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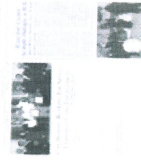
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Yatauro Hosts Conference On Bullying in Cyberspace

Written by Rich Forestano Friday, 23 April 2010 06:00

'Cyberbullying' Experts and Local Politicians Weigh In on a Growing Issue

Before the advent of the Internet, bullying occurred in the lunchroom, on the playground and even in the classroom. It usually involved a bigger child picking on a smaller child by calling them names or roughhousing. This type of behavior is manageable and can be dealt with immediately.

Now, bullying is broadcast on a much larger scale. It has taken the form of sentences and comprised words. It has turned into a blog-post, a video or a Facebook status update.

Bullying is in cyberspace where everyone can see and comment on it. It's not confined to the playground anymore. That's what alarms Dr. Renee Clauselle and other individuals involved with stopping "cyberbullying."

Dr. Clauselle is a practicing child psychologist in Franklin Square and the director of the School of Mental Health Services at St. John's University. She feels that "cyberbullying" is a growing concern and needs to be monitored for the sake of children's and young adult lives.

Clauselle said she's had numerous cases of "cyberbullying" in her practice and that it's a growing problem that seems to be coming up more so than regular bullying. According to Clauselle, it's so frequent that she can't give an exact number.

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Yatauro Hosts Conference On Bullying in Cyberspace

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Yatauro iterated the increased awareness that children possess today is partly because of the Internet. There are positives and negatives to it, but the former is outweighing the latter in this respect.

"If I fight with you on the playground, it happens and it's over," she said. "But with the Internet, I type something, then you type something and then someone else sees it and types something; it's an issue that usually involves two people, but in the end, because of cyberspace, it could involve up to 20 people."

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