



Spring
Weekly

Reader

Volume 150, Issue 215, April 28th, 2016

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Apr 28
Darren Martin
"Maximizing Company
Engagement"

May 5
Bo Daffin
Collin County CAD

May 12
Lisa Leach
Rotary Mission to
Nicaragua

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Rutledge Haggard	Apr 5
Lawrence Flannery	Apr 9
Andy Sayers	Apr 11
Alex Johnson	Apr 22
Ricardo Kasmiskie	Apr 27
Jerry Kezhaya	Apr 28



Four-Way Four-Way

HUBERT AARON, ex-5810 newsletter editor and substitute *Weekly Reader* editor, traded places with returning *Sainted Editor* to photograph today's proceedings with the kind loan of a camera from **Beverly Gallagher**, there to witness husband's (**Marty Gallagher**) triumphal judging of our Four-Way Speech Contest. We humbly thank Beverly for the loan and Hubert for the substitutions. (He swears he did a poor job for fear of displacing *Sainted Editor*. Thanks too for that, Hubert!)



Humiliating admission: Debaters have a tendency to rapid-fire points at opponents in hopes that they'll fail to remember to rebut them all. Our contestants weren't debating, but you can't take their instincts away, so *Sainted Editor* didn't catch all the nuances of their presentations. He apologizes in advance for insufficiently nimble fingers and a failure to take shorthand as a youth. (Now if **Lori Roberts** was still in the Club, she'd have simply replayed her iPhone™ recording of the meeting!)

President Paperweight rang us to order early at 12:06 in a prescient understanding of the length of the meeting. He invited **Blair Ritchey** to give the Invocation and **Larry FLASH Flannery** to lead us in the Pledge. **SERGEANT NATHAN BARBERA** whined that it's pathetic "*when you have to auctioneer your own applause.*" Nevertheless, he introduced Visiting Rotarian **Bill Neukranz** from *Plano Sunrise*. **David**



McWhorter welcomed **Sarah Jenkins** and **Reedy Spigner** introduced **Denise Turnbull**.

INSIDE THE ROTARIAN STUDIO got the boot in favor of the program introduced

by Four-Way Test Chairman **John Caldwell**. John noted that Plano's contestant had won District last year, and he was confident that we'd repeat that success. He had the *Vines* contestants introduce themselves: **Reet Bhujel** and **Anissa Dittmar**. Their debate coach, **Michael Bolen** spoke about



how privileged he was to teach them. His doppelgänger, **Tom McCaffrey**, the coach at *Jasper*, commented that they tell all their charges that all debate coaches are such clones. His charges today were **Sandipan Nath** and **Christina Lu**. Both were sophomores, and Christina, at least, articulated the satisfaction associated with "*skipping fourth period*" to be here.

Reet Bhujel began the competition by misspelling the word "*schadenfreude*," a word from the German which means the joy one takes in the misfortune of others. That she got the word wrong was occasion for her humiliation and (ironically) the *schadenfreude* experienced by her competition. Reet continued that having your enemies fall



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into a trap that you have devised gives superior *schadenfreude* with the comment, “**Donald Trump** comes to mind.” So she chose this phenomenon to explore using the Four-Way Test.



She dissected the word (incorrectly) as composed of “*schaden*,” **shame**, and “*freude*,” **joy**. (Joy is correct, but the first part is better translated as “*harm*.”) She quoted the philosopher **Schopenhauer** as saying “(to envy is human), to savor *schadenfreude* is diabolical.”

Reet told us of a *Princeton* study that concluded it is most extreme when applied to someone we envy. She thinks we envy Trump, and she’ll savor the moment **Megan Kelly** “finds the perfect comeback.”

So, she concludes *schadenfreude* is the Truth. As for “beneficial,” she believes the concept must have been evolved for a purpose. Indeed, she utilized Survival of the Fittest and our instincts to “take out the competition” as not only the *Origin of Species* but also the origins of *schadenfreude*. Essentially winning is insufficient and unsatisfying; others must lose.

For Reet, “the heart of *schadenfreude* is unfair to others” and to oneself. Better, she says, to ask “how does this really affect me?”

She retired to applause while Kelly commented that while the judges confer upon her performance, “we will have more entertainment at this time.” **Howard Matson** was moved by that to perform a little soft shoe. But he curtailed that long enough to induct **Tamara Dreyer**, a new member proposed by **Nancy Humphrey**. Howard



read through his induction speech twice again for new members **Rick Grady** (sponsored by **Kelly Palmer**) and **Pradeep Samudra** (sponsored by **Jerry Aris**).

Anissa Dittmar took us to a Tex-Mex restaurant where a patron is choking on a fajita. (It can’t have been **Tino’s**.) Everyone glances around, waiting for someone to take command and execute the Heimlich Maneuver. But no one is getting up to do so. This was apparently a scenario played out on a reality show entitled “*What Would You Do?*” which proves that often no one comes to assist.

She insisted that it is the truth in at least 50% of assaults and 25% of rapes. The more bystanders that are present, the less help a victim is likely to receive because of

“Diffusion of Responsibility,” the suspicion that even if someone else doesn’t come forward, the failure is shared by all bystanders and thus minimized.

Chun Deng was killed in a hazing stunt at a Baruch College fraternity in 2013. None present came to his aid. Anissa contends they were unable to commit physically because they were not involved emotionally. They were apathetic, unconcerned.

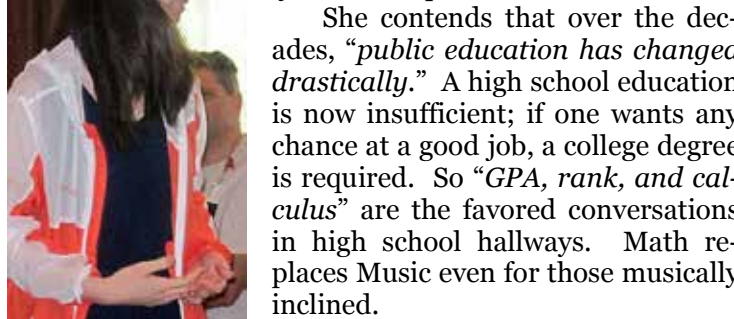
She cited cases of fire alarms that raise no interest among those present if others don’t react. And she raised the issue of non-involvement by witnesses to bullying, despite the fact that interdiction in such cases is almost always effective. And interdiction “makes a huge difference in someone’s life.”

In what one hopes was an unintentional swipe at the *Geriatric Club of Plano*, Anissa said, “The instinct to help others is lost with age.” So when one is confronted with the question as to whether or not to assist victims, she said, “I hope you don’t choke on the answer.”



In the intermission, **Jamie Schell** honored John Caldwell for becoming a multiple Paul Harris Fellow by making his second donation. Noting that 41% of members were multiple PHFs, he then presented **Bruce Glasscock** with documents fêting his PHF+4 status.

Christina Lu also took on **Darwin**. She applied the idea that Natural Selection comes about because the Fittest outperform others and applied it to high school. Her thesis was that school is “far too competitive.”



She contends that over the decades, “public education has changed drastically.” A high school education is now insufficient; if one wants any chance at a good job, a college degree is required. So “GPA, rank, and calculus” are the favored conversations in high school hallways. Math replaces Music even for those musically inclined.

While the truth, it is hardly fair. A significant majority of students (~80%) admit to cheating on tests to get the reward of college which earns the reward of a job whose reward is money. But, she contends, money ≠ happiness.

Competition fails the friendship test as well, generating resentment instead. Nor is it beneficial as it would have denied her Debate in favor of AP Biology. But she resisted the temptation and fought against competition, for, she maintains, “No one wins in the end.”



Dave McWhorter rose to explain that though the Club approved the slate of officers for the coming year, **Randy Wright** has resigned as Membership Chair. Member at Large Howard Matson has been proposed to fill Randy's office, and **Rick Boyer** has been proposed to substitute for Howard. Both proposals were moved, seconded, and voted up by those present.



The fourth and last speaker was Sandipan Nath who contended that **Taylor Swift** was swiftly tailored for stardom as a result of being bullied about her appearance. Her response, to a fan similarly bullied, went viral as she said her respondent should stand tall because *"it will get better."*

Taking a page from Anissa handbook, Sandipan asserted that we are experiencing an *"Epidemic of Silence."* He defined the apathetic as *"not willing to care."* He cited an example of 28 bystanders allowing a victim to die through their inaction.

He claimed that a cause for bystander silence is *"fear of retaliation,"* but that in only 7% of cases is that fear realized. It's worse if the bystanders are your friends. *"If you don't matter to your friends,"* it messes with your head.

Then there's peer pressure against *"the snitch."* Sandipan speaks from experience, having been ostracized for reporting the infractions of others.

He concluded with the words of **Martin Luther King**: *"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."*

CAPTAIN KIRK reminded us of the 3rd **STUDENT CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** Banquet to be held Wednesday, May 25th, from 5:30 to 7:30 in the Motel 3 (*Quality Inn*) that once was known as the *Southfork Hotel*, former home of the *Plano Rotary Club*. 24 4th & 5th graders will be recognized. Our new Superintendent will be the Keynote Speaker, and music will be provided by the *Williams High Jazz Band*. Last year, Rotary netted \$9K of which \$6K was given as *"mad money"* to the schools.

As the judges were arm wrestling in the hallway, and as two of the speakers had decried bystander indifference, John Caldwell told the story of his super athlete brother-in-law who keeled over from a heart attack. Luckily a passing doctor provided CPR, revived him, and saved his life.

Nancy Humphrey took advantage of the downtime to promote voting for (or against) the PISD Bond package. Early voting begins Monday, April 25th. Someone reminded her of the NO TAX INCREASE aspect and she added that amortization will be over only five years.

After several other members vamped and calls for a joke from **FLASH** were booed down, John Caldwell came in to announce the winners:

1. Anissa Dittmar
2. Christine Lu
3. Reet Bhujel
4. Sandipan Nath

All contestants lined up with their coaches for a group photo from several angles. Kelly then led us in the redundant 4-Way Test and let us go at 1:14!



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