**Reena Virk Case.**

On November 14, 1997, Reena Virk was a 14-year old girl of East Indian descent, raised in a highly religious (Jehovah’s Witness) family. She lived outside Victoria, BC, in Saanich; a quiet, little Vancouver Island community, where she attended Shoreline Secondary School. She questioned the religious teachings of her parents, and lived a more secular lifestyle, similar to other girls in her school. She has been described as wanting acceptance from her peers, but instead faced “harassment and name calling”. 2  She was ridiculed for being a larger girl, reportedly called “pudgy” and “overweight”3 . She was humiliated for alleged body-hair, reportedly called names such as “beast” or “the bearded lady”.

Reena was living in a foster home, under the care of BC’s Ministry of Children and Families, when her life was cut short on November 14, 1997. The allegations that caused her to be taken under the care of the Ministry were ultimately recanted, but irreparable damage to the Virk family had already been done. As said by Reena’s father, Manjit Virk, ever since Reena “went into the hands of outsiders, nothing worked from that day”.4

In November 1997 Kelly Ellard was a 15-year old girl, perhaps a ‘bit of a partier,’ but by no accounts a bad girl, having had no known run-ins with the law. Ellard was more popular than Reena. Ellard also disliked Reena, profusely.

At that time, Warren Glowatski was a 16-year old, living alone in a trailer in Saanich. He was supported by money sent by his father who had left Saanich to marry a woman in Las Vegas. Warren was somewhat of a ‘wannabe-gangsta’.

On what proved to be her last night on Earth, Reena had been invited to a party by girls from her school, ostensibly to enjoy a good time, but really as a ploy to teach her a lesson for (possibly) being interested in a boy that other girls considered off-limits. The party travelled to various locations. Ultimately Reena was attacked, “swarmed”, at the south end of the Craigflower Bridge in Gorge Park by eight teenagers - seven girls including Ellard, as well as Glowatski.

During the brutal assault, “Nicole Cook” stubbed out a cigarette on Reena’s forehead, and someone attempted to ignite her hair on fire. Mercifully, an onlooker persuaded the group to set Reena free, and she was able to flee to the north end of the bridge. Ellard and Glowatski (at Ellard’s request) followed and resumed the attack, punching and kicking Reena in the abdomen, face and head. This second assault, and young Reena’s short life, ended shortly thereafter when Ellard and Glowatski dragged Reena into the Gorge Waterway, where further blows and stomps were administered. Then, as Glowatski watched, Ellard held Reena’s head under water until she drowned. (One witness reported, Ellard later bragged she smoked a cigarette as she stood on Reena’s head, drowning her.)

For the following week, rumours proliferated around Shoreline Secondary School, heard by students and faculty alike. No one contacted Saanich Police, who were investigating Reena’s unexplained disappearance. The police detained Ellard on November 22, 1997; interrogating her for more than three hours, in the presence of her mother and step-father, Susan and George Pakos. Although Ellard initially denied knowing Reena, eventually she admitted to taking part in an assault upon her.

1. Identify the elements of the Crime? (5 Marks)- Actus Rea and Mens Rea -who did what? There are several crimes here.
2. What would they be guilty of? (check criminal code and penalties- include the code and penalty)
3. Discuss the role of the investigation, from the arrival of the scene, the collection of evidence to the arrest. (8 marks) include the roles of the different police (4 roles), who are they and what they do. (check powerpoint notes)
4. What evidence would police be able to get and from whom? Who does this implicate?
5. Who do you think is the ultimate cause of Reena Virk’s death? Why?
6. Is there any defense for this crime?
7. In your personal opinion. Is Bullying still rampant in schools? Why do you say that?
8. How can we stop this Bullying? Should there be penalties for online bullying?