

change in western Wyoming did not factor in.

"It was never meant to make money," said Bill Ashley, 89, who owned and ran the Snow King ski school for many years and met his wife, Mary, at the top of the mountain in the early 1950s. "It was meant to be for the town."

The big ski areas that came later — Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, half an hour into the Tetons, and Grand Targhee, an hour northwest — made winter tourism big business and Jackson Hole a winter destination.

But old Snow King, the first ski area in Wyoming and one of the oldest in the nation, soldiered on for the local residents, who could get in a run or two during lunch. The ski industry went upscale, and so did Jackson Hole, as the coastal glitterati came to nest in their humble ranchettes. But Snow King did not.

Now the question is resonating here and across ski country, from upstate New York to Montana,

A small ski area called White Pine in Pinedale, Wyo., about 75 miles from Jackson, said this fall that it would not open for the season. In Bozeman, Mont., and Cody, Wyo., local skiers have banded together in recent years to create nonprofit organizations to run struggling town hills.

In Saranac Lake, N.Y., residents rallied this year around their town hill, called Mount Pisgah, and raised money for a new T-bar lift. Here in Jackson, the owners of Snow King, while vowing to continue on this season, have quietly put the resort and its nearby hotel up for sale.

A special discounted season pass for \$149 — almost what some resorts charge for a daily ticket — comes with a plea on the Snow King Web site, "Show support for your town hill," and with a raffle entry to win a 1950s-vin-



"There's just that homey kind of safe feel about Snow King," said Kathleen A. Crowley, who works at a mountaineering store in Jackson.

tage chair from an old lift.

"Communities are struggling to keep their town hills," said Michael Berry, the president of the National Ski Areas Association, "and they're finding ways to do it."

Mr. Berry said that over all, the industry has held up fairly well through the economic downturn. What is different for town hills, he said, is that because they depend mostly on local residents, they reflect — more than the Strattons or Lake Tahoes of the world — local life and economics, for better or worse.

Like most communities, Jackson Hole has taken economic hits, in tourism and real estate.

nonprofit organization, a step that town officials said could lead to a larger public role on the ski hill itself. A community group also tried to step in this year to take over management at Snow King, but it failed to reach an agreement.

"There's the emotional appeal," said Mayor Mark Barron, who has vowed to keep Snow King alive, "and then there's the practical reality." As for where the two might meet, he shrugged: "Who knows?"

Some survivors of recreational skiing's early days, like Alta, Utah, or Aspen, Colo., grew to great economic might. But Snow King, with only 400 acres of ski-

year-round convention and hotel business and by summer money-makers like an alpine slide. Prospective buyers have looked with interest at the hotel and convention trade, he said, but few want the ski hill and its losses as baggage.

At downtown businesses like Teton Mountaineering, an outdoor clothing shop, the debate over Snow King, prompted by a reporter's question, turned from economics to community to what Kathleen A. Crowley, a buyer for the store, described as "family coziness."

"Nothing against the big ski areas, because I spend a lot of time there," Ms. Crowley said, "but there's just that homey kind of safe feel about Snow King."

Chuck Schaap, the store's owner, struck a practical note. "If it has such value," he said, "why is it economically a failure?"

Ms. Crowley paused. "That might be a whole other question," she said.

Run" committee and he joined the race in August. He has endorsements from heavyweights like Mr. Newsom, former Mayor Willie Brown and influential leaders in the Chinese-American community — and, to the chagrin of other candidates who had taken that no-run pledge seriously, he has learned to work the wards like any politician.

In a city where political views tend to range from liberal to very liberal, the campaign has consisted less of ideological debates than of personal appeals and attacks. Mr. Lee, 59, emphasizes his competence, with posters declaring "Ed Lee Gets It Done."

Mr. Lee's entry into the race pulled the rug out from under others who had a similar centrist appeal, like Dennis Herrera, the city attorney; Leland Yee, a state senator who has labor union support; and David Chiu, who is president of the Board of Supervisors and was endorsed by The San Francisco Chronicle for a

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STRENGTH IN NUMBERS HUMANITY IN NUMBERS



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## National Study Finds Widespread Sexual Harassment of Students in Grades 7 to 12

By JENNY ANDERSON

Nearly half of 7th to 12th graders experienced sexual harassment in the last school year, according to a study scheduled for release on Monday, with 87 percent of those who have been harassed reporting negative effects such as absenteeism, poor sleep and stomachaches.

On its survey of a nationally representative group of 1,965 students, the American Association of University Women, a nonprofit research organization, defined harassment as "unwelcome sexual behavior that takes place in person or electronically." Over all, girls reported being harassed more than boys — 56 percent compared with 40 percent — though it was evenly divided during middle school. Boys were more likely to be the harassers, according to the study, and children from lower-income families reported more severe effects.

"It's pervasive, and almost a normal part of the school day," said Catherine Hill, the director of research at the association and one of the authors of the report.

Over all, 48 percent of students surveyed said they were harassed during the 2010-11 school year. Forty-four percent of students said they were harassed "in person" — being subjected to unwelcome comments or jokes, inappropriate touching or sexual

intimidation — and 30 percent reported online harassment, like receiving unwelcome comments, jokes or pictures through texts, e-mail, Facebook and other tools, or having sexual rumors, information or pictures spread about them.

Whatever the medium, more girls were victims: 52 percent of girls said they had been harassed in person, and 36 percent online, compared with 35 percent of boys who were harassed in person and 24 percent online.

"I was called a whore because I

**Among girls, 56 percent reported being harassed.**

have many friends that are boys," one ninth-grade girl was quoted as saying. An eighth-grade boy, meanwhile, reported, "They spread rumors I was gay because I played on the basketball team."

The study asked students to reflect on the 2010-11 school year in an attempt to capture the prevalence of sexual harassment, the effects it has on the harassed and the reasons the harassers engage in the behavior. It also questioned students about preventive meas-

ures. Coming amid increased attention to bullying and cyberbullying, the report aimed to highlight the damaging effects of inappropriate sexual comments, online rumors or lurid Facebook posts.

"Bullying is getting a lot of attention," said Holly Kearn, an author of the report and program manager of the university association's Advocacy Fund. "We don't want schools to forget about sexual harassment" and not talk about it, she said. Ms. Kearn said some schools that talk to students about sexual harassment and how to respond to it have been successful in reducing it. "We want to encourage schools to know what Title IX is," she said, referring to the federal law that prohibits discrimination based on gender in schools, "to have a coordinator and to publicize it."

The report documents many forms of harassment. The most common was unwelcome sexual comments, gestures or jokes, which was experienced by 46 percent of girls and 22 percent of boys. Separately, 13 percent of girls reported being touched in an unwelcome way, compared with 3 percent of boys; 3.5 percent of girls said they were forced to do something sexual, as did 0.2 percent of boys. About 18 percent of both boys and girls reported

### What They've Experienced

Percentage of 7th to 12th graders in a national survey

REPORTING THIS EXPERIENCE...		HAPPENED ONCE, OR...	MORE THAN ONCE IN THE LAST YEAR
Having someone make unwelcome sexual comments, jokes or gestures to or about you	GIRLS	18%	28
	BOYS	10	12
Being called gay or lesbian in a negative way	GIRLS	10	8
	BOYS	7	11
Being shown sexy or sexual pictures that you did not want to see	GIRLS	11	5
	BOYS	7	3
Being touched in an unwelcome sexual way	GIRLS	7	6
	BOYS	2	1
Being physically intimidated in a sexual way	GIRLS	6	3
	BOYS	2	1
Having someone flash or expose themselves to you	GIRLS	4	3
	BOYS	3	2
Being forced to do something sexual	GIRLS	2	1
	BOYS	Less than 1 percent	

Source: American Association of University Women

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being called gay or lesbian in a negative way.

In the survey, students were asked to identify what had the worst effect on them. For boys, it was being called gay — "Everyone was saying I was gay, and I

felt the need to have to run away and hide," a ninth-grader said. For girls, the leading problem was having someone make "unwelcome sexual comments, jokes or gestures to or about you."

Girls also reported more nega-

tive consequences: 37 percent said they did not want to go to school after being harassed, versus 25 percent of boys. Twenty-two percent of girls who were harassed said they had trouble sleeping, compared with 14 percent of boys; 37 percent of girls felt sick to their stomach, versus 21 percent of boys.

Those students who experienced both online and in-person harassment experienced the worst effects: 46 percent said they did not want to go to school, 44 percent felt sick to their stomachs and 43 percent found it hard to study.

Half of those who were harassed said they did nothing about it; 9 percent said they reported the incident to an adult at school; and 27 percent of students (32 percent of girls and 20 percent of boys) said they talked about it with a family member.

When asked what types of students were most at risk of harassment, students said "good-looking boys" were the safest, with pretty girls, ugly girls and feminine boys the likely targets. Girls whose bodies are most developed are the most at-risk, students said.

"This is an issue that's especially complex for girls, though it affects all students," Ms. Hill said. "Boys are targets, and girls can be harassers."