

Ramsey parallels national political trends

by Craig Eckert
Blueprint Editor

Looking at Ramsey and the particular country in which it resides, there is a striking parallel in trends, attitudes, and governing bodies of the two "states."

This high school, for some odd reason, seems to be a gathering spot for all ideas, ideals, and political thinking on the spectrum. Collected are left wingers, moderates, and those on the right.

It is not a bad situation. On the contrary, it is extremely good, but it is indeed strange, since most people attending this school come from a white middle class background.

Most of the country is also made up of the white middle class, although not to the great degree that Ramsey is, and here too is a vast range of ideals.

The only confusing thing in the two political arenas is the fact that Ramsey has been going through a conservative trend for the past few years and is now moving more liberal where the country has been going through a liberal phase and is now apparently moving more conservative.

The population at this school 3-4 years ago were an undaunted crop of "yes-men"

who did things just because they had always been done. For example, no one thought to question the dress or athletic codes to the extent that it has been the last two years.

The nation has been quite the opposite. Where a few years ago, liberals were running off with the presidency and mayoralty posts, now conservatives have taken the spotlight.

The country's conservatives have shown their displeasure through the ballot box and the schools liberals are doing it in much the same way. The classic example is the Homecoming Queen election.

prevailing candidate

Barb Metzger was the object of the liberal affection this time when she prevailed as a queen candidate through the nominations, semi-finals and made it to the grueling finals only to be defeated. But, defeated or not, her candidacy was of great significance to the school.

Barb is not the stereotyped gushy queen candidate, and she was not, as some believed, only trying to make a farce out of the festivities. She was a person from a different faction of the school, not trying to condemn homecoming, but only trying to put it into

a proportional perspective in which the entire school would be able to take an equally active part so that no individual could feel intimidated by it.

Some faction in the United States has begun questioning the motives of the military. Its counterpart in high school, the athletic department, ready to defend the virtue of dear ol' Ramsey against aggressors on the athletic field, has also been questioned as to exactly what it means by some of the rules which it has set down.

Although the day may never come when a football player burns his service fee card because he can't bring himself to play in a game in which he does not believe, we may see questioning as to why athletes are required to hold to somewhat of a dress code and other things which right or wrong still prevail.

court under fire

The Supreme Court has been under fire, while Justice Earl Warren was on the bench, for its liberal attitude toward civil rights of the individual. The Ramsey administration, headed by principal Curtis Johnson and associate Principal Richard St. Germain, have also received criticism from people who do not feel that high school students are

responsible enough to dress themselves, or govern themselves.

Reactionary organizations have sprung-up in Ramsey as they have in America. The most frightening in the high school is the "John Doe Society."

The "Doe Society" although not officially chartered as yet, consists of people who would like to see individuality in students stamped out. The "Doers" will consider themselves victorious if they see all Ramsey residents dressed in blue blazers, white pants (skirts for the girls but not more than two inches above the knee) and expressionless faces.

More frightening still is the fact that the "Doe Society" is made up of some frustrated educators. Frustrated because they feel that with more individuality and power given to the student, they would be losing their disciplinary power.

Luckily, this segment seems to be small at Ramsey, but it is essential that it is kept small.

The only way to contain it is through the wise use of power which the students have gained. Demanding change is suicide for reformers. That could only serve to intimidate and add to the membership of the "Doe Society."

mcj

by Mark Johnson

pornography and me

In glancing over my World Lit text the other day, it suddenly occurred to me that all throughout my years in school, one facet of literature has curiously been overlooked. Although this particular brand of literature has undoubtedly existed in every known culture, it has obviously been ignored by our basic "Adventures in Reading" texts and our TAB book club selections. I am referring, of course, to pornography; otherwise known in the boys' locker room as "Whoopie Books."

I felt that this was a crying and degrading shame. So, in an effort to fill this void in my education and, in the ultimate pursuit of the humanities, I decided to catch up on my reading.

My first stop was "Lousy Luige's Book Stall" on Wabasha Ave. Luige, good soul that he was, took my plight to heart and in a seizure of pure unrestrained benevolence agreed to let me see his back room. It was a lecher's mecca.

Industrious scholar that I am, I dug into my work.

After 14 hours of solid leering, I finally concluded that there were only 5 main plots: He & She, She & He, He & He, She & She, and It & It. Needless to say, each of these books ultimately ended in the hero seeing the light and ending his evil ways by becoming either an Irish priest or an orthodox Rabbi (depending of course, on his original denomination).

One of the more noteworthy volumes (entitled "Saucy Tales of the Indian Nation") told graphically of an affair between an 11 year-old Indian dwarf and a tree. Unfortunately this affair was tragically ended when the tree died of Dutch Elm Disease. Later, the dwarf grows up to be chief of the Chippewa and, as his first act as chief, plants a tree in downtown Pittsburgh in honor of his lost love.

There are ice cream parlors and there are ice cream parlors. And then there's FARRELL'S.

Craig Eckert and I first stopped in at FARRELL'S a little over a month ago. Expecting another drab BRIDGEMAN'S, I held my breath and walked in. I was quite pleasantly surprised.

FARRELL'S is furnished in an early 1900's decor and the place never seems to stop moving. Waiters, dressed in straw hats, vests and arm garters, dash about snapping sly insults and corny jokes at the customers while a player piano cranks out "honky-tonk" music in the background.

As we sat, the lights suddenly went out and a voice over the loud speaker bellowed, "Farrell's is proud to present another 'Pikes Peak!' The kitchen doors burst open and out

dashed two waiters carrying their sundae masterpiece on a royal divan while lights flashed, a siren blew in the background and the other waiters beat a bass drum with ice cream scoops and cheered.

The place never quite settled down after that. Craig however, didn't really seem to appreciate the place as much as I did and merely contented himself with ogling the girl in the booth next to us. Nevertheless, he did concede that the ice cream was good.

Although it is a bit out of the way, being located at Brookdale Shopping Center just off of Xerxes, FARRELL'S is worth your while, if just to stop in some evening and 'just watch the place operate.'

And even if you don't like the ice cream, there's always the soda water for two cents a glass.

BEATLES' LATEST

'Abbey Road' original

by Karen Jarvis

In their latest album "Abbey Road," the Beatles take the listener on a musical tour of life; expressing pathos, love, mysticism, anarchy, sadness, and utopia.

"Come Together," the first song, is the best on the album. The emotional intensity of the lyrics is evident in many parts of this song.

"He says I know you.
You know me.
One thing I can tell you...is
You got to be free.
Come together right now, over me."

To add to the emotional effect, a strong percussion section is integrated with repetitive guitar rhythms and panting voices that are ecstatically beautiful.

Strong percussion is also employed in "Something," a gentle love song, in which a full orchestral section captures the tenderness of love.

Possibly the worst song on the album is "Oh! Darling." The lyrics and music style are monotonous, typical of the rock ballads of the 1950's.

"Oh, darling, please believe me,
I'll never do you no harm.
Believe me when I tell you,
I'll never do you no harm."

The vocal and instrumental parts seem to overpower each other. The result is chaos.

The next song, "Octopus's Garden," reminds one of "Yellow Submarine." It is a light, comical tune about a "heaven-beneath the sea," a happy place where everyone would "shout and swim about the coral."

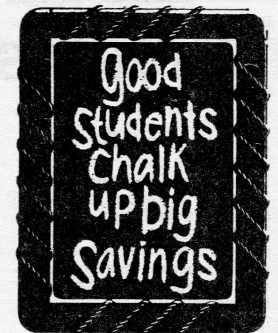
"I want You," the longest song on the album, is powerful. The lyrics are repetitive but the music is exciting. The lyrics, "I want you so bad, it's driving me mad," are alternated with, "She's so heavy," along with a change of mood and tempo. The pulsating drum rhythm seems to drag on into infinity. The song ends abruptly and unexpectedly, deceiving the listener.

From "Here Comes The Sun," a happy folksong, the mood changes and the next song is mystical and illusionary;

"Because the world is round, it turns me on.
Because the wind is high, it blows my mind.
Because the sky is blue, it makes my cry."

The songs that follow are free-flying and very personal. "Because" and "You Never Give Me Your Money" make use of a semi-classical style similar to "Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata." Jazz rhythms also heighten the effect.

Effectually, "Abbey Road" is a great and imperishable album. In it, the Beatles, endowed with unequalled expressive power, proved again that they are the greatest pop artists of our time.



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