

ADRIAN SIMION SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST



ADRIAN SIMION

is a senior at Westlake High School. He is a twin and came to the US at the age of four from Romania.

In his spare time he likes to play basketball and is a second degree black belt in Isshinryu karate. He also likes to ski and spend time with friends and family. He will be attending American University or Miami University in the fall and hopes to start his own law firm or join the CIA.

Biting into my PB&J sandwich during eighth period lunch, I was glad the school day was coming to a close. There were only four weeks of school left, so it was nice to see the day winding down so nicely, so calmly... or so I thought. Out of nowhere, a milk carton whizzed past my ear. I snapped my head to follow its path, hoping it would not hit any innocent bystander. BAM! I shuddered as I witnessed the carton crumple on the head of a mentally handicapped student. At first, my initial shock subsided as I dismissed the occurrence as nothing more than an accident. But what followed next ensued in me a terrible rage. The "thrower," presumably an underclassman, unleashed a flurry of verbal abuse upon the mentally-disabled student. "Drink your milk you f@#*ing retard," he chuckled. "Get outta here! This lunch is for normal people only!" Immediately, I dropped my sandwich and turned towards the offender. My face reddened and my eyes grew cold. "Why don't you tell me that?" I demanded. Seeing the fear in the underclassman's eyes as he stared at my immense figure, I decided not to bother with his utterly disgusting self and instead tended to the victim. Wiping the chocolate milk stains off of his shirt and face, I vowed to never let things like that happen again to him, or to anyone else. I notified the principal of the underclassman's despicable actions. With one year left, I had to formulate ways to put an end to such unnecessary hatred.

As a result, I committed my senior year to eliminating any gateway for discrimination. Working with a friend of mine from the 11th grade, I organized assemblies and seminars for students of Lee Burneson Middle School to effectively shackle discriminatory thinking. Through lectures and team-building games at the middle school, I ardently pursue my goal of teaching equality. Furthermore, I have worked with my friend to establish a club to educate and aid the victims of bullying and discrimination. "Never Alone Club" lends a helping hand to all; it is a movement for change, a catalyst for equality. The club is not only a part of me, but a part of all, for we are all affected. In the future, I seek to cure the seedlings of discriminatory thinking before their roots sprout irreversible hatred. I seek to bury discrimination six feet under, where it may never escape to lay its cold hand of hatred upon the innocent and influence their thoughts. I seek to dissolve the barriers of culture, creed, and color to allow for homogenous interaction and growth, in the spirit of true equality.

To be black, yellow, white, or Jew,
To be handicapped, male, or someone new;
Though different structure and different skin,
All alike we are deep within.
Liberate our minds and think alike,
Look past our differences for a better life,
Free our thoughts from the "hatred prison,"
For we are all part of the human organism.