



David Schmalz – Class of 1971

My freshman year in 1968, the Southeast basketball team only had one team to beat to get to the state playoffs. We had beaten Central, and in the 60s, nobody beat Central. It was Caviar's first year as head coach. The Knights were playing DeLaSalle. The score was tied or within 2 points the whole game. We were down by 2 points with 3 seconds left. Mike Jones put the ball in play at our end of the court. He got the ball to Theo McGary, but Theo missed the shot that would have tied the game.

High School Memories

Southeast went through a major transition during my time at Southeast. It was the time of racial unrest and white flight. White students left faster than blacks came in. Previous graduating classes had over 300 seniors. By 1971, my class was down to about 200. My freshman year in 1968, the attitude was still part of the old Southeast heritage. Assemblies were pretty well behaved. There was still respect. When black students moved to Southeast from the Central and Paseo areas, they brought different attitudes about race from their parents and family.

One of the first racial issues I remember was in the spring of 1967, when I was still at Southeast Junior. I remember a second B-team cheerleading squad was chosen so that there would be one black cheerleader. I am not sure that solved anything.

There was a group of kids who were really a gang of punks. They were called the 69ers. Talk was they were called that because they lived on 69th Street or they were in the class of '69. Leading up to Black History month in February, they stirred up trouble with racially focused harassment. Then one afternoon in February, about 100 black students gathered in front of the school. As white students came out, certain ones got pummeled in retaliation. The police were called, and the story made the news. As I recall, mostly whites were arrested.

If you went to Southeast (vs. an area that was all white), you understand that the white/black issue is cultural. It has nothing to do with skin color. By the time I graduated in 1971, Southeast was black by percentage (probably about 85%) and culture.

I lived at 67th and College during high school. I had other siblings and relatives who attended Southeast: My brother and sister, mother, and an uncle and aunt

Jan Schmalz – Class of 1965

Olivia Schmalz – Class of 1966

Sarah Jane Wray Schmalz – Class of 1942

Robert Wray - Class of 1948

Betty Wray attended Southeast

Mr. Evans was principal my freshman, sophomore and junior years. My senior year, Mr. Herron became principal. Even though Mr. McMillan had retired by the time I attended Southeast, he always impressed me as an outstanding administrator. When I was taking classes at UMKC, instructors would mention sending student teachers to Southeast and visiting the school. They had strong positive feelings about Southeast and Mr. McMillan. I always thought he was good at picking his staff and attracting the best teachers and coaches in each area.

Others I remember include Cecil Patterson, Nate Roitman, Jesse Cross, Ben Markley and Eleanor Brown.

I attended a lot of sports events. I played the tuba in the marching band, and I played the string bass in the orchestra and jazz band.

Outside of school, I was active at my church, Swope Park Methodist. A number of other Southeast students attended there, both black and white. Even though I did not have many black friends at school, I did have black friends at church. I was part of a group called Sing Out. We sang and performed around town. Coach Truby was involved in forming this group after his years at Southeast.

After High School

I attended UMKC and studied psychology. Then I got a master's in public administration. My junior year at UMKC, I traveled with one of the Up With People casts. There were 3 casts that performed around the United States

and internationally. There were about 140 young people in my group. We traveled to US cities and to Spain, Belgium and Mexico, and stayed in people's homes. It was the greatest year of my life – a wonderful experience. The last 15 years I have been in sales.