

The Schreiber Times

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EDITORIALS

Flexibility Marks Social Groups

Recently, the Human Relations Committee sponsored a communications workshop dedicated to analyzing the barriers between different groups, or "cliques" at Schreiber. Yet such an analysis leads one to ponder if a problem really exists in this regard at Schreiber. It seems that the situation is less one of exclusion than one of commonality. The groups at Schreiber are by nature relatively flexible and interactive, and any isolation is due to lack of common interest.

When one examines groups at Schreiber, it is rare that one is able to label them according to traditional titles, such as "brains," "jocks," "freaks," or the like. More often, one finds groups termed according to involvements: football players, basketball team members, theater people, artists, etc. While it is obviously unhealthy for one to interact solely with a certain type of person, it is natural at all stages of life to associate with those whose interests are similar. As one grows older, one will find oneself associating with those with similar careers and interests because the methods of

meeting people—through work, activities, and organizations—are for the most part rather standard. It is only when an acquaintance of this sort is taken to such an extreme that one is completely isolated from others that the harm is inherent.

With regard to this isolation, one must also look at the flexibility of the groups at Schreiber. This flexibility is apparent in two forms. The first is the mere fact that Schreiber students are imbued with the idea that they must possess a wide variety of interests. As a result, one will often find athletes who thrive academically, artists who play sports, and theatrical individuals involved in a wide variety of clubs. Rarely in Schreiber are students represented only by one facet of their personality; in the few cases that this is the point, this is clearly harmful to the individual and the group.

The second manner in which group flexibility is notable is in the technical barriers of the groups. While there is always a small core of individuals who choose solely to interact with "others of their kind," on the

large part there is intermingling between the groups. Often one finds individuals who have friends in a variety of circles; the result is a large degree of interaction between groups.

A final factor to consider is the lack of large scale animosity between "cliques" at Schreiber. At many schools, friction between groups is so severe as to generate physical fights and a generally unfriendly atmosphere. While at Schreiber incidents of name calling and the like are common, full scale fights are rare. And while even a small degree of unfriendliness is undesirable and unfair, these feelings are part of human nature and virtually impossible to avoid.

Schreiber can be recognized, if not commended, for its comparatively open social atmosphere. While it is not perfect, when looked at in conjunction with other schools is more than satisfactory. Such an environment is essential to a healthy educational atmosphere and is an environment that should be preserved.

Editors Encourage Reader Response

The purpose of editorials is to address pertinent social, political, and economic issues at both the local and national levels. They are a means for the editorial board of the *Times* to express their views regarding these issues.

Yet it is meaningless for we, the editors, to praise, condemn, or analyze topics without your input. As such we encourage our readers to write to us, giving us their opinion with regard to our statements. Your input is significant as it keeps us aware of trends in student thought, minority opinion, and, quite simply, thought-provoking statements. We will print letters on the editorials (within the bounds of our guidelines regarding letters), and, where the situation and quality of writing warrants, opinions articles disputing or praising the topics will be presented in our pieces. We encourage you to give us your views.

LETTERS

Deluxe Taxi Service Criticized

How many times have Port Washington residents had to spend up to an hour waiting for a cab from the Deluxe Taxi Co.? Or how many times have Deluxe customers been abandoned without transportation because they could not get through to the taxi company? Or how many times have they been left somewhere because the taxi they called for was not just late, but once they were picked up the taxi had to make several other stops along the way?

A monopoly in business is always a disadvantage to its customers, and the Deluxe Taxi Co. of Port Washington is a prime example of this. They run a incompetent and irresponsible establishment and have no reason to improve it because of the lack of competition.

The company has about 80 taxis and about 100 drivers. With a sufficient number of both, why so many problems? The only reasonable conclusion is lack of effort and caring.

Presently, there is no competition for Deluxe. But why not? It would undoubtedly be a profitable business. If a company as large as Deluxe is financially successful, then a smaller and more competent company would be at least profitable. Any company that is reliable, punctual, and efficient would not only be highly competitive with Deluxe, but possibly even run them out of

business—and that would definitely not be a loss to Port Washington.

Erica Brody

B-Ball Coach Expresses Thanks For Support

On Friday evening, February 3, the girls varsity basketball team hosted MacArthur in Schreiber's first night contest. I'm taking this opportunity to thank all the students, families, and friends, for supporting us in such an enthusiastic and inspiring way. The atmosphere in the gym was something our community could take pride in.

Through fundraising efforts during the year, our team was able to buy helium balloons which decorated the gym, purchase rally towels given to the first 100 fans, and give carnations to the players parents. We were able to promote our players and school with game programs and media guides. The seven piece pep band put together by Ed Gold was the finishing touch on what became a high class, festive basketball environment. The 300 or so spectators were treated to a well-played, intense basketball game. As coach, I am grateful for all the support given to us and I'm more grateful that our team was able to experience such a positive Friday night environment.

The boy's night game in December and ours last week showed that our student body can control themselves responsibly and channel their energies in a positive, constructive way.

It is my hope that at events in the future, whether it be Friday night basketball games, late afternoon lacrosse games, sports weekends, school dances, etc. we can pull together to make the event, not marred by controversy, but rather with the success and enthusiasm we all deserve to be a part of.

Stephanie Joannon
 Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach

Student Argues Pro-Choice for Abortion

One of the stories in the news lately has been the argument of whether a comatose Long Island woman has the right to have an abortion, even though going through with the pregnancy could endanger her life.

Martin and Nancy Klein arrived at North Shore Hospital after Nancy was injured in a head-on car crash December 13, 1988. Martin Klein asked the doctors on staff if they would perform an abortion. They replied that they would perform the operation if Mr. Klein had a court order. Pro-life activists are trying to blockade the abortion and urge the Supreme Court Judge to give them legal guardianship of Nancy Klein's unborn baby. Dr. Joseph Smith, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Albert Einstein Medical College, supports the views presented by Martin Klein. Dr. Smith said that Nancy Klein's life could be endangered by the pregnancy due to her recent accident. Smith stated that, "A preg-

nancy imposes tremendous stress on all of a woman's bodily functions." He also stated that since Mrs. Klein is immobile, going through with the pregnancy increases her chance of having respiratory and urinary infections.

The issue of abortion was one of the controversies in the debate between President Bush and Michael Dukakis. Even though Bush is an anti-abortionist, he favors abortion for the following exceptions: 1) if a woman is raped; 2) if the pregnancy is a result of incest; and 3) if going through with the pregnancy is of any danger to the mother. Abortion is not officially illegal and even the President has stated in the past that in a situation such as this, it would be accepted if the mother were to go through with an abortion.

As a female I feel that no matter what the case, it should be up to us. If we do not wish for our unborn baby to be conceived, then that is our prerogative. A woman's body is her own privacy. The Pro-life activists are trying to save unborn children from being terminated, but as a result they are risking the life of an already full grown adult. People, such as the Pro-life activists, should worry more about the young children in the world today who are abused or have no homes, rather than worrying about unborn babies.

Tara Shapiro

Editor's note: As of press time, the courts have granted Mr. Klein guardianship over his wife. Two attempts to appeal this case have been overruled.