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VOLUME 5 ISSUE 5

JANUARY—FEBRUARY, 2005

A difference realized

For the past 2 years in this issue of our newsletter, we have sent out a Difference-Maker Alert to all of our alumni and staff. We have asked everyone to participate in the National Valentines for Soldiers campaign. We wondered how many valentines we could muster in such a short time. Simple math reasoned that the number could be very large.

The response was more than we could have dreamed. We heard from clubs, student councils, church youth groups, key clubs, elderly groups, dance teams, chorus, faculties, dorm floors, service groups ... and the list goes on and on. We received reports from over 130 groups ... from most of our member schools

and beyond.

We thought wouldn't it be cool is everyone made 500 valentines each. Well, the smallest number reported was 100. The largest was 3,000.

There were lots and lots of valentine making parties. The one we held with at the ReE was a load of fun. In just under an hour we made over 1,400 valentines. It was like being a little kid all over again.

DifferenceMaking is like that, isn't it? I mean while you are doing it with your friends, you have lots of fun and share lots of smiles. And the end result of your efforts is a smile given and received. At this crucial time is there anything more desirable that putting a smile on the faces of the soldiers who are stepping

into harm's way for all of us?

So how many did we make all together? Well, the unofficial total is the best I can do. But unofficially SLTP's outreach caused over 100,000 Valentines to be made in 2003 and about 101,000 in 2004 !!!!

This past summer, we began making and collecting valentines and dozens of our member schools have been making them since September.

Now it's time to roll up your sleeves and do it again. Check out the article on page 2 for the particulars on where to send the valentines.

Summer Conferences

Registrations for all our summer conferences are underway in earnest! There are just over 20 weeks to go before our summer conferences kick off. All of the applications are available on line as pdf files at www.sltp.info

OTS

There is one session which is open to all forms of officer teams –

from full cabinets to co-captains – from clubs to classes to student government. (The team requirement is that there must be at least a pair of officers)

July 1-2

LTC

There are four sessions. Although there are just over 120 slots available at this point.

July 5-9;

**July 12-16;
July 26-30
and Aug 2-6**

ALC

There are three sessions and approximately 50 slots available.

**July 13-16;
July 27-30;
and Aug 3-6**

TLC

There is only one session and there are 5

slots left.

July 6-9

Adviser Certification

There is only one session and there are 10 slots left.

July 27-30

A Call to Action

Let's give the following National Campaign another SLTP style effort. If each of our 100 member schools gave this a special effort, we could help these guys reach their goal.

And lets keep track -- send me the number you and your school are going to shoot for and then send me the number you actually produce.

Imagine ... what if our 100 schools each did 1,000 Valentines, hmmm ...

Below you will find the Press Release we received seeking help and the information from the website on how to send the Valentines.

Let's share some smiles. Let's make a difference for the soldiers. Let's get busy making Valentines!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT INFO:

Valentines For Troops
Michael Fleming
21516 Golden Triangle Road
Santa Clarita, California 91350
USA
Phone: 714) 381-5652
Fax: 714) 283-4106
Valentinesfortroops@hotmail.com
www.ValentinesForTroops.com

1,000,000 VALENTINES FOR TROOPS CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Dateline: January, 2005...Los Angeles, California

Contact Name: Michael Fleming
Contact Phone: 714) 282-9415 office 714) 381-5652 cell (preferred)
Website: http://
www.ValentinesForTroops.com

Los Angeles, Ca - January, 2005 Three Southern California businessmen who last year distributed over 250,000 Valentines and Valentine emails to U.S. servicemen and women, are beginning their 2003 Campaign with a goal of 1,000,000 Valentines.

Michael Fleming, 51, David Fleming, 48, and Paul Kramer, 38, are asking for Valentines to be mailed to them for distribution to military personnel at bases all over the world. Valentines will be distributed to military bases beginning Feb-

ruary 7th. They prefer handmade Valentines. The majority of Valentines that were sent to them last year were done as school, church or youth group service projects.

"Last year we received tens of thousands of Valentines from people in 48 states. They came mostly from churches and schools. The artistic creativity, messages, and prayers on the Valentines were truly heartwarming", said Michael Fleming, campaign coordinator. "I saw many teary eyes on our service members as they would receive them", added Fleming

The Valentine campaign was an offshoot from letter writing campaigns that the Fleming brothers started during the Gulf War in 1991. "Back then, we had our skating rink customers write letters addressed to "any service member" on stationery we provided, then mailed the letters for them. We received countless responses from service members who appreciated getting the mail from us. With war looming again this is a great time for us to send our support as a Valentine", added David Fleming.

Valentines are to be mailed or delivered to one of three Southern California distribution locations. The main location is Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour, operated by the Fleming's and Kramer. It is located at 21516 Golden Triangle Road, Santa Clarita, Ca 91350. They can also be sent to Skateland in Northridge and Light of the Canyon UMC in Anaheim. Address for all locations appear on their website.

"This year we set up a website that has all the details on where the Valentines can be sent for delivery. We also have a direct email link on our site to Navy ships that have been deployed overseas. Everyone in the U.S. can send a variety of greetings to our service members from our website", said Michael Fleming.

Further details such as mailing addresses and design guidelines can be found on their website at www.ValentinesForTroops.com.

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RULES and GUIDELINES:

-- All Valentines will be screened for security reasons, so **DO NOT place your Valentine in an envelope!**

-- We reserve the right to eliminate those Valentines that are political in nature and that do not reflect a positive message in the spirit of Valentines Day.

[Handmade Valentines](#) are preferred but please follow the guidelines below.

Final delivery will be made on February 14th. All Valentines received after that date will be held over until next year.

GUIDELINES FOR HANDMADE VALENTINES:

Any size Valentine will be accepted. Please do not use glitter on Valentines.

Unfortunately, candy or other food items can not be accepted and should not be included or attached to cards.

Military personnel love to communicate with us! You can include your name, address or email address if you so desire.

Photos of the sender, sender's family, church, or classroom participants can add a personal touch to your card. Photos must be appropriate.

The more positive the message the better! Care should be taken not to refer to anything that may cause grief or uneasiness to the military reader. (i.e., I hope you don't get killed or Do you miss your family?)

HOW TO MAIL:

We suggest using the Post Office's [Priority Mail](#). The Post Office even will give you the box!

REMEMBER -- IF MAILING VALENTINES IN BULK BE SURE THEY ARE NOT IN ENVELOPES!

Dating Violence

What do we mean when we talk about dating violence?

Dating violence isn't an argument every once in a while, or a bad mood after a bad day. Dating violence (or relationship abuse) is a pattern of violent behavior that someone uses against a girlfriend or boyfriend. Abuse can cause injury and even death, but it doesn't have to be physical. It can include verbal and emo-

tional abuse constant insults, isolation from friends and family, name calling, controlling what someone wears and it can also include sexual abuse. It can happen to anyone, at any age, no matter what race or religion they are, no matter what their level of education or economic background.

Understanding what domestic violence is means being aware of the many different things abusers

do in order to control their partners. The following checklist of behaviors may help you decide if you or someone you know is being abused.

Silence is NOT an option. Awareness is the beginning. Get help.

Some questions

Does your boyfriend or girlfriend. . .

Use emotional and psychological control?

- * call you names, yell, put you down, make racial or homophobic slurs, or constantly criticize or undermine you and your abilities as a partner?
- * behave in an overprotective way or become extremely jealous?
- * make it difficult for you to see family or friends, or "badmouth" your family and friends?
- * prevent you from going where you want to, when you want to, and with whomever you want to?
- * humiliate or embarrass you in front of other people?

Does your boyfriend or girlfriend. . .

Use economic control?

- * force you to account for what you spend or take your money?
- * prevent you from getting or keeping a job or from going to school?

Does your boyfriend or girlfriend. . .

Make threats?

- * make you afraid by using looks, actions or gestures?
- * display weapons as a way of making you afraid or directly threaten you with weapons?
- * use their anger or "loss of temper" as a threat to get you to do what they want?

Does your boyfriend or girlfriend. . .

Commit acts of physical violence?

- * carry out threats to hurt you, your pets, family members, friends, or themselves?
- * destroy personal property or throw things around?
- * grab, push, hit, punch, slap, kick, choke, or bite you?
- * force you to have sex when you don't want to or to engage in sexual acts that you don't want to do?
- * deny you access to food, fluids or

sleep?

These are some of the most common tactics used by abusive those who try to control their partner, but certainly not the only ones. If your partner does things that restrict your personal freedom or that make you afraid, you may be a victim of domestic violence.

You are not alone. Millions of women and some men are abused by their partners every year. The good news is that more resources are available now than ever before to help you be safe. If you answered yes to any of the questions -- it is time to get some help. Talk to your guidance counselor. Talk to your SRO. Talk to an adult at school that you trust. Talk to your parents.

What do you think?

What other behaviors or actions do you think could be considered domestic violence?

Personal Professional Portfolio Overview

At the core of the SLTP experience is the integration of learning with personal and professional development. It is possible to view the experience of SLTP as a set of training sessions, skills to learn, lessons to present and experiences to share. As you can see, when we write that perception it seems shallow and incomplete because it is. Purposeful learning is our goal. Purposeful learning requires connecting and relating your specific learnings and understanding gleaned through your SLTP experience to life's lessons acquired in the college classroom, in your co-curricular activities, through your service experiences,

through your part time job or through other your volunteer work.

A Personal Professional Portfolio is designed to be systematic, intentional, visible and creditable. It should enhance your professional image for job applications, college applications, scholarships and interviews. That however is truly only a byproduct of its primary function.

Creating a Personal Professional Portfolio will involve writing about ALL of your learning experiences as they relate to the important dimensions and skills that professionals possess. As you assemble a collection of your best work, you will naturally

and systematically be reflecting on those experiences thereby increasing your learning and understandings.

Your task is to assemble a valuable set of credentials, a paper trail of reference that showcases your talents, accomplishments and personal strengths.

Dimensions and Skills

In creating your Personal Professional Portfolio, you will be documenting your acquisition of knowledge, skills and expertise in six Dimensions and six Skills that are essential to a true professional.

Dimensions

Career Exploration
Intercultural Perspectives

Leadership / Initiative
Responsibility / Citizenship
Values and Ethics
Teamwork and Teambuilding

Skills

Analytical Ability
Cooperative Learning & Collaboration
Interpersonal Skills
Oral communication
Written Communication
Information / Computer Literacy

Nuts and Bolts—Putting it all together

1. Buy the book AND a box

Purchase a quality 3 ring binder now, it will serve as a reminder. The box will be for storage of the "stuff".

2. Divide and conquer

Use tabbed dividers to organize and separate the contents of your portfolio.

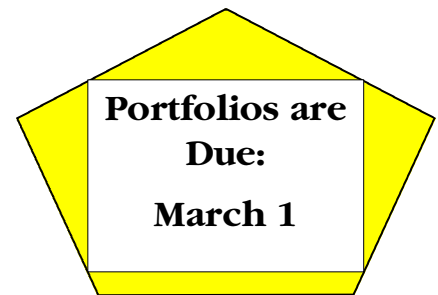
3. Use this list as a starting point for ideas of information and items to include in your portfolio:

Table of contents
Statement of purpose
Resume – full
References
Letters of Recommendation
Transcripts (if required)

Personal statement (educational philosophy; business philosophy – depending on aims
Personal Goals
Leadership / Management theory
Samples / evidence
Photos of relevant experience
Successes / failures / results

4. Tips

Keep it simple. Don't overload the portfolio with page after page of lengthy text or repetitive photos.
Keep it manageable. That means easy to hold and peruse.
Keep it timely. Keep it current and up to date.
Include pictures. Not too many and not too few – just right.
Make copies. Use copies in your



portfolio. For the picture pages, make copies on a color copier. Keep the originals on file.

Make it clear. Use clear plastic inserts to keep your pages neat and clean.

Keep it reader friendly. Use 12 point type for readability.

5. Work your plan

6. Learn from the experience

The Core—A Workshop For Advisers—February 2, 2005

It is already filling up. The long awaited Adviser Conference is scheduled for February 2nd. Helping student activity advisers is one of the most vital elements of our programming.

We have called this conference “The Core” because that aptly describes its purpose and intent. The curriculum for this day conference will be the core elements of success for student activities.

Naturally this conference

will be interactive and experiential and centered on practical skill training. The skillshops on February 2nd will include:

- Organization & Intentionality
- Motive-Action
- Expectations & Empowerment

A descriptive webpage (www.sltp.info/Advisers) and a regional general mailing that included flyers and registration forms were mailed this week. More information

is available at our website—click Advisers or Conferences.

Help us to get the word out. Help your advisers. You know what it is like to spend time with incredibly positive people—allow your adviser that experience. Spread the word.

See page 9 for a registration form.

The DifferenceMaker Showcase—April 3, 2005

The *DifferenceMaker Showcase* is a very special conference. We believe that service should not be a “have to.” Service should be a “get to.” Service is leadership in action. This conference is about expanding service opportunities, learning how to stage particular events and exploring the possibilities for service inside and outside of school.

Our attendance goal is 250 – just one carload. It’s only

10 bucks each!

We’ll learn who won the Student Leader of the Year.

We’ll learn who won citations for Public Service.

We’ll learn who won citations for Personal Development.

We’ll celebrate the Lifetime of Difference Award winners.

We’ll learn, we’ll listen, we’ll laugh, we’ll see old friends

and make some new ones.

So mark your calendar now – bring your friends and your friends’ friends for a spectacular spring afternoon. It’s **Sunday, April 3rd.**

See page 10 for a registration form.

Parent Newsletters

Among the features of our newly restructured website is the full service section for the parents of student leaders. We sought contributions from Parents at all of the Parent Orientation Programs last summer, and the results are plain to see.

In the Parent section there is a great deal of information to help explain the feelings and the dynamics of

SLTP. Something we all struggle to explain to anyone who has never attended our program. There are resources. There are suggestions on how to support an active student leader, and beginning this month—there is a sign up for a monthly newsletter.

The newsletter is called “True Points” and like this news-

letter it will be available each month electronically.

We hope to provide parents with information on what is going on in student activities and we hope to provide as much support as we can—check it out yourself, and then get them to check it out.

2005 Student Leader of the Year

Each year the Student Leadership Training Program seeks to recognize the accomplishments and differencemaking of an extraordinary group of STUDENT leaders - - namely the graduates of SLTP. As a means of doing so, the Administrative Board of the SLTP created the **Student Leader of the Year Award**.

The fundamental basis for this award is differencemaking. We are seeking to recognize STUDENT leaders who "walk their talk."

All of the nominees and all of the finalists for the SLY will be recognized at the DifferenceMaker Showcase in April. All of the nominees will receive certificates. The finalists will receive Award plaques and camperships in their name to be presented to students from their school.

In addition to the above, the Award Winner will receive a college scholarship.

The nomination process begins very quickly. Our aim is to

allow the finalists the best use of the recognition.

Nomination for the award can be accomplished one of FOUR ways: 1) nomination by ANY SLTP graduate; 2) nomination by your principal or adviser; or 3) nomination by an SLTP staffer or 4) self nomination (if you are an SLTP graduate). **The deadline for nominations is January 10, 2005.**

Upon receipt of the nomination we will mail the Student Leaders of the Year Award Application to the nominee for completion. **The deadline for applications is March 1, 2005.**

Minimum Prerequisites for Nomination

- ◆ SLTP graduate of LTC
- ◆ receipt on or before the deadlines

Nomination Deadline -
January 10

- ◆ Only high school juniors or seniors are eligible.
- ◆ Nominations should be typed and must include the nominee's name, address (including email, There must be a brief endorsement of the nomination (one or two sentences indicating why the person was nominated). Finally the nomination must include the name, address, title (adviser, Principal, etc.) or SLTP attendance record of the person making the nomination.

SEND NOMINATIONS TO:

Helen Fitzgerald, SLY Nomination,
108 Observatory Way

Marshfield, MA 02050-4101

Or to: helen@sltp.info

Champions for Youth

Each year at the ReEnergizer and DifferenceMaker Conferences, SLTP strives to empower student leadership through our Champion for Youth Awards. SLTP wants to help student leaders recognize those members of their schools and communities who make a positive significant difference for young people.

SLTP has feted: advisers, teachers, principals, assistant principals, coaches—all kinds from skating to soccer, crossing guards, custodians, bus drivers, Youth Directors, Youth Ministers, little league coaches, SRO's, DARE officers, social workers, guidance counselors, Booster Club

Presidents, Band Directors, dance teachers, MassSTAR chairs, college activity directors and parents.

ALL SLTP alumni and staff are invited to nominate those deserving of this award. Nominations must include a type-written rationale of not more than 250 words.

One of the best parts of this award is that it provides the opportunity for student leaders to catch others doing things right.

The awards are presented at the REE & the Showcase and include a letter

form our Communication Director, a press release, the Award certificate, plus differencemaking student camperships.

Alumni and Staff should send their nominations for the CYA to jim@sltp.info by March 3. Nominations should include biographical data for the nominee as well as the 250 word rationale.

Deadline for nomination: March 3.

Send to: jim@sltp.info

Include a rationale and bio data.

New Conference Directors

This summer, two “new” conference directors will debut for SLTP. Erin Stewart and Carolyn Labuda will join Adam Travis and Jim Fitzgerald to share the helm of the program with our CC’s (Shira Hirschberg and Jess Loomis).

Erin Stewart is a Marketing Director for Kaplan Study Skills. Erin is a graduate of Boston University and has been involved with SLTP since the summer following her junior year of high school. She is a graduate of LTC and ALC and has

served as LT and LI. In addition to serving as a member of the SLTP Administrative Board, Erin is the Executive Director of the MassSTAR Youth Foundation. MassSTAR stages the premier citizenship conference in New England for Massachusetts sophomores.

Carolyn Labuda is a mathematics teacher at Swampscott High School. Carolyn is a graduate of UMass Amherst and Cambridge College. Carolyn has been involved with SLTP since her junior year of

high school and is a graduate of both LTC and ALC. In addition to serving as both LT and LI, Carolyn served for several years as CC. In 2000 Carolyn was inducted into the SLTP Hall of Fame. She is a co-author of “Stepping Stones” our camper manual, and she is also the co-author of the C-Team Manual.

Conference Profile—ALC

The ALC’s are crucibles of leadership. There is a special intensity in this incredible experience. The ALC is for the serious leadership student. The student who understands the role leaders play. The student who knows how to make a difference. The student who wants to take their skills to the next level. The student who has learned that he / she needs to learn MORE.

The ALC curriculum is complex and the expectations of achievement are high which is exactly what should take place in a program titled ADVANCED !

Strong bonds are established between staff and students - a week of teaching and learning together leads to those kinds of bonds. The approach to the curriculum is of course experiential and the cooperative learning exercises allow each student to both teach and learn.

What makes the curriculum so advanced? Well, it takes off where the LTC program left off. The subjects include: motivation; conflict resolution; group dynamics; change; initiative; delegation; and more. But the real advancement comes from the participants. The energy level of the ALC’s is always

through the roof. And it needs to be.

There needs to be a lot of energy because even more is packed into the program than was packed in for LTC—and ALC is a half day shorter!

The sense of fulfillment and accomplishment that ALC graduates feel is absolutely off the scale. That pride comes from learning and achieving together. It comes from the special ALC DifferenceMaker Projects. It comes from working with the staff so closely. It comes from inside.

Alumni Association News

When you visit the newly enhanced SLTP website, be sure to visit the Alumni pages. There you will find a great deal of information and a great many resources.

Register for your SLTP Alumni Card, which will make possible an even wider array of

services.

If you have moved or if you believe we do not have your correct snail mail address or email address, please visit the change of address page to update your information.

The Regional Alumni Association teams will be meeting

this month to begin planning events and to work on the DifferenceMaker Showcase. If you have ideas or suggestions for the Alumni Association please tap them to Jen McGonagle, our Alumni Relations Liaison.

jen@sltp.info

The 2005 SLTP Conference Schedule

Where leaders learn HOW
to make a difference!

- **The Core—An Adviser Workshop**

February 2

- **The DifferenceMaker Showcase**

April 3

- **Leadership Training Conferences (4)**

July 5 - 9; July 12 - 16; July 26 - 30;

Aug 2 - 6

- **Advanced Leadership Conferences (3)**

July 13 - 16; July 27 - 30; Aug 3 - 6

- **The Leadership Center**

July 6 - 9

- **Officer Training Seminar**

July 1 - 2

- **Adviser Certification**

July 27 - 30

- **The ReEnergizer Conference**

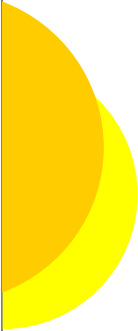
November 26

We're on the Web!
www.sltp.info
Information for
Parents, Teachers,
Students,
Administrators
Applications *
Photos

Have you visited our website recently?

Our website has undergone a dramatic transformation. It is much more user friendly. There is an absolute ease to thenavigation. It loads faster and yet it is much more comprehensive and it is highly interactive.

Browse away and let us know what you think.



Thanks for the help last month—look for the results in next month's newsletter!

SLTP School Survey 2

Please send us this information as soon as you can. We are compiling data on student services in our area. Send it electronically to: jim@sltp.info or via snail mail to: School Survey 108 Observatory Way Marshfield, MA 02050

<p>Are the bathroom doors locked?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No—doors removed</p>	<p>Is there a study area for athletes waiting for practice?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>	<p>Are the library and guidance offices open on Saturday?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes—during finals <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>What time does school end?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1:30 -2:15 <input type="checkbox"/> 2:20-3:00 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>
<p>Which student activities have offices?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Student Council <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Class <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No student offices</p>	<p>How many "unexcused" absences are allowed?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10—then fail <input type="checkbox"/> 15—then fail <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>	<p>How many college visits may seniors make?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Considered absence</p>	<p>Does the school require community service for graduation?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration <input type="checkbox"/> # of hours _____</p>

<p>_____ School</p> <p>_____ Address</p> <p>_____ Principal's Name</p>	<p>_____ Name</p> <p>_____ Address</p> <p>_____ Email</p>
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