

rap on religion

more I began to wonder just how useful it was for me. I couldn't see myself in that setting."

She has investigated other religions and has come to the decision that she is not an atheist, but "more of an agnostic. I would be open to a suggestion; I just hope that I would be unbiased enough not to throw out other ideas."

Her reasons for disbelief in a supreme being are plain to her. "If there was a creator, he wouldn't let the world go to pot this way. I feel humanity is what is fouling things up this way. We're just not cooperating with him. She feels that the problems of the world today are caused by people and are "just a bunch of piddly little things" that humanity must go through.

Her disagreement with organized religion is another deciding factor. "I don't think the important thing is to join an organized religion'. I can't accept the preaching from the pulpit about the whole Christian syndrome. You can love thy neighbor, but there are certain exceptions.

They give you this, and then they turn around and spank you for not doing it under the right circumstances."

She believes that Jesus Christ was a great prophet, but not divine. There have been many Jesus Christs in our society, she feels, but that nowadays these so-called prophets would be locked up as fanatics. "Jesus was just one man in history we became very attached to. He had a great deal to say and he came up at a time when people really needed someone to believe in. He was an opportunist; one of the more famous prophets who had very dynamic personalities." She doesn't mean to be sacrilegious in her ideas, but just thinks that "a Christ figure, in a way, is anyone who has a strong philosophy and carries it out to a great degree and gets a large following."

"Everyone should sort himself out to what's right for him," says Steve Lenn, junior. He feels that his parents, Baptist and Mennonite, offered him an excellent background religiously. "They showed me the teachings of Christ - what they believed in and why they believed it, and I chose for myself." His parents took him to church with them and talked to him a great deal on the subject when he was younger, but he never made a solid practice of going to church. "When I did go I recognized it as a social need, but I have no recollection of going for spiritual enlightenment."

Steve feels that people confuse a spiritual need with a social need in going to church. "A church is a building. The Church today and the Church Christ talked about are two completely different things. If God is petty enough to believe the only place you can find him is in a church, then I want no part of Him. I believe He is an omnipresent thing."

Steve looks upon Christ as the greatest man who ever lived. He believes in what Christ preached about love and charity towards one's fellow man, and in finding God you find yourself. "To understand God is to understand all we need to know about living. God is Love, God is everything. To look at a flower and to see yourself and life and beauty and to see yourself in all that is to find God." He brought out something from the Bible that Christ once said which goes something like: "to lose yourself is to find yourself; to find yourself is to lose it again." A quote like this brings out the complexity of religion. But however religion is interpreted, according to Steve, "God is the ultimate trip;,"

Parents require religion

Most Ramsey students feel that religion is important in the lives.

A random poll showed that 90% of those students who are not required to go to church, go.

Only 30% of those who go to church are not required to.

The students were also questioned whether they believed in God or not. Of those that go to church 78% believe in heaven and hell.

A large 15% did not answer the question. One student who did not answer the question made the comment, "Earth is Hell!"

Presbyterian - 11%
Methodist - 9%
Baptist - 6%
Episcopalian - 5%
Protestant - 3%
Other - 6%
No Answer - 5%

3. DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?
Yes - 90%
No - 5%
Other - 5%

4. DO YOU BELIEVE IN HEAVEN AND HELL?
Yes - 75%
No - 10%
Other - 15%

5. DO YOUR PARENTS REQUIRE YOU TO GO TO CHURCH?
Yes - 37%
No - 60%
Other - 3%

6. DO YOUR PARENTS GO TO CHURCH?
never - 12%
sometimes - 26%
regularly - 58%
other - 4%

BP POLL

1. DO YOU GO TO CHURCH?
never - 6%
Sometimes - 42%
regularly - 50%
other answer - 2%

2. WHAT RELIGION ARE YOU?
Lutheran - 27%
Catholic - 29%

Clean shaven Christians

with healthy clipped nails

Sit gracefully in polished pews, their

polythene wives wearing Lady Clairol hair

piled high

to the sky

The musical organ swells as a round

facéd, white robed man sweeps across

the carpeting, bows his head

and urges the audience to chant

with him.

When his solo comes on, he screams

"Jesus is a Cel-e-bration!"

by Sally Heuer

Christianity

ident apathy

ochial schools at some time. "I don't know of any parish that is successful with this age group." Says Richardson, "I'm going to keep my kids in Catholic Schools."

Contemporary masses have been taking place at St. Rose since the new church was finished "over a year ago, but religion class participation hasn't increased.

Richardson feels that lack of interest may be caused from family relationships. "We have to get right into the homes and see what the relationship is - maybe there isn't any."

"I may have to get up and give a lecture at mass sometime to present the problem to the parents."

inspires enthusiasm

"You need two things to understand Christ. You need a divine sense of humor so that you may spread joy and happiness. And/or need an incision so that you may understand what pain is like," said Father Burry.

"For the incision you will have to make a sacrifice. Make the sacrifice whether it's joining the Peace and Freedom Party, resisting the draft, or fighting for peace."

He ended his sermon by praying that people see straving people, repressed this cross.

Everyone joined hands to sing the last song. People called out prayer messages.

"I pray for the students starting next quarter."

"I pray for the old people who are forgotten."

"Peace be with you. Peace be with you. Peace be with you," could be heard echoing through the church as the people leaving,

greeting each other in a gesture of love. Sue George, a Ramsey student, said that,

"At last they're bringing religion down

where people are, so they can get into

it. They used to do the mass in a foreign language and I couldn't get into it.

Now they sing things like "Let the Sun shine In" which people can understand."

The guitar mass is a symbol of today's hanging religion. People are becoming directly involved, instead of being listeners in an audience.

