

## **An Editor on Editorials**

- Dan Rosenberg

This week, I've decided to write a column about writing columns. It seems like an odd topic to choose, but I think an open dialogue between readers and writers is very important. After all, without reading, what would be the reason to write? As a teenage newspaper writer, columns are really the only way to express my opinions in a public forum. I'm not really suggesting that our society is ageist, but how often do you see a teenager on television, or see an article by teen in a major newspaper? That's why, for me, the medium of a school newspaper is so important. Everything that's not news is just opinions, and sometimes I think it would be refreshing to hear a young adult opine about the world around him on a national stage, but that seems unlikely.

The hardest part of writing a column, oddly enough, is not finding a topic, or the actual writing, rather it's filtering ideas and writing through the proper lens. Writing for a school newspaper is very different than writing for a worldwide publication. I have actually been very impressed by how unrestricted the writing for Headlight is allowed to be, however there are some topics which I, as a young adult writing for my school, like to avoid. To be perfectly frank there are some things that a student writing team have no business weighing in on. It was a tough decision for me, as a journalist, but I made the decision that the Newtown massacre was something that as a young adult, with little life experience, I had no business writing on. Sometimes silence is the best response to something of great magnitude.

An editorial is such a unique piece of writing because it is written on two different levels. On the one level, it provides a way for the reader to peer into the mind of the writer. In the case of the school newspaper, it gives people who may have less interaction with young adults than others a way to understand teens, and our modus operandis. But an editorial is written on a second level as well. It's written for the writer himself. There is a lot of happiness that comes from expressing one's opinions, and having others experience them and listen to them. For me, just being able to have the chance to share my thoughts on a myriad of subjects is a great joy. And so, I hope that you, the reader, get as much joy from reading this as I did from writing it.