

# True Points

a newsletter for the parents of student leaders

March, 2006

Volume 2, Issue 4

## Inside this issue:

Yellow Dress	2
Directions	2
InterLead	3
Join us	3
What's available	4
Bully stats	4
Time Alert	4
Survey Results	5
Schedule	6
Help invite	6
InterLead Brochure	7
InterLead Form	8

## From where I sit By Dr. Jim Fitzgerald, SLTP Director

“Just” is a very damaging word, isn’t it? Often it is used in sympathy but in reality, it is quite a put down.

“It’s **just** a phase.”

“It’s **just** something you have to live through.”

“**Just** take it easy.”

“**Just** try harder.”

As role models and as the support system for student leaders, we must realize the real power and limitations of words.

Words can hurt. Words can heal. Words can unite. Words can separate. We need look no further than last fall’s presidential debates to see all four of the above.

One word we use a lot in SLTP is

“Inclusion.” Simply, we feel it is the primary function of student leadership.

Every school everywhere has a mission statement that alludes or infers that the school is inclusive. Yet, that is rarely the case.

Student based leadership is the only way to overcome the systematic division.

Involved students do better academically. Involved students have better attendance. The more involved students are in the school community, the safer the school is. The more involved students there are in a school, the stronger the academics become in that school. Those facts are clear.

What is also clear is that most schools have less than 30% of their student body involved in student activities.

Active, aggressive student leaders are key to including and involving the student body. At all of our conferences and seminars we explore the dynamics of inclusion as well as building an atmosphere within each organization to motivate its membership to become active.

## Newsletter Submissions

SLTP welcomes contributions to our newsletters from our alumni and friends.

Articles should be no longer than 200 words. Each article submitted for publication must address a topic of interest to student leadership. The article must include a bio of the author - name;

address; email address, phone; school; year in school; & SLTP graduation year.

Opinions must be clearly identifies as those of the author.

We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity and style. We also reserve the

right not to publish articles which do not meet the criteria established in our guidelines.

For additional information, please refer to the guidelines posted on [sltp.info](http://sltp.info)

## The Yellow Dress

According to the American Journal of Preventive medicine, approximately one out of every three high school and college students experienced violence in a dating relationship. The Student Leadership Training Program alumni and staff are working to find solutions to the escalating problem of dating violence in New England.

On April 2, at Nichols College, SLTP will host a unique event. It is called the InterLead, and it will be a forum joining student leaders with community leaders to discuss, investigate and collaborate on this problem. The attendees at the InterLead Conference will see *The Yellow Dress*, a powerful and dramatic one-woman play based on the real life stories of young women who were victims of relationship abuse.

*The Yellow Dress* is the story of a young woman who warmly tells us of her relationship – that begins as young love and ends in tragedy. Following the processing of the play, the audience - student leaders from all across New England and invited state legislators from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut

will engage in a discussion aimed at a collaborative solution.

SLTP is once again raising the issue of violence against women, as it has raised the issue of bullying because student leadership must be involved with community leadership if solutions are to be found. Dr. Jim Fitzgerald, founder and director of SLTP said, "Our hope is to heighten awareness and to engage the best minds from our schools and communities to develop solutions that will result in a cultural shift that does not accept violence in relationships."

The Yellow Dress program is produced and directed by Deana's Fund, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to promoting healthy relationships. The organization provides theater and arts based educational programs to schools and communities around the United States.

According to Sher Quaday, Director of Deana's Fund, "The Yellow Dress Program is a good first step to developing an effective dating violence prevention program. It is a great tool, especially when used together with school and community efforts."

Dr. Fitzgerald adds, "That

is the point of the InterLead, bringing student leaders from so many schools to engage with community leaders on this issue is sure to get both groups actively engaged seeking solutions. Our alumni believe that leaders must stand up for what is right, even if they are standing alone. On April 2, at the InterLead, student leaders will get a chance to stand side by side with their community leaders. We are pleased to give them a place to stand. Archimedes said that with a place to stand he could move the world. At SLTP we believe that leaders have the power to change the world."

Come join us on April 2!

## Directions to Nichols

### **Directions to Nichols College**

Nichols College is located in Dudley, Massachusetts 20 minutes south of Worcester.

From the North:

Take I-290 to Auburn, where I-290 becomes I-395 South\*. Follow to Exit 4B (Sutton Rd./Oxford Center). Turn right off ramp and stay in the right lane. Go straight through light at Oxford Center (Cumberland Farms on right). Follow straight past light for 0.8 miles and take a left onto Dudley Rd. (produce stand on

right). Follow this road for 3.7 miles until you come to a fork (you will see water on the right and left). Bear right at the fork and continue for 2 miles through two stop signs, then straight onto the Nichols campus .

From the East & West:

Take the Mass Pike to Exit 10 in Auburn and get on 395 South. Follow directions from above\*.

From the South:

Take I-395 North to Exit 2, (Webster) and turn left off ramp. Go straight through the first set of traffic lights. Follow Route 12 South

(Route 12 will turn left through Webster Center). Continue through Webster Center. After the railroad tracks, continue straight into Dudley on Route 197 (Route 12 will turn left – do not turn left; stay straight). Turn right at Cumberland Farms onto Airport Rd. Follow Airport Rd. to the Webster-Dudley Golf Course. Bear right and take the first left onto Center Rd. Proceed to Auditorium (Large building set back on the left just past the Dining Hall)

## The InterLead—April 2nd.

It's only weeks away now. And the excitement on the Alumni Board and among the staff has been building. The Alumni Team has been working to insure that all of the service presentations in the afternoon are exceptional. The staff and the alumni have been busy inviting community and political leaders to watch "the Yellow Dress" with us. In the beginning this was hard — most legislators did not want to give up their family time, but we have been gathering more and more commitments to attend.

InterLead - short for Inter-State Student Leadership Forum - will attempt to be a forum for the expression of student ideas and opinions on the issues which most affect them. And in joining the student voices with the voices of community leadership, we hope to create a real spirit of activism.

The InterLead conference will each year be designed to raise, discuss and explore issues that face their student constituencies and to explore community action. The Forum will bring together student leaders with community leaders to determine and create action plans.

This will be a conference that makes a statement. Its statement on the issues will be supplemented by the combination of exploration of service opportunities, since the current generation is the most committed to community service ever. We hope to draw

workshop presenters to showcase their service projects and offer explanations of the opportunities that are available across our region. This component of the conference is being coordinated and developed by our Alumni Association Executive Board, who did so well with this element last year.

This year the Forum will address violence against women in schools, its causes, effects and will explore action plans. The key element in the program will be the internationally acclaimed play, "The Yellow Dress." Following a thorough processing of the play which will include a determination of its reality and connection to high school and collegiate school life, there will be discussion groups designed to involve student leaders and community leaders in solution planning. We are inviting state legislators from all over our region. And we need everyone's help to reach out.

Another primary need for students is meaningful service projects. The InterLead will provide the opportunity for many groups who need student involvement to showcase them selves for student leaders.

For now -- we are examining a town meeting format for the General Assembly after the processing of the play. This would enable us to raise several ideas for discussion in

the shortest amount of time. We don't see this as a confrontation between student leaders and community leaders — we see it as an opportunity to collaborate while extrapolating solutions. Legislators need to see student leaders as what they are — leaders. And students need to see legislators as what they are — difference makers. It should be wild. It will raise awareness as to the seriousness of today's student leaders. It will raise awareness of the quality of today's political leaders.

Make your plans today, we must limit the size of the audience to approximately 300 to accommodate the presentation of "the Yellow Dress," so it will be first come first served.

See the last two pages of this newsletter for a brochure and registration form. Now, get busy — lets fill the auditorium.

## Join us !

Join us. Help SLTP to grow and thrive. Become part of the action. We need help getting the word out . What can you do? Here are some direct action suggestions:

1. Join the Presentation Teams at SLTP information tables at various conferences
2. Join the Welcome Wagon team for our summer conferences to

3. meet and greet the parents dropping off their kids.
3. Join the Facilitation Teams for one or all of the Parent Orientation Programs at the closing of this summer's conferences.
4. Join the Fundraising Teams to seek out in-kind donations from local businesses.
5. Join the Phone Calling Teams

to call schools and secure information.

6. Join the Recruiting Teams to present to parent groups.
7. Join the Connections theatrical troupe to present or help stage on of our traveling productions.
8. Apply to join our staff.

## What's still available for the summer?

Registrations for all our summer conferences are underway in earnest! There are just over 24 weeks to go before our summer conferences kick off. All of the applications are available on line as pdf files at [www.sltp.info](http://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 6-7

### LTC

There are four sessions. Although there are just over 110 slots available at this point.

July 11-15;  
July 18-22;  
August 1-5  
and Aug 8-12

### ALC

There are four sessions and approximately 32 slots available.

July 12-15;  
July 19-22;  
August 2-5;  
and Aug 9-12

### TLC

There is only one session and there are 3 slots left.

July 12-15

### Adviser Certification

There is only one session which is open to all teachers, coaches and collegians and there are 10 slots left.

July 27-28

### Leadership in Athletics

There is only one session which is open to secondary and collegiate athletes and their coaches and there are 24 slots left.

July 27-28

## Bullying Statistics—State by State

### Connecticut

Population: 3,405,565  
School age: 616,407  
Victims: 46,662  
Victims/Bullies: 9,739  
Bullies: 44,505  
Total involved in Bullying:  
100,906

### Massachusetts

Population: 6,349,097  
School age: 1,098,394  
Victims: 83,148  
Victims/Bullies: 17,355  
Bullies: 79,304  
Total involved in Bullying:  
179,807

### Rhode Island

Population: 1,048,319  
School age: 183,546  
Victims: 13,888  
Victims/Bullies: 2,899  
Bullies: 13,245  
Total involved in Bullying:  
30,032

Source Bully Police USA

## Time Alert—Spring Ahead



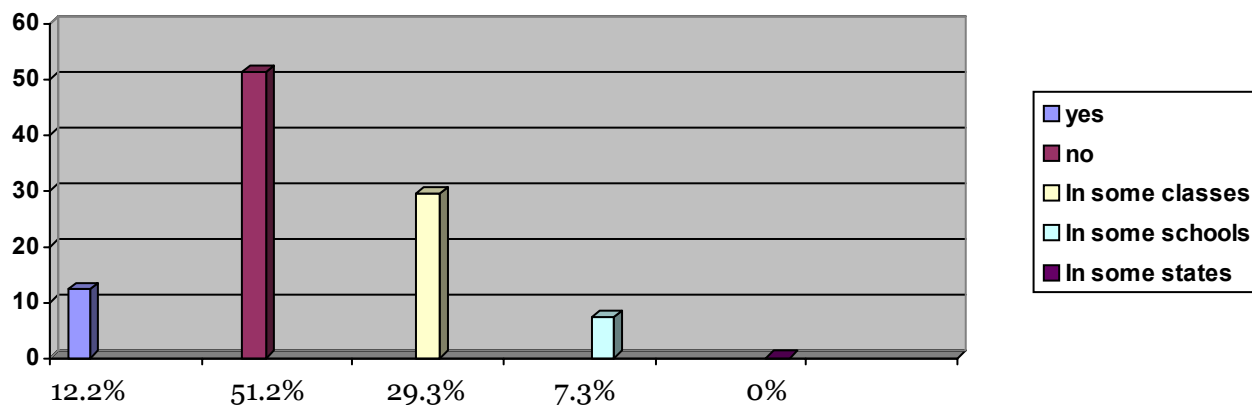
The bi-annual fooling with the clocks will take place on the eve of the InterLead!

That's right, we will be setting our clocks AHEAD that night.

Don't get caught by this — make sure you set your ALARM CLOCK correctly — and that Mom sets hers too.

## And the survey says . . .

**This month's survey question: Do you believe current Curriculum Standards and Standardized Testing help prepare students for college?**



**Yes** by Robert Peolini, HS Physics teacher

Testing is the only way to insure students learn. No one learns for the pure joy of learning—that is a myth, especially with today's teens.

The real world is based on competition and it is our job to insure that our students can measure up to today's standards. Standardized testing is

the best way to determine how students are doing.

Teachers and school systems that resist the national trend should be removed as they are not doing their students any good.

Colleges need to see how students measure up in order to determine the shape of their

student body. Standardized tests provide the right kind of measuring stick.

By adhering to national standards and by providing a clear path for excellence, we give our students the best chance of success and they know where they stand.

**No, a thousand times NO!** by Helen Fitzgerald, CASA Executive Director

Let me be clear — public and private education is in dire need of reform, but the reform cannot be cosmetic, it cannot be a band-aid.

State wide standardized tests like like the ones in NY, MA, Texas and even the CAPT test in CT. All miss the point of reform.

Currently we test the kids in the subjects that their great grandparents took. High school subjects have changed

very little in the last 100 years. Yet the world around the high school has changed significantly.

About one third of all college freshmen withdraw or flunk out. I agree with those who say it is a failure of our school systems that this occurs — but it is not due to how they were taught or whether they took enough standardized tests.

The problem is, we are not providing our students with the

education they need for THEIR time.

The testing only reinforces the mistake. The students learn to test better. They take the testing courses (that are now offered in lieu of art, music, band and co-curricular activities) and so they test well.

So what? It is past time. We need real reform. Not some political compromise — not more tests to prove the virtue of testing and satisfy some-

# InterLead—working schedule

## The InterLead, an Interstate Forum for Student Leadership

<b>8:15 - 8:55</b>	<b>Registration</b> Activity Fair / Games / Meeting & Greet Reception for Legislators & Special Guests	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>9:01</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Opening Ceremonies Welcome ~ Pledge of Allegiance ~ Star Spangled Banner Getting Started	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>9:21</b>	<b>The Yellow Dress</b> Presentation of the play Processing / discussion	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Collaboration / Forum</b> What can be done? Group Reports	<b>Auditorium in sections</b>
<b>11:35</b>	<b>Working Lunch</b>	<b>Davis Hall Foyer</b>
<b>12:20</b>	<b>Service Opportunity Session # 1</b>	<b>Assigned Rooms</b>
<b>1:05</b>	<b>DifferenceMaker</b> Service for servicemen and women	<b>Assigned Rooms</b>
<b>1:40</b>	<b>Service Opportunity Session # 2</b>	<b>Assigned Rooms</b>
<b>2:25</b>	<b>Closing Session</b> Campership Drawings / Student Leader of the Year Award Lifetime of Difference Award Wrap / rap	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>3:01</b>	<b>Departure</b>	

## Only 330—so register quickly



Don't wait!. Sign up now. We will only be accepting 330. Once we reach that limit, we will turn people away.

**student leadership**  
The **S**tudent **L**eadership **T**raining **P**rogram



**InterLead**  
The Inter-State  
Student Leadership Forum

This is a very special conference with a very unique format. At the InterLead we will take advantage of the diversity of the attendees—who come from all over New England from big schools and little schools. The focus will be on service and on the issues facing student leadership.

We believe that service should not be a “have to.” Service should be a “get to.” Service is leadership in action.

We also believe that there are very important issues facing schools and our nation. The forum will enable student leaders to express their beliefs as well as learn from experts in the field.

We will bring together all manner of experts to present workshops and to showcase the opportunities to make differences.



**April 2, 2006**

**Nichols College, Davis Hall**

**\$15 per person**

**Deadline: March 15**

***For more information or to download applications visit:  
<http://sltp.info>***

