
Scarsdale resident Sydney Stern was at the March and wrote about her experience in the Scarsdale Inquirer on June 4th, 1993.

Members of the Women’s Issues Club of the Scarsdale High School attended the March, and upon their return mounted a poster campaign on behalf of LGBTQ+ rights. The campaign was initially halted by administration but was eventually allowed to move forward.
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By LOUISE WOLLMAN

Scarsdale, New York

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Scarsdale, New York

Scarsdale Inquirer, April 12, 1996

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Making stands, taking chances

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The first article focused on the difficulty of coming out, especially to parents. The second featured two anonymous recent graduates of Scarsdale High School. Both said they experienced homophobia while students there. They described an atmosphere of "liberal homophobia" where a facade of acceptance covered a deeper level of discomfort or even disgust. Appropriately, the third article focused on efforts to combat homophobia at the High School, spearheaded by Scarsdale teacher and psychologist Dr. Ernest Collabolletta and Dr. Stephen Hartman, one of the school's youth outreach workers.

**Dislikes stories on homosexuality**

To the Editor:
I strongly feel that your recent articles relating to homosexuality should not be in The Scarsdale Inquirer.

JIM FITZGERALD
Branbach Road

**Reader objects to an expulsive**

To the Editor:

I am one of those who don't read the newspapers; however, I happened upon the article entitled, "Homosexuality," in the May 31st issue. I am dismayed at the references to God's children going "out of the closet," or being "openly homosexual." This is perpetuating the same kind of thinking that led to the problem in the first place. I believe that the real issue is the rejection of one's self, or a lack of self-esteem. The Bible clearly states that we are made in God's image, but to reject oneself is to reject God's image as well. It is my prayer that you can help to bring a change of attitude in the community.

D. KARL NOELENS
Shepherd Place

**Edgmont helped boy to 'come out'**

To the Editor:

After reading the May 31st issue of the Inquirer, I am writing to thank you for the opportunity to share my story. My experience was not easy, but I feel that I was extremely lucky to have the support of my family and friends.

I am from Edgmont, and I have been struggling with my sexuality for a long time. I finally decided to come out to my parents, who were very supportive. They helped me to understand that I was not alone and that there were others like me who were going through similar experiences.

I would also like to thank my friend David, who helped me to feel more comfortable with myself. He introduced me to a support group for gay youth, which helped me to realize that I was not the only one feeling this way.

I am grateful for the Inquirer's coverage of this issue, as it has given me the courage to speak out and share my story. I hope that others will be encouraged to do the same.

DANIEL EDELMAN
Edgmont

**Open discussion promotes growth**

To the Editor:

I was glad to see the article about the importance of discussing homosexuality in the high school. It is important for students to understand that being gay is not a choice, and that everyone deserves to be treated with respect.

I believe that schools should provide a safe and inclusive environment for all students, regardless of their sexual orientation. It is the responsibility of educators to ensure that students feel comfortable expressing their true selves and to provide resources for those who need it.

I am looking forward to reading more articles on this important topic, and I hope that the Inquirer will continue to promote open discussion and understanding.

DANIEL KRAMER
Scarsdale

While most responses to the series of articles were positive, there were two individuals who expressed their disapproval.
The Straight and Gay Alliance, a High School club formed in 1996, was featured in a Scarsdale Inquirer article in December, 1998. Posters put up by the group for Pride Month that year were torn down and replaced with homophobic signs.

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In 1999, local churches and synagogues wrestled with the issue of homosexual unions. Rev. Donald Steele of Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, Rev. Philip Washburn of Scarsdale Congregational Church, and Rabbi Stephen Klein of Scarsdale Synagogue all said they would be willing to perform some form of commitment ceremony, but stressed that it would need to differ from a marriage ceremony. On the other hand, Mon. William Smith of IHM and Rabbi Velvi Buttman of Chabad Lubovitch of Westchester County both said that they could not bless a homosexual union.

In March of 1999 the PT Council held a program "Breaking Through the Wall of Silence: A Conversation About Sexual Orientation." Resident Helen Fitzgerald did not approve of the "homosexual activist agenda." Since 1999 this country has seen many victories for LGBTQ+ rights. Gay marriage has been established as a constitutional right by the Supreme Court. Now the rights of trans and non-binary people are on the front lines of the national debate. While the pushback may seem disheartening, reflecting on the gains made since the turn of the century demonstrates that change is possible.