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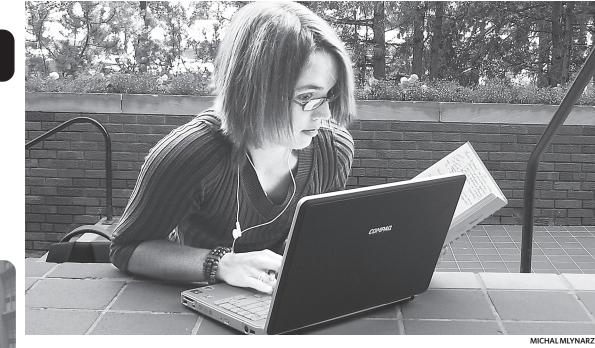
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**AN OPEN BOOK** Who would have thought that other people could read what you post on the Internet? Universities are increasingly keeping an eye on what their students place on social networking sites, and have even disciplined for posts.

# **Facebook use cautioned**

More and more, students are finding that online posts cause real world trouble

#### CAROLYNNE BURKHOLDER The Ubyssey (UBC)

VANCOUVER (CUP)—With over 7.5 million users, the vast majority of them postsecondary students, Facebook is one of the largest social networking sites on the Internet. But some point out that an open system like Facebook, which can be accessed by professors, administrators or potential employers, may present unexpected pitfalls for some students.

"Anyone with a university e-mail account can get a Facebook account," said Johanna Waggott, a residence-life manager at the University of British Columbia. "I don't think students think about that when they are putting stuff up on their profiles."

She advised that students not put anything on Facebook that they wouldn't shout out in a crowd, and pointed out that she has been invited to banned parties in her own residence through Facebook.

Prior to this warning, Teri Yoo, a second-year science student at UBC, said she hadn't thought about university officials or potential employers seeing her Facebook profile.

"I'm kind of uncomfortable that other people can read all that information about me," she said.

However, Sean Hepple, a recent UBC graduate, said it doesn't matter whether his professors or employers look him up on Facebook. He said he hasn't put anything on his profile that he would be ashamed for them to see. Last year, Saul Martinez, a student at the University of Oklahoma, was investigated by the Secret Service after he wrote on a Facebook messageboard that US President George Bush should be assassinated and replaced with a monkey. Months later, two Louisiana State University students lost their swimming scholarships after making disparaging remarks about their coach on Facebook.

Last year, Saul Martinez, a student at the University of Oklahoma, was investigated by the Secret Service after he wrote on a Facebook messageboard that US President George Bush should be assassinated and replaced with a monkey.

This lack of privacy and control over free speech concerns computer science Professor Richard Rosenberg.

"I don't think universities can justify infringing on students' privacy," he said. "Inhibiting free speech is contrary to the way a university should operate."

But Rosenberg also advises students

they're giving away," he warned.

Several universities have now drafted policies on social networking websites. Cornell University, a private institution in New York, was one of the first to officially warn its students about the use of Facebook, stating that it's important for them to remember that Facebook is malleable and may create as many obligations as it does opportunities for expression.

According to Scott Macrae, UBC Director of Public Affairs, the University's administrators recently held a meeting to discuss social networking websites, but no official policy has been created.

Students' Union Vice-President (Student Life) Omer Yusuf explained that, at the University of Alberta, only social networking sites that are in some way affiliated with the U of A fall under the University's Code of Student Behaviour (COSB), as they operate as an extension of the "University community."

"For Facebook, this community would be the ualberta.facebook.com. If you're using that particular community, and do something in offence to the COSB—like issuing threats—you would be looking at some serious consequences from the University. It would be the same thing as using your ualberta.ca mailing address to threaten someone at another ualberta.ca mailing address," Yusuf said.

"Any interaction with the U of A community, such as the Facebook community, can fall under the COSB. For other social networking sites, such as Myspace, because it isn't affiliated with the University, threats and other offences would be dealt with by the police."



# THE GATEWAY

### The Gateway is hiring a Circulation Public Affairs Liaison (Circulation PAL)

The position's duties include: • delivering the *Gateway* to designated locations on and

around campus as soon as possible after delivery from the printer,

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 sorting incoming newspapers and other publications and displaying them neatly in the *Gateway* offices, and
coordinating collation of the year's issues of the *Gateway* for the production of bound editions at the end of the year.

- be reliable and hard-working with excellent organization and time-management skills,
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The position requires ten hours per week (less if you're speedy), runs until 30 April, 2007, and pays \$314.55. We are seeking to fill this position immediately, and will close the position as soon as we find an acceptable candidate.

For further information or to apply, contact Steve Smith, Gateway Business Manager 3-04 Students' Union Building T: 780.492.6669 F: 780.492.6665 biz@gateway.ualberta.ca Although no UBC students have been severely penalized because of anything posted on Facebook, action has been taken against some students attending universities in the United States.

to use caution.

"These websites encourage people to provide a lot of information and make connections ... but a lot of students aren't aware of how much information

### NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

#### Compiled by Scott Lilwall

### DEVELOPMENT FOR VANCOUVER OLYMPICS THREATENING ECO-SYSTEM

VANCOUVER(CUP)—The expansion of a major highway in British Columbia is threatening an important eco-system in the area, prompting locals to call for more to be done to protect threatened environments.

Dr Diane Srivastava, University of British Columbia ecologist, explained that BC has no legislation to protect species in danger due to human development. "We know they're threatened, but there's nothing we can do," she said.

While federal legislation protecting threatened species exists, the provincial government hasn't matched this legislation. Srivastava explained that public citizens generally are unaware of this.

"I think Canadians in general are under the illusion that we have some great environmental legislation," she said. "Unfortunately we don't. While we have a lot of endangered species ... we have some of the worst environmental legislation."

But Mike Long, Director of Communications in the Ministry of Transportation, indicated there have been no problems thus far on the construction of the highway, and assured they are abiding by environmental regulations and the guidelines of their management plans.

"There's constant monitoring before work begins, the management plans have to be approved and signed off by various agencies [such as the] Canadian Wildlife Service so all that work has gone to the project before they can begin construction," Long said.

"They can't work outside of these guidelines. These are the rules that are required and they have to follow in terms of proceeding with the construction and if they don't follow those rules they get shot down."

Amanda Stutt, the Ubyssey