

Internet hazards elude tech-challenged parents

Continued from page 1B
in the West Bank she met on MySpace.com when U.S. officials found her in Jordan and sent her home.

A school district in Grand Forks, N.D., recently banned access to the site from school computers.

"Don't blame MySpace," says Nickel. "It's here and we have to live with it."

Instead, he suggests parents sit with their children when the kids are developing their online profiles so they can discuss what's appropriate to put on there and what's not. He also urges parents to check out their children's friends' profiles. "You might see a picture of your own daughter on a friend's page—with her name on it."

Parents certainly have a role to play in Internet safety, but many of them don't know how to be a first-generation Internet parent, says John Carosella, vice president of Sunnyvale, Calif.-based Blue

Coat Systems which created the free K9 Web Protection content filter. They have to play computer cop.

"Parents—their jobs have changed," he says. "If you had friends over and mom was in the kitchen, she could overhear and half pay attention to the action. She might not intervene but there was enough residual contact so that parental guidelines could be applied. Now, if kids are hanging out with their buddies online, parents have no contextual contact," says Carosella, the father of three children, ages 14, 16 and 20.

He compares a child's after-school routine now to that of his own childhood.

"We'd have to be home in time for dinner. You'd have dinner and stay home. Why did our parents do that? To make sure you were physically safe, so they'd know where you were. The other consequence was that you were in the value system of the fami-

ly. You'd spend the four hours before bedtime in the value system of your family.

"Now, even the good kids, the well-groomed good students, are on the Internet after dinner, soaking in their peer group value system. From the perspective of parents, they're sneaking out and hanging with their friends at night. It's rare to hear, 'No instant messaging after dinner,' but the key thing is that today's kids aren't removed from their peer group."

Scores of companies, including Nickel's and Carosella's, make computer software with parental controls that will help block Web sites and programs that parents don't want to take the chance their children will use.

Safe Eyes, made by Acworth, Ga.-based SafeBrowse, also can log instant messages in almost real-time—about 15 minutes later. Using this product, par-

ents not only see who their children are talking to but what they're saying, too.

What a child truly believes is harmless conversation could be used to hurt them later.

"Your concern isn't your kid talking to Johnny but that your child is talking to someone who he met through Johnny's friend, who your child also doesn't know," says Aaron Kenny, SafeBrowse chief technology officer.

"The problem isn't necessarily an online friendship with an unknown person, but when it turns offline," he adds.

One innocent IM from a girl that she just got home from cheerleading practice coupled with another IM another day that mentions the name of her hometown give a predator an outline of her daily schedule, Kenny notes.

Safe Eyes also has time controls, which allow parents

to set the rules about when—and how long—the computer can be on.

"We hear from parents and kids. It comes down to the philosophy of how it's put out there. If it's done in an authoritarian way without talking about the issues surrounding it, it may cause some problems. That's why parents should talk about the

'why' and about the risks," Kenny says.

He's also pretty sure most tech-savvy teens won't be able to type their way out of the controls. "We put on our best teen hacker hat on until we couldn't get around it."

On the Net:
www.safebrowse.com
www.cyber-safety.com
www.get9.com

Teach for America surges in popularity

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's the strongest job market in years for new college graduates, with salaries and perks rising accordingly. But one of the country's hottest recruiters this spring promised low wages, exhausting labor and only a brief break before the work begins.

Teach for America is surging in popularity. At sites around the country, the 17-year-old nonprofit has begun training about 2,400 recent graduates for two-year teaching stints in disadvantaged schools, nearly triple the figure in 2000. Nearly 19,000 college seniors applied—and more than four in five were turned down. At Notre Dame, Spelman, Dartmouth and Yale, more than 10 percent of seniors applied.

TFA has come a long way since founder Wendy Kopp used fliers to recruit her first corps of 500 teachers, a year after outlining the idea in her 1989 Princeton senior thesis. Today she has 90 full-time recruiters. By 2010, TFA plans to expand the number of regions where it places teachers from 22 to 33, and nearly double in size. It hopes to call itself the No. 1 employer of recent college graduates in the country.

Driving the growth is savvy and aggressive recruiting that students say exudes competence and reminds them of Wall Street firms. But there's also straight talk about how hard it can be to teach in low-income schools. The combination seems to appeal to high-achieving students who relish a challenge and want to be in the trenches—as long as they have help.

"It sounds like it's going to take all your energy for two years," said Lida Storch, a former University of Minnesota rower who will teach this fall at an elementary school in the Bronx. "But I just graduated from college. I've got lots of energy."

TFA recruits, trains and helps get the new teachers alternative certification, then schools pay their salaries.

The organization says it has proved the model can work. Now it is trying to build

a critical mass of alumni who—even if they move onto other fields like law or politics—share the experience of having taught in low-income areas and may use those experiences to influence education policy.

"I told them right up front that I was going to go to med school," said recent Dartmouth graduate Kristen Wong, who starts this fall on a new site in Hawaii. "They liked that even better. They pick people who become leaders in the community, who make policy, who vote."

Some critics note fewer than one-third stay in the classroom following their two-year stints. But TFA says about two-thirds have remained directly involved in education—if not as teachers, then in research, policy and in many cases starting charter schools. TFA counts 10 alumni in elective office, including Natasha Kamrani, recently elected to Houston's school board. The goal is 100 alumni in public office by 2010.

"Given our theory of change," Kopp said in a phone interview, "numbers are everything."

The growth plan is ambitious. TFA's budget will have to grow from \$40 million to \$100 million a year, the vast majority from private donors.

But Kopp says recruiting is what she worries most about.

The challenge is both quantity and quality. TFA spends about \$12,000 on each corps member per year, and about \$4,000 of that goes into recruiting applicants, then evaluating whom to hire through a rigorous interview process. Program officials say they could find teaching slots for more than the 17 percent of applicants accepted last year, but they want to pick only candidates who will succeed. Even so, about 15 percent fail to complete their two-year commitment.

"There are times when you come to saying, 'This is it, I

can't help these kids,'" said Shawna Wells, a University of Vermont graduate who is finishing up her second year teaching in a Las Vegas middle school. Still, she'll stay in teaching next year.

Kopp says more and more students are looking to do meaningful work after college, particularly if it is not a career-long commitment.

Megan Scelfo is one of 14 new graduates from Louisiana State University who are joining Hurricane Katrina and the motivation for many, though Scelfo said she was attracted by an inspiring TFA teacher she had during high school.

"I had been given such a gift by someone who joined their movement, I felt like I had to give back," she said.

The program's rapid growth has made it a bigger target for some critics, who worry TFA is geared more toward the experience of the teachers than that of their students. Linda Darling-Hammond, a Stanford education professor, has argued that the failure of TFA teachers to go through regular certification hurts their effectiveness.

Some principals, meanwhile, have concluded bringing in TFA teachers isn't worth it, because most leave after two years.

Robert Venegas, principal of Ford Boulevard Elementary School in Los Angeles, acknowledges TFA provided good teachers. But the school still paid some staff-development costs beyond what TFA picked up and "the money we had to invest in training only to see it leave two years later was a hard pill to swallow," Venegas said.

TFA points to research showing most principals think its teachers are more effective than other faculty, and one study showing TFA teachers help students make 10 percent more progress than expected in math (with some, but less, benefit in reading). And as for leaving

after two years, some schools face such turnover problems that even that long a commitment is welcome.

"I understand that that's the deal when they come," said Nancy McKay, principal of Crestworth Middle Magnet School in Baton Rouge, La. "I tease them every year that we're going to try to find them a girl or a guy so they'll stay, try to set them up with a little matchmaking. That's the length to which I will go to try to keep them."

On the Net:
Teach for America:
http://www.teachforamerica.org

AMERICARE HEALTH

AmeriCare Health
"Sugar Creek" Medical Center

721 W. Sugar Creek Rd. • 704-941-8020
"Now Open"

"A New 3 Million Dollar Facility"
(across the street from Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church)

"On The Plaza" • 704-535-0400
1805 Milton Road • Charlotte, NC 28215
"At The Park" • 704-399-2677
6023 Beatties Ford Road • Charlotte, NC 28216

Visit AmeriCare at either location
For All Family Healthcare Needs
- Accepting New Patients -
"Appointments Not Necessary"

Comprehensive Healthcare
You Need and Deserve:

- State-of-the Art Pediatrics
- Urgent Care • Internal Medicine
- Minor Trauma • Industrial Medicine
- Diagnostic Center



Dr. Fidelis Edosomwan

Open Mon-Fri, 9am-7pm, Sat. 9am-5pm

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thy wounds, saith the Lord." - Jeremiah 30: 17

Dr. Maya Angelou
The 2006 Host Steering Committee
and
Marilyn Baldwin Richards
North Carolina Director
United Negro College Fund
Cordially Invite You To Attend The 4th Annual
Maya Angelou
Women Who Lead Luncheon

A fundraiser and signature special event benefitting the United Negro College Fund, which honors women who are leaders in their respective fields and have brought positive recognition locally, statewide and nationally.

Saturday, June 24, 2006
Hilton Charlotte Center City Hotel
Silent Auction: 11:00 - 12 Noon
Hat Competition: 11:00 - 12:30 PM
Luncheon and Presentations 12:15 PM
2006 Women Who Lead Awards • \$5,000 Scholarship Award

RSVP: Friday, June 16, 2006
Tel: (704)377-8625
Email: mcinfo@uncf.org

2006 Honorees



Dee Dixon
CEO, Pride Communications



Bridget-Atne Hampden
President & CEO, JHR Associates, LLC



Shannon McFayden
Head of Human Resources, Wachovia Bank



Posthumously
Elizabeth Ross Dargan
Retired Educator,
Civic Volunteer and Chair,
MAWWLLI, 2005-2006




The Charlotte Post
is ready to serve you.
Call us to set up your home or business deliveries...

704 376 0496

Looking for expert eye care?

You'll find it at
Carolinas Eye Center
and
Wesley Clement, MD



Well-known ophthalmologist Wesley Clement, MD, is now offering general ophthalmology care in addition to his Laser Vision Correction practice.
Dr. Clement accepts most insurances.

Carolinas Eye Center
704.510.3100
Wesley D. Clement, MD
Charlotte
230 East W.T. Harris Blvd., Suite C-13