

BLUEPRINT OPINIONS

Lyceums and student choice

We feel that the majority of the students of Alexander Ramsey are mature enough to choose what they do or do not want to see in a lyceum program.

The fact that the student body maturely accepted the abolishment of the dress code should be an indication to the administration and district that they are also ready for a program of voluntary lyceums. We feel that the transition to such a program would be mature and intelligent.

In some cases, the lyceums would even be enhanced by such a change. With a smaller but more interested audience, lyceums would be more intimate, fresher and more stimulating.

A common argument against such a program is that students will miss a valuable educational experience should they choose to remain in class. While this argument ideally has merit, it cannot be considered valid until the quality of the lyceum itself is improved. Until the Minnesota Symphony actually DOES replace fall sports awards assemblies, this argument will continue to fail to hold water.

Mini-Editorial

At this point it is important for the Student Council to consider just WHAT they are rather than WHO they are.

Letters to the Editor

Student calls last issue 'poorest ever.'

I considered the last issue of the BLUEPRINT to be one of the poorest ever put out. Two stories especially stand out as mediocrity in journalism. Firstly, the page one article on Student Council is a one-sided, editorialized piece of copy. My gripe with it is that it belongs on the editorial page instead of the news section. With our policy of "fair and accurate in-depth reporting," I feel that the article commits hypocrisy of the highest degree. For example, the use of "swagger," the lead sentence, the satirism throughout the whole article prevent

it from being a decent piece of copy.

Secondly, the article "... and a super ball! What difference does it make if Drange and Thurlow play with a super ball? Just because they do not act in the dignified manner to which they, supposedly, must adhere doesn't mean anything. Also, the part about Meek searching for the word "trophy case" is ridiculous. May I ask for the significance that makes that remark so very important?

By the selection of the quotes, the article came off slanted. Quotes are an excellent tool

for editorializing simply by the insertion or deletion of certain of them. If you feel you can justify these two articles in light of objective reporting please do so.

Keith Crane, Junior

JA defended

In the Nov. 17 issue of Blueprint there was an article dealing with the MSU. A statement was made in this story to the effect that, Junior Achievement is connected with a company that manufactures Vietnam weapons.

The company referred to is Honeywell which manufactures fragmentation bombs. I would like to make it clear in what way J. A. is associated with Honeywell.

J. A. is a non-political, non-profit making organization which operates entirely on donations of time and money from large and small companies around the nation. Honeywell is only one of these many companies. By accepting money from Honeywell, J. A. is neither condoning nor condemning what Honeywell does. The J. A. program would just as happily accept donations from the MSU.

Bruce Johnson,
senior

Ann Flanagan, Junior



Holman's Heroes

THE TESTING TRAUMA



by Jeff Holman
Blueprint Editor

In the library students were having the MSAT, otherwise known as Minnesota's Scholastic Asinine Trauma.

As the clock struck 9:10 a.m., Bob Erdman handed me my copy. I had shown up a little late, as I figured I'd better go to the bathroom before I took my test.

The test-writers first en-

deavored to scare me to death by stating how important their test was. The test would be used for consideration to certain colleges, permission to participate in outside activities, and schedule changes.

The schedule changes concerned me. I wanted one right now--out of here. And I wondered about the outside activities clause. I had always considered testing outside activities. Perhaps if I got a low score I would not be permitted to take any more tests.

Then the moment came when I was instructed to turn the page and begin. The test was about as interesting reading as the St. Paul Telephone Book. Except that the phone book has some logic to it--it is arranged alphabetically.

The test consisted mainly of reading and verbal exercises. Some of the words were really cute. In a typical exercise, we had to choose from "serenly, sereneous, serenelyness, sereneousness and serenity." By the time I was done with that, I wasn't in a serene mood. I had some really cute words for the test, but I did not want to offend Coach Erdman.

One of the reading exercises had a little math thrown in, and they wanted to know something about the value of "M". I thought they might be asking about the value of MSAT. But I couldn't find "zero" among the answers.

I wondered if some of the words on the test existed only in the mind of the testers. But

then, I remembered that all things were possible in the mind of God.

What is my objection to this kind of testing?

In a truly worthwhile educational process, we must be able to examine, argue, and savor a question. MSAT and similar tests give you no opportunity to do this.

What if a student interprets a question in a new way? What if the test-maker made a mistake? Of course, we don't find out our score until three months after the test, anyway.

Also, tests assume that everybody has had similar experiences. So they are unfair to students from unstimulating backgrounds, such as students from Ramsey. And if one is to believe the propaganda of the testing industry, one test could make the difference between becoming the President of the U. of M. and sweeping his floor.

The only value I can see in the test is as a possible measure of artistic ability. In an hour and a half you get to show how well you can make dots on a sheet of paper. I was personally trying to construct a cow with my dots, but I was thinking about the test writers, and ended up with an ass.

And tests may help to train more people in how to take and give tests. After all, testing is a million dollar industry in the U.S. Testing companies have a big stake in the program.

The only thing the MSAT really tested was my patience.

BLUEPRINT

Published approximately every two weeks during the school year by students of Alexander Ramsey High School, 1261 W. Hwy. 36, Roseville, Minn. 55113. This publication is dedicated to fair, accurate, and in-depth reporting of events and issues that concern students, whether school, community, or national. Opinions will be expressed in editorials or signed columns only. Letters to the editor must be signed (names will be withheld on request) and are encouraged on any subject. Blueprint reserves the right to condense letters over 150 words to meet space requirements.

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF . . . Craig Eckert, and Jeff Holman