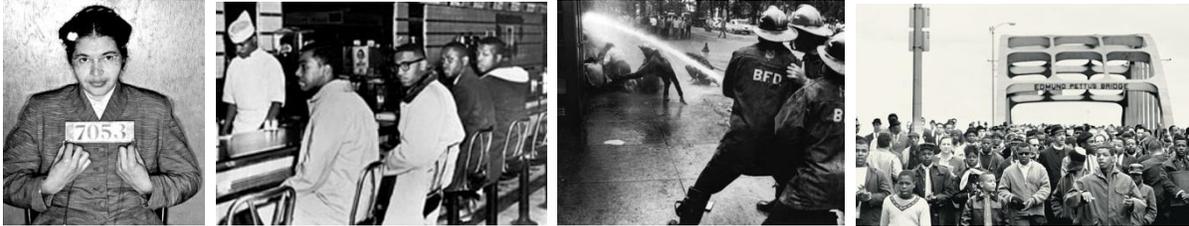




The Great American Tradition of “Weakness”



This is the type of introductory column I told myself I'd never write. It's one of those “What the heck is going on in this country?” rants that you can get just about anywhere. Turn on cable news, listen to talk radio, read the editorials in the newspaper, check the blog posts and comments online... this kind of commentary is readily available. It's an American tradition to complain about the state of the world and the state of the country, and to feel like everything is moving in the wrong direction.

Well... we're not. The Civil Rights Team Project is characterized by people who are moving in the right direction, but sometimes it feels like we're swimming upstream, battling against a current that keeps gaining in strength.

And what is this, ahem, *current current*? (Sorry... contemporary trend?) Part of it is people's complete disregard for the experiences, viewpoints, and feelings of others. More alarming, though, is how vocal people have become in sharing this disregard. It's as if a lack of empathy and compassion are badges to be worn with great pride.

Kids experiencing bullying and harassment in our schools are told to toughen up. Our state conference is dismissed as touchy-feely stuff and a complete waste of time. Efforts to seriously discuss real prejudice and discrimination are shouted down by people who are sick of all this PC garbage.

Forget empathy. More and more, the message we keep hearing is this: quit your complaining.

America seems convinced that all this complaining is making us weak. And there does seem to be an increasing movement aimed at masculinization of our culture. This obsession with American weakness manifests itself in hypermasculine behaviors: chest-thumping, testosterone-filled rants, secure in the knowledge that they are right, and that we just need to free America of these feminizing influences.

That may sound like political commentary, but we even see it in our beer ads. Miller Lite has just released a new campaign, urging us to “MAN UP” in our beer selection. Don't carry that European carry-all purse, take off your skirt, and order a MAN's drink!



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But is America really weak? And is it really weakness to care about other people, consider their viewpoints, and value their opinions and insights?

If so, then the best moments in American history have been characterized by this weakness. Was it weakness when Americans advocated for their own rights and the rights of others? Was it weakness when they organized and fought for these rights? Was it weakness when they resisted vocal and physical violence to continue these fights?

In her keynote speech at our recent state conference, Czerny Brasuell spoke of the character of the thousands of participants in what we today know as the Civil Rights Movement. Individuals in Montgomery, Greensboro, Birmingham, Selma, and countless other locales created a movement from the bottom up.

What characterized this movement? Weakness?

No. It was strength. It was strength of character. It was strength of ideas. It was strength in organization and strength in numbers. And it was strength in the face of great opposition, overwhelming odds, and hatred.

They were labeled complainers. But their efforts to identify injustice and an America that wasn't living up to its ideals was more than mere complaining. They took *action*, and they brought change.

That's us, today. Ms. Brasuell also spoke about the character of the thousands of participants in the Maine Civil Rights Team Project, and connected our work with American heroes of the Civil Rights Movement.

Those connections are important. In a culture and climate that loathes what it perceives as a growing trend towards American weakness, it's important to remember that others have done this before us.

What others see as weakness is really great strength. Our work will continue.

* * * * *

This is your last regular-style edition of *The Torch* for the 2009-2010 school year, but don't think for a second that we're done with you! We will be sending out a special *Torch* bulletin in early to mid-June loaded with information important for next year. It will include fall training dates and news on some positive changes to the program for next year. Expect and look forward to it!

In the meantime, here's what you can access in this month's edition of *The Torch*:



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The Director's Cut: Thom looks back at a busy time for the Civil Rights Team Project.

Civil Rights Teams in Action: Caribou High School's civil rights team puts some serious work into a remake of our educational film about the Maine Civil Rights Act.

Activity Ideas: Get students thinking about media portrayals of Native Americans. This might be something they don't think about very often... and there's probably a reason for that.

Pop Culture Winners and Losers: The best and worst of what's on television and some pleasantly-surprising sports news.

FA Issues: The time to prepare for next fall is now. What's the best way to do it?

Relevant Resources: The renaissance and resurgence of Roger Ebert.

Using Our Website: Come on, let's go.

Upcoming Events: Not much, other than some very general fall training dates.

Brandon Baldwin – Newsletter Editor, reachable at brandon.baldwin@maine.gov

This newsletter is written and distributed by the Civil Rights Team Project, a state-wide program under the auspices of the Maine Office of the Attorney General. The mission of the Civil Rights Team Project is to increase the safety of high school, middle school and elementary school students and to reduce the incidence of bias-motivated harassment and violence in schools.

Janet T. Mills—Attorney General

Thomas A. Harnett—Director, Civil Rights Education & Enforcement Unit

Debi Lettre—Civil Rights Project Administrator

Brandon Baldwin—Schools/Curriculum Coordinator



The Director's Cut *A monthly column from our Director, Thom Harnett:*



A Church, Conference, Community, and Heroes

A Church

When I was a young boy I had many heroes; who they were depended on my age. Initially they were athletes on teams for whom I rooted. I must confess that I actually liked Joe Namath's ill-fated Fu Manchu mustache because I thought everything he did was cool. I was wrong. As I grew a little older, my idols became political figures and leaders. I loved John and Bobby Kennedy and Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. became the most important and influential person in my life. Now, many decades later, the heroes of my youth still occupy special places in my heart. Getting older however, has taught me that there are heroes among us, ordinary people trying their best to make this world a better place. When I read Brandon's recent article on Howard Zinn, I was reminded of the heroes among us and was thankful that I sometimes see heroes in my midst, in my work.

On Sunday, May 2, I spent time with two of my heroes, Ray and Connie Winship. Ray and Connie are retired teachers, both of whom served as long-term faculty advisors to civil rights teams in schools in Fairfield and Winslow. In addition to being faculty advisors, Ray and Connie were always in the forefront of the struggle for social justice and true equal justice for all, both in and out of schools. So on a beautiful Sunday morning I found myself delivering a sermon, a talk, at the Universalist Unitarian Church in Waterville. I was there because I was invited to speak by Ray and Connie and there was no way that I could say no to them. My sermon dealt with silence and why silence is never acceptable in the face of injustice. It was a simple message. It was given the day before our annual Civil Rights Team Conference to be held on Monday, May 3. In light of that timing, I also spoke about the pride I would feel looking out at over 1,200 student members of civil rights teams and their faculty advisors the very next day and the great satisfaction that I receive from working with youth in the CRTP.



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A Conference

Monday, May 3, brought those 1,200 students and faculty advisors to the Augusta Civic Center. The day of our statewide conference is the most exciting and exhausting day of the year for Debi, Brandon and me, the staff of the CRTP. This year was no different. Right before the program began, I looked out at a parking lot lined with yellow buses from all parts of Maine. I saw a landscape that demonstrated how much our project has grown and made clear that all parts of our state are represented in the CRTP. Czerny Brasuell, the Director of Multicultural Affairs at Bates College started the day by delivering a powerful keynote address about the role of youth in driving change when it comes to civil rights. Czerny drew a connection between the work and sacrifice of young people in the South during the 1950's and 1960's and the work of civil rights teams in 2010. By drawing on our county's history, Czerny made it clear to all in attendance that we still have a lot to do in improving civil rights and civil rights team members can be leaders in bringing about that change. She remarked that civil rights teams are most critical now as Maine's population is changing and we are welcoming more and more immigrants from all parts of the world. Team members can be heroes.

Civil rights team members left the auditorium after the keynote and participated in two workshops chosen from the most impressive array of workshops we have ever been able to offer. Our youngest members in grades 3-5 attended workshops presented by Oscar Mokeme of the Museum of African Culture and renowned author Anne Sibley O'Brien. Older students heard personal stories from survivors of the European Holocaust and the ongoing genocide in Darfur. Other workshops included a first person look at the power of derogatory words that we hear in our schools every day, issues surrounding the stereotyping of Native Americans, the history of the KKK, the cultural and religious aspects of Islam and developing student leaders to name a few. We were also educated and entertained by, a first for us, a women's roller derby team from Portland whose members explored gender stereotypes and assumptions in sports and even demonstrated a few roller derby moves. The afternoon session was highlighted by an address from Attorney General Janet T. Mills who thanked the civil rights team members for their efforts and implored them to work for a world free from discrimination in all forms and to prevent the horrors that sometimes flow that discrimination.

A Community

Shortly after the statewide conference, a hateful act occurred in Bingham that tested the resolve of a school, a civil rights team and a community. It was an occasion when I asked myself if we are really making progress when hateful behaviors are still carried out. Sometime around May 11, a person or persons carved horrible and offensive racially derogatory statements into a basketball court behind the local middle school. As fate would have it, one of the first people to see those words of hate was a 10-year-old African-American boy. At first he was sad, then he was confused, then he was angry and



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then he became afraid. He was afraid that somebody would hurt him because of who he is. The incident was reported to the State Police and is being investigated. That is good. But there remained the issue of a frightened boy. Was there something that could be done for him? The school's principal, Linda MacKenzie, wasted no time in answering that question with a yes. She circulated fliers inviting community members to a public gathering scheduled for the evening of Monday, May 17, to support this young boy and all other children.

I consider myself fortunate to have been able to attend the event. When I arrived at the school a little before the start time of 6:30, I was worried about the attendance. There were very few people. Then something magical seemed to happen. In what felt like an instant, cars, pick-up trucks and people, young and not so young, started to converge. I know this is remarkably corny (no pun intended) but it reminded me of the scene from *Field of Dreams* when the old baseball players just appeared out of the corn fields to play a game. When the event began, I looked around and it seemed like there were 100 people there. It was incredible. I was proud to be there. I was proud to be a Mainer. Most of all, I was proud of those who organized the event and those who came.

Those people made a young boy feel safe, feel loved and maybe, just maybe, fell a little bit less afraid. I do not know if he will ever be able to erase the horrible images that he saw on that basketball court, but I am pretty confident that for the rest of his life he will remember that his community came together to say *we care about you, we want you to know that what happened was wrong, and we will do whatever we can to try to make sure something like this never happens again.* This undivided focus on a boy who was so hurt was just what was needed. Enforcement of the law and holding those responsible for their actions are important and hopefully will occur. But as important as that is, what happened that evening was even more important. Members of the community spoke. Principal MacKenzie spoke. Nicole Brown, the president of Valley High School's civil rights team spoke. The 10-year-old boy spoke. Healing began.

On my drive to Bingham, I was thinking about what I would say that evening. I thought that *sometimes it takes something terrible to bring out the best in a community.* When I thought of those words, they were just that, words. It was not until after I stood with that community, listened to them, spoke to them and watched them rally in support of a young boy that they ceased being words and became for me, truth.

Heroes

For a little over two weeks, heroes surrounded me. They were Ray and Connie Winship in Waterville. They were one thousand two hundred students, faculty and presenters at the Augusta Civic Center. Finally, they were Linda MacKenzie, the people of Bingham, a member of a civil rights team and a brave and determined 10-year old boy.



If you look around, you might find that heroes surround you as well. Keep an eye open for them and give them your thanks.

We are making progress.

Caribou High School Remakes an Old Classic



The film crew from Caribou High School



FA Allison Ladner and outgoing senior Kellene O'Hara

They were sick of it. They had seen it over and over again. One more viewing just might make them snap.

Knowing all of this, on a day last November in Aroostook County, I inserted our office's "Seven Student Films on Civil Rights" into a DVD player so that the Caribou High School civil rights team could watch an educational film about the Maine Civil Rights Act one last time. They wanted to create a new version of the short film, and so it made sense to watch this older version first. A brainstorming session followed, and the long process of creativity began.

It continued in my absence. The team decided they wanted real-life stories from our office. Thom and I sent them information on cases occurring in schools. They sifted through these cases, found what they wanted, and drafted a script.

We consulted. They soon learned that one of the most frustrating aspects of filmmaking is dealing with meddlesome and difficult producers. In this case, I was that producer. We agreed that we weren't yet ready to record. We set a date for finalization of the project and filming.



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This is where the Caribou High School civil rights team deserves great credit. They had one month to significantly revamp a project they had been thinking about all year. They did it.

Perhaps more impressive, though, is how and when the project came together. We set our final filming date for May 2nd, the day before our state conference. We certainly like to think that the state conference is a big deal for all the civil rights teams that attend, but for the teams in Aroostook County it takes an extra level of commitment to attend.

Caribou High School attends every year. They travel south on Sunday, stay in a hotel, attend the conference, and return home so that they can be back at school on Tuesday. This is a two day event that even includes team traditions like the much-anticipated Sunday evening trip to the Olive Garden.

We completed our work on the film on Sunday. The team arrived early on Sunday afternoon, and after a tedious trip down on a school bus, we began work almost immediately. We worked the whole afternoon, finished, and parted ways with the team boarding the bus and heading off for their Italian-inspired feast.

The film isn't quite finished yet. The raw footage is in the capable hands of senior member Kellene O'Hara. In addition to her duties of creating her senior class video, she will be editing the final cut of our new educational film on the Maine Civil Rights Act. We anticipate that it will be ready in the fall of next year.

The Caribou High School civil rights team was a joy to work with. Their efforts typify the great work we see from teams all across the state. They identified a problem and addressed it. The work was not easy and they experienced setbacks, but still they pressed forward. They gave up their own time, even weekend time from a team outing/adventure, to complete the project.

And for what? Money? Fame? Glory? Seriously? How about a two-page write-up in *The Torch*? Of course it wasn't this; they did it because they thought the work needed to be done. They thought the work was necessary and important in improving school climates all around the state.

The days leading up to the state conference were incredibly stressful for all of us here at the Civil Rights Team Project. With all the work that goes into planning such an event, it's easy to lose track of why we do it. Sunday afternoon served as a wonderful reminder, and in my car ride home from the hotel, I kept thinking of how incredibly worthwhile our work really is.

And finally, much credit is due to Caribou High School's wonderful faculty advisor, Allison Ladner, for her patient leadership throughout this project.



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CRTP in the News

The Civil Rights Team Project has dominated the news recently! Here's a look at some of our press coverage:

The Bonny Eagle Middle School team was in the *Portland Press Herald*:

www.pressherald.com/people/cth/student-videos-fight-bullying_2010-04-07.html

Brandon's visit to Mt. Blue Middle School:

www.sunjournal.com/node/825148

Thom speaks at a local church about the power of silence:

www.onlinesentinel.com/news/-Silence-is-never-an-option-when-witnessing-bullyin.html

A community comes together to reject racial prejudice in Bingham:

www.onlinesentinel.com/news/hateleavesscars_2010-05-18.html

And plenty of coverage for our state conference:

www.bangordailynews.com/detail/142620.html

www.wcsh6.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=117358

www.wabi.tv/news/11541/youth-civil-rights-teams-meet-in-augusta



Activity Idea: Native Americans in Pop Culture



The inspiration for this activity is coming from all directions. There's the great workshop the Abbe Museum did at our spring conference, "Indian or Native American?" There was a recent symposium on the continued use of Native Americans mascots in Maine schools. And right now, Turner Classic Movies is looking at Hollywood's portrayal of Native Americans in its ongoing "Race in Hollywood: Native American Images on Film" series.

The time seems right to have our students analyze media portrayals of Native Americans. Here's an activity that will do just that:

Have students list as many movies and television shows that feature Native American characters as they can.

From that list, cross out any that take place in the distant past. What is left? (Probably not much.)

With the movies and television shows that took place in the distant past, how were Native Americans portrayed? How did they look? What did they do? How did they live? What were they like?

Have students read "I Hated Tonto (Still Do)," by Sherman Alexie. This piece is a humorous and thoughtful look at why Hollywood's portrayals of Native Americans matter to him as a Native American.

www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/a_f/alexie/tonto.html



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After reading, have students talk about what problems Alexie had with Hollywood's treatment of Native Americans. Why did/does it matter?

This YouTube video reinforces the ideas presented in Alexie's essay, complete with actual film clips:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v= hJFi7SRH7Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJFi7SRH7Q)

And if you can't watch YouTube clips at school, try our website:

<http://civilrightsteams.org/mod/book/view.php?id=145&chapterid=119>

Most of the media referenced in the essay and video are older. How have things changed since then? How have they not changed?

How does the continued use of Native American mascots relate to past media images of Native Americans? Are these Native American mascots similar to how Native Americans have been portrayed in Hollywood, or different?

Can you think of some positive and/or modern portrayals of Native Americans in media? Why aren't there more?

This concludes the activity, but you may want to see where the conversations go. In many of our conversations about race, Native American identity is left out or forgotten. It's important that we create opportunities to have these conversations.

Get more information on TCM's "Race in Hollywood" month-long event at:

www.tcm.com/2010/naof/index.jsp

And finally, the resources for this activity came directly from our friends at Teaching Tolerance and their terrific online resources.



Pop Culture Watch: April and May

The Pop Culture Watch is where we offer our opinions on what's going on in popular culture from a civil rights perspective!



***Treme* Gives Voice to the Voiceless**

It seems like HBO always had the hot new show on television. Right now, it's *Treme*.

We're loving the show from a civil rights perspective because it gives voice to people we don't typically see on television: African-Americans, women, and poor people. The show is honest and sympathetic with all its characters, a rarity in American television.

This fall will bring the five year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and most of America has probably moved on, making New Orleans a forgotten city. Watchers of *Treme* aren't allowed to forget this tragedy. The show serves as an important reminder of forgotten people and their *continuing* struggles.

This show will probably do more to preserve the memory of Hurricane Katrina and its ensuing tragedy in the American consciousness than anything else. Don't let anyone tell you that media doesn't matter.



Cast of *Glee* on the Cover of the *Rolling Stone*! (White, Straight, Able-Bodied Cast Members, That Is)

A few months ago we knew that America's sweetheart television show, *Glee*, had something to say about diversity. We weren't quite sure what it was, though: the show has a diverse cast and loves all of its characters, but limits many of them to well-worn stereotypes with peripheral roles.



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Well, the show won't be winning any diversity awards based on its recent cover shoot for *Rolling Stone* magazine. The cover excludes the Asian, African-American, gay, and disabled cast members. The cast members who made the cut? All white, straight, and able-bodied. Interesting choices.

It's tempting to lay all the blame on the shoulders of *Rolling Stone* for this one. But it's worth noting that the "Characters" section of *Glee's* website lists *these same five characters first*. We appreciate the show's diversity, but let's not kid ourselves about who *Glee* is really about.



Suns Take a Stand

We generally avoid political commentary here, so we won't say anything about the recent Arizona legislation aimed at undocumented immigrants. But we can say that we love what the Phoenix Suns did to protest this new law.

On Cinco de Mayo they donned their "Los Suns" jerseys in Game Two of their playoff series against the San Antonio Spurs. This may seem trivial, but Suns owner Robert Sarver issued a press release in conjunction with the gesture, affirming that diversity is a great strength of the country, community, and NBA, and that the new law was "flawed".

And the players bought in. The idea of wearing the "Los Suns" jerseys came from ownership, but the players voted unanimously to do so. And just check out what All-Star point guard and team captain Steve Nash had to say:

I think the law is very misguided. I think it's, unfortunately, to the detriment of our society and our civil liberties. I think it's very important for us to stand up for things we believe in. As a team and as an organization, we have a lot of love and support for all of our fans. The league is very multicultural. We have players from all over the world, and our Latino community here is very strong and important to us.

Today's professional athletes aren't known for making political statements. Go Suns!

(And how cool is Steve Nash? A Canadian athlete who still believes in "our" society!)



As If *Jersey Shore* Wasn't Bad Enough... Now It's Being Imitated

It's hard to believe that we made it through a whole season of MTV's *Jersey Shore* without comment. Perhaps the show is just so obviously awful that we've been avoiding it. Its terrible portrayal of Italian-Americans and routine use of the term *guido* are problematic, but American audiences embraced the show nonetheless.

As soon as America embraced the show, we should have known that the imitators would be following soon. They are... and here's what we have to look forward to: an Asian version in Los Angeles, a Russian version in Brighton Beach, and a Persian version in Beverly Hills. Some low points from the casting calls for these shows:

- "If you are not Asian but are obsessed with Asian culture or people in some way, email us and please explain."
- "There will be plenty of vodka, techno music, and guys wearing Adidas pants, leather jackets, and gold chains, driving souped-up cars."
- "Seeking Los Angeles proud Persian-Americans who rule the Hollywood nightlife and own Beverly Hills..." and "are outrageous, outspoken."

Ugh. Can't wait.

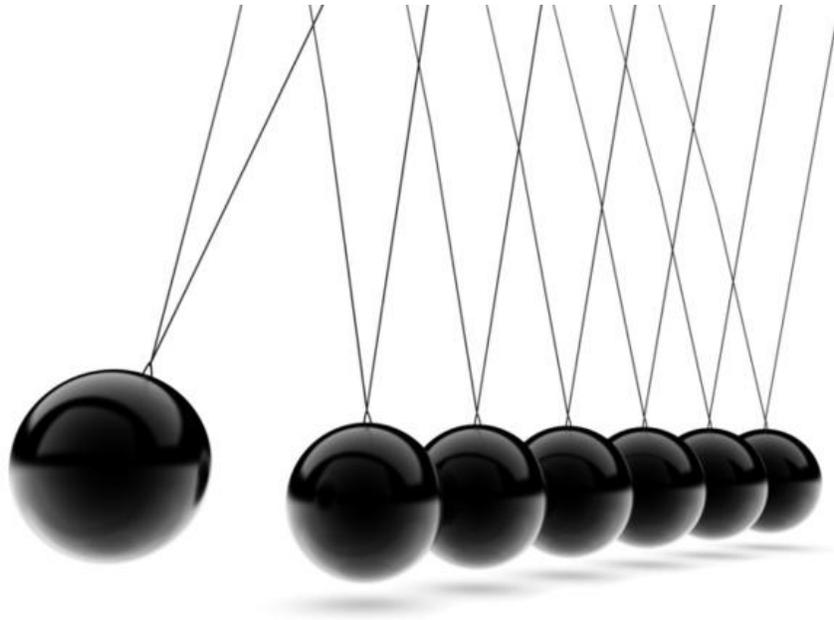
Perhaps you're wondering why these shows are problematic. They are portraying some sort of reality, after all. They are real people, and the cameras don't lie.

But here's the thing: it's a pretty safe bet that anyone who appears on these shows, as with most reality television shows, is going to behave like a complete buffoon. It won't be a positive portrayal... and that's the problem. A less-than-discerning audience will associate the behaviors of the individual(s) with their racial and ethnic group identity. They might form stereotypes based on what they see, and think that these reality show stars are somehow representative of a whole group of people, especially when their behaviors reinforce previously-held stereotypes.

And all I know is that I *certainly* wouldn't want anyone making *any* sort of assumptions about me and my character based on anything they saw on some reality show.



FA Issues: Building Momentum, Moving Forward



Let's face it: most of our students love summer vacation. What many of them don't understand is that the adults working in schools love it equally, if not more. It's a much-needed break, but it sometimes seems as if those summer months erase all the great work we do during the school year.

Your first meetings next year will have some component of introduction, review, and team-building. But you don't want to completely start over. How can your team keep the momentum it has built up this year, and hit the ground running early in the fall?

Hint: It won't happen by accident. It will happen through planning and preparation.

1. Set a schedule now!

As soon as you possibly can, figure out when your team meets and set the time and date for your first meeting. You know what the beginning of the school year is like, and you may not have time to figure this stuff out then. Commit to meetings early in the school year, before the fall trainings, and your team will gain several whole months of time together.



2. Have some ideas for next year!

Know what you want to do next year. Have this year's team decide what the first big project will be for next year's team. This will not only provide focus for the team early next year, but help your newest team members understand what your team does and offer a real opportunity for the team to come together.

3. Summer doesn't need to be "time off" from civil rights.

Keep students thinking about the civil rights team during their summer vacations. It's not sacrilege to have expectations of students during the summer months. You could give students civil rights homework for the summer. You could even hold a meeting or two. (Don't dismiss it! Other teams have done this with great success. It's a unique opportunity to have a big block of time together.)

4. Make a pitch for new civil rights team members.

Recruiting is key. You can recruit new team members now or at the start of the school year... or both. Have your current and returning team members offer information about what they do. The best strategy to garner interest is by having the team *do something* that serves as an *example* of what they do. Show rather than tell! (But then tell, too.)

5. Involve us.

And when I say us, I mean me, Brandon Baldwin. Next year I want to spend more time helping teams become more effective. Rather than have me come in and be the voice of civil rights, I want to help teams develop their own voices and initiate projects. Feel free to call on me for help, and let us know how we can help your team move forward.



Our "FA Issues" question for the month, with several follow-up questions:

- What are some ways to keep momentum going with your civil rights team between now and the beginning of next year?

To weigh in, simply click on the link below and hit "Reply" in the lower righthand corner to give your response:

<http://civilrightsteams.org/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=48>



Relevant Resources: Roger Ebert's Comeback



There's a reason why we had an 80 minute workshop at our fall trainings that analyzed Hollywood films from a civil rights perspective. It's the same reason that the *The Torch* features a pop culture section that often includes information on upcoming films.

I love movies. And no one has encouraged this love more than Roger Ebert. Reading his film reviews is rediscovering your love of movies all over again.

But for a while, it looked like Ebert's run as America's preeminent film critic was going to end too early. He developed cancer, and through multiple surgeries, the use of his lower jaw. This ordeal seems to have energized his writing, though, and regular readers can attest that Ebert is back.

His story has been in the news a lot lately. Ebert helps illuminate some important ideas about people with disabilities. He may not be able to do everything he could do before his cancer and surgeries, but that hasn't stopped him. He is not overcoming a disability; he's working with it. And in a recent blog post, he even ruminates about how the disability is now an important part of his identity.

A recent profile in *Esquire* magazine and some of his blog posts have been good enough reading that they form the entire "Relevant Resources" section this month. Enjoy.

Read an incredibly moving profile of Roger Ebert and his work in *Esquire* magazine:

www.esquire.com/features/roger-ebert-0310

Read one of Ebert's many thoughtful blog posts, this one about why he wouldn't want a face transplant in the future:

http://blogs.suntimes.com/ebert/2010/05/putting_a_better_face_on_thing.html



Using Our Website: www.civilrightsteams.org

The Maine Civil Rights Team Project



We recently got word from our remote server that they will be increasing their service fees for next year. At this point, we are seriously questioning the value of keeping and maintaining a Civil Rights Team Project website.

We had and still have grand visions of a CRTP website serving as a great tool, but so far, that vision has not been realized...

Use it or lose it.

Upcoming Events:



We don't have any news of upcoming events this summer. We do, however, encourage you to find your own civil rights-related events! (And then share that information with us, of course.)

Stay tuned for information on our fall trainings. We are currently scheduling FA trainings for late September and student team trainings for the last week in October and early November. Expect a special *Torch* bulletin in early to mid-June with all the information you'll need to plan ahead for next fall.