

True Points

a newsletter for the parents of student leaders

April, 2007

Volume 3, Issue 7

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Why bring it up ?

Why talk about hate? Why bring it up at all?

At the InterLead, SLTP's newest issue based play will debut to the general public. The play is titled "a place at the table." It is time that discussion and attention about the banal nature of hatred were given a place at the table.

According to the American Journal of Preventive medicine, prejudice and hatred are institutionalized. Prejudice and hatred are not pre-existing conditions. Both are learned. The Student Leadership Training Program alumni and staff are working to find solutions to the escalating problem of school violence in New

England.

On April 29, at Nichols College, SLTP at the InterLead, we will ask the invited community leaders and the student leaders to join in a collaborative forum to discuss, investigate and ideate solutions for this problem. The forum will follow *a place at the table*, which is a powerful and dramatic play based on the real life stories of high school students who experience the hatred everyday.

a place at the table is the story of two young students who warmly invite us to see their everyday lives – lives that have been disrupted by a major incident. 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 collaborative solutions.

SLTP is once again raising an issue that is usually met with silence. Silence is complicity. Silence contributes to validate the violence of the hatreds. These are the very issues where it is important to bring together the student leaders with the community leaders. Because student leadership must be involved with community leadership if solutions are to be

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The InterLead Conference—April 29

It's only less than a month away. And the excitement among our staff has been building. The Administrative Board, the staff and the alumni executive board have been busy inviting community and political leaders to view "a place at the table" and to participate in the forum on hate with us.

Like last year this was difficult at first – 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. Last year the InterLead developed a highly acclaimed "white paper" on violence against women.

SLTP is committed to sponsor The InterLead conference to raise, discuss and explore issues that face students and to explore community action. The Forum portion of the

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**Deadline—
April 15th**

This Summer—what's still available?

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

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 5-6

LTC

There are four sessions. And there are just over 99 slots available at this point.

July 10-14; July 17-21;
July 31– August 4
and Aug 7-11

ALC

There are four sessions and approximately 29 slots available.

July 11-14; July 18-21;
August 1-4; and Aug 8-11

TLC

There is only one session and there are 2 slots left.

July 11-14

Adviser Certification

There is only one session which is open to all teachers, coaches and collegians and there are 7 slots left.

July 26-27

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 26-27

So, who should attend SLTP ?

So, who should attend a program like SLTP ?

Our answer is based on just one qualification.

We believe SLTP is for *any student or adviser* who is interested in learning how to make a difference ! **Student leadership does not require a title.** Nor is it defined through membership in certain activities. Nor is it defined by popularity. To that end, we do not believe that ANY one activity is THE most important activity in a school. Each activity helps to create the fabric of belonging, and therefore ALL of the activities are THE most important.

The majority of students who attend SLTP are very involved in their school and in their community.

All are seeking to learn how TO DO more.

The willingness to learn is vital. So is the understanding that leadership is about DOING. Leaders are defined by what they do -- not by the titles they hold or by the organizations they belong to.

The only program requirements that exist are based on experience.

- *Delegates to the LTC's* - must be secondary students (junior high or high school).
- *Delegates to the ALC's* - must have completed the first level.
- *Delegates to the TLC* - must be graduates of both LTC & ALC.

- *Delegates to the Adviser Program* - must be practicing or aspiring coaches or advisers. *Delegates to the OTS* - must be officers and /or advisers and have **at least one** other team member in attendance.

- **What each participant should "bring"**
 - a desire to make a difference*
 - a willingness to learn*
 - enthusiasm*
 - an acceptance of growth*
 - a desire to master change*
 - a dream to work on*

- **What SLTP will provide**
 - an atmosphere of unconditional acceptance*
 - significant learnings and understandings*
 - the opportunity to practice what we teach*

The Jester & Pharley Phund

The Jester has lost his jingle by David Saltzman is among our favorite stories. Reading it at camp after the difference-makers is one of the highlights for every CC and Director.

The Saltzman family has created an opportunity for you to bring your favorite book to kids in the hospital suffering with cancer. It is called "the Reading To Give" Program. It

is a read-a-thon to raise funds to bring copies of the Jester to those kids in the hospital.

The mission of the organization is as follows: To provide educational experiences that give every child a sense of hope, a feeling of self empowerment, a love of learning, the joy of laughter and a desire to live up to

Pharley's motto: It is up to us to make a difference. It is up to us to care.

We recommend and endorse this worthy cause. Visit: www.thejester.org

Remember, if you decide to sponsor a read-a-thon, please keep us posted. We want to honor your achievements.

Why talk about it? Continued from page 1

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 hatred as natural or provide excuses about how impossible it is to solve this problem."

Dr. Fitzgerald adds, "That is the point of the Inter-

Lead, 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 29, 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. Ar-

chimedus 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 29!

Get involved –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 meet and greet the parents dropping off their kids.
3. Join the Facilitation Teams for

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 pro-

- ductions.
8. Apply to join our staff.

Newsletter Submissions



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

Articles should be no longer than 200 words. Each arti-

cle 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 informa-

tion, please refer to the guidelines posted on sltp.info

From where I sit by Dr. Jim Fitzgerald



Why should anyone attend SLTP? What makes us so special? Why should attending SLTP be on every kid's to-do list? Why do kids and adults thrive in our environment? Take a look at the following quotes:

The best way to get praise is to die.

--Italian Proverb

The only way to get praise is to die.

- Ben Franklin

It is easier to praise people when they are dead.

- Woody Allen

Praise is spread like a carpet on graves.

- Abe Lincoln

Praise seems to happen when it is too late to enjoy it! The common practice at SLTP, "catching people doing things right" is **revolutionary**. I was looking for quotes on praise (part of my preparation for Tranquillity introductions) and I came across these. Anyway, the quotes above were prominently featured in four of the sources under the topic PRAISE as were a whole bunch of others which followed that train of thought

It's no wonder kids and adults thrive in our atmosphere. At SLTP praise is freely given with no strings attached, it is almost surreal in comparison.

One of my friends who is a college recruiter asked me rhetorically, "why are kids so negative today?" I replied, *it certainly does make the positive ones stand out, doesn't it?* He said, "it sure does, and those kids jump to the top of my list, but the problem is they are at the top of everyone else's list too."

In the past few weeks I have been reminded over and over again by my collegiate friends how important *Personal Development* is to anyone's aspirations for scholarship money and admission to college. As I always do at this time of year, I reach out to everyone I know who is in the business of either accepting students to college or advising them how to get there. In a very short time I will be speaking to the parents of this summer's SLTP campers and

even sooner to the parents of HOBY and MassSTAR delegates. Those parents are at a loss about the whole college admission "thing." It is different from years ago when the parents were applying and while the parents want as much information as they can get, they don't have a lot of access. Generally the guidance people at school are too busy or have very little information. So I make it my goal to know what I am talking about -- at least in the broadest possible senses.

In a nutshell, the four legs of the admission table remain - SATs, grades, citizenship (proof provided by resume of involvement in activities and service) and the essay. The "strength" or importance of each leg varies from school to school and a few add on a fifth leg - an interview.

SLTP is a vital part of this picture -- it's in the *Personal Development* resume references -- attending a leadership camp is not a "have to," students are not required to take the course. Students attend for themselves and BY themselves, it is not a school field trip. Attending a leadership camp is done purely for educational growth. It says a lot about the person who has taken that step. It says even more when that student attends a program with a reputation for excellence.

Each year I receive hundreds of letters from alumni noting the difference SLTP made in your acceptance to college. For most it made a positive significant difference in the amount of money they received from that college. More importantly though, SLTP made a positive significant difference in YOUR life way beyond the college admission process.

It is time to give back to SLTP. It is time to pay your debt. Help us by spreading the word. Help some kids to make better choices this summer -- sure, they can get a job at the local CVS and make 6 bucks an hour. And wow oh wowie when they get their first paycheck after taxes, they will have 83 whole dollars and that will help pay the cell phone bill BUT that won't help them get into college, nor will it put one cent in their scholarship account.

Last week I attended a con-

ference for Peer Mediators in Massachusetts. One parent came to me with a question - it seems her school participates in both the MA HOBY & MassSTAR (both host conferences for high school sophomores, each asks that the school send one representative--MassSTAR is free; HOBY costs 170 dollars). There are 200 students in the sophomore class at her town's school -- and the principal choose to recognize and reward only ONE of them to attend both HOBY and MassSTAR.. The woman asked me how many I thought should go to SLTP -- I answered 150.

How many kids should go to SLTP? My God, what a question!! I can only think of a few from any school I know who should not go. At Holbrook for example there are about 63 kids in the junior class -- probably 59 of them should go. At Warwick, there are about 400 kids in the sophomore class -- probably 398 of them should go. At Belchertown and Uxbridge, the classes are about 100 students each -- 98 plus should go from each. I measure the "should" with the answers to the questions: *would they benefit?; and are they going to college?*

Help us give a whole bunch of kids the best week of their entire lives! *It is up to us to make a difference. It is up to us to care.*

College Scholarship Money!

The Gloria Barron Prize for

Young Heroes honors outstanding young leaders who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Their leadership and courage make them true heroes — and inspirations to us all.

Each year, the Barron Prize selects ten winners nationwide. Half of the winners have focused on helping their communities and fellow beings; half have focused on protecting the health and sustainability of the environment.



These young people reflect the great diversity of America.

They are female and male, urban and rural, and from many backgrounds.

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes is seeking nominations for its 2007 Awards.

The Barron Prize honors young people ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet.

Each year, 10 national winners receive \$2,000 to support their service work or their higher education.

The Barron Prize relies on thoughtful adults to identify and nominate children from the diverse communities in which they live. The Prize accepts nomina-

tions on an annual basis and distributes \$2,000 awards every fall. To nominate a young person, the adult nominator must submit a fully-completed nomination packet (received in the Prize office by April 30)

This year's nomination deadline is APRIL 30.

For more information or to download the information to nominate, visit: <http://www.barronprize.org>

The InterLead continued from page 1

conference will bring together student leaders with community leaders to determine and create action plans.

The InterLead is a conference that makes a statement. Its statement on the issues will be supplemented by the combination of exploration of workshops designed to empower the actions.

This year the Forum will address the issues and effects of hatred, its causes, and will explore action plans. The key element in the program will be the play, "a place at the table." 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 in-

volve student leaders and community leaders in solution planning. We are inviting state legislators, and community leaders from all over our region. And we need everyone's help to reach out.

As last year -- we will utilize a Forum 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. This is NOT as a confrontation between student leaders and community leaders -- it is an opportunity to collaborate while extrapolating solutions. Legislators and civic leaders get to see student leaders as what they are -- leaders. And students get to see legislators as what they are -- differencemakers. 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 "a place at the table." So it will be first come first served.

The date is Sunday, April 29th. The time will be 9AM-3PM.

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

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)

Invite Your Community Leaders

Invite your community leaders to join you at the InterLead. The SLTP Staff, our Alumni Board and the folks at Nichols are sending personal invitations to legislators and community leaders. And we have been getting many “yesses.”

But don't leave it all up to us. In fact, please help us by inviting your legislators and the leaders of your community.

We believe that this issue is too important to try to solve by accident. We believe that inten-

tionality is the best course of action. We believe that students should be part of the solution.

Last year at the InterLead, the results were incredible and included the white paper that is very much in demand from community leaders across the country. Each of our previous plays “stop, look and listen” and “silence is NOT an option” got a lot of student leaders actively involved in trying to work on these problems, we believe that the Forum this year will allow for sub-

stantial discussions and that it will lead to even more activism.

So help us to reach out.— check out page 6 for letter suggestions and for the email addresses of the legislators!

Invite Your Principal and the faculty

Invite your principal and your faculty leaders to join us at the InterLead. The SLTP Staff, our Alumni Board and lots of our alumni are sending personal invitations to legislators and community leaders. We believe that to tackle an issue as serious as this one the conversations must include both adult and student voices.

But don't leave it all up to us. In fact, please feel free to help us by inviting your legislators and the leaders of your community. This is a major issue and

it cries out for a collaborative response.

We believe that this issue is too important to try to solve by accident. Rules aren't enough. Simply making acts of racism against the rules does not solve the problem.

In many schools the corridors and the lunch rooms are filled with words that hurt. Rules alone are not going to change that — any solution will need to involve a collaborative effort of the students and the adults.

We cannot bring the play

to you, so you must bring as many of the school's leaders as you can. Any solution begins with awareness.

We believe that the Forum will allow for substantial discussions which are the best place to begin.

So help us to reach out.

InterLead—working schedule

The InterLead, an Interstate Forum for Student Leadership

8:15 - 8:55	Registration Activity Fair / Games / Meeting & Greet Reception for Legislators & Special Guests	Auditorium Foyer
9:01	Welcome Opening Ceremonies Welcome Getting Started	Auditorium
9:21	a place at the table Presentation of the play Processing / discussion	Auditorium
10:45	Collaboration / Forum What can be done? Group Reports	Auditorium in sections
11:35	Working Lunch	Davis Hall Foyer
12:10	Skill Session # 1 Problem solving	Assigned Rooms
12:45	Skill Session # 1 Consensus building	Assigned Rooms
1:25	Skill Session # 1 Presentations	Assigned Rooms
2:05	Closing Session Campership Drawings / Student Leader of the Year Award Lifetime of Difference Award Wrap / rap	Auditorium
3:01	Departure	

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 applied leadership and the issues facing student leadership.

We 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.

Conference space is limited, so be sure to register early.



April 29, 2007

Nichols College

\$15 per person

Deadline: April 15

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

