

A CHRONOLOGY OF BULLYING

by

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There's a song in the movie, "Yentl" called "There Are Moments You Remember" all your life...and there are moments you NEVER FORGET...
BULLYING MOMENTS!

IN 2014, nearly 9 out of 10 children ("kinder") ages 10-18 said they have seen cruel ("akhzoryesdik") or abusive behavior online directed against them or other people.

The word "bully" can be traced back as far as the 1530s. In its basic sense, bullying involves two people, a bully or intimidator and a victim ("korbn"). The bully abuses the victim through physical, verbal, or other means in order to gain a sense of superiority.

Harvey Fierstein said, "Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself."

With the school year rapidly approaching, perhaps you might like to share this chronology of bullying with your children or grandchildren.

160,000 children in the U. S. stay home because of fear of bullying.

Some terms:

"bullycide" - The act of committing suicide ("zelmord") due to the effects of bullying.

"cyberbullying" - Bullying using technology. Anonymous blogging is another technology advancement that has fostered cyberbullying activities. This allows the offender to mask his or her identity behind a computer.

"harassment" - means peers spread rumors about them, make "rude or mean comments" or threaten them.

"mobbing" - is a preferred term for bullying in continental Europe and in

those situations where a target is selected and bullied (mobbed) by a group of people rather than by one individual. However, every group has a ringleader. If this ringleader is an introvert type, he or she is likely to be in the background coercing and manipulating group members into mobbing the selected target; introvert ringleaders are much more dangerous than extrovert ringleaders.

“normative bullying” - students who violate some sort of social norm being harassed by other students struggling with emotional problems.

Shown below is a chronology of bullying:

1862 First report of death resulting from bullying.

1897 First significant research on bullying.

1952 Bullying now includes stealing.

2001 An episode on “Everybody Loves Raymond” is titled, “Bully on the Bus.” Ally says she is being bullied on the bus (“der oytobus”), and Ray is very concerned. Debra wants Ally to deal with it on her own, but Ray’s family interferes. Ray (Romano) rides on the bus with her and discovers that Ally is actually the bully, and the boy whom she complained about was actually defending the little girl that Ally was bullying. Debra and Ray then have a talk with her, and Ally promises to be good (“gut”).

The office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports that “60% of males who were bullied in grades 6 through 9 were convicted of a least one crime (“farbrekhn”) as adults, as compared with 23% who did not bully.

2003 Rita Y. Toews published a book titled, “The Bully - A Discussion and Activity Story.”

2006 October is National Bullying Month, an awareness movement founded this year by PACER’s Bullying Prevention Center.

2010 Roni Caryn Rabin reports that “schoolchildren are more likely to be bullied if they are overweight (“ibervog”), and a new study

suggests just how much more likely: 60% more, if they are obese, (with a body mass index in the 95th percentile for children in their age group) and 13% more, if they are simply overweight (85th percentile or higher). It made no difference (“untersheyd”) whether the child was rich or poor; male or female; white, black or Hispanic; or living in a community where many other children were obese.

Nor did it matter if the child had good social skills or did well in school. The child who was obese was simply more likely to be bullied than the child who was not.” (Source: Dr. Julie C. Lumeng, New York Times, 5/11/10)

The Associated Press indicates that there’s been a sharp drop in the percentage of American children being bullied or beaten up by their peers. Prof. David Finkelhor said he was “very encouraged.” Finkelhor said anti-bullying programs proliferated after the ’99 Columbine High School shootings in Colorado.

Jan Hoffman (“As Bullies Go Digital, Parents Play Catch-Up,” New York Times, 12/5/10) reported that “the lawlessness of the Internet, its potential for casual, breathtaking cruelty and its capacity to cloak a bully’s identity, all present slippery new challenges to this transitional generation of analog parents.”

Dr. Sabella says that parent should meet the parents (“tate-mame”) of the bully in public places, like the library (“bibliotek”) or a guidance counselor’s office, rather than addressing the conflict by e-mail. Dr. Englander, an expert (“meyvin”) on aggression reduction, says that the cyber-bully’s parents should be offered a face-saving explanation...When the conversation is handled deftly, parents can achieve a reasonable outcome.

Tyler Clementi, a freshman at Rutgers University, jumped off the George Washington Bridge after a sexual encounter with another man was broadcast online. His death is just one of several suicides in recent weeks by young gay teenagers (“tsenerlingn”) who had been harassed by classmates, both in person and online.

A new law requires N. Y. school districts to protect children against bullying because of their sexual orientation or weight.

A growing number of American kids say they have been picked on via text messaging.

2013 A 14-year-old girl and a 12-year-old girl from Winter Haven, FL, were primarily responsible for bullying another girl, Rebecca. Rebecca was tormented online and at school by as many as 15 girls before she climbed a tower at an abandoned concrete plant and hurled herself to her death. She is one of at least a dozen or so suicides in the U. S. over the past 3 years, that were attributed at least in part to cyberbullying.

2014 JTA -The Global Jewish News Source, (7/28/14) carried this headline:

**CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REASSIGNED
AFTER ANTI-SEMITIC BULLYING.**

Principal, Joshua Vander Jagt of the Ogden Int'l School on Chicago's North Side was reassigned. Some parent believed Vander Jagt's response to the anti-Semitic bullying among 8th graders came TOO LATE. A Jewish student in the 8th grade told his mother several month ago that classmate showed him photos of ovens and told him to put on striped pants and get in. The students later formed a team for the online game "Clash of the Clans," calling themselves "Jew Incinerator."

"Heil! Throw Jews into ovens for a cause. We are a friendly group of racists with one goal--put all Jews into an army camp until disposed of," the team's introduction read.

The students later were suspended from school for ONE to TWO DAYS, and banned from graduation ceremonies.

Letters sent home to parents encouraged them to talk about bullying but DID NOT mention anti-Semitism. The principal held a forum for parents on May 29, the same day that the 8th graders made a field trip to the Holocaust Museum in Skokie, IL.

Mary Bowman (USA Today) reports that childhood bullying can linger a lifetime. The harmful effects an extend decades after the initial bullying. And researchers found those bullied in childhood had

lower levels of education, greater physical and cognitive health problems, and poor social functioning throughout their lives, compared with those who were not bullied.

Larry R. Murphy of West Palm Beach, FL, wrote to the Palm Beach Post: “Victims of bullying are now being taught not to resist. It makes the bully look like a terrorist, picking on a little kid. Everyone will take sides against the bully. He becomes a thug in the eyes of everyone else, and he or she is an insecure person anyway, and that is not the effect he or she is seeking...The trick (“kunts”) with a bully is to be tricky. Be nice (“voyl”) when he does not expect it. Agree with him when he thinks you will argue (“taynen”). Then the show is over and he looks like the coward (“pakhdn”) that he truly is.”
(Note: The Yiddish has been added by Marjorie Wolfe.)

Comedian, Scott Aukerman (in an interview with Willy Staley), said, “I was kind of a nerd, and I was bullied a lot, and I found that if I could make the bully laugh, he might not want to beat me up. Being funny was a stalling tactic.”

The parents of a former Merrick Avenue Middle School (Long Island) appeared in court on their lawsuit claiming that the school district failed to prevent students from violating civil rights by harassment and cyberbullying with a lewd video. The girl had a long history of being bullied and was moved to a private school in 2011.

2014 A South Euclid, OH, man has been ordered by a judge to stand on a street corner and hold a sign, letting everyone passing by know that he’s a bully. This unusual (“umgevyntlekh”) sentence was handed down when 62-year-old Edmond Aviv was convicted of harassing his neighbor.

Philip Galanes (“Social Q’s, New York Times, 4/20/14) shared the following letter from Anon., Utah:

My uncle recently married a woman with a daughter about my age. We’re teenagers. Despite my best efforts to make her feel like part of the family, she is mean to me and bullies me--but only in private. When anyone else is around, she’s as sweet as cherry pie. I have a problem with this because I was bullied as a child. My parents are

going out of town soon and are sending me to stay with her and my other cousins, who get along well with her. What should I do?

Answer: Tell your parents. I know you may not want to. You may feel embarrassed to want to handle this yourself...It helps to talk. And pack a copy of 'Jane Eyre' for your trip. Jane was bullied as a girl, too. But, boy, does she come out on top.
