

Take a Stand Against Bullying, Make a Video, Save a Life

Over 5000 teens commit suicide annually. All too often, humiliation, harassment, marginalization, and bullying precede these desperate acts. One teen, **Laura Rhodes**, endured incessant bullying at school, from vicious rumors to cruel taunts to being pushed, punched, and kicked. Her attackers considered Laura overweight. Unable to face another day of abuse, Laura took her own life. She was 13.

Tyler Clementi was a talented musician, first-year student at Rutgers, and member of Phi Delta Theta. Tyler's roommate used a hidden camera to stream over the Internet an intimate encounter Tyler shared with another young man. Tyler was not yet open about his sexuality. Unable to face family and friends, he jumped off the George Washington Bridge. **This year, over 1000 college students will take their own lives.**

Dan Savage has launched a YouTube channel called "**It Gets Better**," inviting us to upload messages of support and encouragement to young people struggling with an identity and/or enduring marginalization and bullying. Check it out: <http://www.youtube.com/user/itgetsbetterproject>. To support this effort, Rollins announces our own "It Gets Better" video contest.

Do some soul-searching; have conversation: are you--and are the groups to which you belong--welcoming places for those who are different (a different sexual orientation, a different race, a different body size, a different gender expression)? If yes, **make a video** that: 1) identifies you and/or your group; 2) identifies Rollins College; 3) communicates how you and/or your group are welcoming and inclusive; 4) conveys your promise to interrupt prejudice, harassment, and/or bullying whenever you see or hear it.

Over \$1000.00 in prizes will be awarded for: 1) best video made by an athletic team; 2) best video made by a Greek organization; 3) best video made by a non-Greek student organization; 4) best video made by a member (or members) of an academic department or other unit of the college

Videos must be no longer than 7 minutes and use no copyrighted music.

Deadline for submission: December 1, 2010

Upload your video to: <http://www.youtube.com/user/itgetsbetterproject>

Then send your link to: ltillmann@rollins.edu