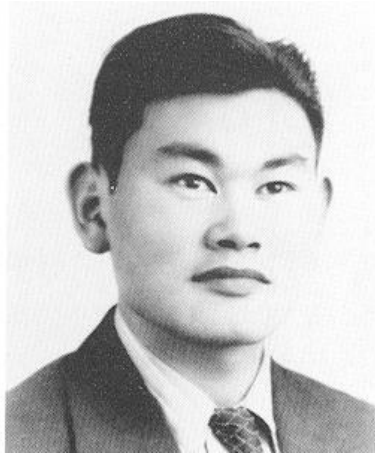




THE TORCH (CRTP NEWSLETTER) FEB. '11



He was one of millions. He was an American. He attended public schools. He played sports. He had a part-time job. He graduated. He got a full-time job. He was living the American Dream. He believed in his country.

Then he became one of thousands. He was Japanese. He was the enemy. He was not to be trusted. He was to be watched carefully. He was not allowed outside of Military Area No. 1. He was to be detained, interned, *feared*.

Then he became one. He would not submit. He would resist. He would cry injustice. He would fight. And he *still* believed in his country.

He was Fred Korematsu, a Japanese-American in California who resisted Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order #9066 that allowed for Japanese internment during World War II. Korematsu fought his case all the way to the Supreme Court in 1944, who decided that the government's actions, while extreme, were justified in times of emergency.

It took this country many, many years to admit that it was wrong. In 1983, a U.S. District Court judge formally vacated Korematsu's sentence. He stood in front of that judge and said "I would like to see the government admit that they were wrong and do something about it so that this will never happen again to any American citizen of any race, creed, or color." He devoted the rest of his life to that cause.

After the attacks of 9/11, Korematsu warned the U.S. government not to repeat the same mistakes of World War II. He was a vocal and visible advocate for civil rights and civil liberties until his death in 2005.

On January 30, California celebrated and observed the first-ever official Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution. It's a shining example of the greatness of America. In recognizing our past and present failures, we offer hope for the future. This country and its constitution failed Fred Korematsu. His civil rights and



THE TORCH (CRTP NEWSLETTER) FEB. '11

civil liberties were violated. His faith in America, his identity as an American, and his life were shaken.

But Fred Korematsu believed in something. He believed in it even when he had no obvious reason to continue believing. Eventually there were apologies, pardons, compensation, honors, and ultimately recognition, but in the moment, there was only Fred Korematsu and his belief that he was right. Amidst his struggles, that must have offered some solace, knowing that eventually, what is right will inevitably gain acceptance. It takes hard work and struggle, but ultimately, for someone, it's worth it.

“[D]on’t be afraid to speak up. One person can make a difference, even if it takes forty years.”

-Fred Korematsu, 2005

For more information on Fred Korematsu and his amazing life, go to:

<http://korematsuinstitute.org/>

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Here’s what you can expect in this month’s newsletter:

The Director’s Cut: An important and final message from our outgoing Director.

Team Spotlight: The arrival of January here in Maine means two things: horrifying weather and civil rights teams really hitting their stride. A record five teams profiled!

Activity Ideas: A great way to teach kids is by reading to them. Local bookstores and libraries have read-alouds and storytimes. Put it together: volunteer the civil rights team for some of these public events.

Pop Culture Winners and Losers: Sports talk, a blog, Super Bowl ads, Oscars.

FA Issues: It’s important that people all around the state know what we do. They won’t find out on their own; we’ve got to reach out. Here we outline some basic guidelines for getting press for your civil rights team and the Civil Rights Team Project.

Relevant Resources: ABC News airs a provocative new feature.

Upcoming Events: Series 360 returns to the Holocaust and Human Rights Center, and a host of other college events in March.

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



The Director's Cut

A monthly column from our Director, Thom Harnett:

In More than a Few Words, Goodbye and Thank You



By now you should all know of my fondness for my colleagues, Debi Lettre and Brandon Baldwin. I have worked closely with Debi for well over a decade and she still likes me (I think). For many years Debi and I were the entire full-time staff of the CRTP. Since Brandon joined the project in April of 2008, he and I have spent significant time working together, thinking together and conducting trainings and workshops all around Maine. I am fortunate to be able to consider both of them very dear friends in addition to having the privilege of working with them.

Prior to Brandon's arrival, when Amy Homans produced *The Torch*, I made intermittent contributions in the form of articles and sometimes in what we then called *The Director's Corner*. Once Brandon took the helm of our newsletter, he started prodding me about the need for me to write a regular column. Though I could put him off for a while, he ultimately wore me down and *The Director's Cut* was born. Now I realize that the advent of my column will not go down as a watershed moment in journalistic history. For me however it has been fun, even though the subject matter is sometimes troubling. In certain months it was easy to identify a topic and the words came quickly to me though perhaps not as clearly as Brandon would have liked. He is a stickler for good prose. In other months, the flow of words seemed to slow to one from a rusty old spigot. Regardless of the occasional difficulty in writing the column, it served a very important purpose for me in that it made me think about what we are trying to do in the CRTP and it kept me connected to the faculty advisors and students who are the CRTP.

This is one of those months where it is very easy for me to identify a topic. Though the topic is easy to identify, finding the right words to convey my thoughts is difficult. I have worked with the CRTP since its inception in 1996. I have seen the project grow from its original 18 teams to the point where we have had over 220 schools and civil rights teams become involved at some time. In our most recent count, we identified 181 civil rights teams up and running in all parts of Maine. Thousands upon thousands of amazing young people have participated in the project and demonstrated real leadership by making their schools better places and helping students targeted by others. Hundreds upon hundreds of dedicated faculty advisors have guided these students and their teams as they navigate their way through issues of harassment that seem to be as old as schools themselves. We often lament the statement that *school, kids, (you fill in the blank) have always been this way and there is nothing anybody can do to change it*. The students and faculty advisors in the CRTP constantly reject that thinking and



THE TORCH (CRTP NEWSLETTER) FEB. '11

work tirelessly toward the goal of creating schools where every single student feels safe, valued, welcome and respected, always and without exception. The CRTP and its members know that no person should ever be made to feel unsafe or “less than” because of other persons’ actions motivated by bias based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, gender, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation.

When I think of the CRTP, images of over a hundred fall training sessions for faculty and students spring into my mind. I remember the faces of students leaving after a full day of work and stopping to thank me for what we have provided to them. I remember that because each and every time it happened I thought it was me who should be thanking them. Teaching and talking about civil rights and reducing harassment in schools is the easy part. The hard part, the students’ part, is actually doing it. I remember team members in their senior year of high school telling me and my colleagues how they had been on civil rights teams for years, some starting in the third grade, and how important the CRTP was in their life. I also remember the drives to Belfast, Brewer, Ellsworth, Saco, Lewiston, Bangor, Downeast and Aroostook County in all sorts of weather. Sometimes those drives seemed mighty long, but when I got to where I was going for a fall team training, it was always worth it.

I remember having the privilege to speak to tens of thousands of students in elementary, middle and high schools in almost every section of Maine. I remember how welcoming those schools, civil rights teams and students were when I arrived. I remember the students who approached me after an assembly and told me that the story I had shared about a student being harassed and targeted was their story in their school. These students who had suffered the verbal slings and arrows from other students often told me they always thought it was their fault they were harassed for so long. It was never their fault and we must be careful never to blame the target. Some of the greatest days in my professional career as a lawyer were spent in Maine schools, sometimes speaking to over a thousand students at once and other times working on the floor with a dozen kindergartners or elementary school students and a box of lemons. Each experience was unique as was each student (and their lemon). Getting hugs or high-fives from kids after a workshop in which they learned and also had fun while doing it, made the long drives home much, much shorter.

I look back and think about our statewide conferences at the Augusta Civic Center. I close my eyes and in my mind’s eye I see an auditorium packed with over 2,000 members of civil rights teams, many wearing t-shirts, sweatshirts and jackets identifying their school and displaying a quote about what civil rights and the CRTP mean to them. I see students look around wide-eyed at the huge gathering. That is the moment when they realize they are not alone. They learn that there are students just like them everywhere in Maine. I see those same students busily scurrying from the auditorium to fabulous workshops dealing with a myriad of issues from gender stereotyping and Roller Derby, to reducing biased based language in their schools, to listening to what it feels like to be the target of derogatory language about your mental



THE TORCH (CRTP NEWSLETTER) FEB. '11

abilities, your race, your religion, your ancestry or your sexual orientation. I see students who just heard from a survivor of the European Holocaust and a survivor of modern day genocide in Darfur in the same workshop. Some are in tears. All are visibly moved. I see a middle school student from a small school in northern Maine being asked by a Portland High School student who had moved to Maine from Ghana, if she wanted to feel her black skin, to shake her hand. They shook hands and hugged. The middle school student had never met a black person before. I see thousands of moments, some very simple, yet all poignant in their own way.

Lastly, I hear the music and I see students and advisors of all ages moving and dancing as our statewide events draw to a close. I hear the hip-hop music of Chris Rolle and young adults from New York City who came to Maine as part of Art-Start, a project that works with youth who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. I hear Martin Swinger performing with elementary school students as they sing songs about civil rights they composed just that morning. I hear the rhythm of the music accompanying Capoeira dancers as they perform an Afro-Brazilian dance form that combines martial arts, sports and other styles of movement. I hear Shamou from Iran and Portland, Jordan Benissan from Togo and Waterville, Kwabena Owusu from Ghana and Augusta, Michael Wingfield and his Afro-Caribbean percussion, Native American singers and dancers with roots in Maine long before it was Maine, performers with the Middle East Suitcase Project from multiple countries and multiple cities and towns in Maine, students from Portland High School who moved to Maine from countries throughout Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe, and many more artists who educated and entertained us. I see the smiles on the faces of student members of civil rights teams and their faculty advisors as they leave the Civic Center and head to their buses knowing that they had just experienced a day like no other.

Like no other; words that express how I feel about my time with the CRTP. As easily as the words flowed for this article until now, the flow has stopped and this is the hard part for me. After all this time, after all these students, after all of the faculty advisors, after all these trainings and after all of these life changing experiences and moments, I am leaving the CRTP. While I will remain with the Office of the Attorney General, I will no longer be directly connected to the CRTP. The project will remain in the more than capable hands of my outstanding colleagues Brandon Baldwin and Debi Lettre. I see an incredibly bright future as the CRTP moves forward under their direction and that of whomever else might be added to the mix. You and your students have so much to look forward to in the months and years ahead.

Like no other. For me this work has been like no other I have ever had. In my time, I have had some great jobs including working with migrant farm workers in New York and practicing environmental law in Maine, a legal area to which I will return with excitement. Nothing however compares to what we have all done together. It is unique and very special. I want to leave by thanking everyone who has been a faculty advisor, a community advisor, a supportive administrator or a friend. I want to thank all of the



THE TORCH

(CRTP NEWSLETTER) FEB. '11

Attorneys General who have supported me and the mission of the CRTP through the years. I also want to thank and recognize Debi Lettre, Brandon Baldwin, Amy Homans, Barb Maurais and everyone who served the CRTP as a Regional Coordinator or trainer over the years. Debi, Brandon, Amy and Barb have been my team for the last three years and I could ask for no better. Most of all, please let your students know that I thank them above all. They are magnificent. They are our leaders of today and will be the leaders of tomorrow. Without them, there is no CRTP. There is no change. They are the difference makers. Do not let them forget that. I will miss you and I will miss them.

You are *like no other*.

Be well.

Thom

* * * * *

Editor's Note:

An inevitable question that many of you might have in response to Thom's leaving the Civil Rights Team Project is *what does this mean?*

I have received assurances that it does not mean the death of the Project; we will continue to exist and do great work.

I am not sure what it will mean from a nuts and bolts perspective. The daily operations of the CRTP will inevitably change some. At this point, it's hard to say just how. We are in uncharted waters here.

The most important answer that I can give to the question of what this all means, though, has little to do with institutions. It has everything to do with the individual. The Civil Rights Team Project and Maine's civil rights and equal justice movements are losing a passionate and thoughtful advocate. His work in this state and in our schools has been hugely important and inspirational.

But you already knew that. What you may not know is how important and inspirational Thom's work has been right here in this office, for me, as an individual. I wish I could say something more powerful than *He will be missed*. But sometimes the simplest statements mean the most.

Thom, you will be missed.



Team Spotlight:

January is such an exciting time for the Civil Rights Team Project. Teams are well established and hitting their stride, which translates to invitations and school visits for me. There's plenty going on.



Adding to the excitement of the full calendar, though, is January weather: four event cancellations in one month! The weather has probably postponed some *Torch* write-ups, but I've still been able to get around and see some great work from our civil rights teams this month.

Here are some of the highlights for civil rights team activity in January:

Ellsworth High School

The civil rights team and Gay-Straight-Diversity Alliance worked together in creating a half-day of events in conjunction with GLSEN's National No Name-Calling Week. All students attended my presentation on hateful and hurtful language and a panel discussion on diversity issues. There were follow-up discussions sessions in small groups.

I'll let the professionals report on this great event:

<http://new.bangordailynews.com/2011/01/25/news/ellsworth-high-calls-out-name-calling/>

http://fenceviewer.com/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57935:EHS%20Students%20Learn%20About%20Discrimination&catid=906:educatio

To the civil rights team, their advisor Barbara Conroy, and the Gay-Straight-Diversity Alliance: great work!

Ellsworth Middle School

The same day that I was at Ellsworth High School I visited the middle school, too. My presentation on hateful and hurtful language benefitted from a spectacular introduction featuring the thirteen members of the school's civil rights team.

In a choreographed fashion that can't effectively be described here, the team went one at a time, saying one word, in four different rounds:



THE TORCH (CRTP NEWSLETTER) FEB. '11

1. Insults that they had heard in school in the recent past (gay-stupid-loser-queer-emo-ugly-fag-retard-mental-Jew-black-freak-psycho).
2. Emotions that targeted students feel in response to hearing these insults (hurt-angry-lonely-isolated-depressed-ashamed-offended-defenseless-worried-embarrassed-afraid-defensive-frustrated).
3. Words they suggest to stop these insults and behaviors (stop-enough-stop-quit it-stop-don't-stop-seriously-stop-no more-stop-lay off-stop).
4. Words to describe the hope they have for the school community (caring-diversity-peace-inclusive-justice-respect-fairness-acceptance-trust-tolerance-safety-equality-honesty).

Each student had just four words to deliver: brilliant. They didn't have to worry so much about remembering their lines; it allowed them to put real emotion and energy into their delivery and the choreography. The effect was dramatic, the best proof being the complete silence of the middle school audience. (Seriously, *that's* a big deal.)

Much credit to FA Brenda Frost and the EMS civil rights team for a terrific introduction; it made my work easy.

Etna-Dixmont School

The civil rights team at the Etna-Dixmont School was very busy with events during National No Name-Calling Week. They read quotes on the announcements each morning, held a Mix-It-Up Lunch event, and sponsored class competitions and a door-decorating contest.

But my favorite initiative had the civil rights team visiting classrooms and getting students to sign a giant paper t-shirt if they had ever been called a name in school. Students would then write the word or words on small slips of paper, which were collected and saved for the No Name-Calling Week culminating assembly. This assembly featured a variety of activities and events, including the civil rights team putting all the names and insults through a paper shredder. The symbolism is pretty clear, and it's a perfect way to end the week. What K-8 student wouldn't cheer as hundreds of papers go through the shredder?

Congratulations to advisors Karen Lavoie and Becky Wetherbee and the Etna-Dixmont School's civil rights team for putting so much together.

Madison Junior High School:

The civil rights team and student council worked together to create a short film introducing the new "Paw Pride" campaign. Students created scenarios to show each of the five core values (respect, responsibility, understanding, compassion, and honesty) in action. At least three of those core values have a direct tie-in with civil rights issues in



THE TORCH (CRTP NEWSLETTER) FEB. '11

our schools, and the “Paw Pride” campaign now gives the civil rights team a framework and common vocabulary for future initiatives.

To FA Jason Hartwell, and the MJHS civil rights team: good job working with another student group and getting yourselves out there!

Whitefield Elementary School:

I got an excellent introduction from the school’s civil rights team during a special evening presentation to parents. The team read statements from students recounting incidents of bullying and harassment in their school. (And there were plenty to choose from, as the school had every student write about bullying and harassment. All of these writings pieces are posted in the school’s gym.) These real-life stories made the material I presented instantly relevant.

The team also helped create a super-sized pledge to fight bullying and harassment, which they have taken the lead in signing.



To all of our teams who aren’t letting a little (lot) of winter weather get in their way: keep it up!



Activity Idea: Get the Teams Out There and Read



While putting together the “Upcoming Events” section of last month’s *Torch*, I came across a new source for civil rights-related events: bookstores. I hadn’t considered bookstores and their frequent read-alouds and storytimes as potential locations for civil rights team activities, but they are the perfect venues for community outreach. Get your team together, pick a book or two, maybe have a supplemental activity, and you’ve put together a terrific community event.

So for this month’s activity idea, we highly suggest that you and your team contact a local bookstore or library for a reading event. We have already gone ahead and contacted the four major bookstore locations in the state of Maine. All four stores were enthusiastic about the idea of civil rights teams volunteering for community events. They encouraged you to be in touch.

We will provide their contact information below. These Barnes and Noble and Borders locations in Augusta, Bangor, Brunswick, and South Portland cover a good amount of the state, but you have similar options on an even more local level. There are smaller and more local bookstores in many communities, as well as your public libraries. I’m sure that they’d be open to hosting such events, too.

So get on out there, have some fun, and do some good work!

Finding Books:

How do you find the right books? We suggest consulting with your local librarian.

You can also check out some recommended reading at our Moodle site:

<http://civilrightsteams.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=123>

Bookstore Event Contacts:

Barnes and Noble, Augusta: Stacy Shea, Community Relations Manager
crm2742@bn.com, 621-1187



Borders, Bangor: Ann Redman
aredman@bordersstores.com, 990-3300

Borders, Brunswick: Bill Meakin, Sales Manager
bmeakin1@bordersstores.com, 990-3300

Borders, South Portland: Stephanie Hobson, Local Events Coordinator
shobson@bordersstores.com, 775-6110

Pop Culture Watch: January

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



A Compelling Reason to DVR the Super Bowl

The hype and expectations surrounding Super Bowl advertising is now so great that we can almost expect offensiveness as advertisers vie to outdo each other and create buzz. Last year's Super Bowl advertising seemed to operate under the assumption that American masculinity is under attack (see the "Activity Ideas" section of the March 2010 edition of *The Torch* for a refresher).

This year, Doritos released their ads online before the Super Bowl. One of these ads plays on racist stereotypes about black men's sexuality and uses the very possibility of male/male attraction for cheap laughs.

This ad probably won't get aired during the Super Bowl, but if it's a sign of what we have to expect this year... yuck.

You can see the Doritos "sauna" ad at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1yk85znbpY

Be warned: your students could very well find it hilarious.



Someone in the Sports World Totally Gets It!

I admit that sometimes it's really hard distinguishing between news and popular culture. I'm not sure where this article ranking the 30 Major League Baseball logos fits in, but it made me so happy to see Cleveland's Chief Wahoo in dead last that I had to include it here. Here's what ESPN's Jim Caple had to say about the logo:

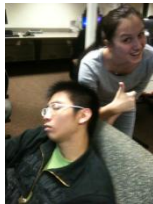
And sometimes, even cartoons are just wildly inappropriate. People defend Chief Wahoo on the basis of tradition, but what kind of a defense is that? *Yes, it's incredibly offensive, but we've been offending people with it for soooooo long we can't stop now.* Do you think any responsible team or business would produce this logo today? Of course not. The only way a team could be more tone deaf to society values is if a franchise based in, say, the nation's capital used a racial slur for its team name.

Perfect, and a showing of sense and sensitivity that is far too rare in today's sports culture.

And you can check out the rankings here:

http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/page2/story?page=caple/110119_MLB_logos

(Go Red Sox.)



To the Creator of *Asians Sleeping in the Library*: Wake Up!

There's a new website out there called *Asians Sleeping in the Library*. College and university students are encouraged to take pictures of, well... Asians sleeping in the library.



I'm not sure what positive purpose a site like this could possibly serve. I understand and appreciate the random nature of much of what is on the internet, but so much of what's random on the internet is meant to be funny. Are pictures of Asians sleeping in the library funny?

That depends. Pictures of people sleeping in the library are sort of funny. So pictures of Asians sleeping in the library should be funny... but why limit it based on race? It feels like mockery, or some sort of fetish?

It doesn't help that the creator of the site is not Asian himself. He claims that "this blog is not meant to be discriminatory, mean spirited or malicious in any way, shape or form." Oh, of course not! And then we get the positive stereotypes: "They're better at life and they get better grades than you for a reason." Uh-huh.

And scrolling through the pictures, you'll find a few featuring sleeping Asian students and white students mugging for the camera, giving a thumbs-up or goofy grin. Can you even imagine the process by which these photos were taken?

That makes it official: I don't like this.

If you have some desire to see this site, which is exactly what it says it is, go to:

<http://asianssleepingintheibrary.tumblr.com>



And the Academy Awards Nominees for 2011 Are... White!

Really, *really* white.

The ten films nominated in the Best Picture category are not only films about white people, but are almost exclusively populated by white people. The actors and actresses nominated for awards are white; *all twenty of them*. (OK, Hailee Steinfeld is racially mixed, but she plays a white character in *True Grit*. Doesn't count.)

Is this evidence that the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences is racist? Not this year. They actually seemed to get the nominations right for 2011. It just wasn't a good year for people of color in Hollywood... even more so than usual.



I took a look at the top 100 grossing films of 2010: only eight of them featured a person of color in the lead role. (That would be *The Karate Kid*, *The Book of Eli*, *Unstoppable*, *Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married, Too?*, *Death at a Funeral*, *For Colored Girls*, *Brooklyn's Finest*, and *Machete*.) America is supposed to be a multicultural society, but good luck finding American films about black people, Asian people, Hispanic/Latino people, or Native people.

The Academy has had its problems with race in the past, but this year's overwhelmingly white nominees signal a bigger problem: Hollywood just doesn't seem to care that much about people of color.

FA Issues: Getting Press

I am often surprised to discover that the average person in Maine knows little about the Civil Rights Team Project and what we do. At social and work events when I introduce myself and what I do, I expect flashes of recognition and understanding when I mention the Project. What I get are blank stares and a lot of questions.



The same thing probably happens with you if you mention your advisor role with your civil rights team in casual conversation. Do you think that the average person in your community is aware of your civil rights team and the good work they're doing in your school?

People need to know who we are and what we do; both on the state level as the Civil Rights Team Project, and the local level, as individual civil rights teams. There seems to be a pernicious assumption that shows up in any community-based conversations about issues of school safety, bullying, and harassment: *We're not doing anything about this.*

But that's not true. Right here in Maine we have an innovative and effective statewide program that is absolutely unique. People should not only know about it; they should celebrate it and support it. They should celebrate and support you and your team.

For that to ever happen, though, we need to make sure that people know about us. We need to generate some press.

For whatever reasons, we are not aware of any newspaper or television news stories featuring any of our 180 civil rights teams so far this school year. Perhaps there have been stories and we are simply unaware. (If this is the case... *let us know!*) But the



more likely explanation is that the press can also be counted amongst the many who are unaware of what we do.

A few points, then, about getting the Civil Rights Team Project and your civil rights team in the news...

1. You have to contact them.

Local news media doesn't have the time or inclination to investigate the good work that's happening in our schools with your civil right team. They simply won't know about what you're doing unless they are made aware.

To facilitate contact, we are including contact information for all of the major newspapers and television stations in the state. To get any sort of press, *you need to make the first move.*

2. But what if we're not newsworthy?

Many of you might think that the work you're doing isn't really newsworthy. Have you ever read the local section of the newspaper or watched the evening news? Have you *seen* the stuff that qualifies as news? Seriously, folks... the standards are pretty low.

But here's a little secret that's worth sharing: local media loves stories about kids, and especially positive stories about kids. They love showing that local kids are doing good things. Consider that bullying and harassment are big ticket news items these days; give local news media the opportunity to show that kids are addressing these issues positively and they'll eat it up.

3. But we haven't done any big events just yet.

So what? I return to my earlier point about what local media considers news. Surely your team has done at least something that qualifies as news.

We tend to think of "news" as big events, but changing the culture and climate in our schools is constant work. Whatever your civil rights teams is doing is newsworthy; it's very *existence* is newsworthy. By highlighting the fact that your school has a civil rights team and showcasing some of the things they've done, we can show people that we're constantly working. We don't just come out once a year for a big event and media attention; this is something that we're weaving into the fabric of our schools.

One more point: much of the work you do is probably more of an event than you realize. I can think of at least five events I have attended this year already, in schools, that definitely qualify as newsworthy. You might be too close to it to realize it, but much of what you're doing is really unique and important.



4. OK... so what should I do?

Make it your goal, right now: our civil rights team is going to be in the news this year. Look at what you plan on doing with the rest of this school year and make the decision: when should we contact media, and about what? You go to them with the story. Tell them about the team, what you're doing, and how it connects with the vision and goals of the team in general.

And at some point, mention that the civil rights team is connected with Civil Rights Team Project. (Make sure you get the name right!) We want people to know about your civil rights team, but we also want them to know that this is a statewide program. The best way for people to find out about the CRTP is by learning what some of our teams do. (The most common question I am asked is about what civil rights teams actually do.) By seeing a civil rights team in action, people are learning about the value of this great program.

But we've got to make that happen. It won't happen on its own.

So here are your local media contacts. It's not a complete list, but we've got the major players listed here. We highly encourage you to be in touch...

Television News:

Bangor area stations:

WABI Channel 5: 947-8321 or wabi@wabi.tv

WLBZ Channel 2: 942-4821 or newscenter@wlbz2.com

WVII Channel 7: 945-6457, ex. 3112 or tv7news@wvii.com

Portland area stations:

WGME Channel 13: 797-1313 or tvmail@wgme.com

WCSH Channel 6: 828-6666 or newscenter@wsh6.com

WMTW Channel 8: 782-1800 or www.wmtw.com

Maine Newspapers:

Bangor Daily News: 990-8175 or bdnnews@bangordailynews.com

Kennebec Journal: 623-3811 or kjcommunity@centralmaine.com

Morning Sentinel: 873-3341 or sentinelnews@centralmaine.com

Portland Press Herald: Kelley Bouchard at 791-6328 or kbouchard@mainetoday.com



Lewiston Sun-Journal: 784-5411 or www.sunjournal.com/submit/newstip

Ellsworth American: 667-2576 or e-mail news@ellsworthamerican.com

The Times Record: 729-3311 or news@timesrecord.com

Relevant Resources: *What Would You Do?*



How serendipitous. At about the same time that I was creating and presenting my workshop for the fall trainings on bystander behavior, *Standing Up: Easier Said Than Done*, ABC News created their *What Would You Do?* segments and vignettes with John Quiñones. *What Would You Do?* employs actors to create various scenes in public settings, using hidden cameras to see how bystanders will respond.

Interestingly enough, I used the very same question, What would you do?, in sharing circumstances and then results for numerous experiments in social psychology aimed at studying bystander behavior. Where the ABC News feature trumps my humble efforts is in its use of video. Catching people's behaviors on camera is powerful. The experiments are hardly scientific, but they certainly show us something and make us wonder what we'd do in similar circumstances.

A significant number of the awkward and uncomfortable scenes created by the show have a civil rights focus. They are highly usable with civil rights teams, directly addressing some of the serious problems we have with bias and prejudice. Of equal or even greater value is the fact that they look at the wide range of bystander behaviors when confronted with bias and prejudice. We get to see it all: support, intervention, and silence. Since the terrible acts are perpetrated by actors and aren't real, the focus is all on the bystanders.

It's also refreshing that *What Would You Do?* embraces a certain level of nuance. After setting up an experiment called "Would You Try to Help a Battered Woman?" they make small but very important change: they dress her differently. The following experiment, "Battered Woman Dressed Provocatively," has different results.

For the most part, they are asking important and smart questions. They also avoid the media/journalistic tendency to make sweeping statements and ridiculously bold conclusions. They seem to know that each of these segments is simply capturing individuals on a given day. And isn't that how bystanders really behave? It depends not



just on who they are, but the circumstances. Sometimes we act, and sometimes we don't.

In watching more and more of these segments, though, I was constantly reminded of the importance of intervention. *What Would You Do?* could serve as a great conversation starter, as well as encouragement and inspiration for anyone who wants to do the right thing.

All of the *What Would You Do?* segments are available online. You'll have to suffer through an advertisement before each segment, but it's worth it. Each week features multiple segments. They are organized by week, with the older segments lumped together by month.

(This is an ongoing feature, too, and so there should be new material in the future.)

Here we highlight segments that are relevant from a civil rights perspective.

<http://abcnews.go.com/WhatWouldYouDo/>

Civil Rights-Related Features on *What Would You Do?*

Jan. 28: Black Father, White Daughter Harassed
Bystanders Wary of Angry White Dad

Jan. 21: Interracial Couple Harassment
Waiter Scolds Overweight Woman
Doll for a Boy?

Jan. 14: Flirting to Harassment

Jan. 7: Elderly Man Harassed
Standing Up for the Elderly

Dec. 17: Shopping While Black
Gay Parents Are Refused a Meal
Taking on Mean Girls

Dec. 10: Drag Queens Harassed in a Café

Dec. 3: Father Rebukes Gay Son
Son Comes Out, Mom Balks

November: Anti-Semitism



October: Bullied for Being Gay
Would You Stop Islamaphobia?

September: Would You Try to Help a Battered Woman?
Would You Stop Sexual Harassment at a Diner?

Upcoming Events:

**Wednesdays, now through May:
The Holocaust and Human Rights
Center presents Series 360**

Augusta, UMA, Michael Klahr Center,
various times, free and open to the
public.

A series of films, lectures, and
roundtable discussions with the theme
of Digging in the Ruins of History: Memory and the Nazi Holocaust.

Check out this impressive program of events at:

<http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2FeLJPog&h=928co>

March 1: Lecture on Positive Body Image

Waterville, Colby College, Cotter Union, Page Commons Room, 7:00 pm, free.

Stacy Nadeau speaks about how we can change messages young women receive about their bodies. Stacy was part of the Dove Campaign for Real Beauty.

March 2: End the R-Word Day

Join the Special Olympics in an effort to end use of the words *retard* and *retarded*. For more information, visit their site at:

www.specialolympics.org/spread-the-word-to-end-the-word.aspx or www.r-word.org

March 2: “The Societal Context of Domestic Violence” Lecture

Farmington, UMF Olsen Student Center, North Dining Hall A, 3:45 pm.





THE TORCH (CRTP NEWSLETTER) FEB. '11

Jessica Dorr, Community Advocate for Safe Voices, will talk on the history and social contexts of domestic violence.

For more information e-mail tanya.kennedy@maine.edu or call 778-7370.

March 3-June 12: Susan Hiller's "The J. Street Project" Art Exhibit

Waterville, Colby College Museum of Art, free and open to the public.

(Also an opening reception and dance performance on March 3 at 4:30 pm)

The J. Street Project documents all the places in Germany whose names still show evidence of their former Jewish inhabitants. Includes 303 photographs, a 67 minute video, and a map and book documenting the sites.

For more information, go to:

http://www.colby.edu/academics_cs/museum/exhibitions/upcoming-exhibitions.cfm

March 30: "Standards of Beauty" Performance Lecture

Biddeford, UNE, Ketchum Library, St. Francis Room, 7:00 pm, free.

Reanae McNeal incorporates poetry, stories, and song in this performance lecture examining standards of beauty imposed on women and the dynamics of colorism, hair, physical features, and size.

For more information, go to:

www.une.edu/calendar/display.cfm?customel_datapageid_298012=407100

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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.

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