A column on things

By Paul Schindler

This column, which has figuratively and actually defined classification during its brief but a too lengthy existence, has been placed at last in a subheading. Sources with unusual perception and brilliance have informed this writer that the column, outside of the reviews of movies, plays, or events, is a weekly essay. Some others, among them some of my fellow The Tech staffers, say it should be spelled "weekly." You can’t please all the people all the time.

This which reminds me of one thing, a word which was bandied about very much in the early 50’s by a junior senator from Wisconsin. And it is coming back into vogue, on the lips of some of our most celebrated national figures: i.e., Space Agency, and sometimes even the President himself. The Schindler unabridged definition of "loyalty" is: that feeling which enables one to overlook the minor (or not so minor) faults of an institution or person towards which the loyalty is directed. These are often faults which would not be tolerated in an institution or person towards which loyalty is felt.

Why bother to bring the whole thing up? Because it is just too seldom that people ever consider the topic in any sort of serious way. Many probably assume that once a loyalty has been developed, it is something which should be permanent (as much as anything is permanent). My experience in the area is not vast, but I have developed some allies some benefit will accrue to you. A feeling of loyalty can be discarded for several reasons. Forrest among them is a fact so overwhelming that it shakes the basis upon which loyalty is built. Another is enlightened self-interest: you are convinced that by switching loyalties some benefit will accrue to you. A third might be rejection of your loyalty. Any of these are perfectly good rationales. Or at least, they would be if you happened to live in a vacuum.

Unfortunately, it is the case for most of us that our actions affect not only ourselves, but those around us. In particular, the group you are leaving might consider the topic "Sexual Intercourse," considered by many to be the best of the series. That’s at 7 p.m. At about 9-30 is the Potluck Coffeehouse broadcast, live to 11 midnight. Saturday is the Great Sail remote, in front of the Green Building, starting at 8 p.m.

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