

Lifestyle

MySpace.com offers students new ways to social-

by Laura Eshelman
Staff Photographer

Some students turn to Web site communities as a modern way of interacting with friends or meeting new people in the area.

"A lot of my friends have MySpace accounts, and I figured I'd better get on the ball and create one," said Jacob Curtis, undeclared sophomore.

MySpace.com is a free Web site that allows students to create individual profile pages with photos, blogs and general information about themselves.

Members may display anything from their age and location to their interests and hobbies.

"I was bored and sitting in the computer lab, and I thought it was something to occupy my time with," said Michael Vinzani, undeclared sophomore. "I got into making my profile and writing about myself. It was pretty interesting."

The user can permit fellow MySpace.com members to access their profiles and leave comments on the main page or blog entries by adding them to a friend's list. People create accounts when Myspace.com members invite them to join.

"I found MySpace.com because my roommate had an account," said Jaime Caldwell, junior management student. "She kept send-

ing me e-mails about joining it. I finally got tired of them, so I just did it."

Some use the Web site as a way to keep up with friends.

"It's a fun thing to do to connect with friends that you already have, because you might not know it before joining up," said Jordan Luff, 18. "A lot of people are on it. Even now I'm just finding friends I've known for a long time."

Others use the site to find people to befriend or date. Mazy McCoy, undeclared freshman, said she went on two dates with another UNCA student she met through the Web site.

"We went on one coffee date, one date to a movie and a jazz performance on campus," said McCoy. "(The Web site) is very well-organized, and very easy to meet new people. It's easy to search for them in different categories, such as the way someone looks or their interests."

MySpace.com users may choose to sign up for a wide variety of groups created by other members to post bulletins or remarks in forum discussions.

Luff is the moderator for the UNCA's MySpace.com group.

"I've noticed several of my friends from Charlotte joined a UNC-Charlotte group," said Luff. "I noticed UNCA didn't have one, so I decided I'd make one. I invited everybody I knew that went to UNCA or were planning on going. It's reached about 200 members."



CHRIS BUBENIK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Andres Martin, undeclared sophomore, logs on to MySpace.com, an interactive Web site, to check up on friends and events.

UNCA members often post bulletins about upcoming on-campus events and shows, or various discussion topics on the forums, according to Luff.

"You can post a bulletin about having a party without having to call everyone you know," said Laura Louise Wilson, junior psy-

chology student.

Some see the Web site as an opportunity for independent artists.

"It's a good way to have a Web site and show what you're producing, whether it's music or art," said Curtis.

Other people say they think the Web site is too impersonal.

Riana Ackley, sophomore philosophy student, deleted her MySpace.com account.

"I didn't really see a point in just leaving messages for people and having all these fake friends," said Ackley. "I know it can be fun for people, but I think it's really superficial."

Caldwell said she does not use MySpace.com frequently now, but expects to use the site more when she studies abroad next semester. "When I go to Australia, I probably use it more to talk to people back home," she said. "I'd rather just talk to them on the phone or in person."

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