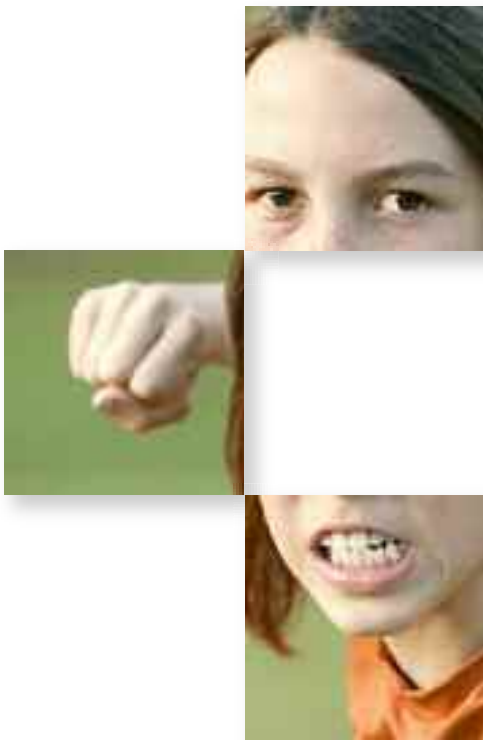


FROM THE EDITOR

Talk About It



Can I have a couple of minutes of your time?

If not, feel free to turn the page and make your way through another excellent issue of *ASBJ*. As another school year winds down, you'll find a number of interesting stories, including a look at the early college phenomenon, what is happening to class rankings, the transportation budget blues, and dealing with the student press.

But if you'll stick with me for a moment, I'd like to call your attention to something else—Talk About It. Launched more than two years ago, this monthly compilation of education-related topics in the news can be found in our Up Front section.

Talk About It was started in response to the 24/7 news cycle in which we live, where any story can be accessed around the world with the click of a mouse. It was our acknowledgment that, despite our best efforts, it is impossible to deliver up-to-the-minute timeliness when publishing a monthly magazine.

However, as we look at the news over the course of a month, topics bubble up that you should be discussing or at least have on your radar screen.

Take this month's section, which points to an anti-bullying effort now

being taken on by districts in Iowa and California. The twist? The move toward anti-bullying policies is aimed at teachers and administrators.

The moves by Iowa's Sioux City Community School District and California's Desert Sands Unified School District can—and likely will—have a trickle-down effect as others consider such measures. And given the renewed attention that bullying is receiving following the tragic suicide of a teen in South Hadley, Mass., it's not surprising.

The sad story of Phoebe Prince garnered national attention in part because the alleged bullies in South Hadley were affluent, smart, and athletic—far from the stereotype seen in the movies. It also points to the problems school districts have in confronting the newest trend in bullying, one that is often online and under the radar of teachers and administrators.

Have you discussed bullying in your schools? Chances are, you have. Have you discussed bullying *by* your teachers? Do you think it occurs—or could occur—in your district?

If you haven't talked about it, you should.

Until next month ...

Glenn Cook, Editor-in-Chief