

Schools Support Use of Web Filters

By LAUREN RITTER
Assistant City Editor

Local school officials say Internet filters are a valuable tool for protecting children, although the American Library Association and the American Civil Liberties Union are challenging the constitutionality of the devices.

Orange County Schools has had filters in place since August of 1999 and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School Board voted to implement the filters in schools by June.

The Children's Internet Protection Act requires schools to have Internet filters in place before they can receive federal funding. The ALA and ACLU would like to see this law overturned.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools is still shopping for the right filter, and board chairwoman Valerie Foushee said she thinks filters necessary.

"As we allow more Internet access in the schools, we should protect students," she said.

Bob Stocking, director for instructional technology and media for the district, said Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools are getting bids for filters and officials are operating under the premise that the courts will uphold CIPA.

"We're going along assuming the law is the law," he said.

The Orange County school system has used filters for the past three years, and board members say they are happy with how the filters are performing.

"I think the filters we have in Orange County Schools are appropriate for the students," said Kathy Osborne, associate superintendent for the system.

"We feel they offer a benefit to students."

Osborne said that even if the CIPA was overturned, the schools likely would keep the filters in place.

The lawsuit, which some speculate



might be brought before the Supreme Court, claims filters limit free speech because they block some Internet sites not containing adult material.

One objection is that some Internet filters do not let students search for topics such as "breast cancer" because the word "breast" is blocked by the filter.

But school officials on both sides of the debate said the technology of Internet filters is progressing to allow better access for students. "The technology is much better about granting access to 'breast cancer' and not granting access to adult sites," Stocking said.

"Our intention is to keep the really egregious stuff from kids' access. We really don't want to block learning."

Osborne said the filters used in the Orange County schools are able to be

updated if teachers want an Internet site off the list of sites restricted by the filter.

"If we have blocked sites teachers feel we don't need to block, then we can go and put in the address and it will be released from the filter," Osborne said.

Stocking said that if the Supreme Court does overturn the CIPA, the school board will have to vote again on whether to continue the use of filters.

But until then, district officials say filters are better, on the whole, than not having any sort of protection.

"I would say we want some sort of filter," Stocking said. "It is getting harder and harder to keep kids from seeing things that are not appropriate for school."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Activists Dispute Legality Of Public Internet Filters

By CHRISTEN BROECKER
Staff Writer

An act requiring Internet filters in K-12 schools and public libraries is facing a legal challenge from groups that allege that the technology is flawed.

The Children's Internet Protection Act states that any institution that refuses to comply be denied federal funding. The act was passed by the U.S. Congress in December 2000.

The CIPA is being contested in federal district court in a lawsuit filed in March 2001 by the American Library Association and the American Civil Liberties Union. Closing arguments in the trial occurred last week.

According to a statement released by the ALA in January 2001, the requirement violates the First Amendment. "No filtering software successfully differentiates constitutionally protected speech from illegal speech on the Internet."

Larra Clark, a spokeswoman for the ALA, said there are many flaws inherent to filtering software that prevent users from accessing legitimate information. "Filters still block 'breast cancer' searches," Clark said. "They are fundamentally over-inclusive in that they block useful information, but under-inclusive in that they let obscene things through."

But some organizations that aim to protect children from exposure to inappropriate material say they are outraged by the actions of the ALA and ACLU.

Phil Burress, chairman of Family Friendly Libraries, a grass-roots organization dedicated to protecting children from inappropriate material, said he does not think the CIPA violates the First Amendment in any way.

"We have not permitted pornography into libraries to date," he said. "Even with the development of the Internet, there's still material that we do not want in our public system. Obscenity is not

protected by the First Amendment."

Pat Mullin, associate university librarian for access services at UNC, said the CIPA does not legally require the University to filter information and therefore it does not do so.

Mullin also said he thinks filters are basically ineffective, as is the CIPA.

"Particularly in an adult reading area, filters are not appropriate," he said. "They block some things and let others through."

Mullin said the University's best defense against all kinds of Internet abuse is to provide information for both faculty and students.

"We need to provide education in terms of the consequences of inappropriate use and plagiarism," he said. "Filters are unnecessary. That's why there are librarians."

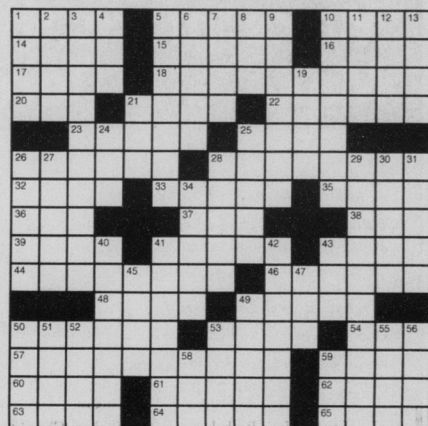
The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Eugene R. Puffenberger

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Prominence
 - 5 Engulf
 - 10 Singer Lane
 - 14 English river
 - 15 Van Gogh location
 - 16 ___ of Gilead
 - 17 Citrus fruit
 - 18 Dogpatch matriarch
 - 20 Brief commercials
 - 21 Mugs and goblets
 - 22 Salad leafstalk
 - 23 Three-time Indy winner Rick
 - 25 Siamese
 - 26 Type of daisy
 - 28 Printing plant worker
 - 32 Hamlet's first choice
 - 33 Man and Dogs
 - 35 Freight jumper
 - 36 OPEC product
 - 37 Solo of "Star Wars"
 - 38 "Hallowed be name..."
 - 39 On the briny
 - 41 Football kicks
 - 43 Loafer or pump
 - 44 Beauty parlor employees
 - 46 Bigots
 - 48 Gray and
- Candler**
- 49 Less common
 - 50 Without principles
 - 53 Support
 - 54 Actress Myrna
 - 57 Woman's career option
 - 59 Equestrian game
 - 60 Sailor's direction
 - 61 Art supporter
 - 62 Small whirlpool
 - 63 Bovine bunch
 - 64 Actress Della
 - 65 Mexican money
- dog**
- 2 Eager
 - 3 Old-time comedienne
 - 4 Wind dir.
 - 5 Japanese warrior
 - 6 Envelops
 - 7 Charity
 - 8 Hebrew letter
 - 9 Spirits
 - 10 Put an end to
 - 11 Oven setting
 - 12 Obscure
 - 13 TV award
 - 19 Affirmative votes
 - 21 Grimalkin
 - 24 Linguistic suffix
 - 25 City on the
- Adige**
- 26 Greek colonnades
 - 27 Lift
 - 28 Blueprints
 - 29 Bonanza
 - 30 Detest
 - 31 "The Highwayman" poet
 - 34 Closes
- 40 Frightened**
- 41 Church book
 - 42 Fetter
 - 43 Sault, Marie
 - 45 Brit's indignant comment
 - 47 Biblical boat
 - 49 Tries to outrun
 - 50 Nanking nanny
 - 51 Sleeper spy
 - 52 Hebrew weight
- 53 Army post**
- 55 GM make, for short
 - 56 Spinning toy on a string
 - 58 Actress Charlotte
 - 59 Get-up-and-go



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 - veggie burrito deluxe.....4
 - chicken burrito.....5
 - quesadilla.....3
 - chicken quesadilla.....4

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durham: on 9th street and perry street [across from brueggers]. 286-1875.

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Spring Senior Week

tuesday, april 9

april 8-13

Edward Kidder Graham Awards, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., George Watts Hill Alumni Center
Come check out these super seniors, favorite faculty, and awesome advisors-as nominated by members of the Senior Class.

Top of the Hill, 10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.
Come party with fellow seniors on top of the town on a beautiful spring evening!

wednesday, april 10

Climb the Bell Tower, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., the Bell Tower
Ever wondered what it's like inside the Bell Tower? Now's your only chance to scale the steps and grab the unique view of campus that's only available to you.

HMO, PPD, 401K, 403B: What Do They All Mean?, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Gardner 105
This money management seminar is geared specifically for a new grad's needs and income. Learn about budgeting your new income, investing, taxes and more. This program is part of the Senior Success Series and will include dinner, a business folio and business cards (limit one folio and order of business cards per senior), compliments of the UNC General Alumni Association.

thursday, april 11

Senior Class Last Blast, 5 - 8 p.m., Carmichael Auditorium
You don't want to miss this! We'll have a BBQ dinner with all the trimmings, music, give aways, great door prizes, a giant slide and bouncy boxing. First 200 seniors receive a free T-shirt!

He's Not Here, 10 p.m. - 2 a.m.
A lot of you remember how much fun everyone had at the Senior Class Luau earlier this year. Enjoy another wonderful evening as you reminisce with your friends. \$3 cover charge.

friday, april 12

A Carolina Blue Day, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., the Pit
A beautiful spring day with Carolina Blue cotton candy-does it get any better than this?

saturday, april 13

Players Dance Club, 10 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Seniors are free before 11 p.m. so get here early to see your friends and avoid the lines.



more events seniors shouldn't miss

wednesday, april 17

Concert for a Cure, 6 - 9 p.m., Union Auditorium
Tickets for \$5 will be available in the pit during Senior Week.

For more information, visit seniors.unc.edu or e-mail seniorweek@unc.edu, or call 962-7054

saturday, april 20

Senior Ball, 9:30 p.m. - 2 a.m., Michael Jordan's 23
Gather with fellow seniors for an awesome finish to our senior year. Tickets are \$10 and on sale at the front desk of the Alumni Center from 12 noon - 4 p.m., April 8-19. For more details or to buy tickets online, head to seniors.unc.edu.