

Bullies often school drop-outs

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- performance.
- Dislikes school.
- As a 19-year-old.
- Likely drops out of school.
- Three times more likely to have been in trouble with the law.
- Seen as a troublemaker by his peers.
- Performs below potential on achievement tests.
- As a 30-year-old.
- Wife sees him as aggressive, even abusive.
- Often in a job that requires skills below his abilities.
- Run-ins with the law, from drunken driving to crimes of violence.
- An uncaring and punitive father, his children tend to repeat the pattern - his son is a bully.

Girls bully too

Girls can be bullies, too. The aggression of girls has been vastly underestimated because it takes on a different form. It is a far more subtle and complex means of inflicting misery than the obvious physical aggression seen among boys. It includes:

- Spreading vicious rumors in the peer group so that other people will reject that person.
- Telling others to stop liking someone to get even with him or her.
- Trying to control or dominate a person by using social exclusion as a form of retaliation.
- Threatening to withdraw a friendship to get one's way, control another's behavior, or hurt someone.
- Giving someone the silent treatment and making sure that she knows she is being excluded.

What can be done about bullying?

• Watch for symptoms: victims may be withdrawn, experience a drop in grades, are hesitant to go to school, come home with torn clothes, and unexplained bruises.

- Talk, but listen, too.
- Don't bully your child yourself.
- Teach your children to be independent so they can stand up for themselves verbally.
- Inquire about self-esteem programs.

Reducing bullying

Schools can reduce bullying through intervention programs.

- Improve supervision of students to reduce opportunities for bullying.
- Develop of class rules against bullying.
- Use consistent sanctions against bullying.
- Train staff to deal with student conflicts.

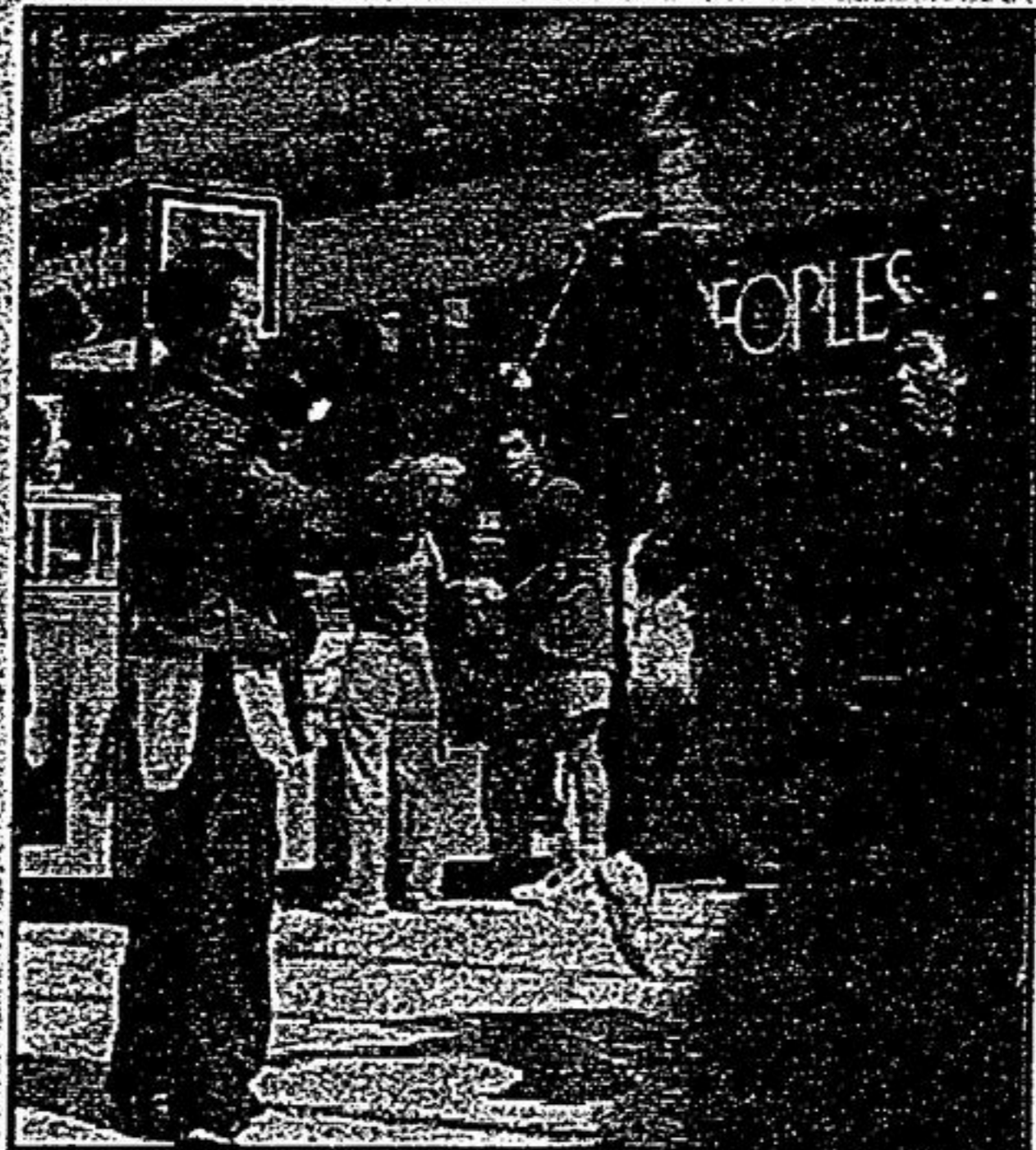
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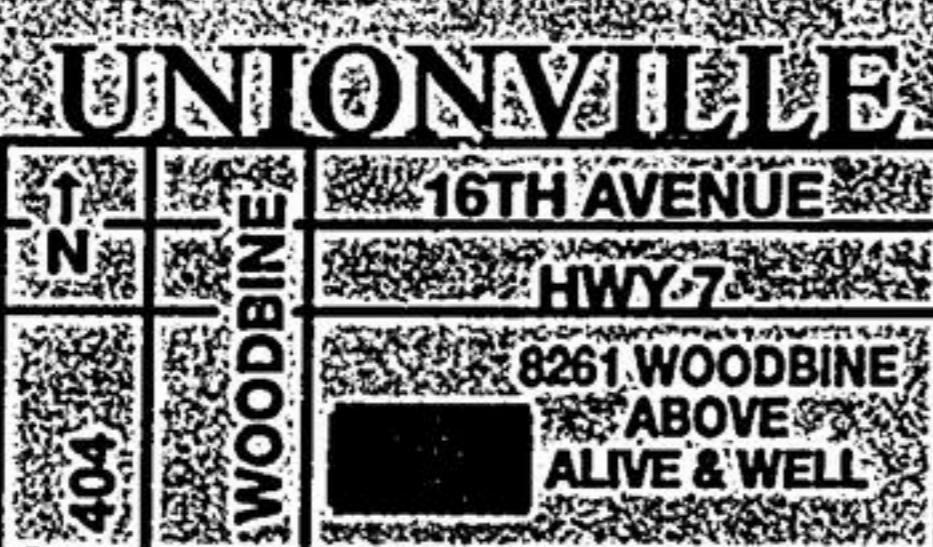
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