CyberBullying: MSN, Chat Rooms & the “Always On” Generation

Alec Couros
October 17, 2005
Outline

- What is Cyberbullying?
- The Tools of the Bully
- A Look @ Digital Culture
- Tips & Resources
- Contact Information
What is Cyberbullying?
Cyberbullying?

“Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies such as e-mail, cell phone and pager text messages, instant messaging, defamatory personal Web sites, and defamatory online personal polling Web sites, to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others.”

Belsey, 2004
A Typical Cyberbully

- usually between the ages of 9 & 14 years old.
- usually knows their victim in real life.
- anyone, if aggravated enough.
- often the victims of offline bullying.
- girls typically cyberbully using communications and public postings.
- boys typically cyberbullying using technology, hacking and malicious code.
- teens over 14 are usually sexually harrassed, rather than just cyberbullied.

Aftab, 2005
A Typical Victim

- usually between the ages of 9 & 14 years old. (usually older if sexually harrassed)
- sometimes a schoolyard bully
- someone who may have offended someone inadvertently either offline or online.
- sometimes the victim of offline bullying as well.
- any child can be the victim of cyberbullying, and children are also more likely to be victims of online sexual harassment.

Aftab, 2005
Categories of Cyberbullies

Typically, there are 4 types of cyberbullies:

- **Vengeful Angels**: Individuals using technology to “right past wrongs”.
- **Power Hungry or “Revenge of the Nerds”**: Bullying for power in the schoolyard, or the ironic twist of offline bullies becoming online bullies.
- **“Mean Girls”**: Doing it for entertainment or the “drama”, often done in groups (not necessarily just girls).
- **Unintentional Cyberbullies**: Individuals who didn’t mean to cyberbully, but reacted in anger or were misunderstood.

Aftab, 2005
How is this Different?

- Cyberbullies can much more easily hide behind the anonymity that technology can provide.
- Instigators are much more difficult to catch, as they are often more difficult to identify.
- Messages can be communicated to individuals or groups easily and with tremendous speed.
- Cyberbullying often falls beyond the legal reach of schools and schoolboards.
- Victims are often reluctant to report incidents in fear that parents will remove their access to technologies (e.g., Internet, cellular phones).
Troy's Mixtape Of Love

This is the original tape Troy made to his girlfriend Melissa on their 6 month anniversary. She left him 3 days after.
Star Wars Kid Files Lawsuit

Wired News Report

12:33 PM Jul. 24, 2003 PT

The parents of the infamous "Star Wars Kid" are suing classmates who posted a humiliating video of their son on the Net, according to Canada's Globe and Mail.

Quebec teenager Ghyslain Raza was the target of worldwide mockery when a private video he made of himself practicing his lightsaber moves was uploaded to the Net by kids at his school.

Now his parents are claiming damages of $160,000 from the families of the four classmates who digitized and published the video. Ghyslain's parents claim their son was so humiliated, he is undergoing psychiatric care and may be marked for life by the experience.

Ghyslain's video was posted to the Kazaa file-sharing network in the spring.

The two-minute video shows an overweight teenager fighting a mock battle with a golf-ball retriever doubling as a lightsaber. The teenager twirls the "lightsaber" ever more energetically while generating his own sound effects. It is obviously not for public consumption.

Ghyslain was so teased about the video, he dropped out of school and finished the semester at a children's psychiatric ward, according to a lawsuit filed in the Raza's hometown of Trois-Rivières, Quebec.
The Tools of the Bully
Instant Messaging

ICQ

MSN

AIM

Yahoo!
What is IM?

- An instant messenger (IM) is a specialized software client that allows instant text, audio or video communication between two or more people through a network such as the Internet.
- IM conversations happen in “real-time”, versus applications such as email where communication is asynchronous.
- IM clients usually allow users to build ‘buddy’ lists.
- Most IM clients incorporate an ‘awareness’ feature which indicates which ‘buddies’ are currently online.
CyberBully (Online)

Never give out your password or credit card number in an instant message conversation.

CyberBully says: (2:26:52 PM)

alec, watch your bak ... youre goin dwn aftR skul!

alec says: (2:28:11 PM)

im not scArd of U, stop bothering me.
Message Boards/Groups

- Message boards are used by netizens to discuss various topics. They can be a great way to share information and opinions, but can also be used to bully to sexually harrass participants.
- Message boards are usually themed around particular topics such as popular culture, politics, education, teen life, or just about anything else.
- Message groups usually have a moderator, but can be very strictly or loosely monitored.
Personal Polling Sites

- Personal polling sites are typically setup to gather opinions on personal matters.
- Some teens use these sites for personal acceptance into social norms, or to exclude or ridicule others.
Are you a Meet user from the Fresno, CA area? Want to be interviewed on TV? Click here for info.

**What others thought**

**8.5**

based on 665 votes
You rated her: 7

Click Here to Meet Me

She last checked her score:
3 hours ago

Over **10** Billion votes counted and
**17,200,000** photos submitted.

**HOT or NOT**

Meet Me at HOT or NOT - click here

Please select a rating to see the next picture.


Show me women only of any age

You can share this picture with a friend:

http://www.hotornot.com/r/?eid=BUOMEQK&key=RCF

Please help keep this site **FUN, CLEAN, and REAL**.

Click here if the picture above is broken, copyrighted, or inappropriate.

If the pictures take more than 15 seconds to load, click here

**Are you HOT or NOT?**

Submit your picture and find out!

Meet Me | FAQ | Submit your picture | Meet Jim and James

Moderators | Privacy
Tell me... am I **UGLY** or **NOT**?

Please select a rating to see the next picture.


**UGLY**

black superman

View Profile | Message Me | Add to Favorites

Send this Picture to your friends
It's a magic carpet ride
Every door will open wide
To happy people like you--
Happy people like
What a beautiful
day
The clouds away
On my way to where the ale is sweet
Can you tell me how to get
How to get to Sesame Street...
The Race War has begun. Your skin is your uniform in this battle for the survival of your kind. The White Race depends on you to secure its existence. Your people's enemies surround you in a sea of decay and filth that they have brought to your once clean and White nation.

Not one of their numbers shall be spared........
Text Messaging

- Text messaging is a very popular communication method for teens.
- Text messages can be sent phone to phone, computer to phone or phone to computer.
- Computer to phone messages can be very difficult to trace.
Webpages and Blogs

- Personal webpages have long been used by students to post personal information and create ‘homepages’.
- Webpages are generally open to the public and instantly searchable by major search engines (e.g., Google).
- While once more difficult to create, blogging has emerged as a simple way of creating and publishing personal online journals.
- While webpages and blogs can be excellent educational and reflective tools, they certainly can and have been used to bully and defame other children.
While dying Rob is clad in a lovely t-shirt making fun of himself
DIE YOU EVIL TEACHER!!!!

You ever had an awful teacher before? I mean, so awful that you could just pull out a gun and blow the brains out of him/her right then and there? Well I have, and it's not pleasant. Trust me.

This web site is dedicated to evil teachers. I, along with some other friends of mine who also have teachers like this would like to start a campaign-- THE KILL EVIL TEACHER campaign.

Let me explain a bit more thoroughly on how awful these teachers are. They assign at least two hours of stupid, perplexing homework every night. I mean GOSH, how can we kids put up with this ****? And if you think that's bad, dig this--> For the third semester at school, one of them assigned a BOOK, a stupid BOOK! I'm just fed up with this crap! And I'm sure all of their other students feel the same way! You know what I would like to do to them to start with? THIS:

I hope now you understand how awful these teachers really are, you will join the KILL EVIL TEACHER campaign, right?

Links

Another DIE EVIL TEACHER page

Email: h20skiin4m@aol.com
KILL YOURSELF

We often wondered how we could show mankind its true value. To say what we really think of people does not lead to anything but making an insult, those being too stupid to face their reality.

Indeed, death is the only finality of life but it is taboo for humans. People are inferior, despicable in their attitude and their appearance. For a few years, we have thus learned how to appreciate death and to find that the only beauty of manhood was when it died. Then we started to collect all the documents, books and magazines we could find in the whole world, with photographs of corpses displayed inside.

Finally, we created this site. Doesn’t this convince you that death is the goal of your life? Look at the splendid colors of these corpses.
Social Networking Sites

- Many teens are now becoming active in social networking services such as Hi-5 or Friendster.
- On such sites, students form virtual friendship communities, communicate with others, give testimonials, share personal journals and post announcements to shared spaces.
- Such sites can be used to replicate existing school-based cliques, and exclusion from such sites can also be a form of bullying.
Friendster is the fun and safe way to organize your social life

New to Friendster?
Join now - it's free and takes less than a minute to sign up.

Join Now

Already a member?

email

password

remember my email

Log In

Forgot your password?
Problems logging in?

Find out why more than 13 million people have joined Friendster, the FREE online service to:

- Stay in touch with your friends
- Find and reconnect with old friends
- See how your friends are connected
- Be reminded about friends' birthdays
- Meet new people through your friends
- Have fun browsing people who share similar interests

Learn More >>
A Look @ Digital Culture
As Digital Immigrants learn ... to adapt to their environment, they always retain, to some degree, their "accent," that is, their foot in the past. The "digital immigrant accent" can be seen in such things as turning to the Internet for information second rather than first, or in reading the manual for a program rather than assuming that the program itself will teach us to use it. ~Prensky, 2001
“N-geners ultimate computer”:

... about as big as a piece of paper ... It would be cellular and ... connected to any other computer in the world. It would also be a television giving me every TV channel ... What I would really like is a little credit card on the bottom of the screen and when an ad for something I like comes on I could click on the little card ... It would also be a telephone and you could call your friends ... and ... see what they're wearing... It would also be a stereo and give me any CD or music video I requested. But I want really good sound ... (Tapscott, Growing Up Digital)
It’s All About ME Baby!

From blogging to vanity surfing, technology is helping to inflate a new generation of egos of magnitudes never seen before.
Five Things We Need To Know...

1. All technological change is a trade-off.

2. The advantages and disadvantages are never distributed equitably.

3. Embedded in every technology is a powerful idea, sometimes more than one.

4. It’s not an additive, it’s ecological.

5. Media tend to become mythic.
Assault of girl posted on internet

Last Updated Sat, 02 Apr 2005 07:06:03 EST

CBC News

SASKATOON - A teenage girl from Saskatoon who found a video of herself on the internet getting beaten says she's forgiven the girls who assaulted her.

"I'm not going to hold it against them because I know how it is. If 50 people are pressuring you to do it you're going to do it," said Jessica Beamish, 14.

Beamish, a student at E.D. Feehan high school in Saskatoon, said that earlier this month she was walking with a friend when she was jumped and repeatedly punched and kicked by two other girls. She lost consciousness and received cuts and bruises.

At least 100 people were watching the fight, she said.

Jessica Beamish
Schools Ban Camera Phones Amid 'Happy Slapping' Craze

By Tim Ross, PA Education Correspondent

Head teachers have banned children from using video phone cameras to slap other pupils in the face and recording the attacks on camera.

The violent new craze among teenagers – dubbed “happy slapping” – is being plagued commuters and shoppers.

Now schools have been forced to take action to stop the violent spreading into playground bullying.

London’s Evening Standard reported that teachers at Crofton School in Lewisham, south London, had confiscated mobile phones after pupils were caught recording the attack.

A number of other schools around the country have since been forced to take action.

A spokesman for Lewisham Borough Council said: “Schools take the safety and security of its pupils very seriously and have been working closely with the police to address the problem.

Budding Jordan cyber hooligans

AMMAN (AFP) - A budding Jordanian cyber hooligan turned into an ugly public stunt man and wife, state media reported.

Separate stories in the state-run Jordanian News Agency said the incident occurred when the couple signed off as Jamila (beautiful woman -- a devout Muslim) and Bakr, who passed himself off as Adnan (honest fact man and wife, state media said.

Cyber love blossomed between the couple as they made wedding plans. They were caught together in the flesh near a bus depot in the town of Zarqa, northeast of Amman.

The shock of finding out their true identities was too much for the pair.

Upon seeing Sanaa-alias-Jamila, Bakr-alias-Adnan turned white and screamed at the top of his lungs: “You are divorced, divorced, divorced” -- the traditional manner of officially ending a marriage in Islam.

"You are a liar," Sanaa retorted before fainting, the agency said.
Passing a Starbucks?

Why not stop in and take advantage of the special offer that just popped up on your mobile phone screen to get a free muffin with your Frappuccino?
Ever wonder what the rest of the world is searching for?

Catch a glimpse of some of the searches being performed on MetaCrawler at this very moment! The MetaSpy page will automatically refresh every 15 seconds.

MetaSpy Exposed

Get a no-holds-barred (unfiltered) look at the search queries of MetaCrawler users. This page updates automatically every 15 seconds with a new list of in-progress searches, and is available for mature audiences only.

Go to Metaspy
“Sex” on the Internet

- “Sex” the most frequently searched keyword on the Internet – 1 in 300 queries.
- “Porno” or “pornography” 4th most common keyword searched.
- A search for “Porn” in Google gives 80 million results.
- The online pornography industry is estimated to be worth 5-7 billion dollars.
Commonly Used Acronyms

F2F
- face to face
FYI
for your information
IMO
- in my opinion
IMHO
- in my humble/honest opinion
TTFN
- ta ta for now
TTYL
- talk to you later

POA
- point of advice
IRL
- in real life
GGP
- gotta go use the facilities
POS
- parent over shoulder
TNSTAAFL
- there’s no such thing as a free lunch
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<td>happy</td>
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<td>^=.^=</td>
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<td>wink</td>
<td>@.@</td>
<td>stunned</td>
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<td>crying</td>
<td>@(-_-)@</td>
<td>monkey</td>
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<td>rose</td>
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<td>homer simpson</td>
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<td>skateboarder</td>
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General Tips 4 Kids

- Never give out or share personal information numbers (PIN).
- Don’t believe everything an online contact tells you.
- Use netiquette.
- Never send a message to someone when angry.
- Never open a message from someone you don’t know.
- If it doesn’t look or ‘feel right’, it probably isn’t.
- Sign a contract for Internet use.
- Never meet an online friend without parental supervision.
- You don’t have to be ‘always on’ ... turn off, disconnect, unplug.

Adapted from Belsey, 2004
Meet Buffy.
He's the 17 year old high school cheer-leader you've been "chatting" with on the web.

KyberPASS
making the internet a safe place for e-business
The Two Faces Of A 13-Year-Old Girl

DANBURY, Conn., May 21, 2002

(CBS) At her Catholic school, sixth-grader Christina Long made good grades, led the cheerleading squad and was an altar girl. On the Internet, she used provocative screen names and routinely had sex with partners she met in chat rooms, police said.

Police said 13-year-old Christina was strangled by a married restaurant worker she met on the Internet. Her body was found early Monday in a remote ravine in Greenwich.

Christina came to Danbury two years ago to live with her aunt, Shelly Rilling, because her parents had substance abuse problems.

Saul Dos Reis, 25, an undocumented immigrant from Brazil, confessed Sunday to the killing and led law officers to the body, U.S. Attorney John Danaher III said.

Classes were canceled Tuesday at the St. Peter School so students and parents could attend a memorial service and meet with grief counselors.

"I'm so devastated," former teacher Andrea Cannello said.
Are You Being Cyberbullied?

- Do not keep cyberbullying or any type of harassment to yourself. Tell an adult that you know and trust.
- Do not participate in any online conversation that makes you feel uncomfortable with the topic.
- Inform your Internet Service Provider or Mobile Phone service.
- Inform your local police.
- Do not reply to messages from cyberbullies.
- Do not erase or delete messages from cyberbullies.

Adapted from Belsey, 2004
Tips 4 Parents

- Keep the home computer in a public area of the house.
- Know who your children are talking to online. Get acquainted with their buddy lists. Have your children show you the online profiles of their buddies.
- Educate your kids on the importance of privacy. Children should never give away personal information to strangers.
- Cellular phone #’s should not be given away to anyone.
- Using monitoring or filtering software.
- Stay educated on the communication habits of teens.
- Communicate with other parents and teachers re: issues, concerns or tips they may have re: online safety.
- *** Develop relationship with your children that are open, trusting and caring.

Adapted from Belsey, 2004
Acronym, Emoticon Dictionary, Texting Thesaurus and Text Message Translator.

Funny txt message collection, colorful phrases. Popular Smiley, Chat words and text message lists

Lingo2word is devoted to demystifying the new internet shorthand language of Text messages, Chat rooms and Emails. We are devoted to the fun of text messaging in all forms, there is a whole new fun language out there just waiting for you.

- An Online Searchable Shorthand Dictionary for words and phrases used in Email, Chat rooms, ICQ and Txt messages
- Translate to txtmsg lingo. Do you want to create funny text messages? Just type in your message and hit go.
- Translate from Lingo to plain english. If you have a message that you don't understand?, Just type or paste it in, hit go.
- Lists of the most popular Emoticons, Txting words and Acronyms to help enhance your vocabulary
- A searchable Text Message collection, Find a funny text

I wan2 grow old with U. I wan2 di lyN n ur arms.
Key Resources

http://www.stopbullying.ca
http://www.cyberbully.org
http://www.bewebaware.ca
http://www.wiredsafety.org
http://www.bullying.org
http://www.cyberbullying.or
http://www.media-awareness.ca
http://www.teamheroes.ca/website/index.html
Thoughts to Ponder?

1) What are some of the key challenges for teachers and administrators when dealing with cyberbullying? How are these challenges different than in dealing with f2f bullying?
2) Discuss how cyberbullying can/cannot be as hurtful as f2f bullying.
3) Is cyberbullying potentially easier for students to participate? Why or why not?
4) Does anyone have any experience in what might be regarded as cyber-bullying or online harassment?
Contact Information
Contact Me

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Download presentation from:
http://www.educationaltechnology.ca/couros

Resources for this presentation available at:
http://www.stopbullying.ca

or, Google me - keyword ‘couros’