

“Intolerance of Intolerance” Diversity Corner



Beyond This Place... There Be Dragons!

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EMOTIONAL HYJACKING AT ITS WORST



Franklin W. Jude, 29 years old

Father Dies After A Fight With Another Parent Outside Ohio School

Jhonda Phillips claimed that her 10-year-old son had been harassed and bullied repeatedly by Star Caulley’s son, also 10. Ms. Caulley claimed the opposite, stating that it was her son who had been tormented by several boys, including Phillips’ son.

October 10, 2007, two sets of parents were called to West Broad Elementary for separate meetings with school officials regarding their fifth-grade sons.

Ms. Phillips’ meeting was scheduled first. She was accompanied by her boyfriend and father of her 10 year old son, Franklin W. Jude, 29 years old, and her brother, William Reed. Phillips and Reed later said they were all leaving the school building together after their meeting at about 9:30 when they saw Ms. Caulley, her five children and her boyfriend, arriving for their meeting.

An argument broke out between Jude and Caulley’s boyfriend, whom Caulley described as a father figure to her children, although he is not the father of her fifth-grade son.

“They were going to fight at first,” Phillips said. “Frank and him did cuss each other out.”

Then both sides seemed to calm down, Reed said. Reed said he thought the incident was over, but then Caulley’s boyfriend abruptly punched Jude repeatedly in the head, knocking him to the pavement. Jude’s family said they thought Caulley was wearing brass knuckles, leading to the severe injuries to a part of his head.

Jude died one week later of his injuries. Police are now investigating the incident as a homicide.

Caulley rebutted that entire scenario. She said her boyfriend was unarmed and her family was immediately set upon by the other group, saying Reed brandished a knife and Jude threw punches.

“They came up and attacked us,” Caulley said. “It was insane.”

Caulley said she feels for Jude and his son, but she defended her family.

“This didn’t have to come to this,” she said. “It’s sad and it’s unfortunate that he did pass, but we tried to walk away from it several times. He was not the victim in this case,” countered Caulley. “We were the victims. Period.”

Sometimes sobbing with grief, Phillips mounted her own defense of Jude -- a man she’d known since the eighth grade.

“Frank was a wonderful guy, a wonderful dad,” she said. “He was the most sensitive guy I’ve ever met. He’s been there for his kids from day one. All he was trying to do was take care of his family.”

Discussion Questions

- **How does this type of thing happen?**
- **What was happening in both men’s brains as they first verbally attacked each other?**
- **Why do such encounters erupt and end within a few seconds?**
- **Did everyone in this scenario have a right to be angry? Did they have a right to verbally attack each other in the school parking lot? Did they have a right to physically attack each other?**
- **Who all lost in this scenario?**
- **Can we control ourselves? How do we solve our problems?**
- **Why does everyone have such a different recollection of what happened?**

NEXT MONTH: “PERCEPTION: CAN YOU TRUST WHAT YOU SEE AND REMEMBER?”

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