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## The Crux

**All issues of The Crux can be found below.**

### *Brief History of The Crux:*

So, The Crux is written by Max Karson, a student at Amherst HighSchool. He was 15 when he started writing the Crux, and is now 17 and still at it.

Recently (Sept. '02) there's been some press about it (and him).

Back in February '02, he was suspended for #5, which the school admin. said was "racist" etc. I don't think it was, and he certainly didn't mean it to be. The problem is that people just don't read closely or carefully enough. Anyway, he and his dad got an ACLU lawyer to write a letter to the school, telling them that suspending and censoring Max was a 1st Amendment violation, etc, and the suspension was reversed. After this, Max put out Cruxes 5.5 (which was confiscated by school admin. and he never got to distribute) and 6 & 7, which he did distribute. Then summer vacation.

THEN school started again. Crux # 8 was distributed. That same day, Max was suspended again. They sent him home for the day, telling him that they were going to try to suspend him for more than a week. Max and his father appealed the suspension, and the school suddenly remembered about the 1st amendment and the ACLU. Max is not suspended for #8....

**11/08/02 Update:** Max has been suspended for three days for Issue #11. The principal told him that it was because #11 is "obscene", but wouldn't tell him which part he had the problem with.

**Jan '03 Updates:** Frustrated that suspensions do not deter Max from writing, nor his father from supporting him, the High School principals play dirty. Max explains:

"The school filed a 51-A on my dad, which is a report that accuses someone of child abuse. In this case, they were accusing my father of child neglect, because he wasn't forcing me to go to therapy. DSS sent a social worker to my house the day after Christmas, and she asked me and my father a bunch of questions about The Crux, and then she took me aside and asked me a bunch of questions about my father. The accusation wasn't supported by DSS (of course), so nothing really happened. However, if they HAD supported the 51-A, my dad would never be able to work in child welfare again (he's a psychologist and he does consultations for DSS)."

Also, Max got to be on NPR (Morning Edition)

**May '03 Update:** Max has graduated early from ARHS, and is taking a break from writing The Crux. He will be leaving for college in the fall, and The Crux may well return in time.

Number of times Max has been suspended for The Crux as of January '03: 4

Number of suspensions he actually served: 3

Number that remain on his "permanent record": 2

**Read an article about Max and ARHS [here](#).**

**Read another local article about Max and The Crux [here](#).**

**Read an editorial from the Gazette [here](#).**

All issues of The Crux as of 6/15/03

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[Issue 2](#)   [Issue 6](#)   [Issue 10](#)   [Issue 14](#)

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For questions, comments, love letters or hate mail,  
write to *The Crux* at  
Suite #3  
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Or [drop an email](#) to TheCruxEditor@aol.com  
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Proof that the [ARHS Cross Country](#) team  
has a sense of humor after all.

You don't have to talk to your kids about  
sex, somebody else will be glad to.

The Crux, Amherst MA, Amherst Regional High School, Max Karson, underground newspaper, Amherst High, freedom of speech, first amendment, amherst high school, suspended, Newman, ACLU