

Subject: SLTP Newsletter
From: SLTPlead@aol.com
Date: Mon, 5 Mar 2001 22:59:17 EST
To:

The Student Leadership Training Program
Staff & Alumni Notes

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Today's very real tragedy in San Diego, California cannot help but cause all of us to sit and shake our heads. It is difficult to imagine. It is impossible to comprehend. It is easy to look the other way. It is even easier to go into denial. But we have chosen a different path. We have chosen to lead.

So once more we have the opportunity to ask questions. Once more we have the opportunity to demand answers. Once more we have the opportunity to provide examples. Once more we have the opportunity to INCLUDE.

But before we reach for the soap box to begin preaching, let us pause and say a prayer for the families of the victims and their assailant. And remember preaching is just talking a talk - - walk your talk. Make a difference for the starfish in your school. Inclusion and acceptance are the solution.

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Kids who are different

*Here's to kids who are different
Kids who don't always get A's
Kids who have ears
twice the size of their peers
and noses that go on for days.*

*Here's to kids who are different
Kids they call crazy or dumb
Kids who don't fit
with the guts and the grit,
Who dance to a different drum.*

*Here's to kids who are different
Kids with a mischievous streak
For when they have grown
History has shown
It's their difference that makes them unique.
by Digby Wolfe*

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Forwarded Message:

Subj: **why?**

Date: 3/5/01 3:53:13 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Moff44

To: Fitzpace

"...i wanted to kill you but i didn't want you dead. how else clould i tell you what's on my mind without you interruptig?...don't i have enough pain? isn't it hard enough being nobody? isn't it tough enough that everybody looks at me like i'm nothing? where do i fit in? where can i go and not have anybody on my back?..."

sound familiar?

once again, the "nobody" spoke. once again, the silence was broken. once again, bullets drive the story instead of inclusion.

it happened again.

one more school. one more tragedy. one more day when the questions outnumber the answers.

one more day of pain.

one more day when we're forced to look at what we don't want to acknowledge.

one more day when something could have been done.

one more day when the empty rhetoic and political pundits will blame the media, blame the family, blame gun laws, blame values, and vilify the shooter. the president has already declared him a "coward" - but who is the real coward? who is really responsible? how 'bout talking about those that didn't listen? how 'bout talking about those that could have done something? how 'bout talking about the cowards that hide behind the blame and never talk about what to do or where to go from here.

and today is one more day when the voices speak out. and one more day when perhap's a summer play performed at a summer camp can say it all...

"i didn't know it would be forever. i thought it was 'bang bang you're dead' again. i thought i could just hit the reset button and start over. why can't i have another chance? when i killed you, i killed all my possibilities, too..."

and josh is right - possibility has been killed once again. and until we start talking about the real issue - and what is really going on - there is

no possibility left.

peace.

greg

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There are links to these two webpages from the SLTP site. Take a minute and visit them, see if their message applies to your school.

[The Hands Project](#)

[Student Pledge Against Gun Violence](#)

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SLTP Mailings

Last summer's "letters to self" went into the mail last week. So if you haven't yet figured out who wrote that note to you, even though the handwriting looked awfully familiar - - well . . .

And this week the camp applications go into the mail to all of our graduates and all of the schools in the NorthEast.

Please make sure to duplicate the applications and distribute them to everyone who is eligible.

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ALC

The race is on. The question is which ALC will fill first. Carolyn has bet it will be ALC 2 and I think it will be ALC 1. Currently there are only eight slots left combined.

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March madness

The SLTP Staff will gather this month for the annual Staff Conference. This three day event is filled with the energy and craziness you would expect when you put 70 SLTP staffers together. In addition to the craziness and the necessary socialness of the occasion, the staff will be putting together the teaching strategies and possibilities for the summer.

The 2001 SLTP

at Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts

Where leaders learn HOW to make a difference!

LTC's - - July 17 - 21; July 24 - 28; July 31 - Aug 4; Aug 7 - 11

ALC's - - July 25 - 28; Aug 8 - 11

Collegiate Initiative - - July 2 & 3

Officer Training Seminar - - July 6 & 7

Adviser Certification - - Aug 1 - 4

[**www.differencemakers.com/SLTP/**](http://www.differencemakers.com/SLTP/)