

Bee Editorial

Tolerate each other; bullying leads to violence

High school can be rough for teenagers, no matter if they are in the popular crowd or if they stick to themselves. It's the age where most youths feel acceptance is the most important aspect of life.

Bullying is a nationwide problem and is defined as encompassing an imbalance of power and a variety of negative acts such as physical hitting, kicking, spitting, taking personal belongings, taunting, malicious teasing, name calling, spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, extortion, or intimidation carried out repeatedly over time.

Last week, three teenagers in Wisconsin were arrested for plotting to imitate a "Columbine-like" scenario at their high school. The boys claimed to be having girl troubles. They also said they had a hard time fitting in with their classmates.

Yes, their behavior is unacceptable, and yes,

they were arrested and will most likely go to jail. But low self-esteem can trigger emotions in people that can be prevented by ending student bullying and teaching youths to be tolerant of every individual.

The plot didn't happen in New York, but the emotional stress of fitting in with the "cool" crowd occurs in every state and every high school. There are some teenagers who feel putting others down is a way to get to the top of the popularity chain.

They pick on the students that won't necessarily fight back. Or they tease someone for not being a carbon copy of the rest of the student body. Being different isn't necessarily a bad thing, even though some think it is.

Teenagers should remember that high school is just four years of their lives. Some have a great experience with high school. Others aren't so lucky.

We ask students to be kind to each other. It is the only way to prevent extreme scenarios such as Columbine. Even if it doesn't go as far as a shooting, teenage years are hard enough; don't make it worse for someone by making him — or her — feel the size of an ant.

We're not saying every youth fits this mold, but we are asking students to stand up for one another. If a person is being terrorized by one or more individuals, stick up for that person. Make those who are bullied feel accepted. Remember, one small gesture can go a long way.

Someone once said, "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." A simple hello or acknowledgment can make a world of difference.

Stop the violence and the emotional taunting. Does it really make you feel like a big person to make someone else feel so small?

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **ONCE IN A LIFETIME** — I have taken the past week to reflect on The Amherst Bee's coverage of the Dalai Lama featured in the Sept. 20 edition. Thanks to some publication extensions we were able to get our articles and photographs into print, slightly more than an hour after he finished his keynote speech in the University at Buffalo's stadium.

When his Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama was announced and stepped onto the stage, it was a moment I know won't leave my memory. Seated in the press

box it was hard to make out specifics on the stage but his presence was very clear with his maroon colored robe, large smile and exuberant greeting to all who had gathered.

I was seated among the many other media outlet representatives that had gathered to cover this historic event. I actually changed my seat four times before I was satisfied, making sure no beams were blocking my view of the stage.

Under a tight deadline I typed as he spoke, documenting the message I had anxiously been waiting for. Our stories, as well as photos by Joe Eberle, were transmitted electronically back to our office on Main Street.

Never had I been under such pressure as a reporter to meet a deadline but the anticipation, stress and careful planning was worth it because I am willing to bet that throughout my entire career this event will remain near the top of my "most memorable stories" list.

by **JILL SCHMELZER**
Reporter

• **THE DALAI LAMA EXPERIENCE** — For the past six weeks, The Dalai Lama's visit to the University at Buffalo pretty much consumed my life. I learned about Buddhism, Tibet and The Dalai Lama. I listened intently to speakers and read books and passages on the Internet about these issues. I interviewed students who studied with him and live in the Tibetan culture. Over the past month and a half, I have taken the time to reflect on the teachings I was taught as a child and the new teachings I was learning about — I may have even taken a new outlook on life after this experience. No, I haven't converted to Buddhism, but I have learned that if everyone took a little of the Buddhist teachings of karma and Dharma and practice it in their own life, then maybe world peace can be accomplished. My thoughts were reiterated during the Dalai Lama's three-day visit.

He spoke of being kind and compassionate to one another, promoting peace across the borders. This entire series was an eye-opener for me. I am grateful I was able to partake in writing about the events and culture.

by **DAVID F. SHERMAN**
Managing Editor

• **JUST WORDS** — Members of the Sweet Home Central Board of Education last week discussed resources designed to build vocabulary. Students should develop a repertoire of more than 7,000 words, they were told by Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Tony Day. Shortly thereafter, Superintendent Geoff Hicks described a previous academic intervention program at one of the schools as "jiggy." Board member Doug Galli later chimed in during a different discussion with the adjectives "hairy" and "nifty." Jiggy, hairy and nifty — aren't those the names of the Marx Brothers?

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago Sept. 29, 1881

Sad countenances betokened sad hearts last week. We are all bereaved. The general feeling is that everyone has lost a friend. President Garfield has fallen at last. The memorial service was held on Monday last at Cleveland. The merchants of Williamsville and some private citizens, notably Mrs. H.M. Randall, kindly loaned the materials to drape the church. Emblems of grief tastefully adorned the interior and exterior of the building. Hon. T.A. Hopkins conducted the services.

A teacher is wanted immediately for the school in the Youngs district. Apply to Henry Serace, treasurer.

Whilst jumping from one pile of lumber to another, at his planing mill, on Thursday last, Mr. Jerry Lamphier fell and dislocated his shoulder very seriously. Dr. W.D. Murray was called, administered chloroform, and reset the dislocation.

It has been so dry in some of the western states that catfish in the rivers had to stand on their heads to breathe, on account of low water.

The fire in the swamp still continues and unless we are blessed with a heavy rain, nothing can stop its progress.

"You can always tell a truly pious man by the manner in which he kicks his dog."

"It is very muggy in here," remarked the man in the barber shop as he glanced at the array of china upon the shelves."

100 Years Ago Sept. 27, 1906

Miss Ida L. Zent has accepted the position of matron at the Blocher Homes.

The Republicans have nominated Charles E. Hughes for governor of New York State while the Democrats have nominated William Randolph Hurst for the same position.

75 Years Ago Oct. 1, 1931

A distinguished visitor, the wife of a former President, was in our community this week. Mrs. Thomas Preston Jr. of Princeton, N.J., formerly Mrs. Grover Cleveland, widow of the 22nd and 24th president of the United States was here on a sad mission. She came here Monday to attend the funeral service on Tuesday of her aunt, Mrs. Helen H. Cadman, mother of John W. Cadman of Williamsville. Mrs. Preston is probably the only member of a Presidential family who has ever been entertained in Amherst.

50 Years Ago Sept. 27, 1956

A first aid demonstration that evolved into the real thing marked the convention of the Empire

State Rescue and First Aid Association held this past Saturday at the Main-Transit Community Fire Hall. A short time after a rescue demonstration was made using a helicopter, it was put into use to take an emergency case to the Kenmore Mercy Hospital. A Depew boy was being rushed to a hospital in his father's car after suffering injuries to both hands from a lawn tractor. The driver saw an Amherst policeman directing traffic at the meeting site and asked for aid. The boy was taken to the helicopter and within five minutes, it landed on a special platform behind the emergency room entrance of Kenmore Mercy Hospital. It marked the first time the platform had been used in an actual emergency.

25 Years Ago Sept. 30, 1981

Supervisor Jack Sharpe yesterday filed his proposed budget with the town clerk. It calls for a boost of \$1.57 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in the highway tax. "We simply have to give the Highway Department the necessary funds to do the job properly," he said. The budget calls for no new positions within town government.

Mrs. Amelia Sherets, coordinator of special services in the Amherst Central School District, is planning to retire in December.

Bee Publisher George J. Measer will be installed as president of the National Newspaper Association on Friday, Oct. 2 in Boston, Mass.