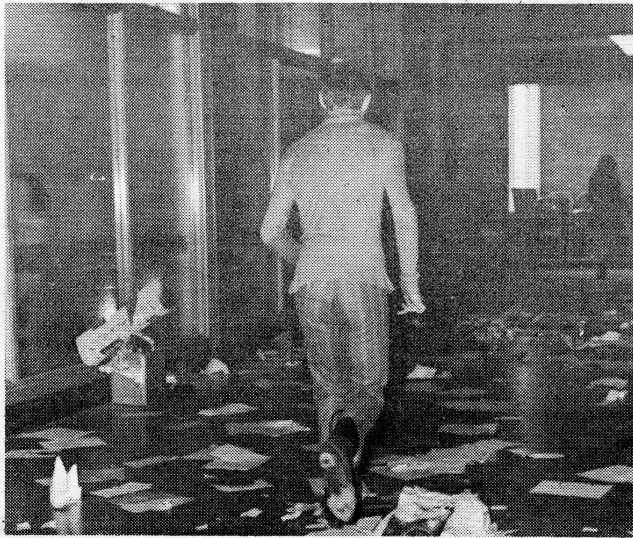


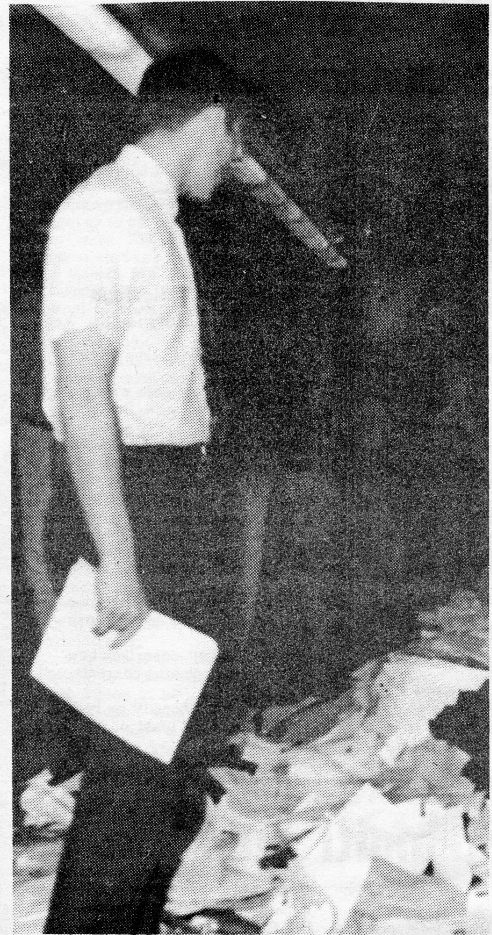
FESTIVAL OF LIFE WEEK



photos bruce christopherson



Student stumbles through a day's litter spread for Earth Day, April 21, 1970.



And the world looks on.

Walk for Environment

by Keith Crane

It was 8:55 last Saturday as cars came pouring up to the Dayton entrance at Rose-dale. Kids poured out one, two, three or four per car. A few hike in. The Walkers for Environment are on the march.

The walkers are a erratically assorted bunch. Hair lengths vary from almost crew cuts to shoulder length. Jeans are the standard costume however some girls break with fashion and wear shorts.

The group numbering about 120-130 at the start mills around, waiting. Five girls begin to pick up litter but aside from a few glances, they don't make any impression. Few walkers carry litter bags.

Laughter and chatter pervade everywhere. Everyone's in great spirit. Patti Isaacs gets up on a stool and yells

"Shut up a minute."

Walkers mill around and instructions are gone over again.

A police car drives up and an officer climbs out. He talks softly with some walkers and surveys the scene, hands on hips, with a slight frown.

Finally 9:15 pulls around and the walk begins. It stretches all the way down Fairview and the line lengthens and lengthens through the day.

Patti Isaacs starts off at a tough pace. Some walkers struggle to keep up, others saunter along, a few seriously begin to pick up litter. This activity becomes less and less

apparent and by noon begins to disappear completely.

Of course, there are critics in every crowd and one walker eyeing the work of other people cleaning up remarked, "They're missing a lot."

This walk was the brain child of Patti Isaacs and the Environmental Planning Committee for the Pollution Forum. They contacted the twelve schools in the Suburban Conference and issued blanket invitations. Police, churches, etc. were also contacted and the committee has been busy. As Patti says, "What haven't I done."

The purpose of the walk was to raise money and publicize the need for control of pollution. Walkers found sponsors who agreed to pay them so much a mile.

At this time there were about 180 marchers. Patti said "I'm disappointed there weren't more people."

Marchers came from all sorts of schools and for all different reasons. Sylvia Green from Minneapolis South explained, "I don't like pollution. If I walk maybe someone will wake up to the problem."

When asked what she would do after the walk she said, "Go home and soak my feet."

Terry Brandt from Kellogg announced her intention to "try and help Kellogg stop pollution"

Pam Hill, Kellogg, explained her concern, "I don't like when I'm walking around outside and there's all this pollution around."

One group from Columbia Heights was march-

ing to raise money for their club, SCARE. They had pruned trees and demonstrated to help save the BWCA. Steve Stark, a member said, "We hope to make people aware that youth care (about pollution)." Another member ticked off some things they hoped to accomplish: better legislation to stop industrial pollution, less littering, and better control. This group was having fun but they were purposeful.

Throughout the morning the marchers walked on. Feet began to ache and throats became dry.

At the first stop the walkers charged at the drinking fountain like bull elephants at a watering hole.

The Roseville police did an excellent job of playing follow the leader through Roseville. One car would wait at an intersection and help walkers cross the street while the other would zoom on ahead to the next light. They were jocular, but bored. One advised, "Some of you are going to be awfully tired. Some of these kids have been running too much."

People along the way were friendly, helpful, and often curious. One said, "I hope your feet hold out." Four Standard Oil attendants emptied bags of litter and wished marchers "Good luck." One man, stopped at a light, asked, "What are you doing?"

"Walking twenty miles for pollution," came the reply.

"Twenty miles!" the man said awed.

And then there are those who crack, "Join the army if you want to walk."

Next Sunday the Walk for Development will be held. It will start at Parade Stadium in Minneapolis at 7:00 a.m. and will end at Loring Park when and if they make the thirty miles. Walkers will find sponsors who will pay them by the mile, as in the Walk for Environment. The walk is to raise money to combat hunger.