

BLUEPRINT OPINIONS

Council faces drastic choices

Ramsey's Student Council is bulky, unorganized, ineffective, without any apparent goals, and has obviously failed to adjust itself to face these problems.

The primary trouble with the Student Council lies in the fact that the meetings are not well organized. Last spring Student Council President Chuck Drange stated in an interview with BLUEPRINT that he did not want extremely strict parliamentary procedure at the meetings. That is all too obvious even to the most casual observers.

Many problems face the students and faculty of Ramsey. New ideas should come from the council. They do not come.

committees ineffective

Several council committees have little or nothing to do with the populace at Ramsey, while committees which could have an integral part in the administration of this school fall by the wayside.

Committee chairmen, even if they accomplish things within their respective committees, do not communicate well enough at the general assembly. Their effectiveness is not spreading outside room 140.

Committee chairmen frequently complain that no one comes to their meetings. We believe that the council should evaluate priorities and drop many of the unneeded committees. They could then concentrate on the committees essential to an effective council.

A change would mean that people now considered "committee chairmen" would have to get used to being the "ideamen" in particular interest areas for the entire council. The alternative is abolishment of the committee system.

spitballs and binders

The general assembly of the student council has fallen far short of its potential for a free exchange of ideas. It now is only a token gesture.

We have noted spitballs, binders, pieces of paper and pencils flying through the air when people at the podium are trying to express themselves.

Since these meetings are student council, it can be assumed that those who are perpetrating these discourtesies are class representatives. Your Representatives.

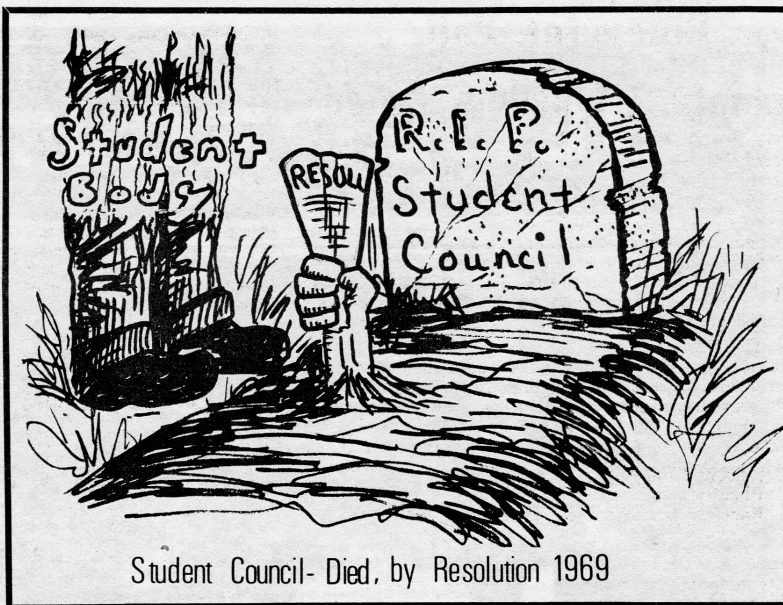
To remedy this situation we suggest the use of a seating chart, with random seating of representatives. We further suggest that anyone disturbing a meeting, in any manner, be disciplined by a recall vote of members of the class or organization that person represents. Members have every right to speak, but in an orderly fashion.

Non-council students should be required to obtain passes from council officials and be seated in a special area during council meetings.

mockery of trust

Student body communication is a problem which the council, as a body, cannot solve. Either a representative takes his classes trust seriously and reports back to his class, or he makes a mockery of the class's trust and the workings of the council.

The alternatives the Council faces are drastic. Either a radical, streamlining change in itself, or inevitable self-destruction.



Holman's Heroes

HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH



by Jeff Holman
Blueprint Editor

The telephone rang at 9:30 a.m. last Tuesday when I was home from school.

"What's the matter today?" the voice asked.

"C'mon, what'd'ya have?"

"Larengitis," I whispered.

"That doesn't sound like much to me," the voice argued.

"WELL, ACTUALLY, I WAS CHEWING ON A PENCIL AND I GOT LEAD POISONING!" I yelled.

She wrote it down.

"Have your father call us about this today," she told me, and hung up.

My father can always tell when I've stayed home from school. He knows -- I don't know how -- the minute he walks through the door.

"It was diarrhea," I told him.

"Crap!"

"That was the problem," I tried to explain. He was unsympathetic. "You need your education to prepare you for a career," he scolded, "You'll never learn anything staying home from school. What do you think you will be when you grow up?"

"A truant officer," I said.

He threw up his hands and went into the bathroom to cry.

But I wasn't worried about getting an excuse. Ever since schools got with computers, I have been keeping up. I now have a perforated packet of 26 excuses printed at the beginning of each school year. I just tear them off. It's like writing a check.

In the past two years, I have had nearly every conceivable disease or illness; I finally had them put on flash cards.

Now all I have to do is "flash the flu" when I walk in and they nod their heads.

Of course, some absences are harder to explain, particularly those for educational purposes. For instance, I went to do some hunting in Afghanistan last week . . .

"What were you hunting in Afghanistan?" they asked.

"Afghans," I replied. What could they say?

Another time when I returned to school a staunch attendance clerk wanted to know exactly how many days I'd been absent.

"Seven or eight," I said, "I don't remember."

"That's strange," she said tersely. "What did you have?"

"Amnesia."

Though I have been absent a lot this year, I would not want anyone to fear for my health. I have been taking a penicillin pill before every meal--unfortunately, I skip breakfast, and I do not consider school lunch a meal. The administration now requires me to have a visitor's pass whenever I enter the building. But they are tolerant of my legitimate illnesses. I think that Richard St. Germain is deathly afraid of catching what I've got.

Sickness seems to run in my family. A five year old cousin of mine was a natural artist, a happy, health child . . . until his kindergarten teacher told him to color between the lines.

Kids come to school in the pink of creativity; school kills it in epidemic proportions. Perhaps some day these institutions will be made to post a notice, "Caution -- this school may be hazardous to your health."

I honestly feel that if I stayed home and read for two months, I could learn more than in two years of school. But attendance officers always ask for a good excuse for staying home.

Nobody gives you a good excuse for coming to school.

Letters to the Editor

Like most institutions, Student Council is ineffective. Ineffective because, like the school population, it doesn't give a damn -- except about number one.

When I conducted class elections this fall, a common sickening refrain was evident. The refrain expressed a popular misconception that the conventional student problems, directly related to school, were not getting sufficient attention. While this "line" is an easy cop-out for not stating constructive action to be taken on realistic problems, not once did it fail to gather votes from a misinformed, apathetic electorate.

However, it wouldn't hurt to affix the blame on the proper party -- the apathetic student. The student who will cry out, but never contribute; the typical student -- the student you probably are. Not that apathy is always bad, but the sad point is that, the Student Council, like it or not, represents you.

It's time YOUR representative demanded from the officers a realistic program of action and concern for the coming year; realized Council can not survive if its main purpose is that of a fund raising organization, demanded from themselves something other than the presently asinine Stu-

dent Council meeting; demand that they shut their mouths, when someone else is talking at the Council meetings (a little trick which they should have picked up in second grade) and instead concentrate on representing the best interests of their class and not of themselves. Finally there are two things you must do; first, make the officers you elected, in the spring, live up to their cheap promises of last year and second, question your representative, impeach him, but don't remain apathetic.

Bob Meek, junior

BLUEPRINT

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