## No Child Left Behind

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from page one

districts, the program in place aggravates drop out rates and penalizes teachers who are trying to improve test scores by directing funds for teacher bonuses and school grants to higher scoring areas. As one Boston teacher said of the problems confronting one of his minority students, "she might be denied a diploma because of one test. She under-

stands the fundamentals of writing, but, as a bilingual student, she needs more time, assistance, and structure to work on her skills."

Low-scoring students do not get help, they get hell - and so do their teachers. Even Harcourt Brace, the publisher of the Stanford-9 used in California, stated, "Another of standardized achievement test scores is making promotion and retention decisions for individual students solely on the basis of these scores...national standardized achievement tests are not built to serve this purpose." Students, teachers and schools now stand together to face judgment from a stack of bubble sheets. The consequences of low scores with "No Child Left Behind" have created high-pressure environ-

ments for students and teachers, which, in New York and Iowa, led teachers to help students cheat or alter scores in dozens of schools in an attempt to get funding.

Standardized testing produces standardized students in the long-term by forcing school curriculums to conform to the topics covered by national tests, discarding individual

thought and critical thinking in favor of conformity. The current crisis lies in the fact that standard-

ized testing augments many existing problems in the public school system, alienates teachers, and widens the gap between high and low-income districts, punishing both the teachers and students in lowincome areas. The "No Child Left Behind" edict penalizes teachers who work with underprivileged students in the areas that most need educational effort and improvement and pulls funding from the schools that deal with our most neglected group of students. The short-term affects teachers, students, and schools; the long-term concerns education, society, and culture, basically, the United States as a whole.

The Emmersonians Out there, Running forever from the night, Daemons of the hellish past. To the light I run before trapped, Sunset! Forever caught by your dark eyes. Peace, Aaron Vallejo



My Three Best Friends, Thanks Angela, Megan and Rany for being there for me no matter what. I'll never forget Miranda, Samantha, Carrie, Charlotte, Caesar, late night excursions, all nighters of studying and talking, movies, cab rides, dances, xanga posts, and our senior year together! Love, Your favorite

Phagocyte L

3BL Girls, I love you guys! Be good next year (and the remainder of this year).

Yuan Yang, Yuan, you make my heart go lowz!! I know where you live. Call me!

> Bove, Your Secret Admirer

Calculus A-block Derivatives and integrals, Newton's and Euler's, too! Calculus is the limit And so are you! -Guess who?

## An Update on your MPCs

KELLEN CARPENTER he Multicultural Peer Counselors have had a

busy year. The MPC program has undergone some major changes this year and enjoyed a fair

amount of success. Due to the renovation of Bryan, the **MPCs** lost their office but try maintain presence as an available counseling resource for all students at all times. The lack of an office has not at all hindered the activities or programs that the MPCs have

sponsored provided. Collaborating with other groups and clubs on campus, the MPCs have organized regular movie showings and tea-time discussions of the issues that affect the world, as well as major events and festivals, which have

state, in an intimate, cozy setting, while the series of MPCthought as students respond to viewings of films such as Bowling for Columbine and The Laramie Project. Diwali

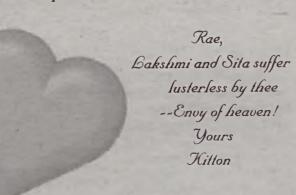
Everyone (literally),

I love everyone,

even if I don't know

you.

Phillip Golladay, "Arik Sharon, Ougadadougao, and Mt. Kilimanjaro When it comes to history, His knowledge, we all borrow He knows The Colossus at Rhodes, and the CN Tower For sure, there's no one with more brain power From Iceland to Greenland to Papua New Guinea and Cyprus Phillip knows them all cuz he's our genius He's conquered the world, and his message is spread He's devoured Larry Sprinkle between two pieces of bread" Phillip, You are an incredibly talented team member, and we all wanted to thank you for your contributions to the team. Go Phillip!



To: Morgan W.,

Morgan R., Tessa,

Pavani, Victoria, and

Guiane!

I love you all more

than words can say!

'04 Baby!

--Kristle Spellman

become a regular feature of the and World Fest have brought a NCSSM landscape.

Teatime with Topics' has led to many interesting discussions on controversial current events, such as gay rights and

little bit of the broader world into the bubble of NCSSM, exposing students to cultures and beliefs that they may have been unfamiliar with in a fun and exciting

> setting. the In the spring, MPCs plan to continue current activities with along some new additions. The World Religions Conference will feature a panel of representatives from various religions answering and dis-

Jason Denny cussing some of the major

questions of faith and spirituality. The MPCs will also be conducting a seminar based on discussion of world issues and focusing on poverty in America, emphasizing service learning projects.

Your friendly neighborhood MPC's strike a pose. the issues of religion and the sponsored movies provokes

To the Prune:

I will always love you. I can be your hero baby. I'll be your crying shoulder, I'll be the greatest fan of your life. I promise I'll be better when I am older and I'll probably still have to leave on a jet plane, without knowing when i'll be back. I love you

> Women and men: I finally got a little face

time with Tigerlily. She say. hi. I wanted to share some Tigerlily words of wisdom with you, so she said, "Tell them to get a life please. The other day I saw a woman getting off a bus with only a trenchcoat on, and I smiled, because it was perfect. She was doing exactly what she wanted to do, and wasn't afraid of her body or what people thought of it. I think that's all I need to say. Oh, and NOthing is the new black." Then she started laughing and ran away in four-inch heels. I'm a little confused right now.

-Bryan

