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## Kids, adults react to racism

By Xiong Xiong  
For the State Journal

Here are some experiences from young people and adults living in Madison on what they did or wish they could have done while coming face to face with racism and prejudice or having seen it happen to others.

### TRISHA XIONG

When I was growing up, I saw and experienced a lot of racism and prejudice. About a year ago when I was in sixth grade, an African-American seventh-grader came up to me and started saying that Asians eat dogs and she asked me how it tasted. At first I tried to ignore it, but after she kept pressuring me I calmly said, "I don't eat dogs. I eat meat and vegetables just like everyone else. I don't even know what you're talking about." She just looked at me strangely then said, "I am sorry" and turned away.

### ANONYMOUS

My parents were racist and prejudiced people. They never liked it when I brought my friends home who weren't white. They think that they are bad people who can influence you to do things by pretending to be your friends. They'll pretend to be your friends so that you'll go somewhere with them, then they'll make you do drugs, kidnap or murder you. You can't trust them because they are this or this kind of race.

I kept telling them that I didn't care about what they thought and that they were wrong because some of my really good friends were of different races. I could trust them as much as any other white girl and sometimes more. In the end a bargain was made between my parents and me. I guess in a way they are beginning to see something in the friends I have.

### JASON MALIC

On my first day at a new (high) school, I was picked on for my size and my color. I looked like a seventh-grader. A bunch of senior black guys saw me and started picking on me, calling me names and pushing me around the hallway. One of the bigger guys gave me a really hard push and slammed me against a locker and then they left laughing at me.



I just got myself together and left. Ever since then I have been trying to avoid them. Now I wish I had stood up for myself, but I was just afraid. I wonder how people could be so racist. The only difference is their skin color.

### JON LANE

When I was walking down the street I saw a bunch of black guys picking on a small, white boy. They were calling him names and pushing him around. The boy kept yelling, "Stop, knock it off." The more the boy kept protesting, the more name-calling and pushing he got.

I wanted to do something, but I was afraid I would get beat up and picked on so I just left. Later I felt sorry for the boy and mad at myself for not helping. I knew what they were doing was wrong. I should have gone over and told them to stop, but I was afraid for myself.

### MACKENZIE ZIRK

My friend was outside at recess when this girl kept calling my friend names because she was different. When she told me about it, I felt bad for her and I wish I would have stuck up for my friend and told them to stop.

I bet if everyone in the school did something about it, something would happen.

### COREY WHITFIELD

I have experienced prejudice before. One day a few weeks ago

my friend, Shawn Cotton, and I were coming from a game when these three white boys about our age started calling us niggers. They threw snowballs at us. They were not hitting us yet but when I got hit, I snapped.

I hit him back, but Shawn told me to chill out, so I did. That didn't help because they kept on. I tried my best to ignore them. And then I remember what my friend, Eric Shields, told me. He said, "Never start a fight but you better make sure you finish one!"

So, I did exactly what he said. They wouldn't stop, so I went over to where they were, and Shawn followed me. We just stood there and didn't move. One of the white boys said, "You punk a -- niggers decided to come over here after all, huh..." I said, "What's your problem, fool?" He was like, "What did you say?" Then he pushed me and then I hit him right in the jaw and he fell. The other two boys tried to jump me, but Shawn took one and I took one and beat them up until some man broke us up. And that was my experience with prejudice. I will never, ever forget it. Peace.

### CHEE THAO

I am an Asian and my Asian friend who lives in a white neighborhood gets called "ching-chong," "chink," etc. We yell back stuff like "white honky" and other things.

When I was playing soccer against a team from a white

neighborhood, we got called a lot of things. The Asians on our team and some of our white teammates got really mad and started really getting brutal. At halftime our coach told us not to hurt them but score a lot, then they would feel kind of stupid for calling us the names.

So we started scoring and won the game, but they still yelled "ching-chong" and stuff at us. We were just about to go over and beat them down, but our coach said, "Don't listen to them. They're way out here, out of nowhere and don't understand anything."

### STEPHANIE WADLY

When my family moved from a large metropolitan city to an all-white small town, the people there kept staring, pointing and whispering about us. All this made my family very uncomfortable. At school some students called me names, while others gradually became my friends. I ignored everything and after a while the name-calling stopped but, still, others kept their distances.

Since my first incident when we moved to the town, I have made a lot of friends. I say that people should ignore what other people say because it's just their ignorance, racism and their prejudice against people of different skin color and race.

### CHRISTINA YANG

As an Asian, I have experienced a lot of hardship dealing with racial

## Holocaust shows worst of racism

By Noah Kunin-Goldsmith  
For the State Journal

Since our topic is racism, I thought it important to cover one of the worst examples of racism ever — the Holocaust — especially with all the attention it is getting because of the Oscar-winning film "Schindler's List."

The Holocaust was the persecution and slaughtering of Jews and others by the Nazis. Six million Jews and 6 million others (gypsies, blacks, homosexuals, Jewish sympathizers and anyone the Nazis didn't like) were killed just because they were different from the Nazis.

The Nazi view of a perfect person was a blond-haired, blue-eyed male, preferably German. Ironically, the Nazi leader Adolf Hitler did not fit this; he had brown hair and brown eyes and was born in Austria.

I'm sure some of you have seen "Schindler's List," but the atrocities pictured in this film pale in comparison to some of the real things that happened at concentration camps like Dachau,

Auschwitz and many others.

The prisoners were branded like cattle with numbers. They were forced to work from dawn until sunset no matter how sick or tired they were. At night the prisoners had to sleep six to eight in a bed made for two or three, they slept naked with no bedding and very little heat. When they first came to the camp all the possessions they had were taken away, and all their dental work removed.

Periodically, their heads were shaved; the Nazis used this hair to make rope and cloth. If prisoners became too sick or tired to work, they were killed. Their bodies were either thrown into ditches or burned in large ovens.

This is just a portion of the horrible things that happened in the Holocaust. I am telling you these things because if people do not remember the past, they are bound to repeat it. Many people feel that the Holocaust has been happening again in Bosnia-Herzegovina. So next time you see people being discriminated against because of their race or religion, remember what you just read.

Besides that, Cherokee is a peaceful school and place to be at all times.

### SHUNETTE CAMPBELL

When seeking employment in the banking industry in Madison, I was shocked to find very few minorities working in any capacity for these institutions. When inquiring about employment opportunities, I could see and feel the racial bias. Although I have over three years' banking experience, I was never considered, for professional or entry level positions.

Closed doors and closed minds did not destroy my self confidence. It took almost a year, but I finally procured employment with the Urban League of Greater Madison in September of 1993. My position as an academic specialist allows me to work with the children in my community to enhance their academic, social and employability skills. I am very glad that the doors of corporate America were closed. Working with children is the most important thing that I've ever done with my life.

### ANONYMOUS

I was with a bunch of friends of mine when they saw a small, meek-looking black boy and his (two) friends. They went over and started picking on him, swearing and calling him names. I felt it was wrong so I didn't participate.

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