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How could we stoop so low?

Katrina Szewka: News Editor

Imagine being teased every single day of your life. Imagine feeling all alone and having no one to go to for help. There are people who are faced with these issues every day. Unfortunately, it took an extremely negative event to open the eyes of students and teachers at BHS.

Situations like what happened on the bus ride to and from Medieval Times happen daily. Until today it has always gone unnoticed. Today, people noticed. Teachers and students alike are disgusted by the actions of students who think they are better than others.

Students do not understand the effect they have on others. Those bullied are upset, scared, and alone. Have you ever found yourself feeling like this? Do you remember John Halligan? Do you remember his son? Were you listening when he spoke to you?

According to dictionary.com, shame is "the painful feeling arising from the consciousness of something dishonorable, improper, ridiculous, etc." If you are guilty of bullying, you should feel shame: ashamed of demeaning other human beings, ashamed of making someone feel like they are not good enough, ashamed of assuming that you are better than others, and ashamed of

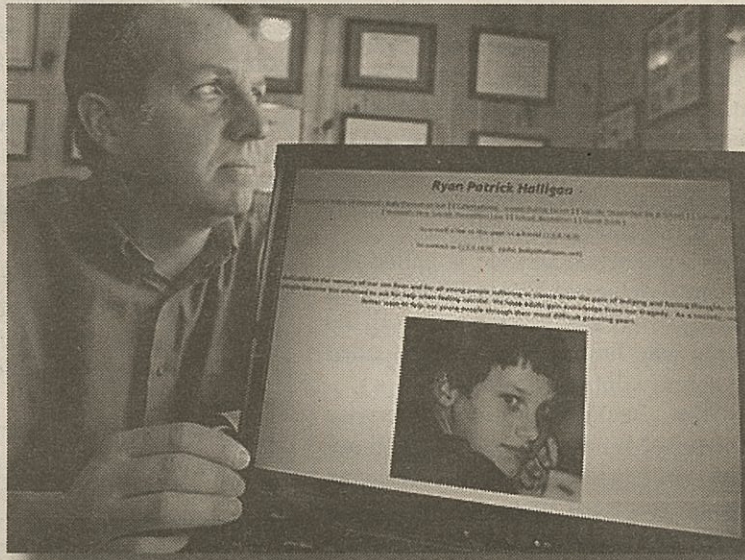
targeting those who can not defend themselves.

According to dictionary.com, a bystander is, "a person present but not involved, chance, spectator, onlooker."

Were you a bystander? Have you done nothing to help those who are treated poorly? Watching someone be bullied and doing nothing is just as bad as the act of bullying, itself. In the case of bullying there is no such thing as an innocent bystander.

So many times the victim of the bullies feels that the reason they are getting bullied is because something is wrong with them. The truth is that nothing is wrong with the victim. The problem lies with the bully.

Now is the time for change. It is



Remember Halligan? - John Halligan came to BHS last year to tell his son's story. Ryan committed suicide as a result of being bullied. Toby Talbot / AP

time for the students of this school to stand up and make a difference. We are becoming adults and it is our responsibility to make better choices for a better outcome. We need to take this extremely negative event and use it as motivation to make a change and break this cycle.

If you want to be a part of this movement you can join the Bully Busters. To join, see Mrs. Livesay in room 5.

Students expand value of diversity

Katrina Szewka: News Editor

"I would definitely go back to Germany," said Liz Meyer (Sr). "As soon as I got home, I wanted to go back."

During the summer of 2010, Mr. Schwarberg, the German and Spanish I teacher, took two students, Liz Meyer and Dustin Schuffert, to Germany from July 8 to July 17. The cost of the trip was \$2,500 and for the two weeks, they traveled to Berlin, Dresden, Munich, Nuremberg, Rotenburg, and Heidelberg.

"This trip opened my eyes to the fun of traveling and it makes me want to see more of the world," said Dustin Schuffert (Sr).

In Germany, they went to castles, the Berlin Wall Museum, many Art Museums, watched world cup soccer matches, sampled German food and took a cruise on the Rhine River.

"We went to a World War II Concentration Camp Museum in a city called Dachau," said Mr. Schwarberg. "It was very sobering, it brought back the horror of World War II and the internment of the prisoners right into ones eyes." This trip was a chance for the stu-



Diversity and knowledge of culture - Liz Meyer and Dustin Schuffert experience a once in a lifetime opportunity to enjoy the scenic views of the castles in Germany.

dents to practice speaking German, experience a different culture, and to have fun.

"I learned what the German culture was like and the history about the country," said Liz Meyer (Sr). "It was really cool to go visit the place where my ancestors were from."

All three of them enjoyed the trip to Germany and agreed they would go back "in a heartbeat."

"I enjoy being able to see the differences between Germans' view of life compared to Americans'," said Mr. Schwarberg. "Being familiar with the things that are different, helps a person to enjoy the differences more and to

fear them less."

The travelers got to experience the similarities and differences between the American and German cultures.

"The students were exposed to a different way of life," said Schwarberg. "It expanded their knowledge and hopefully appreciation of the value of diversity."

"I learned a lot of new things and made a lot of new friends," said Liz Meyer (Sr).

"It was a good experience," said Dustin Schuffert (Sr). "I got to experience the culture of Germany and the difference in the atmosphere between Germany and America."