DePaul University

**Current Event #3:**

**Tyler Clementi Case**

Yongshan Tan

CSC208-501

Professor Santiago Cortez

03/10/16

Tyler Clementi Case is about Tyler Clementi who is a freshman at Rutgers University and a victim of cyber-bullying. Clementi committed suicide after his roommate, Dharun Ravi who is 18 years old secretly spy and film on him with another man having a homosexual encounter. Clementi’s privacy was invaded when Ravi set up a webcam to spy on him. Ravi viewed Clementi in an intimate act, and encouraging others to spy during a second data. Clementi discover what Ravi had done and that he was planning a second attempt. By viewing Ravi’s twitter feed, Clementi learned he had widely become a topic of ridicule in his new social environment. He ended his life several days later by jumping off the George Washington Bridge. Then Ravi was convicted of invasion of privacy, hindering apprehension, witness tampering, and biased intimidation pertaining to the second viewing incident. On March 16th 2012, the jury concluded that Ravi did not intent to intimidate either Clementi or his guest on their homosexual encounter.

According on the article “Tyler Clementi Case - What Punishment Is Justifiable?” it mentions Ravi may have 10 years jail or deportation. I think these punishment is too cruel for an 18 years old student. 18 years old to 28 years old is a significant important age range for a person to study knowledge and skills to get prepare for her/his future. Therefore, 10 years jail for Ravi may not only mean 10 year punishment, it may also means a very hopeless and difficult future for him. Moreover, Ravi didn’t kill Clementi directly, and he didn’t not mean to make Clementi suicide. As the jury mentioned Ravi also did not intend to use the video that he secretly film to intimidate Clementi or his guest. Therefore, I think the major crime that Ravi did is invasion of Clementi’s privacy. So 10 years jail is too much for Ravi. However, Ravi’s action is a major reason caused Clementi committed suicide, so I think Ravi still need to in prison but for a shorter period like a year or so. No matter what punishment that Ravi will have would not bring Clementi back again, but it would makes Clementi’s family feel better and it brings justice to Tyler from Clementi’s family’s point of view. More important is I think it serves some larger social purpose such as deterring further crimes. As CBS News Interview with Tyler Clementi’s parents. The mother said she hopes after Tyler Clementi’s case, people will be more aware of the harm that cyber-bullying caused to the victim. People especially the young adult should not invasion other’s privacy, should not use online media to bullying anyone. And if they found out other people who surround them are stuffing in cyber-bullying, they should stand out to help them. Or if they found out anyone who is cyber-bullying others, they should take some action in order to stop them. We all have responsibility to make our society better and safer.

By using the rule utilitarianism, the affected people of Tyler Clementi’s case are Tyler Clementi, Dharun Ravi, their family, the court people, the news reporter and interviewer, the people who watch the new about Tyler Clementi’s case, and anyone knows Tyler Clementi’s case. The moral rule should be if I cyber-bullying anyone, I should be punished which means I will be in the jail for about a year. The universal moral rule should be if anyone cyber-bullying others, they should be punished which mean they will be in the jail for about a year. Clementi is a victim of cyber-bullying from Ravi. Therefore, we should punish Ravi. The good of following that rule is we bring justice to Clementi which will increase the happiness for Clementi and his family. After Ravi receives his punishment, he will be award of what did he done it wrong, learn from the mistake and knowing he should not repeat the same mistake again. This is process of him to be a better person which will increase the happiness of society because after that he would create more happiness to the society. The news reporter and interviewer, the people who watch the new about Tyler Clementi’s case, and anyone knows Tyler Clementi’s case, they can learn from Ravi, and know what Ravi done is wrong and it will bring him a serious consequence. Then we can be award not to make the same mistake. Moreover, when they see Clementi’s dead, we would be award that cyber-bullying could bring a really bad harm to the victim. Then, we know they should not do it and feel responsible to stop other to do it. Moreover, when they experience cyber-bullying or they know someone experience this, they know the right thing to do which is definitely not to committee suicide. And those are the thing will increase their happiness. The harm of following that rule is Ravi get punish which may means he would in the jail for a period of time which will decrease his and his family’s happiness. Instead of 10 in the jail, I think a year of the jail for Ravi would be more justifiable because the punishment for Ravi, an 18 years old student would more mean to educate Ravi, and make him take responsibility of the mistake that he made. We don’t mean to ruin his whole life. And he did not use the video to intimidate or threat Clementi, so 10 prison would be too much for Ravi. As a result of all, it is ethic to follow this universal moral to punish Ravi with about a year prison time.

Social contract theory is it is right for me to act according to a moral rule if rational people would collectively accept it as binding because of its benefits to the community. According to the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, “The right of people to secure in their persons, house, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.” Therefore, Ravi invasion of Clementi’s privacy by using the webcam to spy on Clementi is illegal which mean he should be punished. Moreover, his action makes Clementi committee to suicide which also is the reason he need to be punished. However, Ravi did not intent to intimidate either Clementi or his guest on their homosexual encounter. Cyber-bullying means the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature. So Ravi did not really mean to cyber-bullying Clementi. Therefore, I think 10 years prison time would be too much. If we mean to educate Ravi, and make him take the responsibility on Clementi’s dead, about one year in prison would be enough.

The goal of this case is to punish Ravi of what he done to Clementi, and educate him not to repeat the same mistake to others. By achieving the goal of punishing Ravi of what he done to Clementi, we should put him in the jail. However, we also want to achieve the goal of educating him, we should not set 10 years prison time to Ravi. We should more willing to give him, a young adult a chance to change to be a better person and bring more happiness to the society. Therefore, according to Aristotle’s ethical theory, Ravi should receive a punishment of about a year prison time.

Egoism is the theory that one's self is, or should be, the motivation and the goal of one's own action. We should be a person that respect others’ privacy and not to invasion of it. However, Ravi did invasion of Clementi’s privacy and it caused Clementi to committee suicide, so Ravi should be punished. However, the motivation of Ravi to take this action is not to intimidating or threatening Clementi or his guest. Therefore, Ravi’s punishment should not be so cruel which is 10 year prison. Base on egoism, I think Ravi should receive a punishment of about a year prison time.

Bibliography:

CBS News Interview with Tyler Clementi's Parents

ABC News Interview With Dharun Ravi

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it/>

http://www.iep.utm.edu/egoism/

Powerpoint- m2+Framing

Introduction to Ethical Theories: A Procedural Approach, Douglas Birsh

-Chapter 2 Ethical Relativism

-Chapter 5 Utilitarianism

-Chapter 8 Aristotle’s Ethical Theory