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ROUND-UP: High-School Hazing (6 Experts)

ROUND-UP: HIGH-SCHOOL HAZING

1. ROBERT R. BUTTERWORTH, Ph.D., psychologist at INTERNATIONAL TRAUMA ASSOCIATES, can discuss high-school hazing and how teens can combat cruelty from their classmates: "Being harassed by your peers is a devastating experience, a wound that never heals. During the teen years, your self-esteem is just developing, and it's not so much how you feel about yourself but how others feel about you that counts. When you are ridiculed, your self-esteem takes a nose dive and it can lead to depression and withdrawal. People who harass their peers tend to be hypersensitive and defensive. They may have been bullied or teased themselves, or grew up in an environment where verbal and/or physical abuse is common. Another factor in cruel behavior is mob mentality. Put a group of people together and they may do things they might not normally do alone. They do it to fit in and prove themselves to the group. Then a kind of hierarchy develops and kids will make fun of others to show they are top dog on the social pyramid." Butterworth: <robert@drbutterworth.net> Phone: +1-213-487-7339

2. CARLETON KENDRICK, Ed.M., LCSW, online family therapist for TEENSARENOTADISEASE.COM and co-author of "Take Out Your Nose Ring, Honey, We're Going to Grandma's: Hanging In, Holding On and Letting Go of Your Teen," can discuss the possible role the parents of the students involved in the recent hazing incident may have had in their children's behavior: "The kids' behavior is an extension of the type of parent who would consider having graduation parties and serving alcohol to minors and saying, 'Oh, I'm taking keys.' They think they are being cool and that they should be voted parents of the year. It is more important for them to be perceived as cool than it is to be parents." Kendrick: <Carletonwk@aol.com> Phone: +1-508-376-9078

The following additional experts can also comment on high-school hazing:

3. CORINNE GREGORY, founder and director of POLITECHILD, offers a solution to incidents like the high-school hazing episode. PoliteChild teaches young children, "tweens" and teens good behavior, character, manners and proper etiquette through classroom training. Gregory

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"hopes to teach children right from wrong before they can make kind of behavioral mistakes." News Contact: John Goodman <johnlgood@aol.com> Phone: +1-914-472-1046

4. DR. LAWRENCE E. SHAPIRO, child psychologist with PLAY2GROW, can discuss why children fight, how the recent hazing incident could have been prevented and how parents can raise kids who do not go along with the group. Shapiro can also discuss issues that tie into this incident, like bullying and the bystander mentality. News Contact: Barbi Pecenco <barbi.pacenco@sourcebooks.com> Phone: +1- 630-961-3900, ext. 225

5. CHARLES WIBBELSMAN, M.D., chief of the KAISER PERMANENTE teenage clinic, is an expert in issues pertaining to adolescence. He is the author of three books, "The New Teenage Body Book," "Life Happens," and "Growing and Changing." Dr. Wibbelsman also chairs the San Francisco Superintendent's School Health Advisory Committee. News Contact: Kathleen Barco <Kathleen.M.Barco@kp.org> Phone: +1-408-236-6330, ext. 450

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