after its presentation to Student Council was voted down. Anne and Paul are being sponsored by four civic groups in Abilene.

Ramsey's students Tim and Linda, spent every minute in Abilene participating in planned activities, which began with being met by a group of Abilene students, followed by a beer party in the park (not an unusual event since the lawful drinking age is 18) and then a welcome party at a student's house.

Both Tim and Linda emphatically feel that their trip was worthwhile and the Ramsey should continue an exchange program in the future.

DRUGS: What is being done about it

by Grant Blank

Roseville is (and has been for the past several years) the center of illegal drug traffic for the northern suburbs and most of St. Paul.

Sources indicate Roseville is probably more turned on to drugs than any other suburb in the Twin Cities. One highly reliable source said, of the two or three biggest pushers, that he knew of in the Twin Cities, all lived in Roseville and had gone to Ramsey.

Several kinds of drugs are floating around Ramsey at the present time. The most common drugs are Marijuana (known as pot or grass) and Methedrine (speed). The supply of grass however is dropping rapidly, evidently due to a drying up of sources of supply on the West Coast.

Acid (LSD) and smack (heroin) are also available, but only in small quantities. At the present time there isn't much of a market for either one.

Drugs seem to be mainly concentrated in the younger age brackets. One source estimated that there are more sophomores presently using drugs than there are juniors or seniors. Further, right now there is a concentration of drugs moving into the Junior high school.

Several measures are presently being introduced in an attempt to control the drug problem.

At the district level there is a new program going into effect. It will be divided into three basic areas:

1.) The district is forming a community drug council to better educate the community at large, (note: the PTA is also starting its own drug education program, but this is entirely separate from the district's education program).

2.) A program in drug use is being prepared for the teachers. "Most of the teachers went to



"Drugs belong to a different culture and I don't really think teachers understand drugs and the drug culture. Like the community they need education."



3.) The district is thinking of a curriculum change particularly in the Junior high and elementary schools. There is also a slight chance that the senior high health class curriculum will be changed.

Most users don't believe that the schools can do much beyond stopping a few marginal users who would have probably quit anyway.

One Ramsey student put it this way, "There are in American society, especially in the suburban high school areas, two cultures that exist side by side. There is the normal social culture that everyone thinks of automatically when they think of the suburbs and there is the social deviants, who used to come out of the lower classes and the poor."

Until the schools understand why these deviants now come out of the middle class they'll never be able to do anything about the dope problem."

A survey was recently administered throughout the district (as well as in parochial schools in the community) in an attempt to discover the full scope of the drug problem. However, as Carten said, "the survey will show what people are willing to say about drugs, not necessarily the truth about them."

The survey may also be inaccurate in the sense that it's not precise enough. For example, concerning the question: "When did you last use Marijuana?", the answer covering the last period of time was "1-3 weeks." One knowledgeable drug user estimated that as many as 200 students at Ramsey could have checked an answer reading "Within the past 2 hours."

At Ramsey itself several new ideas are being tried in addition to the normal drugs unit in the sophomore health classes.

Under the unofficial direction of Richard St. Germain, assistant principal, a student committee and a faculty committee have been set up for the purpose of looking into new approaches to the problem.

Next fall several ideas from these committees will probably be incorporated into Ramsey's schedule. One of these will be a mini-course on drugs.

A schoolwide "Youth Emergency Service" is being planned at Ramsey to serve as a prototype for the entire district. This will serve as a special counseling and referral service for students who contact it with a particular problem.

Another approach that might be tried is an all-day drug forum, similar to the pollution forum that has been set up for April 21. No one however seems to be exactly sure whether this has

been approved or not, so there is some doubt as to when it will take place, if at all.

Besides the efforts of the school at large there is a great deal of unofficial drug counseling between students and certain teachers. More than one teacher believes that this type of close personal counseling is the only really effective means of combating the use of drugs.

If any of these new programs will effectively cut down on the number of users or even prevent other students from starting remains to be seen. Cynicism runs high among many persons connected with the drug scene as to whether any sort of program that the district of the school may introduce will be effective.

IDS

Discussions, movies replace books

by Karen Jarvis

When the last third hour bell rings students file into the classrooms and sit mechanically in their assigned seats. The teacher takes role and tells the students their assignments.

The Independent Directed Studies Class (IDS) is different. The students are required to do a certain amount of work but for the most part they choose what they want to do. For the IDS students, education is taken out of the textbook and put into contemporary life.

Speakers and movies are brought in about current problems: Vietnam, The Arab-Israeli War, welfare, and pollution.

The teachers, Victorine and White, direct the discussions and also help the students with any problems they have in or out of school.

IDS was formed in 1968 for students who don't like or can't "adjust" to the regular classroom set-ups.

Gustafson explained how IDS is different from other classes.

"You can show your own expression. You don't have to hide anything. It's good this way. You get a lot of things off your mind."

"The students that come out here are ahead." Gustafson con-

tinued, "We know what the outside world is like, we hear different people's attitudes. You sit in history class and learn about the past and not the future. It's a big step when you get out of high school."

Grant Boyd, another IDS student likes IDS because no one bothers him about assignments.

"You can study if you want to but you don't have to. No one's on your back all the time."

Gustafson believes that the IDS program should be extended to all other classes except math.

"Teachers shouldn't tell the students what to do. The students should organize the class because the students have to organize their lives. Some of these teachers should be kicked out because they're not totally honest with the students. If they have health teachers who teach sex education, they should be experienced."

Student assistant Jan Clark said "The students are more alert and more open. Everyone is more honest, kids have a more realistic view of life."

The IDS students have had some trouble from teachers catching them in the halls without passes. "They're jealous because we get away from their classes," pointed out Gustafson.

In one corner of the IDS room four students were playing 500 Rummy. Some where else a small group of students were having a discussion of sex. People were walking around. The teachers were talking to individual students. One boy was demanding that the rules be changed so he could graduate.

"I have 15 1/2 credits, but only 14 1/2 credits this year. Squeak and Gooding want me to go to summer school."

One student was sleeping on a desk. He said he was tired and didn't want to do anything but said he would participate when there was something that interested him.

"Yesterday we had a fantastic argument," he smiled, "there was real expression."

"At first the teachers didn't give us an explanation of IDS like school usually does, but it has worked out really good," concluded Gustafson.

"Please come back next Wed. and hear our speaker on welfare."

Computer club offers help

There's now an opportunity for a computer to be at the services of the students and faculty.

Ramsey Computer Activity (RCA) is willing to tackle problems that might be brought to them. RCA can process project data, extrapolate expenses, sorting students grades, and graphing "toughies."

Eldon Eddy explained that the service is free and that the reason the service is offered is be-

cause RCA "has run out of things to do." RCA has done a lot of statistics programming and some work for the guidance office this year.

Eddy went on to say that the average person probably doesn't know whether a computer will help him with his particular problem. However, he urges students to bring their problems to him, in room 254 or see Dave Messer, junior; Dave Venne, junior; or Bob Williams, senior.