

# BLUEPRINT OPINIONS

## Holman's Heroes

District fabricates building story



by Jeff Holman  
Blueprint Editor

### Communication failure

In this issue of Blueprint we have tried to perform a badly needed service -- to offer as much information as we could obtain about building plans for Ramsey.

Two facts have become clear as a result of our investigation:

- \* Many additions which teachers requested -- and consider necessary to improve education here -- are not going to be built due to insufficient funds.
- \* Many members of the faculty -- and probably the entire student body -- are not sure exactly what the district is building as they look outside their classroom windows.

All the facts are difficult to obtain. The phenomenal increase in building costs is certainly one real reason why certain areas cannot be built.

The rest of the financial picture is rather unclear. District administration sources interviewed explained that certain areas teachers requested were never even considered in the building plans. Teachers who we have talked to were under the distinct impression that these areas were being considered. The school board and teachers of District 623 seem to be having a difficult time communicating with each other. It is ironic that a teacher-council member who just three weeks ago was in the middle of a communications gap regarding salaries, should now comment, "I've heard 13 different rumors about what's being built out there."

We hope that we have given a few people some answers concerning the future structure of Ramsey High School. We, too, were curious as to what was being built out there. But we feel that telling our teachers what areas they will soon have to teach in is mainly the job of our district administration.

### Mini-Editorial

It's a shame that there is no clause in the insurance policy offered by the school district that covers the student against death by smoke inhalation in the school lavatories.

If the district taxed students for every cigarette smoked in Ramsey High School, they would have absolutely no money worries for their building program.

## BLUEPRINT

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COVER PHOTO FRED WOLF

Walls have been shaking and hammers rapping since school started this fall for what was believed to be a secret project of the District Administration. Nobody knows what's being built outside, but I suspect the District has a reason for keeping us uninformed;

If the construction work doesn't construct anything, the District can deny any knowledge of it, and blame the whole mess on somebody else.

I can see the headline now:  
RAMSEY CONSTRUCTION RUMORED TO BE MSU PLOT; SUPERINTENDENT INTERVIEWED.

I can see the story now:

The superintendent of District 623 said today that he has no knowledge of any construction at Ramsey High School.

"We had assumed that it was an extra-curricular activity of Ramsey's FTA, Future Teamsters of America," said the superintendent, leaning back at his mahogany desk. A board member was sitting at his right-side.

"I told teachers who weren't satisfied with our facilities to make the best of what they got," the board member moaned, "But I didn't think they'd get so militant with everything!"

"Can somebody just tell me who is responsible for the shambles that lay outside Ramsey High School?" persisted this reporter.

The two of them glanced back and forth for a second, and went into the "Superintendent's Lavatory" for discussion. When they returned they proclaimed in unison, "It's the Minnesota Student Union."

"What?" I remarked.

"It's them radicals who are to blame for everything that goes wrong," the board member stated. "Take a good look at what's happened to Ramsey--it just shows what an ill-dressed, irresponsible few can do to wreck a high school." He carefully tucked in his pockets.

The superintendent summarized the school board's case.

"We believe that the activity outside Ramsey High School is part of a nationwide conspiracy to literally destroy our institutions of learning.

"I began to suspect something the first day of school," he went on, "when we sent the kids at Ramsey home because there was no electricity."

"MSU is after power," the board member agreed. "And that includes the lights and the plumbing."

"And do you know who funds these people?" the superintendent asked pointedly.

"No."

"Hanoi!"

"Really?"

"Yep. And I've got word that the school supply store is already selling bookcovers with Ho Chi Minh High stamped on them.

"But how do you plan to save Ramsey from destruction?" I asked.

He was being evasive, but I pressed for more information. "But could you tell me, sir, what plans District 623 has to correct its err--er--to stop MSU from taking over?" Suddenly he was calm. "When I first saw what was happening at Ramsey, I was quite alarmed. However, considered in the context of broader educational values, the Board has decided that it might just be a good learning experience for everyone to see the high school demolished."

I was stunned. But the board member was quick to agree--from a financial standpoint.

"Do you realize that if we didn't have a building out there, how much money we could save in maintenance costs alone!" he bubbled over.

He explained that Ramsey's only major expense would be for athletic equipment, since teams would play all over the Ramsey field.

"If we kept athletics and cut out all the educational frills, we could reduce Ramsey's budget by as much as ten per cent this year!" the board member concluded.

"But what are you going to do about English and Social Studies?" I wanted to know. "How will these courses function without classrooms?"

"Well . . ."

"I know," I interrupted. "You'll plan more field trips, let students study outside in the fresh air. Students will go to see current films, instead of reading the old books. You'll have to let students go into Minneapolis to see the poor, instead of reading about poverty. You'll have to make education meaningful to the students' lives!"

"That," declared the superintendent, "would be against District policy."

My interview was over; I was anxious to leave.

"Well, I'll tell you one thing," the superintendent said as he locked me out of the District Offices. "We're not gonna' let MSU take all the initiative around here."

"No sir," added the board member. "If anybody's gonna' destroy our schools, it's gonna' be the elected representatives of the community who do it."

## Letters to the Editor Walkout Feedback

I, as an I.D.S. student, demand an immediate retraction for the following quote on page 6 of the Sept. 26 edition: "Between ten and twelve I.D.S. students leaped onto the stage and took over the speaker's table."

Why didn't the author tell about the athletes and the honor students up there? There wasn't anybody else on the table, so how could we take it over?

I think this is a good example of biased reporting of facts. In my opinion, this is a damn poor way to run a newspaper.

Steven Johnson, senior

I would like to see a retraction of the article stating that I.D.S. students took over

### congrats

Bravo!  
You're continuing a recent tradition of responsible, meaningful and intelligent journalism.

While criticism and invective rains upon you, recall that some of us support right to inquiry and reporting even though we don't always agree with the result.

You've proven again that "Mickey Mouse" is dead.

J. Warren

the speaker's table in the gym on the day of the walk-out. (Blueprint Sept. 26). I do not believe this degrading of I.D.S. was called for. There may have been I.D.S. students on the stage at the time, but they were not there as a planned or organized group. They were there as individuals, as were many other students.

Debbie O'Dowd, senior

We, the students of IDS, class Alexander Ramsey, wish to inform you of a grave mistake

you made in your Sept. 26th edition of Blueprint.

You stated in your coverage of Friday's walk-out the "10-12 IDS students took over the speaker's table." This is a false statement! True, there were IDS students on the stage, but, there were also athletes and 50 others. Also, we did NOT take over the speakers table. We were merely sitting and listening to Barb Metzger. We, the students, wish to discuss this with you at your convenience.

Tom Klein, senior

## smoking & the system

Some young people call it a system; others, just plain misery. The basic idea of a system is to advance knowledge to the younger members of our civilization. We tell them the facts.

Smoking is not good for your health. It may lead to tuberculosis, cancer and early death. Yet, at the same time, he is introduced to smoking on television as a pleasurable experience leading kids on about smoking.

Why does a young person start smoking?

"Why should I fear death from

smoking? If cancer doesn't get me, Uncle Sam will!" This is one reason. Another is that the only fear of death a person may have is next to none so why not try it. But the big thing is: "Who is making the cigarettes? Who is importing drugs and pot? The older generation is; not me or mine. Is this a way to make a "living"; by sacrificing the young?"

Smoking isn't the only area. There are many others. As your parents stand and say, "Where did we go wrong," remind them.

Dean P. Oknich, senior