

## Individualists: The Biggest Clique?

"I am an individual with an attitude, like the rest of my friends."  
 "I would classify myself as an individualist."  
 "I am anti-social!"  
 "Unrelenting."

A survey was taken to learn more about the groups that abound at Sycamore. The above quotes are samples of the attitudes students had as to where they fit in these "cliques."

Most people interviewed admitted that groups existed, but would not admit belonging to one. They typically escaped the question by saying that they had friends in many groups, therefore causing them to be "individualists."

They also avoided the question by saying that classifying other people or themselves was confining and inherently wrong. The responses were emphatic, especially when asked if they had ever alienated anyone because of group differences. "No!" was the resounding answer.

The cliques were the most ob-

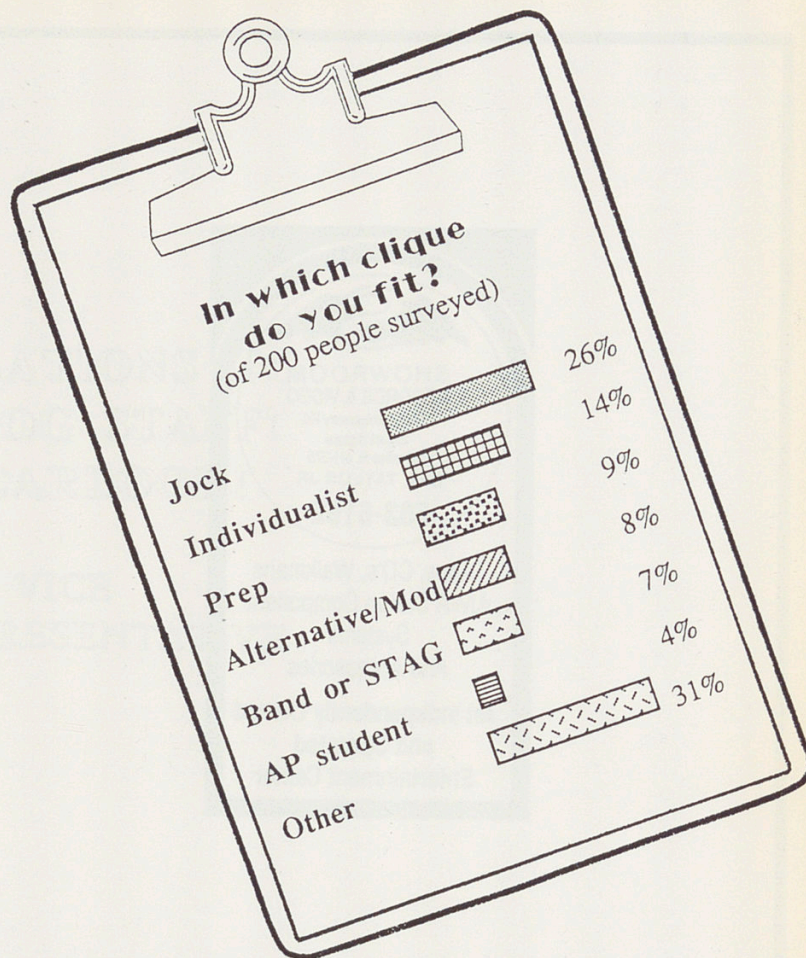
vious as people settled down for lunch in the commons. The tables were used to separate the groups from each other. Whether it was the juniors who sat at "their" table or the freshmen under the stairs, the boundaries were set and very few were able to cross them. This practice is common among teenagers and will become less noticeable in the higher grades, especially in college. This theory was demonstrated by the fact that the juniors and seniors interviewed identified less cliques and talked about the pointlessness of classification,

whereas the freshmen and sophomores simply used other degrading labels for the existing groups.

The groups that were identified were given names. Terms like "jock," "snob," and "alternative" were repeated over and over. The divisions seemed to come from types of classes taken, music listened to, clothing style, and school-related activities, i.e. sports or student council. The problem seemed to stem from the fact that most students overlapped their interests causing the definitions of what a "true" jock, snob, or alternative person to become rather ambiguous. This was the birth of the individualist.

by Alison Ogle

"I am an individual with an attitude, like the rest of my friends."




Representing the diversity are (front) Alison Rothman, Matt Dalton, (back) Mike Webb, Ian Carter, Tina Lovell, and Kara Rolf.

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