

tormented to death?

TYLER CLEMENTI, A GIFTED MUSICIAN, KILLED HIMSELF AFTER HIS COLLEGE ROOMMATE STREAMED VIDEO THAT OUTED HIM AS GAY. BUT WAS HIS TRAGIC DEATH A HATE CRIME—OR A PRANK GONE HORRIBLY WRONG?

T yler Clementi was one of those kids who spent a lot of time on his own—not weird, just quiet. “He was always by himself with his iPod in his ears,” says Kevin Muldoon, 17, a former classmate at New Jersey’s Ridgewood High School. But when he picked up his violin, the shy teen came alive. “There was deep emotion when he put that bow to his violin,” says friend Morgan Knight, 18. “That’s how he expressed himself.”

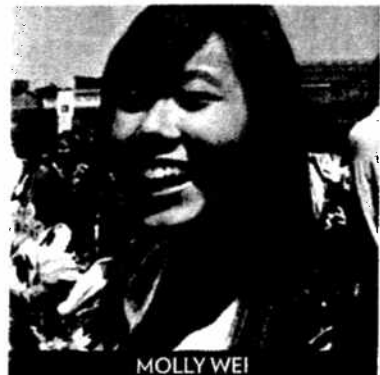
Clementi did not get to play late on Sept. 22; instead he drove to the George Washington Bridge and jumped into the Hudson River. The tragedy of his suicide, at 18, has affected people around the world because of what preceded it: Just three days earlier, his freshman roommate at New Jersey’s Rutgers University, Dharun Ravi, 18, allegedly webcammed Clementi in an encounter with a man in their dorm room and streamed it live. Authorities have charged Ravi and another student—Molly Wei, 18, whose computer Ravi allegedly used—with invasion of privacy, which could lead to five years in prison. (The prosecutor is considering adding hate crime charges, which carry a maximum 10-year sentence but said Oct. 4 there may not be enough evidence.) What officials and friends are struggling to answer: Was this cold-blooded cyber-bullying or a dumb prank with awful, unforeseen consequences? “It’s not clear Mr. Ravi was motivated to harm Tyler because he was gay,” says former federal prosecutor Henry Klingeman. “But given the suicide and the attention, I’m certain the prosecutor will seek prison time.”

The harassment Clementi may have felt is all too common. A 2005 Harris poll found 90 percent of gay and lesbian teens say they’ve been bullied in the past year. And nearly two-thirds of these students feel unsafe in school, according to a 2009 survey by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. In September alone, three other teens took their own lives after homophobic taunting (see box). Still, the actions that may have prompted Clementi to kill himself seem particularly

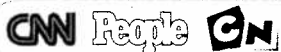
The Suspects



DHARUN RAVI



MOLLY WEI



BEGINNING OCT. 4, PEOPLE AND CNN ARE PARTNERING FOR A WEEKLONG SPECIAL AC 360 SERIES ON BULLYING, AND A PEOPLE-CNN-CARTOON NETWORK TOWN HALL AIRING OCT. 8 AT 10 P.M. ON CNN

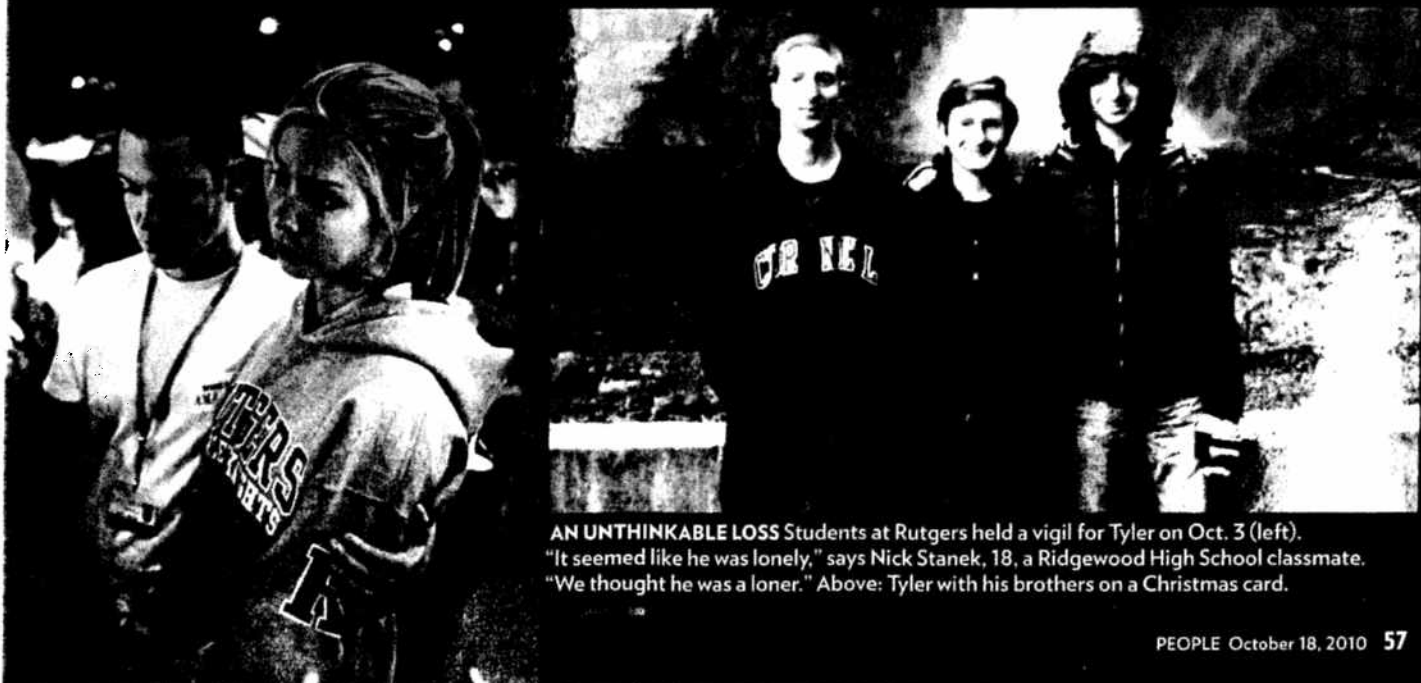
**OUTED BY
WEBCAM** Tyler
(left) "seemed
depressed
sometimes,"
says friend
Morgan Knight.
"He was very
introspective."



SPYING ON TYLER

Roommate asked for the room till midnight. I went into molly's room and turned on my webcam. I saw him making out with a dude. Yay —DHARUN RAVI ON TWITTER, SEPT. 19

Anyone with iChat, I dare you to video chat me between the hours of 9:30 and 12. Yes it's happening again —RAVI ON TWITTER, SEPT. 21



AN UNTHINKABLE LOSS Students at Rutgers held a vigil for Tyler on Oct. 3 (left). "It seemed like he was lonely," says Nick Stanek, 18, a Ridgewood High School classmate. "We thought he was a loner." Above: Tyler with his brothers on a Christmas card.

heartless, and they have touched a nerve across the country, sparking a national conversation on bullying and prompting talk show host Ellen DeGeneres to declare, "Something must be done." Clementi's mother, father and two brothers "are devastated," says Emanuel Sosinsky, president of the Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra, with which Clementi played. "They were always so supportive of him."

Clementi may not have had a big circle of friends, but he made an impression on the ones he had. "When I felt isolated, he showed me an immense amount of compassion," says Morgan Knight. Clementi dazzled conductors and fellow violinists with his technique. But if he shared his musical gifts with the world, he kept his personal life hidden. "He was, as far as I know, completely in the closet," says Knight. Clementi once called himself "practically asexual" in postings on the Internet message board JustUsBoys.com; there, he said, "I honestly don't think people are mature enough to be having sex prior to collegeish years."

On Sept. 19 Clementi invited a man to his dorm room.

Clementi "asked for the room till midnight," Ravi tweeted that evening. "I went into Molly's room and turned on my webcam. I saw [Clementi] making out with a dude. Yay." According to someone close to Wei, several students came to her room to watch. Two days later Ravi tweeted he was going to secretly webcam Clementi again and share it with his Internet chat group. "Video chat me between the hours of 9:30 and 12," he tweeted. "It's happening again."

By then Clementi had learned about the webcam and shut it down. He discussed the matter on the Internet forum and possibly with a resident adviser. "I'm kinda pissed," he wrote in a Sept. 21 post entitled "college roommate spying." Even so, he didn't seem overly distraught in the message-board postings and even called Ravi "a pretty decent roommate." Yet just a day later, at 8:42 p.m., Clementi posted this terse status update on Facebook: "Jumping off the gw bridge. Sorry."

While Clementi's friends and family grieve, those who know Ravi and Wei—both popular, solid students—are stunned. Ravi "found irony and dark situations funny," says his friend Josh Rutstein. "He's not a monster." The outgoing Wei, a pharmacy student, "is one of the most caring people I've met," says a close friend. Wei's lawyer Rubin Sinins insists, "She did nothing wrong and committed no crime. There's not an ounce of bias in her."

Ravi and Wei were released while investigators keep digging into the case. Meanwhile hundreds of mourners held a vigil for Clementi on the Rutgers campus Oct. 3, and even those who never knew him seemed to sense his gentle spirit. "His parents lost a wonderful son, and we've lost a wonderful human being," says Emanuel Sosinsky. "His death is a loss to the world."

Alex Tresniowski, Nicole Weisensee Egan, Diane Herbst and Charlotte Triggs in New Jersey and **Lesley Messer, Joanne Fowler, Daniel S. Levy and Nadine Shabeeb** in New York City.



A RARE GIFT
"Onstage he wasn't shy; he was confident," his violin tutor Khullip Jeung says of Clementi (above, performing).



A PROMISING FUTURE
"He was quietly hilarious," a pal says of Tyler (at his high school graduation this June).

Too Young to Die
These kids were taunted for being gay—or just different



Seth Walsh, 13

On Sept. 19 the Tehachapi, Calif., middle schooler, picked on for being gay, hanged himself. At his memorial, his brother said, "He was the best big brother in the world—no, the galaxy."



Asher Brown, 13

The Houston eighth grader was tortured for being gay, lisping and being a Buddhist. On Sept. 23 he shot himself at home. "This is the worst club," says mom Amy Truong, "to be a member of."

Billy Lucas, 15

After the high school freshman hanged himself Sept. 9, friend Jade Sansing told a reporter that bullies at their Greensburg, Ind., school would call Lucas "gay and tell him to go kill himself."

GRADUATION: SAM FRAN SCAVIZZO/RIDGEWOOD PATCH/AP; BROWN: COURTESY DAVID TRUONG

WHAT WENT WRONG?: "So many balls were dropped with Phoebe," says her aunt Eileen Moore (on Oct. 2 in Springfield, Mass.).

BULLYING • A SPECIAL REPORT

phoebe prince's legacy

a town tries to heal

NINE MONTHS AGO A TROUBLED 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL KILLED HERSELF AFTER BEING TAUNTED AT SCHOOL. WHAT HER FAMILY, HER TEACHERS AND THE SIX TEENAGERS NOW FACING CRIMINAL CHARGES HAVE LEARNED—AND WHY THEY WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

BY RAMIN SETOODEH • PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARY ELLEN MARK



The air smelled like nachos and hot dogs on Sept. 10, as the first football game of the year at South Hadley High School got under way. The home team stormed the field with a banner that read "We're Back." To the surprise of many, so was Sean Mulveyhill. The 18-year-old star captain had left school last winter just before police charged him with statutory rape in the Phoebe Prince bullying case. Wearing a white baseball cap, Mulveyhill walked right up on the field. He gave his former coach a hug, and then stayed with his old team on the sidelines, running up and down the grass, cheering them on and hooting at every touchdown. "I was happy he was back with us," says Alex Parker, a player on the team. "Everybody loves Sean. Everybody misses him."

South Hadley won big that night, but it felt like a bitter-sweet victory. Because of the case heard round the world, South Hadley High has become known as the "bully school." On Jan. 14, following weeks of vicious attacks at school and on Facebook, 15-year-old Phoebe Prince committed suicide, and, in an unprecedented move by a district attorney, six teens were slapped with felony charges. "They have a bad reputation because of what happened," says a student from nearby Holyoke High School.

While the accused bullies await trial, this Massachusetts





HEAD OF THE CLASS: "It's not okay to be continuing on with the way things were last year," says Alex Parker (right, on Sept. 17 at South Hadley High School), who sits on the antibullying task force with Nancy Farnsworth.

FROM LEFT: CHRISTOPHER EVANS/BOSTON HERALD/POLARIS; BOSTON HERALD/POLARIS; CHRISTOPHER EVANS/BOSTON HERALD/POLARIS

The South Hadley Six



Sean Mulveyhill, 18

He lost a college football scholarship and is not in school. "He is struggling," says a source. Charges include: statutory rape.



Sharon Velazquez, 17

She is working toward a GED, says her lawyer. "Even if she is acquitted, she might never recover from the derogatory effects this has caused." Charges include: stalking.



Austin Renaud, 18

His senior year unfinished, "he's living in the area, working full-time and dealing with the day-to-day pressures," a source says. One charge: statutory rape.

town of 17,000 is trying to move on. But reminders of Phoebe and her legacy are everywhere—from antibullying measures that are now being passed across the U.S. and a new banner proclaiming “RESPECT” that now hangs above South Hadley High’s front doors to lingering, bitter controversy about whether Phoebe’s death could have been prevented and whether the accused teens are getting a raw deal. “It hasn’t gone back to normal,” says police chief David LaBrie. “I don’t know if it ever will.”

In the wake of Phoebe’s death 9 months ago, her hometown became a national target. Online “hate” pages featuring some of the defendants sprang up on Facebook. “It’s been frustrating to see so many students in pain,” says Stephanie Viens, a history teacher. “I would tell my students, ‘This event doesn’t define you.’ The students would be upset, ‘Why do they hate us?’ [I’d say] ‘They don’t hate you. They are afraid that they are you.’”

Or worse, a Phoebe in the making. “I truly believe Phoebe did not want to die and just snapped and had nowhere to turn,” her aunt Eileen Moore, 53, tells PEOPLE. “The signs were there and there was no support.” Phoebe had moved to South Hadley from County Clare, Ireland, in summer 2009, an already troubled girl on Prozac and with a history of depression. After girls at her new school started calling her a “slut” for her relationships with certain boys, she started cutting herself again, her mom said in grand jury testimony. “She wanted the pain to stop,” according to Anne O’Brien Prince. Phoebe finally ended her life by hanging herself after a particularly difficult day of taunting. “If

Phoebe’s aunt speaks:

“I was not aware of the depth of her pain”

On why she is speaking now:

“I don’t want this to happen to someone else’s child.”

On her last conversation with Phoebe the night before she died:

“She was excited about [an upcoming] dance. We talked about getting her hair done for it. She wanted an updo. I didn’t see this coming.”

On why she is worried about the severe charges against the six defendants:

“I don’t want Phoebe ripped apart. My fear is they are going to get off and become warped teenage idols, saying how this has damaged their life. I’m so afraid of that.”

On what she thinks of the new antibullying law in Massachusetts, which requires parents to be notified of a bullying incident:

“It’s a great first step but I feel a phone call from the schools to the parents is nothing but the childhood game of hot potato. A follow-through must be held with trained professionals. We need to look at bullying for what it truly is—a form of emotional abuse—and treat it in the way we work to end physical and sexual abuse.”

We’ll never be the same. But hopefully the community will be stronger because of it”

—STEPHANIE VIENS, A SOUTH HADLEY HISTORY TEACHER

this can happen to an intelligent, beautiful girl, it can happen to anybody,” Moore says.

Certainly her death provided a wake-up call for teachers and parents in South Hadley. “The biggest change,” says South Hadley High principal Daniel Smith, “is heightened awareness.” Eighth graders now undergo depression screening before entering their freshman year. (“They asked us if there are any problems we’d like to share,” recalls one freshman. “Are your friends sad?”) South Hadley set up an antibullying committee to create a new policy, which mandates “the principal must initiate an investigation of bullying within one school day.”

And while some in the community believe the efforts are showing results, others discuss ways in which bullying is hard to eradicate—even in a school that knows firsthand bullying’s most tragic consequences. “I’ve seen improvement. Teachers are more receptive to our complaints,”

says Nancy Farnsworth, one of the members on the antibullying committee, who has two kids in the school. Parents like Susan Parker joined Facebook to monitor her kids’ accounts. “[My kids] aren’t allowed to block me,” she says, adding that she also checks the text mes-



Kayla Narey, 18

She is reportedly taking classes at a local college. After a Sept. 15 hearing, her attorney said,

“a lot of ugly, threatening stuff has been sent on the computer.” Charges include: criminal harassment.



Flannery Mullins, 17

She’s pursuing her education, but no one will say where. A judge issued a restraining order

against a neighbor after what Flannery’s attorney described as “substantial death threats.” Charges include: stalking.



Ashley Longe, 17

GED in hand, “she is nervous about the charges and wishes [it] never happened,” says a

source. On Aug. 31 she was arrested for drunk driving. She pleaded not guilty. Charges include: violation of civil rights.

sages on their cell phones.

But Parker's son Alex, 17, who sits on the antibullying task force, believes stamping out the problem isn't so simple: He says he has been teased this year about his weight, and in the first week back from summer a shouting match broke out between two students, prompting the school to issue a "code black"—all kids had to be locked up in classrooms. A few parents worry that the measures are about perception only. "They haven't changed a thing," says Susan Smith, whose son was a friend of Phoebe's. "I had nightmares of him going back." So did some of the teachers: "You could hear the pain in their voices," says Larry Murphy, a principal in West Boylston, Mass. "One of the guidance counselors went to the grocery store and was verbally assaulted—'How can you live with yourself?'"

Meanwhile, the indicted teenagers—Ashley Longe, 17; Kayla Narvey, 18; Flannery Mullins, 17; Sharon Velazquez, 17; Austin Renaud, 18; and Mulveyhill—have themselves been subjected to a form of bullying. Suspended from school while charges ranging from stalking to criminal harassment are pending, the teens still live at home but are sometimes treated as outcasts. "Public disdain and reprimand have run rampant," says Colin Keefe, Velazquez's attorney. "[Sharon] has and continues to suffer severely on virtually all levels of her life, emotionally, socially, educationally, physically. She has essentially become a social prisoner in her own home."

According to a knowledgeable source, in the spring Velazquez had a rock thrown through the window of the house in which she was staying. "They won't let her back in school and they won't give her a tutor," Keefe says. "Her mother has been going to school to get her books. She'll have to repeat the year, or a substantial portion of it." (The school says it cannot comment on individual discipline cases due to federal privacy laws.) Jennifer Mullins, Flannery's mom, joined the

They're making these kids out to be murderers. That's not the case"

—SOUTH HADLEY PARENT



IT STARTS AT HOME: "Are parents teaching their kids to be respectful?" says Farnsworth (with daughter Taylor Anne, 13). "That would help."

antibullying task force but had to leave because of threats. Longe was run out of a party by other girls. "She is not working," says a close ally of Longe's. "She got her GED and is looking pretty hard for a job." As for Mulveyhill, "Sean genuinely cared for Phoebe," says a friend. "Shortly after she died, they made these purple bracelets 'Phoebe Prince, Always In Our Hearts.' Sean still wears his bracelet. He hasn't taken it off since he got it."

And even Eileen Moore, Phoebe's aunt, doesn't want her niece to be remembered just as a victim of bullying. As much as she feels anger toward the six accused teenagers, she also feels that Phoebe was let down by her teachers, her school and her doctors, not just her peers. "You can't make someone be nice," she says. "You have to help the person who's being bullied get stronger." Moore hopes Phoebe's story will inspire changes at schools throughout the country. "I think her legacy will be to help other teens," she says. "We need to do better."

With Nicole Weisensee Egan, Diane Herbst and Judy Rakowsky



BULLYING • A SPECIAL REPORT

I was

bullied

**...people
were
jealous**

MACKENZIE SPANIER, 17

me, calling me a bitch and a slut. Sometimes he threw objects: bottles filled with liquid, pens, water bottles. Soon I was getting shouldered in the hallways and

The bullying started a year and a half ago, right after I began dating a senior varsity hockey player. A friend of his—I didn't know him at all—thought I would ruin my boyfriend's life. He started bad-mouthing

receiving phone messages and texts from about 15 girls saying I should get out of the high school because no one liked me. Notes arrived in my mailbox calling me obscenities. One said, "All the people Mackenzie made out with" and named a bunch of my friends I'd never kissed. After my mother called the police, her boyfriend's car was painted with pictures of boobs and wieners, and our house was egged and TP'd. Then things started to die down. All of this lasted about five months, but I still don't understand people who can be a friend and then become mean to you. It can happen to anyone.



because..

SEVEN TEENAGERS SHARE THEIR STORIES
OF HUMILIATION AND ABUSE—AND
HOW THEY SURVIVED THE TORMENT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HENRY LEUTWYLER

...I am gay

JOEY KEMMERLING, 16

New Year's Eve of eighth grade, a friend told me his uncle was gay. I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "He has relationships with men." I was just, like, "Well, that's who I am." The next day I got to school and everyone knew. Kids were snickering and pointing at me. In the locker room everyone turned and looked at me. The boy who changed

next to me grabbed his stuff and said, "I don't want you checking me out." I began to dread school. One school staffer said to me, "Could you be a little less gay?" In high school the next year, a kid with a knife told me, "Your life is in my hands." I started having nightmares, gained weight, thought of taking my life. Instead, I decided to change schools and help other kids who are gay. This is not a crazy story; this happens all the time.

...we are overweight

ALEX AND PHILIPPE HAUSSMANN, 15

Alex: It started in kindergarten with one or two people. I'd be playing with blocks and they'd knock down the tower, or they wouldn't share their blocks.

Then it spread to whole groups of people who make sure you're left out. In middle school, one teacher always assigned me to sit with a group of kids she knew hated me. They moved my desk into the corner and said, "Nobody wants to be with you, Alex."

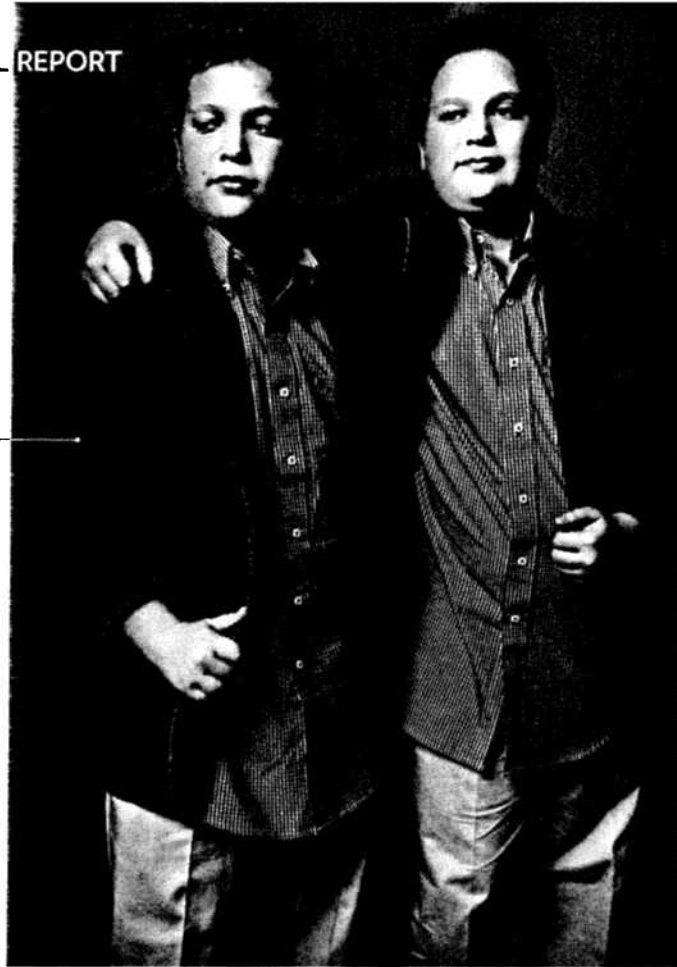
Philippe: When I was 13, a kid tripped me in gym class. It broke my foot.

Alex: Having a twin made it worse. They would shout, "Twincest!" and say we have sex with each other.

Philippe: You can't show a reaction, even a waver in your voice. They'll feed off that. You have to kind of feel bad for them.

They need to feed off your sadness to be happy.

"I used to have a thin skin. You get over it in time, and just grow a thicker one" —ALEX



...I am biracial

MORIAH KILGORE, 15

When I was about 7, I told some girls that my mom was white and my father was black. One girl said, "You do know that is illegal, and your parents are going to jail." It made me confused and sad. At the time, I lived in rural Minnesota. Most of the kids had straight blond hair. My hair was brown and very curly. A boy nicknamed me Miss Black. In fourth grade we moved to Roseville, where there are all different kinds of people. I made friends right away. But then there was girl-drama that made me feel I was ugly and a loser. I wanted to fit in with the white people but couldn't because I was black, and I wanted to fit in with the black people but couldn't because I was white. In eighth grade, black girls would say, "Oh, she has nappy hair," and laugh. Now I have more confidence. I got dreadlocks, and I like them. And I am comfortable in my own skin. I'd rather be my own person than be like 400 people who are all the same.

...I am Muslim

KHOSHNOOR PARACHA, 17

The year I moved to the United States, the kids in my eighth grade class called me a terrorist and told me to go back to Pakistan. In the locker room, they treated me like I would blow up at any minute. When they would say, "You're Pakistani, they are really, really bad," I'd say, like, "Okay, that's what I am, but when you call me a terrorist, it hurts."

That whole year, I sat alone during lunch. People threw paper balls at me, pushed me, took my food. The teachers didn't pay attention.

High school is much better. My school is very diverse, and I'm more confident. No one calls me a terrorist. Still, things happen. At the bus stop, a scary-looking man pushed me down.

No one stopped him. And a few weeks ago a woman walked by me in a store and said, "Oh my God, it smells."

"I thought if my mom went to the school it would get worse. I was new here"

Jill Smolowe. Reported by Steve Helling, Daniel S. Levy and Diane Herbst



...just because

JAMIE ISAACS, 14

Not long after my eighth birthday, a close friend who used to come over to my house almost every day started saying, "Oh, you're rich, you're rich." That same girl stabbed me with pencils, tripped me, hit me in the face with her backpack. She recruited other girls. I'd tell my parents everything and they'd call the principal. When it got really bad, the school decided to remove me from the bus. In fifth grade a clique of girls IM'd me death threats. Later that same ring-leader started an "I Hate Jamie" club. Kids threw food at me, yelled things at me, broke into my locker 14 times and ripped my stuff. I ended up speaking at a public hearing in Suffolk County about bullying because I thought that enough is enough. The private school I go to now doesn't tolerate bullying. I am extremely happy.



BULLYING • A SPECIAL REPORT

confessions of a bu

HE THOUGHT HE WAS JUST BEING FUNNY AND COOL, BUT THEN DANIEL HARRISON REALIZED THE TRUE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS UGLY BEHAVIOR

The teasing began in fifth grade, after Daniel Harrison and a neighborhood pal had a growth spurt and Courtney Kondor did not. “We were taller and just naturally started making fun of her,” says Daniel, now 15 and a sophomore at Mattawan High School, near Kalamazoo, Mich. “When she didn’t do anything about it, we drove in more and more. Like I would see her in the school hallways and shout, ‘Hey, shorty!’” By seventh grade, on the school bus, “I used to mess up Courtney’s hair,” Daniel says, while his pal continued to provide the laugh track. “It felt cool to not be made fun of and to be the one making the fun.” At no point did he think of himself as a “mean bully,” he says. “I thought of myself as a playful bully: I bullied with a smile on my face.”

One morning in December 2007 Daniel ramped up the bus “fun” by snatching a hat from Courtney’s head. Dan-

iel tossed it to his sidekick, who passed it to another girl the two boys liked to tease, who in turn threw it back to Daniel. “I put the hat down my pants,” he says, then clarifies, “Uh, the front. It wasn’t under my boxers.” As he got off the bus, Daniel says he noticed that “Courtney was devastated” and realized that he’d gone “definitely a little too far.” The next morning he was summoned by his middle school dean to talk with—and apologize to—

Bullying was satisfying. It gave me more confidence. And I kind of felt powerful”

Courtney. He was also told to report to detention the following day. None of that made much of an impression on Daniel. “I was worried about getting grounded,” he says. “I wasn’t worried about hurting Courtney’s feelings.”

Then his parents received



BUMPY RIDE
"We're friends again," Daniel Harrison says of Courtney Kondor (with her last month).

a phone call from the dean. Until that moment, the worst his mom, Yvette Harrison, a juvenile probation officer, and dad, Stanley, an electrician, had heard about the younger of their two sons was that he was a "class clown" and a charmer. "I was furious with Daniel," his mom recalls. "I was embarrassed. Where did I go wrong in raising him?" She grounded Daniel from playing his beloved video games for two weeks and insisted they go over to the Kondors' house to apologize. "Daniel was very nervous," she says, "but he didn't fight me on it."

There, Daniel came face-to-face with not only Courtney but her mother, Kim Kondor, whom Daniel had known for years. "As soon as Courtney's mother came to the door, we could see the anger on her face," Daniel's mom says. Kondor accepted Daniel's apology, then described how Courtney had returned from school the previous day "crying so bad she couldn't hardly get the story out." And that wasn't the only day Courtney had come home upset. "It was really shocking," says Daniel. "I thought it was, like, hurting her feelings that day and then moving on."

In detention the next day, Daniel chanced upon Ben Mikaelson's

Touching Spirit Bear. "It was just perfect timing to read that book," he says of the story about an angry teen who torments a white bear. The following school year, assigned by his language-arts teacher Laurie Hogan-McLean to send a letter to an author describing how a particular book had proved inspiring, Daniel wrote to Mikaelson that, while reading *Bear*, "I realized who I was, and I hated it." A few months later his letter took top state honors in the national Letters About Literature contest. "Daniel opened a door to help kids reflect," says Hogan-McLean.

Today Daniel is a leader in his school's chapter of Peace-Jam, a nationwide student organization that studies the deeds of Nobel Peace Prize laureates. With Courtney, 15, Daniel says, he gave her "the power" to choose what would become of their relationship. "If she wanted to kick me out of her life, so be it." Her choice: to resume their friendship. And he has become a champion of those in need. "I always end up befriending the people being bullied," he says. "It's satisfying to help people out."

By Jill Smolowe. Moira Bailey in Mattawan

IS YOUR CHILD A TARGET OF BULLIES?

"The majority of kids are very reluctant to tell adults they've been bullied," says Kevin Jennings, assistant deputy secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools. So experts encourage parents to pay close attention to changes in behavior. A happy child can suddenly become withdrawn or pretend he's ill to avoid school. "They might say, 'I hate that school. I hate that class,'" says Marji Lipshez-Shapiro of the Anti-Defamation League. Another sign: "A kid who tells you they have no friends at school—that's a red flag," says Robin D'Antona, a bullying-prevention specialist in Falmouth, Mass. Below, other groups to turn to for help.

STOP BULLYING NOW!

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services has launched a campaign with tips on how to identify and prevent bullying. Its website features animated stories geared toward children to help them recognize bullying behavior. "Sometimes kids send things in a text they would never say to someone's face," says Jennings, an adviser to the campaign. "You want to get them to say, 'Wow, I didn't think how that would feel.'" stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov

STOP BULLYING:

SPEAK UP The Cartoon Network is running PSAs and offers online resources for parents and kids. stopbullyingspeakup.com

GLSEN The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network offers support for schools that want to implement anti-bullying programs. "School staff sometimes have a hard time doing what's right because they're afraid of a backlash," says Eliza Byard, GLSEN's executive director. glsen.org/bullying

THE ANTI-DEFAMATION

LEAGUE This nonprofit civil rights advocacy group offers tips for parents and resources for teachers. Says Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director: "Parents and teachers need to work

together to empower kids to stand up to bullying." adl.org/combatbullying

WIRESAFETY

The nonprofit provides tips for teens on how to navigate the Internet safely and for parents on how to keep track of their kids' web-based activities. "Kids are hurting each other online," says Parry Aftab, the group's executive director. "Parents need to let their kids know, if they pull this stuff, they'll take away their technology." wiredsafety.org

IT GETS BETTER PROJECT

After Indiana teen Billy Lucas—taunted by classmates who thought he was gay—hanged himself in September, Seattle-based columnist Dan Savage recorded a video describing how he had been bullied as a gay teen yet went on to have a happy adult life. Savage has since collected hundreds of YouTube videos of gay men and lesbians offering inspiration to teens to stay strong. youtube.com/user/itgetsbetterproject

PACER'S NATIONAL CENTER FOR BULLYING PREVENTION

The child-advocacy group, which focuses on children with disabilities, offers anti-bullying materials. pacer.org/bullying