

CHRISTY'S

CORNER

CHRISTY
KIMBALL
News Editor

I was browsing at cnn.com to find something in the news to form an opinion about and relay to the public. I stumbled upon an article about a woman in Meriden, Connecticut found guilty of one count of risk of injury to a minor for a filthy home which allegedly facilitated her 12-year old son's suicide.

She faces up to 10 years in prison. Her son was teased for months at school over his bad breath and body odor, which the prosecutors attribute to the condition of his home. The mother was cleared of a second charge that accused her of failing to provide her son with proper medical and psychological care. She was also acquitted on a

Who's responsible for child suicide?

Schools or Parents?

cruelty charge. The mother worked full time in her son's school and part time at Wal-Mart. How

accountable “ are parents for the suicide of a child? In cases of parental abuse, I would definitely say the parents are completely accountable and responsible for that suicide, even though suicide is a choice. Sometimes, those children may feel that suicide is their only choice.

Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death in people ages 15-24, following homicide and unintentional injuries. The rate in children 10-14 is 300 per

19,895,072. Suicide rate in ages 15-19 is 1,621 deaths per 19,882,596 adolescents and for ages 20-24, it is 2,373 per 18,484, 615

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adults.

Parents can be held accountable for suicide in ages 10-18, because that is when children reside with them in most cases. For people ages 19-24, parents can be held less accountable due to children typically moving away at that age. Colleges and universi-

ties are recognizing that suicide is a problem for this age group. More than 80 colleges and universities are collaborating to stop

this problem. Many have signed up with Ulifeline.org, which is a free program that offers links to school mental health centers for information, counseling, or to schedule

appointments.

It is important for both schools and parents to work together if they feel that a child is exhibiting signs of emotional distress. Connecticut passed a law forcing schools to report bullies to the authorities

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after the suicide of the 12-year old boy. Should this be a law that is nationwide?

Would it prevent suicide in that particular age group? It would prevent some, but not all suicides. If parents and schools can work together, maybe this problem could have the rate as the 1950's which was one third less of what it is today.

If someone you know or you may be at risk for suicide, go to Ulifeline.org or read the depression screening ad on page 3 for more information.

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed but may be published anonymously. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length and/or offensive content.



October Events

Perfecting your Resume
Thurs. Oct. 16, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Career Center

Develop Dynamic Interviewing Skills
Mon. Oct. 20, 5:30 p.m.
Location: career Center

Getting Started with a Job Search
Wed. Oct. 29, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Career Center

Questions, please call: 760-8341

Campus Calendar

Hate Crimes Awareness Week continues with a Coming Out Day on Thurs., Oct. 9. Boxes of name tags will be available across campus for students to write their names on and one thing they are proud of being.

Leadership Enrichment Series continues Today at 6 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium with a session on birth order and personality type.

Fall Break begins at 5 p.m. on Fri., Oct. 10 until Wed., Oct. 15 at 8 a.m.

Community Calendar

R.E.M. will be performing at Alltel Pavilion at Walnut Creek on Oct. 10. Tickets are \$27.50 to \$55.00. Call Ticketmaster at 834-4000 for tickets and information.

The Great Pumpkin Contest will be at the State Farmers Market on Oct. 9. There will be pumpkin decorating. Call 733-7417 for more information.

Ken's Korny Korn Maze is at Ken's Produce and Garden Center in Garner. It will last through Nov. 15 on weekends. Call 779-4765 for information.

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