

PASSES

Studied, compromised, and reformed

by Kathy Haggerty

Many students at Ramsey seem to be dissatisfied with the present pass system. The Student Council and the faculty have formed committees that will begin a study of preferable systems.

Just under way, the Student Welfare Committee has begun an analysis of Ramsey's pink-pass system. Pat McGuigan, senior, returned from an exchange visit to Stillwater with some valuable observations.

At Stillwater Pat found that very few passes were even used. The students, he said, just were not allowed to go anywhere, implying that maybe we are fairly well off at Ramsey.

Merlin Clerx, an art teacher at Ramsey, worked as a member of the faculty committee and made a careful study of Fridley's honor pass system. At Fridley, Clerx discovered, the students apply for an honor pass by providing the signatures of two teachers who will recommend them for the pass.

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All don't apply, he said, but many do and Clerx feels those who do "feel committed to go along with the rules - it's like a contract, I think it makes them feel obligated." And, he mentioned, the threat of having it taken away for an offense im-

proves their attitude toward school rules in general.

The honor pass allows the student, at Fridley, to go to any of the approved areas, such as the library, rather than his study.

"...the student is more of less guilty right away..."

Also working under the faculty committee, William White, an English teacher at Ramsey, went to Osseo High School for a look at their system, also based on the honor pass.

Five of White's IDS students originally brought back the idea after a visit with Paul Ramseth, a teacher at Osseo and a former teacher at Ramsey.

"I think that most of the kids would really change if we got the honor system. They need people to trust them..."

He feels that now, under our pink pass system, "the student is more or less guilty right away; the teacher assumes he won't be able to do it (carry out the task), so he gives him a pass which will indicate when and where he is leaving, when and where he arrives and when and where he

returns."

Gary Bruno, senior, one of those who visited Osseo, said "I think that most of the kids would really change if we got the honor system. They need people to trust them, and if you give them a chance, they would really prove that they could take care of their pass."

"I think it would be some kind of an improvement it's much more reasonable."

The system at Fridley, White observed, provides every student with a pass at the beginning of the year, White feels that this is the main advantage to the system.

"I think it would be some kind of an improvement - it's much more reasonable," summed up White.

VICA wins 1st in state contest

The Alexander Ramsey chapter of Vica returned from the Annual State Leadership Conference with seven new trophies. Vica stands for the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, and is closely tied to the Trades and Industries program. T&I is designed to fulfill a need often missed by normal high school classes by giving the student on-the-job experience.

The Conference was held for students throughout the state, though most of the students attending were from the St. Paul-Minneapolis area. Over 1,000 students spent the weekend of Feb. 27 through March 1 at the St. Paul Hilton participating in the Conference activities.

Taking a first in the state competition for Parliamentary Procedure was a group composed of seniors Lynn Carson, Judy Meyer, Stephanie Johnson, Patty Pielh, Sandy Pielh, Kathy Jeppesen, Wayne Schober and junior, Tim Higgins. For winning a first place this group will be able to go to St. Louis, Missouri for the National Vica convention, June 21-24.

The same group of students which won the trophy for Parliamentary Procedure also won a second place for their Opening and Closing Ceremonies.


Other winners of trophies were: Gregg Morrisette, second place in Trade Mathematics, Kim Swanson, second place in Verbal Communication, Wanda Saabye, second place in Student Job Manual, Patty Pielh, third place in Student Job Manual, and Mary Huisings, third place in Extemporaneous Verbal Communications.

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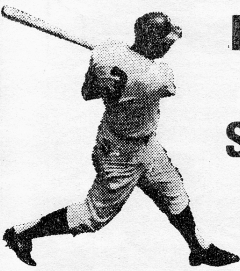
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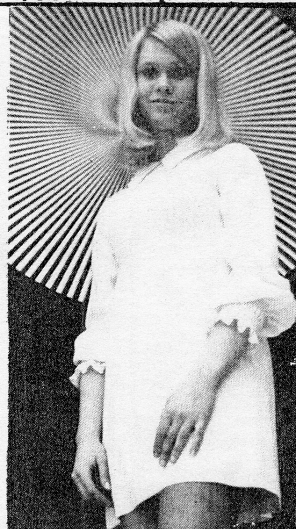
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