

## No Child Left Behind

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 understands 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 misuse 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

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

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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

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

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

Love, 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?

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

## An Update on your MPCs

KELLEN CARPENTER

The 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 still try to maintain a 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 or 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

become a regular feature of the NCSSM landscape.

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

and World Fest have brought a 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.

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



Jason Denny

Your friendly neighborhood MPC's strike a pose.

the issues of religion and the state, in an intimate, cozy setting, while the series of MPC-sponsored movies provokes thought 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.**

Melanie  
Pringle

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 says  
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

To: Morgan W.,  
Morgan R., Tessa,  
Pavani, Victoria, and  
Guiane!  
I love you all more  
than words can say!  
'04 Baby!  
--Kristle Spellman

Rae,  
Lakshmi and Sita suffer  
lusterless by thee  
--Envy of heaven!  
Yours  
Kilton

Phillip Golladay,  
"Arik Sharon,  
Ougadadougao, and  
Mt. Kilimanjaro  
When it comes to his-  
tory, 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 mes-  
sage 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 contribu-  
tions to the team.  
Go Phillip!