

In and on school: Attitudes change Opinions differ,

"High school kids have discovered that there are other things besides just school."

Although there are a lot of opportunities to express school spirit through the activity program many people prefer not to get involved.

Two juniors, Steve Judge and Joy Harter, one who is active in school life and one who is not, offered their explanations concerning the contrasting attitudes on school spirit.

Steve and Joy both feel that the form of expressing school spirit hasn't really changed, but that the attitudes of students have changed.

"Everybody used to have school spirit," said Joy, "but today kids are getting their rights. We're independent. We do what we want to do and what we think is important, not what we have to do or what is."

"High school kids have discovered that there are other things besides just school," related Steve.

Steve's definition of school spirit is something done "for the sake of Ramsey itself." He feels he doesn't have this kind of school spirit. Steve, who is active in Debate, Student Council, and Teen Corps, follows more of a "team spirit."

He says of Debate, "I try to win for the other guys on the team, myself, and next year's team. What school I'm behind is not really the most important thing to me."

"Willing participation in school activities," is Joy's definition of school spirit. School activities in her definition include athletics as well as fifth hour activities.

Since she has an early release and does not attend games, Joy feels that she does not have school spirit.

"I am here because I need an education, not because I have to get involved."

As to the amount of school spirit at Ramsey, Steve thinks that it is a minority. Joy feels that in any school there would be some, but that it is declining at Ramsey. She said that this decline may be due to the increased number of early releases this year over those in previous years.

"The kids that went home after school instead of to the football game were the hoods."

A senenth grade girl's idea of what high school is like is probably different than actuality.

To her high school is a date every weekend with a star athlete, going to all the games to cheer the boys on to victory, running for Homecoming Queen, and lots of homework.

Those ideas are probably derived from the typical romance novels found in drug-stores, old movies, "The Jackson Twins,"

and Mother's reminiscings.

That little seventh grader may be in for a jolt when sweet sixteen finally rolls around and she attends Ramsey 1970. Things "ain't what they used to be," according to alumni.

Perhaps Ramsey in 1958 would have been an example of the typical All American high school.

Alumni like to look back on Ramsey as a 'pretty good place.'

"The majority of the kids backed the team and got involved with School's activities. The kids that went home after school instead of to the football game were the hoods; the ones that wore low pants and their hair in a ducktail," observed Mrs. Ruth Zeimet, a 1958 graduate of Ramsey.

"There were lots of cliques, but I think that this was the result of the large area the Ramsey district covered," she continued.

But all of them loved electing Homecoming Queen and the like. The girl had to be popular but not necessarily the prettiest. She had to be in different activities. For example, if she was a cheerleader she probably wouldn't be elected because she already had a previous honor."

Jerry Zeimet, of the class of 1956 said that all the kids 'cheered on the team.'

Zeimet felt that maybe a change has come about because now there is an early release program, whereas there was none in the beginning."

"Vandalism reaches a peak after report cards are given out."

"In the past seven years I would say vandalism has tripled," says Custodian Fritz Reckert.

Broken windows. Kicked in plumping. Stolen thermostats. Vandalism is on the increase.

The A and D wings are the worst areas of the school and the lavatories are the heart of the problem. D wing lavatory (men's) has a kicked in wall, clogged urinals, and marked up walls. Richard St. Germain commented, "It's never been in that state since I've been here."

Custodian Clarence Belland said the worst problem, "is plugging up urinals with cigarette butts."

Acts of vandalism bob up and down from expensive destructiveness to horse-play. Water balloons have been a problem. Two weeks ago thermostats disappeared at the rate of four or five a week. This fall two \$300 plate glass windows were shattered by a steel ball. These incidents are further compounded by the perpetual kicking and breaking of lockers.

Why are students destructive? Vandalism reaches a peak after report cards are given out. Reckert believes "Kids take it out on the school."

Also during football season, students from other school paint the building and generally other things.

Belland says, "They don't care what they do. He believes that these acts are caused by "viscious mishevoounness not anger." He also believes, "They think they're belling something, trying to cause trouble for the administration."

There has always been vandalism. But why the rise? One problem is an increased number of students. However, Belland says, "They can get by with it. If they were put to work to pay for it there would be a lot fewer acts."

"During the past five or six years there's a change. Now there's a feeling of every man for himself."

The attitude change question was raised to Lars Overskei, Ken Bergstedt, and Duane Nelson, all Ramsey coaches.

"During the past few years, not as many boys seem to be going out for sports as they used to," replied Bergstedt. "Several sports this year have suffered drastically from low number of boys trying out."

Bergstedt also commented, "I don't know why, but some of the boys seem to be after prestige rather than the challenge and desire of the particular sport."

"But I feel that the fan support has changed," said Overskei. Bergstedt agreed with him, stating, "Maybe more people come to the games but you couldn't tell by listening. You just don't hear

the enthusiasm you used to." Nelson said, "Yes, I think we've got the support, all right, but as far as the fans are concerned, they just don't have the same spirit as they did ten years ago."

"This fact is evident in the past," he added. "Ten or fifteen years ago, we REALLY had pep fests, but in the past four or five years, things have changed."

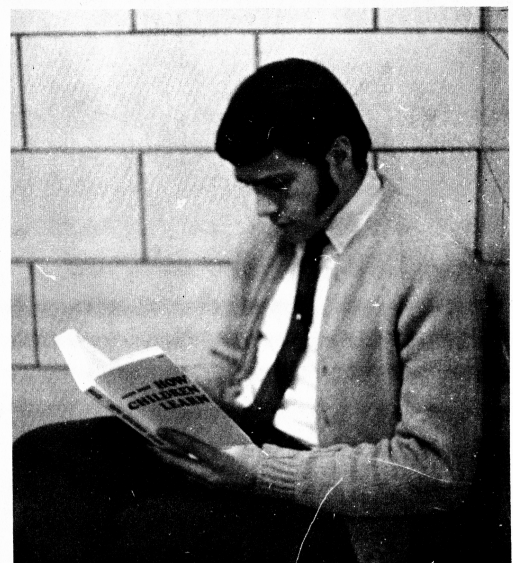
Overskei also commented, "The fans are more apathetic. They shouldn't be I think they should be respected, but they aren't."

"Last year," said Bergstedt, "everytime we had a pep fest, everyone stood around and talked. They acted like they were forced to go. That was a voluntary pep fest."

"Despite fan letdown," he continued, "the players have, overall, good enthusiasm. Especially for a big game like Homecoming. The boys really get up for a game like that. It means a lot to them. Sometimes you wonder if it means anything to anybody else."

Reporters

Jeff Johnson
Kathy Haggerty
Sue Steinwall
Keith Crane



Some squabble, some disagree, and some monitor the situation.

"We played a standing room only audience last night... Here were only three chairs set up."

"We played to standing room only audience last night," said the orchestra member.

"Yeah, there were only three chairs set-up," laughed the other orchestra member.

This runs the oft-repeated orchestra joke. Sometimes it seems as if music concerts are given to a few grandmas and the local music teachers.

There was once a day when students and faculty attended concerts.

"During the past five of six years there's been a change. Now there's the feeling of every man for himself. There's less working together and building a community," revealed James Peterson, orchestra director.

"I've been here at Ramsey since 1960. More students and more of the faculty attended concerts the," Peterson stated.

Participation in band and orchestra is greater now. However, Peterson pointed out that the ratio of music students to the number of students at this school is low. He believes it should be higher for a school of this size.

The schedule is the determining factor according to both Peterson and Donald Brost, Chior director. There now is such a vast selection of courses that a student who might otherwise take music does not.

Peterson believes that there is now a general attitude of "school is for school." In other words, anything that is not strictly academic is considered outside of the school.

"There are many more things to get involved with now. When this school first opened, none of my students had jobs. We were out in the country so there were no jobs to be had," reflected Brost. "Now the kids have more interests other than school."

Peterson upholds that one cause of the lack of attendance at concerts is because things are becoming "professionalized." Sports, music and the theatre are so readily available that the amateurs ate forgotten.

"Kids and adults are getting snobbish largely as the result of the mass media," Peterson states. "They are used to professional entertainment."

A randomly chosen sample of study hall students has shown that many of them are involved in some activities.

Diane Manderud is assigned to a fifth hour study all week. But she says, "I was sick for awhile and then when I got back all the sign-ups were done, and the things I wanted to get into, like GAA, were full." Diane adds that she likes the Mini-Courses, but feels that a lot more publicity would help their attendance.

"There not really much school spirit. I'm in Ski Club, but I just never thought much about joining anything else-besides a lot of them (activities) were full," said Jeff Kaiser, also a fifth hour study most of the week.

Over 300 students jam the large gym every other, Wednesday for participation in Pep Club. This activity claims the largest participation of all 5th hour activities.

"Students are even developing activities that they want."

"The students are not only more actively engaged, but they are even developing, themselves, the activities that they want," proclaims Robert Emaheser Ramsey's Activity Coordinator.

"A lot of activities are almost in the student hands right now," he adds proudly pointing out the newly emerged Mini Program. Emaheser believes the Mini's to be the beginning of a new era of student awareness, concern, and participation.

James Warren, a Ramsey American Studies, World History, and Modern History teacher, and Jack Davitt, a Ramsey typing teacher, headed the Ramsey Activity Steering Committee.

In an effort to objective and realistic about the proposal the Steering Committee admitted to several disadvantages of the new proposal schedule. One drawback that is anticipated is "that fewer students will participate in some of the activities and possibly some sports. Not everyone consider this a disadvantage of the program, however, since it is expected that the quality of these activities will improve.

"Presently, some students are involved in activities only because they would prefer not to be in a homeroom study hall. These students do not benefit from or contribute to our present activities. The proposal plan allows the student a freedom of choice and requires a bit of sacrifice which many feel will strenght our activity program."



"...but I thought it was an away concert."