

Film, discussion will take a look at bullying

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Holland — The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) will look at the issue of bullying, showing the documentary film “Bullied: A Student, a School, and a Case That Made History” followed by a discussion led by local panelists.

The meeting, cosponsored by the Holland Human Relations Commission, will start at 7 p.m. Friday at Holland City Hall, 270 S. River Avenue. The public is invited.

“Bullying is a growing problem, not only in face-to-face situations but also through cyberbullying,” ACEH president Marvin A. Younger said. “We hope to shed more light on the issue and also to provide parents, students, school personnel, and community members with resources they can use to prevent and combat bullying.”

The 40-minute film was produced by Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center. It chronicles “one student’s ordeal at the hands of anti-gay bullies and offers hope to those fighting harassment. It is designed to help create a safer school environment for all students, to help them understand the toll bullying can take on its victims, and to encourage students to stand up for classmates who are being harassed.” ACEH contributed to production of the film with money from its Gary Pepe Memorial Fund.

Panelists are Lesley A. Coghill, Joe Bechard and Jack Hyde. Coghill is a social worker at the Center for Women in Transition, coordinates the DELTA Project and facilitates Teens Preventing Dating Violence through TRiO Upward Bound. Bechard is a psychologist with Holland Public Schools, has a private practice and taught students with emotional impairments. Hyde taught special education students in Illinois before retiring to Holland.

ACEH was founded in Holland in 1999 to promote unity, justice, cross-cultural understanding and appreciation for diversity. For more information, call (616) 392-5086 or visit the website harmonyalliance.org

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