



## SESSION 4

### Real-Life Story

# *Tired of Being Bullied at School, Teen Strikes Back Online*

Recently a senior at a local high school who was allegedly being bullied targeted her tormenter by creating a derogatory Web site listing personal information and alleged sexual history about the person. After receiving complaints by the targeted teen and viewing the Web site, the guidance counselor called in the police to investigate. The creator of the Web site was caught and is facing charges.

#### **Yvette**

I was sick and tired of Lucy and all her friends. They made my life at school so miserable, I'd pretend to be sick so I didn't have to go. The worst thing Lucy had done was to spread the rumor that I had gotten super drunk and threw up at a party. And I wasn't even at the party! So then everyone thought that I was some kind of a bad party

girl. And I got a "fun" new nickname, courtesy of Lucy—Barfette. It's dumb, but no one seemed to mind that. Everyone started calling me that.

So I exacted a little revenge of my own. I created a Web site all about Lucy. I posted her personal information, and I spread a little rumor. According to the Web site, Lucy got around. It listed and talked about guys who hooked up with Lucy. Okay, the guys were fictional, but so was that party Lucy said I was at.

All it took was a little anonymous email to the right people about the Web site, and there you go. Lucy became Loose-y, and the rumor got around. Her boyfriend broke up with her. And she got asked out by tons of guys in school, not because she's pretty and popular, but because they thought she was easy. My job was done.

And I thought there was no way she would find out about who created the Web site. I didn't even use my own computer. So I figured there was no way she could trace it to me.

It turned out she didn't trace it to me. Someone else did. Lucy was upset by the Web site (I did my job well) and told our guidance counselor about it. And since it contained "degrading lies" and also "defamed her character," the police were brought in. They were able to trace the computer to the one I used at the Internet café, and since we need to sign up to use it, they traced it to me.

Obviously the site was taken down (but after I was caught so I didn't know that they were on to me), and I had to talk to the guidance counselor. I told her about what Lucy was doing to

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