

Curious Cougar:

By Alexandra Isaacs

Do you think Facebook should be used by school administrators for disciplinary action against students and employees?



Laynie Tell
First-Year

"School administrators have a right to be concerned with what the students are doing on campus that is unacceptable. However, I think it is a violation of privacy for administrators to make disciplinary decisions based on what they find."

"No. Facebook is for students. Everyone has access, so there's really no privacy. It's really just not fair."



Whitney Blake
Junior

"No, it should not be used for disciplinary action. It's common knowledge that employees put on a face for daily jobs. Facebook and MySpace are a part of private life. It's not something to show to your fellow employee. It's a little sneaky for bosses to look at profiles."



Tricia George
Full-time IT Employee

"It's violating privacy. If events are happening off campus it has nothing to do with the school. Down with the man!"



Cassie Shurr
Senior

"Yes, because in any normal court of law, photos can be used as evidence. Photos on the web can also be used as evidence. Photos are posted willingly by students. If there's something you don't want people to see, then don't put it up."



Bianca L. Ruthven
First-Year

"Absolutely not. Facebook is personal. It's something you put up for your friends. You wouldn't let your professor read your diary so why would you let them see something so private. Personal is not public. At the same time students should still be careful. It's [Facebook] is purely a social scene. Your boss should not judge you by a personal picture."



Aedel Brodie
Sophomore

Facebook: useful tool for controlling people



By Barbora Batokova
Editor in Chief

In the last month, at least seven students were sent to conduct board, two Chatham police officers left and an R.A. was put on probation. In all cases, Facebook has been involved in the process.

Facebook was established in February 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg at Harvard University as a social networking site for college students. Since then, it has expanded to include high school students and corporate and geographic communities. Currently, according to its website, Facebook is the sixth most visited site in the United States with over four billion page views per day as reported by alexa.com. It is the top photo-sharing site in the United States with over a billion photos up to date and over six million new photos uploaded every day.

There is no further need to demonstrate the popularity of Facebook. The purpose why people join and become part of the 17-

million-member community is to share their memories and stay in touch with friends. Facebook's mission as stated on its website is to provide a social utility that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them.

Despite the growing popularity, people have recently started to ponder Facebook's purpose. At first people feared that Facebook was going to become a stalker-site with the launch of the mini-feed that provided mini stories about what members did on the site. Now, recent disciplinary actions made me think about how Facebook could be used to incriminate people through their uploaded photos, wall posts, notes and photo comments.

Who would have thought that Facebook (and real) friends would use information from people's profiles to implicate them in real life? Behavior like this is the ultimate betrayal of friendship and a violation of trust. I would even argue that it is a violation of privacy. By allowing other people to see your profile, you entrust them with private information.

I am very aware of the fact that what we post on Facebook is our own decision and that once it's on the Internet, it's out there. However, a social networking site should not be used as way to control people's lives. In the end, Facebook is really just a way to waste time on the Internet and to procrastinate doing homework.

Our society is increasingly becoming technology-oriented and information

has become the currency of our lives. The same applies to Facebook. It is a depository of millions of personal memories and experiences. But how low are we going to go to get information about someone? Are we willing to become stalkers of our own friends and use the information against them? Are we willing to sacrifice our friendships for personal gains?

Chatham College Honor Code calls for honesty in all relationships and consideration for the rights of others. If a person is approved as a friend on Facebook and is not on a limited profile list, some trust has been placed in that person. Therefore, misusing the information the person was given access to, is as a violation of honesty in a relationship.

So where does this stalking stop and will it ever stop? The answer is no on both counts. There is nothing that prevents people from joining Facebook.

It is no longer a site just for college students. Faculty, staff, administration and your future employers can join Facebook anytime. As long as you are in the same network, they can see your profile, unless you restrict it.

Therefore, even though taking information from Facebook with the purpose of using it against you is not justifiable by any means, we should all start thinking twice about what we post on our profiles and who we give access to, because it can take us all the way to the conduct board or cost us a future job.

Letter to the editor:

As a member of Students Against Sexual Oppression, I would like to address the letter that appeared in last month's issue of the Communique which was written in regards to the special on Coming Out Week that the Communique published. In this letter, written by Reverend Luecke, Chatham students who are homosexual are urged to join local church chapters as well as receive information from Exodus, an organization that supposedly changes homosexuals into heterosexuals.

This letter is only a declaration made by Reverend Luecke stating that he hasn't experienced the homosexual lifestyle as far as he should. How many queers does Luecke know? He can't have known many to actually believe that a program such as Exodus actually turns queers into good, God fearing heterosexuals. I think the Reverend may have had the best intentions when he said we needed to explore all sides of an issue, however, if Luecke doesn't actually do what he preaches, his words hold no credibility.

In response to the Reverend's well meant letter of concern, I would like to try and persuade him and anyone who share his beliefs of the homosexual lifestyle to check out the exciting world of queers. After all, one must always know all sides of an issue. Here are some places Reverend Luecke may want to look into:

PERSAD: For homosexuals and their families. 412-441-9786, www.persadcenter.org

GLCC: Gay and Lesbian Community Center
412- 422-0114, www.glccpgh.org

Outpub: Gay and Lesbian entertainment within and outside Pittsburgh, 412-243-3350, www.outpub.com

And of course, SASO would be glad to invite Reverend Luecke to the next meeting, where he can meet many students who would be glad to further his queer education.

Beth Humphries, SASO Member

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor!

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Letters must be signed and must include a telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be published. Publication of these letters does not mean endorsement of the views expressed.

COMMUNIQUE

CHATHAM COLLEGE

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Letters submitted to the student newspaper must be 250 words or less and must be relevant to our audience. Submitted letters will be edited for clarity. Libelous or obscene letters will not be published.

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