



A PUBLICATION OF THE STUDENT CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 2007

JUSTICE FOR MATTHEW SHEPARD

JEREMY DE NIEVA, COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR, UC BERKELEY



A cyclist found Shepard unconscious at this fence, which symbolizes homosexual intolerance for many Americans. Photo: www2.fe.psu.edu

The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network’s 2005 National Climate Survey reports “GLBT students were five times more likely to report having skipped school in the last month because of safety concerns than the general population of students.”

Students, who have to constantly defend their identity, have a greater chance of doing poorly in school due to emotional stress and even physical pain caused by disapproving peers. As professionals who must cater to the varying needs of different individuals, future teachers need to advocate for equal rights.

Taking the murder of Matthew Shephard as precedent of how homosexuality is treated in the United States, political activists have attached his name

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DROWNING IN DEBT

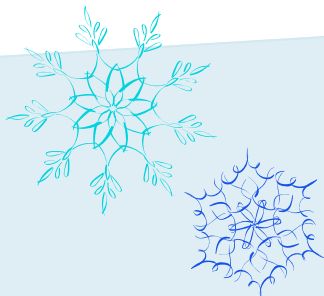
TITO GOMEZ, NORTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, MONTEREY PENINSULA COLLEGE

In 1944, the GI Bill was passed, which helped millions of people reach that dream of higher education. It took 63 years for Washington to create another bill that helps mostly low- and middle-income students. President Bush signed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act back in September.

“I am living proof that this legislation is needed,” said Anthony Daniels chair of NEA Student Program. “After completing my undergraduate education, I owed more in student loans than I was scheduled to make as a starting teacher. Unfortunately, my situation is not unique but, in fact, is becoming the norm.” In speaking about college affordability at the Fall Leadership conference, Daniels says, “We need to be careful observers of what candidates in the 2008 presidential and Congressional races have to say about

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COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY CONCERNS ME — www.collegeaffordabilityconcernsme.org or check out the Facebook page.



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CONTACT THE EDITOR! SUBMIT AN ARTICLE!



The SCTA *I Choose to Teach!* is a publication by the Student California Teachers Association an affiliate of the California Teachers Association and the National Education Association. To submit information or articles, please contact:

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Deadline for submissions

Thursday, January 10th

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DECEMBER 2007

- 1 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
- 7-8 **SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, BURLINGAME**
- 21-JAN. 2 HOLIDAY (HOLIDAY & NEW YEAR'S RECESS)

JANUARY 2008

- 11-13 GOOD TEACHING CONFERENCE, BURLINGAME
- 12 CSET
- 18-20 RURAL ISSUES CONFERENCE, LAS VEGAS, NV
- 21 HOLIDAY (DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)
- 25-27 **STATE COUNCIL/SCTA BOARD MEETING, LOS ANGELES**

FEBRUARY 2008

- 1-3 REGION 3 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, LOS ANGELES
- 9 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
- 8-10 AFRICAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS CONFERENCE
- 16 **SCTA SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE**
- 18 HOLIDAY (PRESIDENT'S DAY)
- 29-MAR. 2 URBAN ISSUES CONFERENCE, SANTA CLARA

MARCH 2008

- 3 READ ACROSS AMERICA
- 7-9 GOOD TEACHING CONFERENCE, ORANGE CTY
- 8 **SCTA NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE**
- 15 CSET
- 21 HOLIDAY (GOOD FRIDAY)
- 28-30 EQUITY & HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE, IRVINE

APRIL 2008

- 4-6 **STATE COUNCIL/SCTA BOARD MEETING, LOS ANGELES**
- 12 CBEST & RICA
- 25-27 REGION 4 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, PALM SPRINGS
- 26-27 **SCTA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY, BURLINGAME**

FALL LEADERSHIP—TEACHERS PAINT THE CANVAS OF THE FUTURE

THERESA PEKARCIK, SOUTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, CSU FULLERTON

Wow! What a great weekend, filled with speakers, workshops, and time to interact with other future teachers. We heard from Anthony Daniels (National Education Association –Student Program Chair), David A. Sanchez (California Teachers Association President), and Mark Cibulski (National Education Association Executive Committee Member). They provided inspiration, tips for future teachers, and the latest updates regarding “No Child Left Behind.” Workshop topics included Classroom Management, Building Campus Chapters, Credentialing Process, Resumes, E-Portfolio Development, and more.



The UC Berkeley SCTA girls enjoyed Anthony Daniels' speech. (Left to right) Lindsay Wong, Olivia Seibirth, Crystal Ramirez, Anthony Daniels, Sarah Weber, Lily Nelson, Bernadette Zemeño

Along with all this great information was a chance to get to know and talk with students from all over the state. There were 120 participants from 34 colleges and universities. We spent time working as teams in an “egg drop” activity. (You had to be there!) We also had some fun enjoying popcorn and a movie. Raffle prizes were also a big hit! Thank you to each campus for bringing in great prizes of shirts, books, bags, supplies, and everything else. Through raffles and proceeds from merchandise sales, we raised over \$1,000 to support scholarships for SCTA members.

In addition, we got a chance to hear from chapters. They were given an opportunity to share their achievements in professional development, community outreach, and political ac-

tion. This weekend gave everyone the chance to grow professionally, share ideas and inspiration. All-in-all, this was a great getaway for students! Thanks to everyone who was there and made it a great success. We hope to see you at our upcoming events; Northern and Southern Regional Conferences and the Representative Assembly.

THANK YOU!

VIELKA ELVEBAK, PRESIDENT, UC BERKELEY

Thank you for participating in our annual Fall Leadership conference!

I wanted to extend a sincere thank you to all the Student CTA participants that attended Fall Leadership in Newport Beach. Thirty-four campuses were represented at this amazing event, making this year's participation the highest we had in seven years. Thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to network with other students and the Executive Board. We received valuable feedback from your evaluations, so if you didn't have a chance to turn yours in, please e-mail it to me at vielkaen@yahoo.com as soon as you can. It is greatly appreciated.

TOILETRIES FOR OUR TROOPS

SHELLEY SMITH, STATE COUNCIL REP., CAL BAPTIST U.

The Toiletries Collection was a big success!

50 bags filled with toiletries and notes of support from you were sent to our military servicemen and women overseas. Thank you friends and members of the SCTA who attended the Fall Leadership Conference in Newport Beach and provided the donations. I am sure that each bag will be received with special thoughts and care from you; the SCTA. Likewise Disney was thrilled to know that you all were willing to partner in such a great endeavor.

Again, thank you for your concern and sacrifice.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR CALIFORNIA TEACHERS

MITZY DIAZ, CCTC LIAISON, CSU SAN BERNARDINO

Attention all future teachers! Recently the Commission on Teacher Credentialing approved the Performance Assessment for California Teachers (PACT). Stanford University and a group of public and private institutions of higher education developed this assessment. PACT is one alternative that may be used by credential programs to evaluate the teaching skills of California's future educators.

Beginning July 1, 2008, all teacher preparation programs will be required to apply a Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA). PACT is being presented as an option to fulfill this requirement. This system is designed to provide feedback to the candidate about strengths and weaknesses in the following areas: planning curriculum, assessment and instruction; implementing instruction; assessing student learning; and analyzing and reflecting on teaching and learning. For each completed Teaching Event (student teaching), this evaluation is designed to reveal information about the candidate's logic and coherence towards the curriculum, appropriateness of instructional decisions for students, range in pedagogical strategies, and more.

Any candidate who begins a teacher preparation program on or after July 1, 2008 must pass a TPA prior to be recommendation for a credential. FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/default.html>

DO YOU STILL NEED TO TAKE THE CBEST?

TAMARA HARRIS, ETHNIC MINORITY REPRESENTATIVE, CSU FULLERTON

In May 2007, the basic skills requirement changed for Multiple-Subject credential candidates. Many have been confused about whether they still had to take the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST). All credential candidates must demonstrate competency in the basic skills of math, reading comprehension, and writing; therefore, the CBEST has been used as the means for verification of those skills. However, in 2006, California passed SB 1209, which intends to streamline the teacher preparation process in California. The California Commission for Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) decided that the Multiple Subject candidates were being double tested when they take both the CBEST and the Multiple Subject CSET (California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET-MS)). The CSET-MS has three subsets or sections of the exam. Together they test for knowledge in the following areas: reading, language, literature, history, social sciences, science, mathematics, physical education, human development, and visual & performing arts. The members of the CCTC decided that it was unfair to doubly test students in math and reading. Now, there is a new subset, CSET-Writing, which is similar to the CBEST's writing portion.

The CSET-Writing has two essays. One is an Expository Essay, which requires the student to analyze a situation or statement and possibly construct a persuasive argument. The second essay is the Expressive Writing task, which is a narrative essay based on a personal experience.

The positive things about the CBEST remain. The test will cost only \$35. It will not be administered at the same time as the CSET-MS; however, it will be offered in the afternoon test time on the day of CSET testing, like the Single Subject exams. Unlike the other CSET exams but like the CBEST, the CSET writing scores will not expire.

The CSET-Writing is not an option for all students. The CBEST must still be taken by Single Subject credential candidates. If a student has taken the CBEST, but did not pass all sections, they must finish the CBEST. For more information go to http://www.cset.nesinc.com/CS_testguide_WSopener.asp or contact Linnea Lagerquist teach@testmaven.com. Lagerquist teaches CSET-MS preparation at National University in San Diego.

READING INSTRUCTION COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT (RICA)

MITZY DIAZ, CCTC LIAISON, CSU SAN BERNARDINO

The objective of the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment known as the RICA is to ensure that California-trained elementary and special education teachers have the knowledge, skills and abilities to provide effective reading instruction. This requirement became effective on October 1, 1998, for Multiple Subject candidates and on January 1, 2000, for Education Specialist Level I candidates and has not been evaluated, until now.

The Commission's RICA design team reviewed the current assessment of the RICA and made several significant changes. The design team refined the current content; placing more emphasis on phonemic awareness, fluency in reading, vocabulary development, academic language usage, reading comprehension, and universal access. Although the drafted changes for the RICA have not gone in effect, most educators are very supportive of the content specifications. **The revised RICA is scheduled to be available in Fall of 2009.** FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2007-11/2007-11-3D.pdf>



Don't Forget to Save these Dates!

We would love to have you come to our upcoming 2008 regional conferences!

Southern Regional Conference:

February 16, 2008

Northern Regional Conference:

March 8, 2008

Interested in joining the SCTA Executive Board?



The Secretary-Treasurer position is now vacant and we are now taking applications. You can get the application at www.cta.org/membership/scta/officersandexecbrd.htm.

Please apply as soon as possible because our next board meeting is coming up soon!

Deadline: December 31, 2007

DROWNING IN DEBT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

making college more affordable. We need to hold these people accountable.” This bill implements several student loan program reforms.

- Increases the Pell Grant program by \$12 billion
- Cuts interest rates on subsidized student loans in half
- Creates new TEACH grants to provide financial support for those entering the teaching profession, and
- Creates an Asian-American and Pacific-Islander Higher Education Serving Institution designation.

“This legislation is so important for the teaching profession,” said Reg Weaver, President of the National Education Association. “We are losing talented college and university students who want to teach and would make wonderful educators but can't afford to enter the classroom because of staggering student loan debt and low pay.”

This is a good start to make college more affordable. The work isn't over; we will need to continue pushing for legislation that will make it easier for students and graduates to consolidate their loans. This legislation is proof that we can change things starting at the grassroots level. As SCTA members, we are that spark of change!

NEA WOMEN'S ISSUES COMMITTEE – REQUEST FOR INFO

VIELKA ELVEBAK, PRESIDENT, UC BERKELEY

Do you know of national and international women's organizations that are making a difference for women and girls around the world? If so, I would greatly appreciate information to be sent to vielkaen@yahoo.com.

The NEA Women's Issues Committee has a new charge to review its partnerships with national and international women's organizations on gender equity, achievement, and health issues and make recommendations to enhance the Association's cooperation with those organizations. This committee meets in March 2008 for the second time, where I'll be submitting the list of materials and resources gathered. Thank you for your support!

CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE IN LOUISVILLE

CORINE CALOCA, ETHNIC MINORITY REPRESENTATIVE, SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

I am excited to report back about the National Education Association Connections Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. This is an annual event held by our national affiliate, NEA-SP. Anthony Daniels Jr., who many of you met at SCTA Fall Leadership, is Chair of the NEA-Student Program.

We had the opportunity to hear from inspirational leaders and attend workshops. Manuel V. Scott, one of the original Freedom Writers spoke about his life's struggles and how he was the first in his family to make it past high school. NEA President Reg Weaver, is always heartwarming and motivating. Workshops included How You Can Put the Special in Special Education; Every Student Deserves a Total Teacher; Embracing Diversity Through Children's Literature; Empowering Students through Classroom Management; Claymation: One Size Fits All; and Communicating Across Cultures. Several workshops showed you how to teach a lesson and provided instructional materials such as books, magnifying glasses and pipettes.

The SCTA team proudly represented California on your behalf. Executive Board members attending were Vielka Elvebak, Angie Drope, Chris Nguyen and Chance Carrico. Additionally, Cindy Ramos was invited by NEA to attend. For many of us, it was our first time at a national event. This conference gave us the opportunity to connect with other students, educators, and national leaders. We also shared our ideas, issues and concerns in California. The next NEA-SP event is the Summer Leadership Conference in Washington D.C.



SCTA leaders at the NEA Connections Conference in Kentucky. (Left to Right) Chris Nguyen, Corine Caloca, Angie Drope, Vielka Elvebak, Cindy Ramos, Chance Carrico

CLAYMATION – ONE SIZE FITS ALL

CHANCE CARRICO, STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, CSU STANISLAUS

“Claymation – One Size Fits All” Sounds mysterious doesn't it? How about if you're at a National Education Association-Student Program Connections Conference (NEA-SP CC, whew!) in Louisville, KY. The connection to education is easy to see?! Of course! Claymation, the use of clays to mimic certain phenomenon and processes, may not be a familiar education tool but it's certainly fun. Carol Bauer of York County Schools, Virginia uses claymation in her 4th grade class. Students love it and the process works through high school and college.

Carol lets her students teach themselves by using the power of clay as a manipulative by first having her students create a concept, storyboard, and even write a script. With proper planning the act of using clay is relatively clean and quick, thus painless for you the instructor. So many subjects can be covered, any action sequence from science, literature and even mathematics: Water Cycle Boogie, Human Digestive Track, fractions and decimals, etc. Making a good claymation sequence is easy; there are only a handful of steps:

1. A storyboard is absolutely essential to articulate what you want to see,
2. Create clay figures and background (use large sheets of colored paper),
3. Take digital pictures (low resolution is fine), make sure to take pictures from the same angle and under the same lighting conditions, a good minimum sequence should be about 12-15 shots long,
4. Download pictures and arrange in order,
5. Share the photos in sequence. It's that easy.

Maybe someday your student can be the next creator of a *Wallace and Gromit* or *Nightmare Before Christmas*. For now the creation of a cell division claymation flick is just as important.

CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE QUOTABLES

“NEA Conferences are great for networking; however, the conference organizers lack participant support.”

-Angie Drope, Executive Vice-President

“NEA Student Program is not culturally diverse. We are doing a better job in California of representing ethnic minorities. And we still need a lot to go.....”

-Corine Caloca, Ethnic Minority Representative

“By far, the most amazing NEA-SP conference! It was a celebration of leadership, culture, and diversity.”

-Cindy Ramos, Student CTA member

“Absolutely beneficial for all future teachers whether you want to teach pre-school or high school.”

-Chris Nguyen, Student CTA member

“Louisville, KY has open arms for Student CTA. NEA-SP, our national counterpart, did the most to ready future leaders of the education profession.”

-Chance Scott Carrico, State Council Representative

“The networking was one of my most favorite parts of this conference. I met students from across the nation that wanted to learn more about the student program in California. It was indeed a very exciting event to attend.”

-Vielka Elvebak, President

Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners!

Herb Foreman Scholarship (\$500)

Neil Oda, CSU Fullerton

Tamara Tanner, National University

Ed Romeo Scholarship (\$500)

Brianna Woodard, Sonoma State University

Leanne Oda, Cal Poly Pomona

CHAPTER PHOTOS



Our beautiful friends at Sonoma State recently put on a successful Halloween event in Cotati! Kelly Zaino, Amanda Davis, Katherine Kirtland, Kelly Kill, Michelle Sewell, Chris Pancoast, Megan Robinson, Erika Thomas, Brianna Woodard, Allison Gorman, Brittany Frostdick



Let's welcome our new chapter from UC San Diego!
(Left to Right) Victor De La Fuente, Nallely Garcia, Ivette Rodriguez, Ariana Campa, Vielka Elvebak, Julia Chu (San Diego State)

SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 12-14th, 2007; Call to Order: October 13th at 5:15pm

Present: Vielka Elvebak, Angie Drope, Chris Nguyen, Kevin Wolfe, Chris Sumner, Theresa Pekarcik, Laughing Bear Torrez-Dulgeroff, Tamara Harris, Chance Carrico, Saira Flores, Cristal Padilla, Jeremy De Nieva, Mitzy Diaz **Excused Absences:** Shelley Smith, Corine Caloca, and Tito Gomez.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes.

Committee Reports:

1. **Support Services:** Decided to continue liquidating all merchandise we currently have at very low prices.
2. **Credential:** Discussed procedures for students to file complaints about student teaching, which can be found in the manual for CSU's.
3. **SEMAC:** Decided to allow members to send in statements regarding the Task Force addressing individuals with special needs.
4. **Event Coordinating Council:** Discussed plans for the Fall Leadership Conference.

Adjournment: October 14th at 10:52am

JUSTICE FOR MATTHEW SHEPARD

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to legislation that redefines the current definition of a hate crime.

Matthew Shepard was a 22-year old gay student attending the University of Wyoming as a political science major. In the early morning of October 7, 1998, he was robbed, beaten with a gun, and left to die by two men. Eighteen hours later, a cyclist found him tied to a fence like a scarecrow. He later died of severe head injuries.

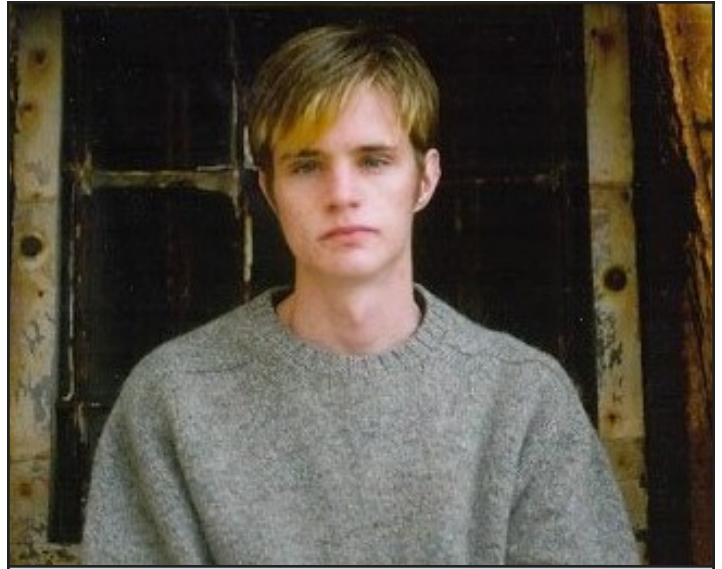
Joe Solemese, the President of the CTA Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender (GLBT) caucus says, “Don't back down now – not if you care about the safety of GLBT Americans.” Moreover, he would like all of us to, “Ask your Senators and Representatives to make sure the Department of Defense bill passes with the Matthew Shepard Act included.” Join us in the ever-present fight for equality.

Ironically a resident of the Equality State, Matthew Shepard deserves the right to justice in compensation for his brutal death nine years ago. According to the Matthew Shepard Foundation, if passed by Congress, the act would accomplish the following:

- Extend hate crime investigation to include sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. Current legislation only allows for punishable hate crimes to include those committed on the basis of race, color, religion, and national origin.
- Eliminate the excuse that victims of bias-motivated crimes (possibly based on their sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability) were only attacked due to the fact that they were doing a federally-protected activity (voting, serving jury duty, and attending school).
- Amend the Hate Crime Statistics Act to include a category of hate crimes committed on the basis of “gender” and “gender identity.”

Formally known as the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, this legislation not only officially recognizes hate crimes against homosexuals, it also recognizes hate crimes against women and individuals with special needs. The Human Rights Campaigns writes that, “According to 2004 FBI statistics, hate crimes based on sexual orientation constituted the third highest category reported and made up 15.5 percent of all reported hate crimes. Only race-based and religion-based crimes were more prevalent than hate crimes based on sexual orientation.”

Graduating is already a difficult task in and of itself. One’s sexual orientation should be the last concern of any student in their struggle to attain a valuable education.



In the early morning of October 7, 1998, Matthew Shepard was robbed, beaten with a gun, and tied to a fence like scarecrow by two men.
Photo: www2.fe.psu.edu