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Oh, The Places Collegiate Academy Students Will Go

For years, students of Collegiate Academy have had a reputation for success. Almost everyone who has attended or presently attends the school is familiar with comments along the lines of, "Oh you must be smart!" when they reveal their alma mater.

This praise is not unprecedented. Year after year Collegiate turns out a graduating class where almost all of the students attend college in some form or another. Unfortunately, after these students leave the hallowed halls of Academy, they are rarely heard of again.

So where are these Collegiate alumni now? What are they doing and how have they fared? The answers may surprise you!

Twenty-seven year old Silvana Rabat, from the second graduating class of Collegiate Academy, is one of these success stories. Now the Executive Director of Northwest Regional Technology Institute (NRTI), a private business and medical school where individuals can gain education to begin their career, Rabat oversees the entire organization and commands a faculty of teachers.

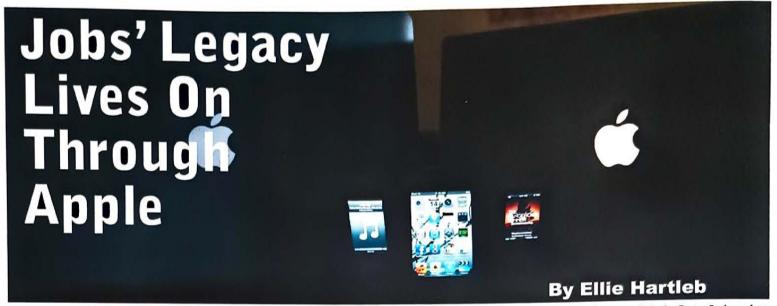
Proud of her accomplishments and responsibilities at such a young age, Rabat appreciates the jump start Collegiate gave her.

Rabat says, "I encourage my faculty members to be the best they can be; to be great teachers. I often reflect on the teaching styles of teachers that I had in the past and encourage my faculty to try some of the techniques that worked for me as a student. Academy gave me first had experience with great teachers in an environment that was conducive to learning."

Little sisters to Silvana, senior Stacy Rabat and sophomore Sandara Rabat, who currently attend Collegiate, can look up to this role model sister. Another impressive story is that of Peter Necastro, older brother of Academy senior Mary Necastro. After graduating from Kenyon College this past spring, Necastro is currently living in Washington D.C. where he does fact checking and research for a well-known columnist named Charles Krauthammer.

Necrasto also values the assistance Collegiate offered in forming his future, he says, "Classes [at Collegiate] went a long way toward training me to work hard and think carefully, both of which are important to do in college and in my current job. My teachers held me to high standards and took the time to convince us of the real importance of what we were learning."

Many Collegiate alumni are successful, and the levels at which they have excelled through college and beyond is definitely impressive. Collegiate students and alumni alike have something to be proud of.



Leaving a legacy was no easy task for Steve Jobs. The legendary Apple co-founder passed away Wed. Oct. 5, leaving behind a family, hundreds of new products and millions of heartbroken Apple users.

Steve Jobs' career as a computer genius began in 1976 in a California garage with help from his friend Stephen Wozniak. Jobs and Wozniak first founded the Apple Company, and then went on to design the Macintosh computer, known today as the Mac. From the Macintosh computer came the MacBook, MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, iMac and a plentiful supply of other desktop models in all sizes.

Jobs did not create the computer; he did not even fathom the concept. Instead, he revolutionized the entire world of technology to make everyone's lives just a little bit easier, one Apple product at a time.

Mr. Chase, a computer teacher at Collegiate, says that, compared to other companies, "All Apple products seem to be especially user friendly" in ways other computers are not.

In addition to completely revolutionizing the way the public uses the computer, Jobs and Apple turned music on its head. The original iPod classic of the early 2000s led to a whole family of iPods that now includes the iPod touch, iPod nano and the iPod shuffle.

"He took it further with the iPod," Chase says, referring to Jobs's success. "He made music more accessible to average people. Before, we used to have those big cassette players."

Most recently, the iPad and iPad 2 were released as a merger between an iPod and MacBook Pro. The iPad 3 is scheduled to release at some point in 2012.

Of course, no one could forget about the iPhone and its subsequent generations: the iPhone reinvented, and possibly even created, the concrete concept of smart technology. With an iPhone, one can look up a word in the dictionary, create a shopping list, lock or unlock a car, shut off the lights in a house, play a game, get directions, check Facebook or partake in countless other activities, all while talking on the phone.

In fact, the phrase, "There's an app for that," has become embedded in today's society, since there really is an app for just about anything.

Thanks to Jobs' overblown perfectionism and creative brilliance, he gathered a loyal company that helped him turn his small computer project into the world-renowned force that is Apple Company, and they are justly proud of their accomplishments: all Apple employees have the title "Genius" on their ID badge.

Mr. Chase thinks Jobs's most significant contribution to technology is his keen perception of what the public wants.

"He kept the consumer in mind, as far as letting the average person be able to work technology," Chase says. "He took technology to a whole new level. You don't have to be a computer geek to use technology."

Through decades of hard work and dedication to his company, Jobs created an Apple legacy that many have grown to actually love; people everywhere have become dependent on Apple technology as it continues to progress and become even more user-friendly.

These days, it is nearly impossible to look around any setting and not see Apple products. Joggers run with iPods. Some schools use iPads in the classroom. Even this article was written on an Apple computer.

Clearly, the Apple Company set new standards for technology that are not only user friendly, but also assist in daily life.

"And no, we don't know where it will lead," said Jobs before his tragic death, referring to his immensely successful company. "We just know there's something much bigger than any of us here."

Education: Apple... & Microsoft... & Fujitsu

children had to worry about carrying on their backs was their necessary survival tools. Today, some students carry ten times that amount in the form of American history, trigonometry, physics and literature textbooks.

alleviate this stress and are moving away from the traditional textbook education and toward technology-based education. Digital textbooks and online resources give students access to the infinite amount of information available to them. A technological focus may appeal to many middle school students when choosing a high school, but does it truly improve the curriculum?

Local schools like Cathedral Prep have been using laptops in classrooms for years; these "preptops" have become part of the culture of the school. Recently when the school merged with Villa Maria Academy, the girls at the school adopted Prep's techeducation programs and received laptops, adding another dynamic to the Villa education.

Just this school year the schools announced that they will be replacing their Fujitsu laptops with Apple iPads, posing the the rest of us falling behind?

Look Japan, "Currently, science it was not the most important asand technology are described as the engine for sustaining the development of societies and to traditional studying technique, the driving force in the develop-Many schools have tried to ment of mankind's future."

> role in education, however its agree. role in the classroom lacks a definitive sense of clarity.

gan Yezzi says, "In no way, unfortunately, do I use my laptop to study. I always find myself medieval methods of note cards. Also, typing the notes and not a pen and paper."

Collegiate Even some Academy students who are given the opportunity to use school idea that writing out homework and reading through text books is still the best way to learn.

Academy sophomore Da- not used." kota Palmer says, "Although I quently, I learn best when I write out problems and copy notes with a pen and paper. The idea not become obsolete just yet.

Centuries ago, the only thing question to other schools: are of having laptops sparked my interest while I was picking a high According to O. Satoru in school, but in the end I realized pect of my choice."

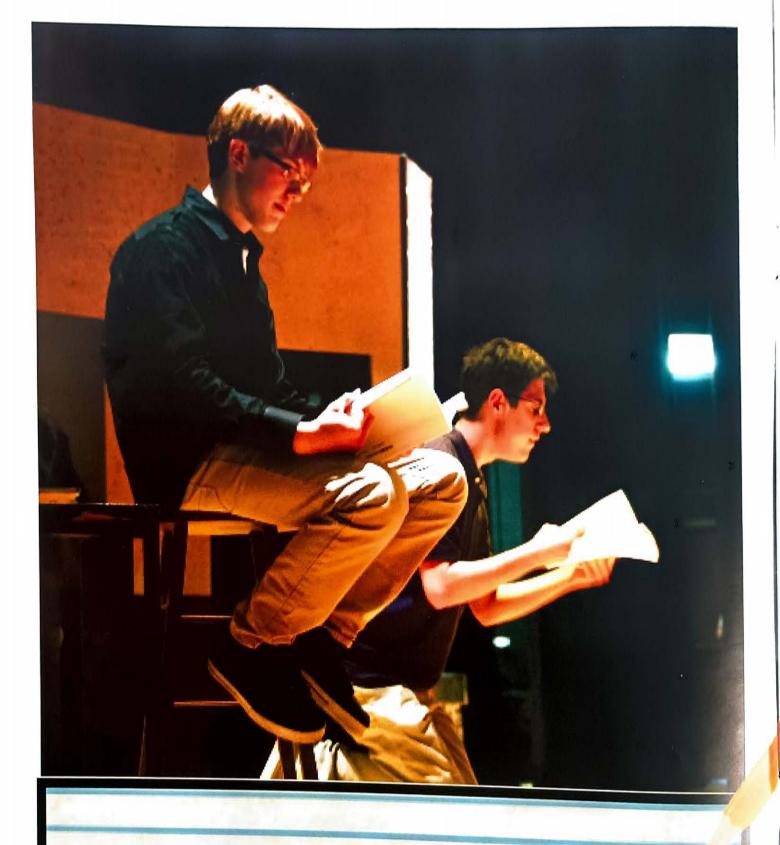
In addition to reverting back some students think that the laptops can pose a distraction dur-Technology plays a vital ing the school day, and teachers

Yezzi says, "The laptops are a distraction in the classroom. Cathedral Prep junior Mor- Microsoft Outlook, the internet, and Tetris take away from the learning experience."

Villa Maria Academy jugoing back to my grade school nior Emily Luteran agrees with Yezzi.

She says, "I don't think my handwriting them does not en- education would have been much force the information as well as different without laptops just because I do not use my laptop in every class; it is mostly used as a supplementary tool for research, projects, and note taking. They district laptops agree with the definitely help to get on the spot research and work done quickly, but I do not think it would change the Villa education if they were

Although technology plays love technology and use it fre- a very strong roll in education today, the massive textbooks, notebooks and loose leaf paper have



Break a Leg!

Theatre Club Unmasked

By Autumn Parker

Collegiate Academy students music and dance. are always on the go, running from class to class, stressing out over homework and projects. One would wonder how these students release stress or find an outlet to have fun.

stress is such a Since word here at common Academy, students take part in extracurricular activities that help some eliminate such as stress, wonderful the Theatre Club.

Collegiate Academy's Theatre Club is one of the most celebrated clubs in the school. Students from all walks of life try out each year for the numerous plays that Collegiate Academy showcases. Collegiate Academy usually puts on three plays a year: two musicals and one improvisation.

currently Mr.Tryzbiak is the theatre teacher and play producer. Tryzbiak also receives help from music teacher Mrs. Huster, band director Mr.Collanti and dance teacher Mrs. Hughes when casting and producing

These

veterans forward to the shows and know what to expect.

Junior Julia Kemp, who was the lead role, Audrey, in Little Shop of Horrors, says she previously was only

largely involved in the theatre Many Academy students have department I would check it been involved in plays for years. out. The theatre program here look is very welcoming; it's different because so many unique and diversetalents can be collaborated in the productions. Many

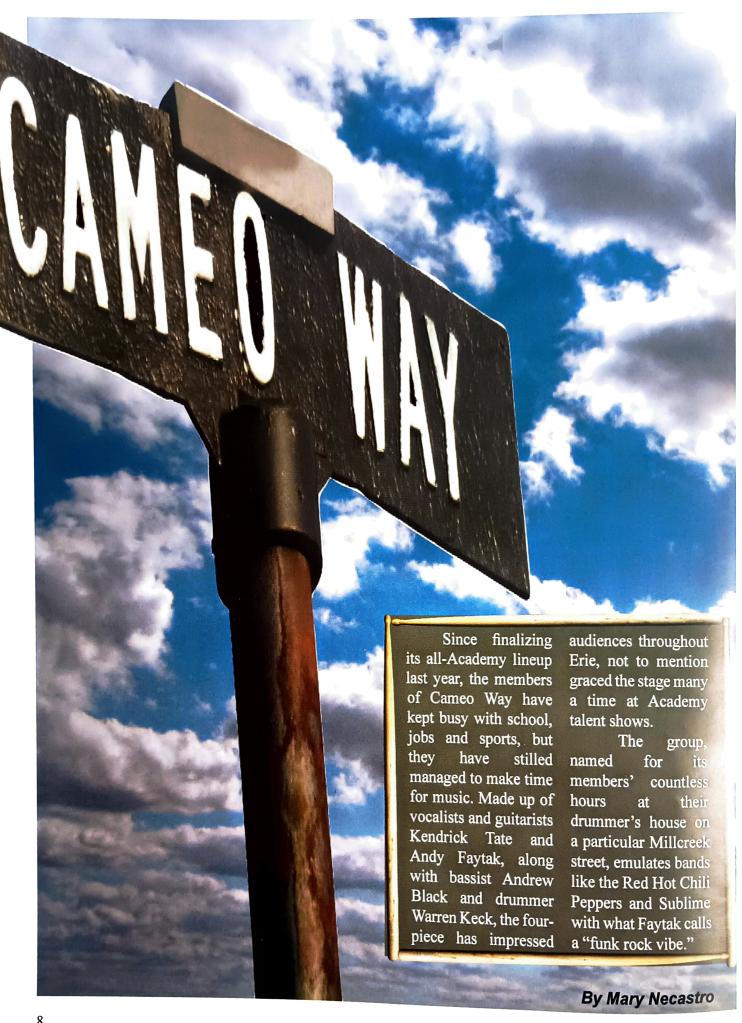
contributions can be made that allow people to feel welcomed and appreciated. Plus, I made many friends."



involved in the vocal department, which later led her to join the theatre department.

Kemp says, "I figured since department was vocal the

So, if you're looking for a club where you can release stress by acting out a different character, dancing or singing your head off, then theatre is the club to join!



According to Tate, Cameo Way practices "a pretty simple and laid-back process" when they write songs.

Tate continues, "I just spend hours on my guitar jamming. I'll start on a random chord, solo on a certain scale, and progress by adding more and more parts like strumming patterns and chord progressions. Then everybody contributes his part and we make it a song."

But the work does not stop there for these four seniors. Even after songs are

written, they are never set in stone.

"We all do a lot of improvisation within written songs. We'll create solos and occasionally riffs on the spot," says
Faytak.

Songwriting only is one dimension of Way, Cameo though. Their favorite aspect being in the band is performing live. The group looks forward to taking the stage every chance they get. whether

it is at school events or around town.

Faytak says, "Live performances are the best. They give you a great adrenaline rush and all your nerves melt away when you're on stage."

As of now, much of the group's



available on YouTube, but they are hoping to get some studio time soon so that they can begin selling their music.

Forced to prioritize,
Tate admits, "Music isn't
really the number one priority
for us, but when we do make
it the most important, we put
all of our combined efforts
into it and make it sound as
good as possible."

It is not about fulfilling dreams of making it big for Cameo Way. Instead, they

the simplicity of playing good music alongside good friends.

enjoy

"We just genuinely like to play music together. We like to make and perform music that other people will enjoy," says Black. "It's really exciting to play music and have other people just genuinely enjoy what
we're
playing."

Keck agrees, saying,

Keck agrees, saying, "There's nothing like grooving with other musicians. The feeling of getting lost in the music and going on a musical adventure is almost unparalleled."

No matter how far Cameo Way's adventure takes them, Academy is glad to go along for the ride.





CADENCE

By Abby Hallmark

The performing arts are a very prominent aspect of Collegiate Academy, and one very successful branch of the arts is dance. Academy, unlike any other high school in the Erie School District, not only offers dance education, but also has its own dance company.

CADENCE (the Collegiate Academy Dance Ensemble) began in 2004 and originally was formed so students could practice and learn dance combinations a few days a week after school. In 2009-2010 the school year, CADENCE

year course.

CADENCE is open to any student who auditions, but most of its members are dancers who

wish to receive advanced training and techniques.

Ms. Hughes, instructor of all of the dance courses at Collegiate and founder CADENCE, received her Bachelor's Degree of arts at Point Park University, then went on to achieve her Master's Degree of fine arts in performance and dance education at The Ohio State University.

Currently, CADENCE has 22 members with a

wide variety of talents and who have experience from many Erie dance schools, such as Long's School of Dance, Ashley Demarco's Dance Center and many more.

Junior Danielle Luback says, "I have been dancing for 14 years at Paula and Judy's Dance and Acrobatic Connection. I enjoy CADENCE because all of the members come from different studios with different knowledge of dance styles."

At one time, any high school student in the Erie School District could opt to have dance training in SPAVA, School of Performing and Visual Arts, which was a program similar to CADENCE. Unfortunately, the district terminated the course in 2008.

Members of CADENCE receive several lucky opportunities

became a full

to expand their dance education outside of the school. Members of the Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theater, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and Dafmark Dance Theater have all visited the group to teach.

Nicole Dovishaw, Collegiate graduate of 2011 and former member of CADENCE, says, "I loved taking master classes with outside professionals. I enjoyed learning different styles of dance I was not used to. The classes were intense, but they showed me what professional dancing would be like."

CADENCE and the other performing arts truly are a window to the soul; these programs have given many students the opportunity to realize their true potential.

Previous CADENCE members such as Michael Velez who graduated in 2006, Ashley Parker, class of 2009, and Keyanna Clark, class of 2010, have gone on to peruse college dance majors. Michael Velez recently graduated in 2010 from the Performing Arts University in Philadelphia with a Bachelor's degree of fine arts in dance.

in the Collegiate Academy community; they have performed numerous times in school functions and assemblies, including the Collegiate open house, spring dance showcase, vocal jazz concert and the 2011 theatrical production of Maritime Mayhem Murder Mystery Dinner Theater.

The Collegiate student body is not CADENCE's only audience though. They travel and perform at events and places within



Athletes at Academy: Dominate their Homeschools

By Stephanie Peck

Sports players take pride in their teams: they wear their jerseys on game days, sit with all of their teammates at lunch

and walk with their

people don't know is that 25 percent of the students at Academy also play sports.

Schools such as Central Tech (CT) and Strong Vincent (SV) get a majority of their players

from

Academy, and
use the school to
recruit new players
every year.
A majority of

SV's and CT's basketball, baseball and softball players also come from Academy.

Many of these athletes admit that if they wouldn't have gotten accepted to Academy then they would have attended a different school than the one they currently play for.

Varsity
basketball
player for
SV, Emma

Verdecchia admits that she would have gone to

Mercyhurst.
Chris

Lilly, the starting

second

basema for SV 2130

admits that he would have gone

to Mercyhurst.

If Academy
had its own
sports teams

then many of

the city schools would have a difficult time fielding a team.

cliques

through the halls. But what happens when the team you play for isn't the same school you go to?

Collegiate Academy takes pride in their academics, but what many



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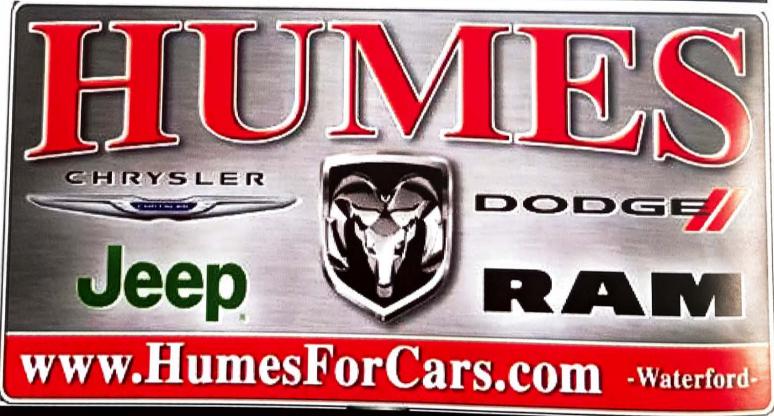
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Channel Surfing Wip

by Mary NeCastro

The days of flipping through TV channels to find something to watch may soon be over. Digital video recorders (DVRs) are teaming up with programs like Hulu and Netflix to provide a new way to think about television.

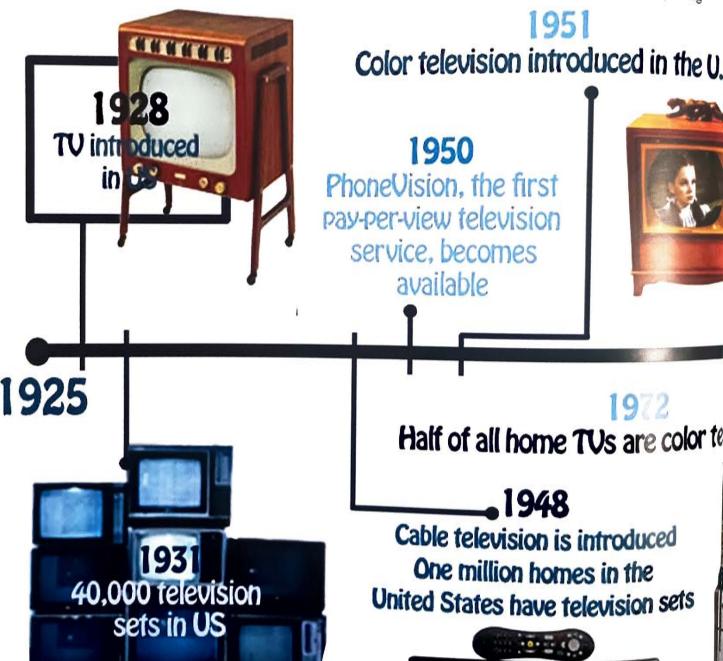
Since more and more boob-tubers are no longer willing to wait for their favorite shows to air, they are migrating to more instant ways to watch. According to a Neilson study, online video usage went up 45 percent from 2010 to 2011, and the upward trend will most likely continue, because people cannot deny the convenience of watching exactly what they want, right when they want.

This convenience of demand-and-watch programming is

digging a grave for television providers who are not willing to adapt. But many providers are not going down without a fight. With features like Time Warner's On Demand, Dish Network and Blockbusters' Movie Pass and countless DVR services, providers are coming up with their own ways to let viewers watch their favorite titles instantly.

Still, these options usually have more limitations and fewer titles to pick from than the online options. Not to mention, most television-on-demand programs are only available with an entire cable or satellite packages.

On the contrary, Netflix offers over 20000 titles to watch instantly and the recent Hulu Plus program provides entire series of many shows, including currently-airing



s Out

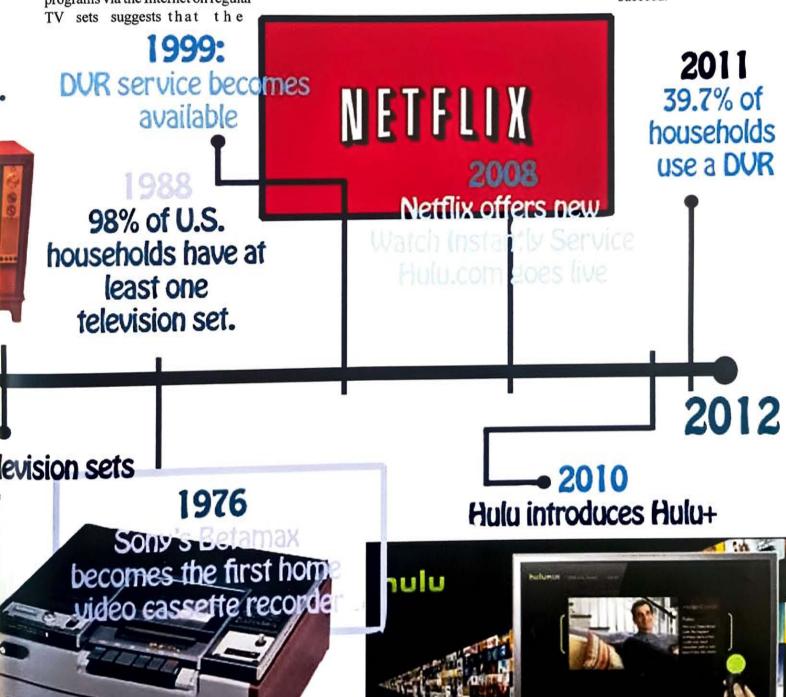
seasons. It also doesn't hurt that they both are available via common devices, like game consoles and Blu-ray players, so that viewers are not confined to using their 14-inch laptop screens. And with subscriptions for around ten dollars a month, theses programs are swaying people away from their sometimes bulky, expensive cable and satellite packages.

These instant programs are paving a whole new direction for television everywhere. Why not combine it with all of the content of the World Wide Web to give people everything they could want to watch all in one place?

"The small but notable level of people watching TV programs via the Internet on regular

convergence of the two screens for mainstream audiences may finally be on the horizon," said David Tice, vice president and Group Account Director at Knowledge Networks.

Netflix and Hulu Plus may be the trailblazers here, but they are not alone on the path. Companies like Sony and Samung are releasing new televisions purposed for more than just television by offering content from the web. As the technology becomes more available and less expensive, programs that allow users to watch shows instantly and surf the web on their TVs are bound to become more common. And with their inviting convenience, they are destined to succeed.



Iwo Can Keep a Secre

by Nancy Verdecchia

deepest,

Think of your deepest, darkest secret.

Got it?

Now imagine admitting it to your parents, your sister, your brother or your best frie

Just the thought of releasing your innern confessions is in no way easy.

Think of that secret one more time, but this imagine putting it in the hands of the Intern

Before you dismiss the thought, imagine no one knowing that the owner of the secret is you.



India Uncove

BY MAGGIE TARASOVITCH

After walking into a small, nondescript building, an Indian citizen sits down at a tiny desk. He looks into a machine that he has never seen, and there is a large flash, and an official asks him to place both hands on yet another unknown machine and asks his name, birth date and family history, questions that most Indian citizens have little or no answers to.

This whole process can take anywhere from 15 to 30 minutes but can have life-changing effects.

For the first time ever, India will begin to identify 1.2 billion of its own people who have remained unnoticed by their government for centuries. By utilizing the latest technological advances, India's Unique Identification project has begun to process thousands of citizens' information into a government database.

Previous attempts failed; however, in 2009, India's parliament decided to try again using a new biometrically based system. Specialists are considering this one of the most difficult technological and complex projects ever attempted.

Each individual person who participates in the project will have their own file which consists of all ten finger prints, both iris scans and all the available information, adding up to four or eight megabytes, according to *Wired* magazine.

All of the accounts and the additional quality control system create a database of nearly 20 petabytes, making itself 128 times larger than the Department of Homeland Security's data base, which is currently the largest in the world.

In order to facilitate this difficult process, the Indian government has employed a new leader for the project, appropriating power beyond their own government officials.

Nadan Nilekani started as a software engineer when he cofounded Infosys, building a corporation that now employs 130,000 people. Known as the "Bill Gates of Bangalore," Nilekani is a Ted-talker, bestselling author, one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people and now the face of hope in India's identification project.

"You have a whole mass of people who are shut out of society," Nilekani said. "A lack of identity is a big source of exclusion. [By incorporating everyone into one system] you're giving them a key to social services."

The 'whole mass of people' in actual numbers equals about 400 million who have no form of identification in India.

The supporters and founders of the project hope to eventually eradicate the corruption, poverty and welfare issues India has been struggling with for years.

Junior Nikitha Rai's grandparents lived in India most of their lives and have told Rai over the years about the country. "Stopping the corruption is a big problem," says Rai. "Laws are just not being enforced."

According to an article on the *Wall Street Journal*'s website, there are over 43,000 ration shops available for the Indian people to receive their government subsidized food.

At one shop alone, the government was giving enough food for 330 families. After officials implemented the ID finger print scanners, only 203 families were actually eligible to receive welfare. Officials suspect the owners of the shop were creating fake families and selling the extra food on the black market.

Rai says, "The [identification numbers] will get aid to the people who need it most, especially the children."

The project will also open numerous doors to millions of Indians who were previously nonexistent. According to *Wired* magazine, in India today less than half of the households have a bank account. Most people are left hiding whatever money they can earn under beds or in pillow cases.

Proof of identification will allow those wishing to store savings in a bank the security to do so. All of the new money flooding into the banks is projected to add millions of dollars to the Indian financial system.

These people will now have access to loans to pay for housing or their children's' education.

Yet, not all the people of India are in favor of the new system.

Some critics of the project are very skeptical due to many neglected issues, including the budget of the project. The budget has recently risen from about \$1.4 billion to almost \$3.7 billion. Officials have added additional costs, an estimated \$1.6 billion, in order to standard a National Population Register.

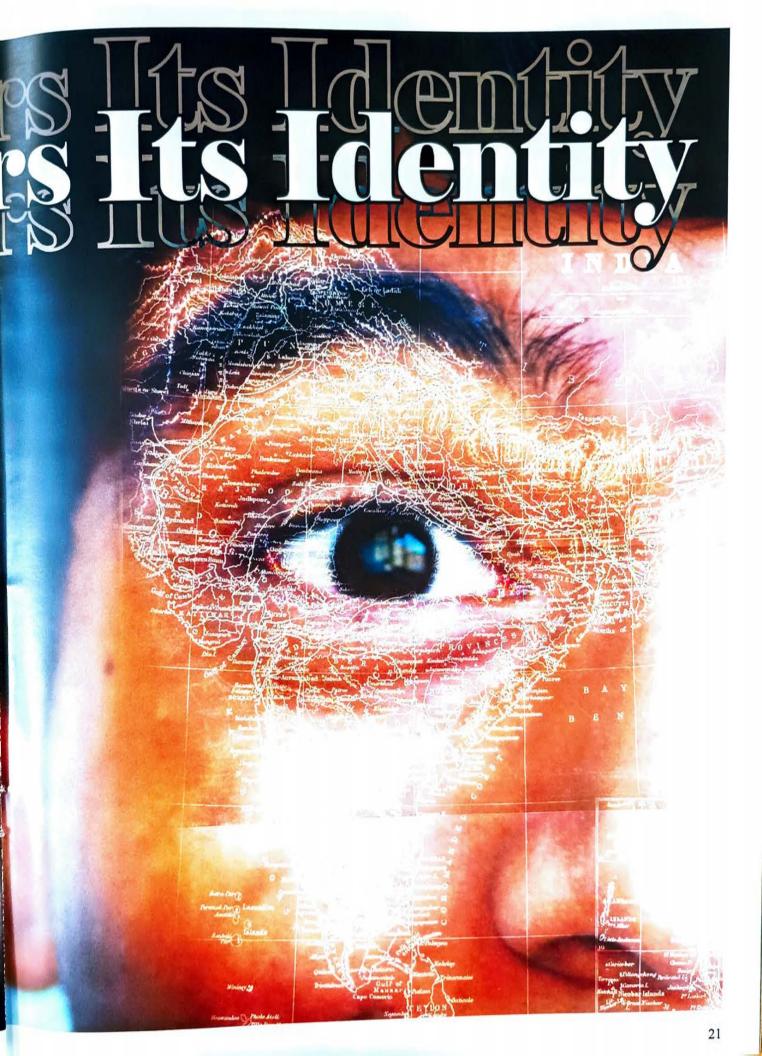
Aside from the price of the equipment, quality is also an assurance looking to take advantage of the system could fool some use scanners with a very high quality photo or fool the finger scanners as lifting finger prints from almost anything another person touches.

Another issue is just how much information the government is collecting from each person. Civil liberty groups because the government is over-stepping their boundaries, even though the consist voluntary.

In order to help relieve some of the worry, Nilekani has written out a legislative bill to the Indian parliament asking them to ensure that all information "is secured and protected against any loss or unauthorized access." Any violators of the bill would serve years in prison.

As for all the technological concerns, Nilekani replied that 10 years ago, no one would have believed "there would be 700 million mobile phones in this country today."

Despite opposition, the *New York Times* reports, over 31 million numbers had been generated as of Sept. 1, 2011. Officials project the ability to collect 100 million requests for information per day in less than five years.



CENSORING PAKISTAN

By Michael Sorensen

Pakistanis who enjoy text messaging from their mobile phones may be in for a bit of a surprise. On Nov. 13, 2011, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) announced that it will begin censoring text messages that contain words considered to be profane.

The PTA released a list of about 1,500 words and phrases that they consider to be inappropriate for Pakistanis to be including in their daily telecommunications.

The words and phrases, which have been placed on the list, range from blatantly inappropriate to just obscure. The list contains many phone companies were to begin censoring the thousands of selected words sev-

en days after the order was issued in Nov. Despite the order's specific guidelines, logistically, the order was nearly impossible to carry out and some Pakistanis could still use many of the banned words into early 2012. had the authority to limit Pakistani's free speech because it is in the "interest of the glory of Islam." The PTA's claimed defense of Islam and the fact that "Jesus Christ" is amongst the list of banned words and phrases have called attention to the cultural implications in respect to Pakistan's modern advancements

إذا كان يمكنك أن تقرأ هذا، يمكنك قراءة اللغة العربية

Pakistan's censorship has sparked outrage from human rights advocates who are dismayed by the Pakistani government's suppres-

like text messaging.

Many Pakistanis have all pointed out that the order unnersarily bans many words. For example, any word containing "ass" such as "assumption" is censored, even though it is neither profane nor offensive to Islam.

With this latest foreign example of censorship, many Americans find it difficult to imagine a life where their daily messages would be censored by the government.

Pakistan has been through a turbulent decade, whether it has been

إذا *CENSORED* أن تقرأ هذا، يمكنك قراءة اللغة العربية

harmless words and phrases like, "flatulence," "idiot" and "butt." However, some of the more inappropriate, banned phrases are extremely sexual and too obscene to be printed in this story.

Muhammad Talib Doger, director of the PTA says that all cell sion of free speech. Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression, however, prohibits blasphemy against Islam.

Doger claims that the mobile watchdog with the overflow of violence from neighboring country, Afghanistan. Pakistan has also been condemned by the international community about its blasphemy laws and when viewed from a Western perspective, radical religious policies.

In 2010, a Christian, Pakistani woman, Asia Bibi, was sentenced to death by hanging for arguing with her neighbor about Muhammad, the prophet of Islam. Bibi was sentenced to death because the Pakistani Courts claimed that by arguing about Muhammad she had committed blasphemy against Islam.

Many foreign policy experts have noted that the Western world's criticism of Pakistan is the embodiment of increasingly tense relations between Pakistan and countries like the United States.

Pakistan's relationship with the United States has suffered a great deal since the spring of 2011 when US Navy SEALs entered Pakistan to assassinate the leader of al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden. Many Americans were outraged that Osama bin

Laden was able to hide in Pakistan and blamed the Pakistani government for not assisting the US in locating the most wanted man in the world. Pakistan's government has increased its anti-US rhetoric and attitude while many in the US have called for all foreign aid to Pakistan to be cut off.

Regardless of Pakistan's relations with the Western world, the Middle Eastern, Islamic republic may soon face problems internally.

The Arab Spring government overthrows have spread across the Middle East like wild fire and the use of technological advances like social networking, text messaging and email have aided the cause of the revolutionaries greatly. It is possible that the Pakistani government has begun taking steps to control the population through restrictions, like censorship, to avoid having a significant challenge to their rule.

Although the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are on the down turn for the time being, it does not seem that Pakistan's future will be any less turbulent any time soon.

PAKISTAN BY THE NUMBERS

179 million people live in Pakistan

115 million people have mobile phones

67% of the population use mobile phones

8th greatest number of mobile phones in the world

Source: PTA, 2011





⊥n a cyber world where ridiculous acronyms, extraneous letter usage and misused punctuation seem to reign supreme, defenders of the English language are looking to guide the wary souls who use these torturous tactics back

into the light... ASAP.

Ever since acronyms enabled us to BRB and LOL, teenage grammar standards have said TTYL. Grammar has become a thing of the past online and in the fast-paced lives of teens, grammar did not even have enough time to say GTG.

tion, body, and signature or it is as if they Juniors Cheyenne grammar, Moore and Nikitha share Ms. Grimsby's passion for we are lost. grammar. They see the disrespect to the

grammar gods that occurs when teenagers decide to make up their own unintelligible lingo. Not only that, but they do not see why some students take extra time to type out tOgGlE cAsE wOrDs and extra letterssssss.

never came."

Menon

Moore says, "I am not saying I do not use ridiculous chatspeak

lingo once in a while; we all do. However, I think it is ridiculous that people are willing to type out ten more letters than what is needed for each word."

Menon agrees. She says, "Srsly, how long duz it take 2 type out full wordz? It takes even longer to type extra punctuation marks and use extra letters for emphasissss. Why can we not all come to appreciate the sacred value of a well-written MLA-approved sentence?"

Moore adds, "Maybe I am just too lazy to put this much effort into a Facebook status or a tweet, but don't people have better things to do than replace all of their g's

with q's?"

sen-

and

Comma usage has also presented a massive controversy amongst grammarphiliacs such as Ms.

Grimsby.

Ms. Grimsby says, "There is a universe of rules about how commas should be used and I believe it is the job of grade school teachers to teach their students how to use them. I think teachers should be sent out to a place in the desert to learn how to properly use commas so by the time their students reach my class, they will be fluent in comma usage."

Such a small punctuation mark

can pack a lot of punch.

Ms. Grimsby says, "I recently saw this picture on Facebook which displayed the importance of com-

usage. ma first picture said "Let's eat, Grandma!" and the secsaid ond eat Grandma!" By omitting the comma, it looks like we have become a nation of cannibals."

Some men live by the philoso,

phy "Not all who wander are lost." Although some students have wandered from the strict rules of grammar and punctuation that many have come to know and love, perhaps they should ponder Livinia Maude Grimsby's philosophy, "Without grammar, we are lost."

The Death of the Letter

Dear Collegiate Academy,

It is not often that you see a piece of writing opened this way anymore, with a proper salutation. This is because personal letters have become passé. There is a reason that the harbingers of bills, catalogs and junk mail are no longer referred to as letter carriers - there are simply no more letters to be carried.

The reason that modern modes of communication such as e-mail and text message have become so popular (and consequentially left the traditional letter format in the dust) is that they are so easy to use. An e-mail can be typed up in minutes and sent to the other side of the world in seconds. An idea takes only an instant to be entered onto a piece of virtual paper and whisked away to its recipient.

The price of such amenities, though, is that the sincerity formerly found in letters must be

sacrificed for mere technological convenience.

Because e-mail, instant and text messaging are so quick and easy, people do not often put much thought into content. Nobody bats an eye when they open a text message and see the common abbreviation "lol." Chances are, though, that the sender was not laughing when the acronym was typed. "lol" has gone from meaning "laugh out loud," to "I have

nothing more to add to this conversation."

Writing a letter, on the other hand, forces the writer to think about content. One would not write a simple "lol" in the body of a letter. One might instead say, "I sniggered quietly to myself," or, "I laughed until milk was coming out of my nose," or "I laughed so loudly and obnoxiously that everyone within hearing distance turned to look at me, with

expressions ranging from mildly concerned to quizzical to absolutely horrified."

A letter is a very personal thing. When people write letters, they put time and effort into their words. Students reading The Essay connection may recognize the words of Ernest Hemingway: "[1] rewrote the ending of A Farewell to Arms, the last page of it, thirty-nine times before I was satisfied," he says, explaining that he was simply "getting the words right." It would of course be remiss to hold the average student up to Hemingway's standards, but it is still worth noting that the text format is far too abrupt to allow room for such revisions.

Texting can be an indelicate affair, to say the least. In a moment of heated anger, anyone might text something that they later regret. People tend not to think about the repercussions of their words when they can send them on their way in a matter of seconds. Texting does not allow for a cooling off period, a chance for people to carefully weigh their words and actions before putting them into effect.

The object of this letter is not to convince everybody to put down their phones and

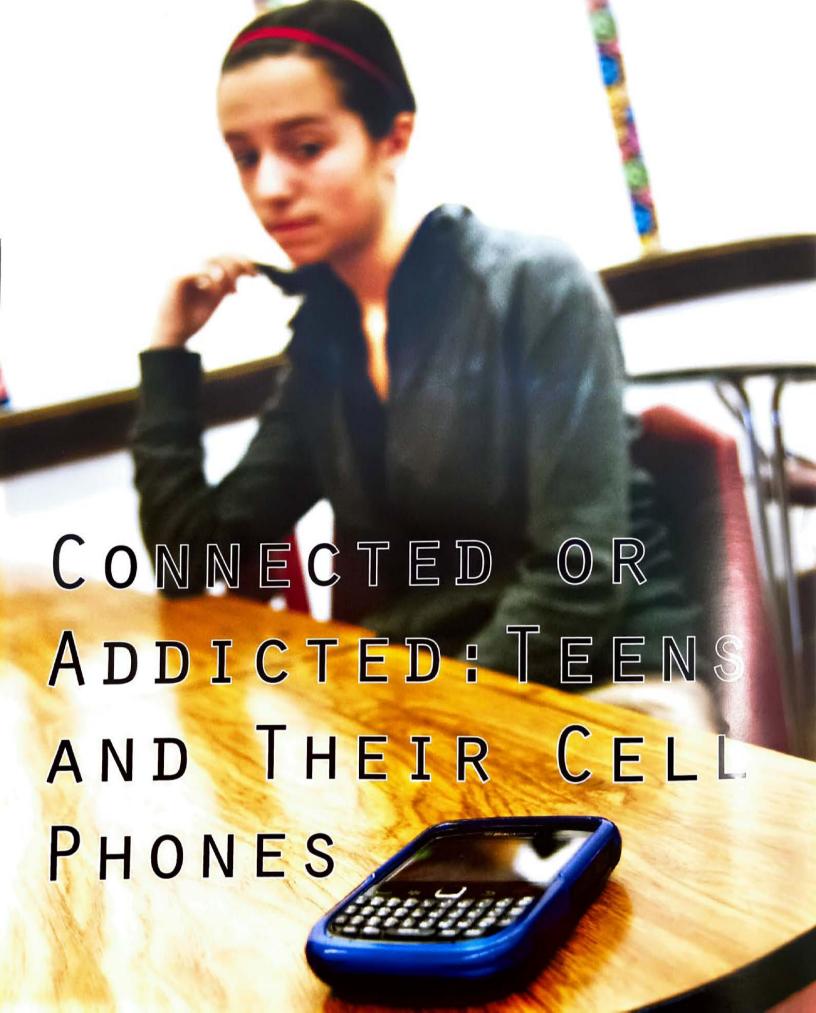
quit texting forever, nor should the entire population take up their pens and pencils and begin writing letters to all of their friends. People would do well, however, to stop texting every once in a while, to perhaps give someone a call, maybe even to stop over and talk to a friend

face to face.

Sitting down to write a letter every now and again will not kill anyone, and the fact is that people genuinely enjoy receiving letters. They get excited when they check their mailboxes in the morning and find something that is not a bill, or a catalog or an advertisement, but a letter, addressed to them in a familiar hand.

sincerely,

Jessica Reed



_{By} Alexa Snarski

Since the invention of the cellphone, the power of handheld super-gadgets has grown immensely - gone are the days of simple phone calls. Cellphones are extremely useful; however, many think they are

taking over Americans' lives, especially the lives of teenagers.

According to a study done by the University of Granada, four out of five of the world's teenagers today have cell phones, and 40 percent of those teens use their cell phones for more than four hours a day.

Though cell phones may seem to be every teen's savior, from their ability to social network to the net of protection they create, cell phone dependency may creating more problems than solutions. Due to the increased appeal of the latest developments in cell phone technology, including internet access, screens touch and applications. excessive cell phone usage can now actually considered an

addiction. Instead of cigarettes and alcohol, teens are becoming obsessed with their cell phones.

This addiction might seem harmless enough, except when people stop to consider the latest statistics on texting while driving, the downgrade of human to human contact and all other symptoms of addiction.

The Seattle Times recently performed a study on teen texting while driving. When asked, 50 percent of teen drivers said that they have talked on their cell phone while driving and one third of those drivers

"ACCORDING TO A STUDY DONE BY THE UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA, FOUR OUT OF FIVE OF THE WORLD'S TEENAGERS TODAY HAVE CELL PHONES, AND 40 PERCENT OF THOSE TEENS USE THEIR CELL PHONES FOR MORE THAN FOUR HOURS A DAY."

claim they have texted while driving. When one teenager was asked what he thought about texting while driving, he said, in quite a blasé fashion, "It is fine. I wear sunglasses so the cops do not see my eyes looking down."

Texting while driving is, in fact, more dangerous than drunk driving. When a person drives drunk, their reaction time is

four times slower than that of a sober person. When a person texts and drives, their reaction time is reduced by a shocking 16 times.

Another side effect of teen cell phone dependency is a decrease of human-to-

decrease of human-tohuman contact. In another recent study, researchers found that most teens spend almost the same amount of time talking to people as they do texting people. This proves that many teens believe that cell phones are the key to their social lives.

Many teens cannot hold a simple conversation without checking their phones at least once. It seems that this is becoming more and more phones common. Cell even interrupt dates; it is not unusual to hear the buzzing of cell phones while at dinner or with a significant other.

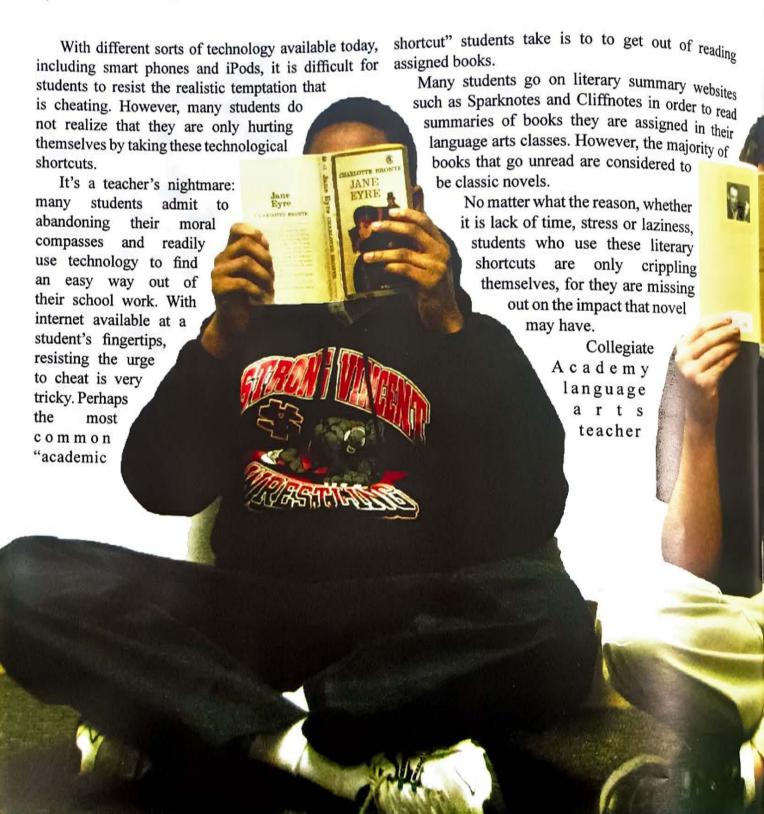
For many teenagers, cell phones have become lifelines. Teens often feel lost or depressed if their cell phones are not in reach.

Sophomore Genna Zdunski says, "I feel like I have no way to contact people. I feel like I do not know what to do." She also says that she spends at least as much time texting people as she does actually talking to them.

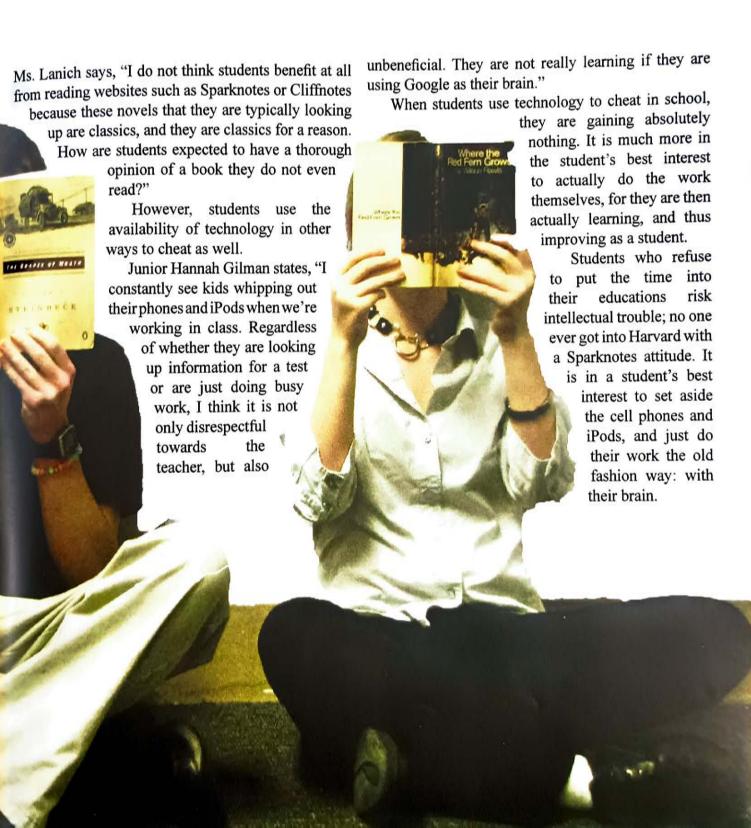
Cell phones may make some areas of a teenager's life easier, but the constant buzzing and ringing is hurting today's teens.

Advancements in Technology Disinterest

By Anne McMaster



logy Spark Educational n Students



MODERN PIRATES:

Teens Plunder the World Wide Web

By Amanda Salvia



However, there might be some truth to those old notions: most teenagers are criminals, and the crimes are as close as their back pockets. Music piracy may be the fastest-growing forbidden phenomenon for teens since rock 'n roll.

The father of the phenomenon is Napster, a company that's a mere flicker in the memory of today's teens and an outright taboo in the music industry. Founded in 1998 by 19 year old college dropout Shawn Fanning, Napster was the very first peer-topeer file sharing site. Its audience of broke college students loved it; it enjoyed wild, short-lived success until none other than metal band Metallica pulled the plug, stopping the music and suing Fanning after listeners leaked their latest single onto the site.

Napster opened the door for a plethora of sketchy file-sharing sites such as Limewire, Frostwire and MediaFire.

One Collegiate Academy senior used to use

Limewire to supplement her iTunes library, but stopped because the program gave her computer viruses. Instead, she found a "safer" way to get her kicks offline, right under the Recording Industry Association of America's noses.

"When I got a new computer, I started using an FLV converter, which converts YouTube videos to audio files. It's a safer way to download," she says.

YouTube is quickly becoming the easiest way to download music directly from the Internet; finding free FLV converters are only a Google search away, and there is virtually no way for the RIAA to track users. It's great for the listeners, but it's misery 37% of music acquired by U.S. citizens in 2009 was

for paid for.

industry: according

to the RIAA we bsite, between 1999 and

2009, music sales in the U.S. have dropped a staggering

47 percent, from \$14.6 billion to \$7.7 billion.

Most teenagers pirate music out of financial necessity.

"Before I got a job, I just couldn't

Recording
Industry
Association of
America

billion songs were illegally downloaded from 2004 through 2009

because I downloaded the se Machine album

new Florence + the Machine album online."

A third senior agrees. "The artists don't really get that much money from sales proceeds, so I don't feel

too guilty about stealing."

This third senior has been using downloading site Torrent for years. She's got an impressive 13,000 illegally downloaded songs in her

"I'LL BUY SONGS TO BOOST SALES
OF BANDS THAT NEED THE MONEY,
UNSIGNED BANDS AND UNPOPULAR
ONES. BUT I DOUBT JUSTIN BIEBER'S
REALLY GOING TO MISS MY \$1.29."

afford to buy music. I mean, iTunes raised their prices, so most of the songs I'm interested in are \$1.29. I didn't have an income, so the only way I got new music was the Internet."

Another senior qualifies that she only downloads music illegally by artists who don't need her money.

"I mean, I'll buy songs to boost sales of bands that need the money, unsigned bands and unpopular ones. But I doubt Justin Bieber's really going to miss my \$1.29."

Realizing how harsh she sounds, she quickly says, "I do feel sort of bad about stealing my music. But I don't think some illegal downloads are going to make-or-break the industry. I mean, it's not like Apple is going to collapse library.

When asked if she worries about viruses, she laughed. "It's already screwed up my computer. That didn't stop me!"

Then she added nervously, "Hey, can we keep this anonymous? Because we've been nearly been caught before..."

If caught, standard legal procedure charges downloaders up to \$750 dollars per song, which means that this eighteen-year-old risks jail time and a \$9,750,000 fine if the RIAA ever decided to track her computer.

It's probably easier to just pay Justin Bieber that \$1.29.

Girls Struggle

Since the evolution of the media, teenagers, especially teenage girls, have struggled with self-image issues. Everyone wants to be society's definition of perfect. However, this notion is raising unhealthy teenagers; between 2.5 and 4 percent of teenagers have eating disorders. Perfection is an unattainable, unrealistic and undesirable goal.

All girls have a different definition of what it means to be perfect. The Merriam Webster dictionary defines perfect to be "being entirely without fault or defect." It is human nature to be flawed, whether by freckles, big ears or an unappealing personality. By very definition, a person cannot be perfect. Most guys do not even want a girl who is could be defined as perfect. As popular rapper Drake says in his hit song "Best I Ever Had," "sweat pants, hair tied, chillin' with no makeup on/ That's when you're the prettiest/ I hope you don't take it wrong."

Girls should not be so self conscious about how they look because no un man wants a girl who is constantly stressed

four percent of

respondents were

in consensus that most

girls their age use social

networking sites to make

themselves look cooler than

they are, with 41 percent

admitting that this

online enhancement

was applicable to

them."

about how she looks.

Teenage girls believe that to be perfect they have look to part the by having sun tanned thin skin, waistlines and effortlessbeauty; essentially,

feel the need to look
the way guys want them to
look, like a flawless supermodel. What

they fail to realize is that all models are different, and not all of them have the general look that men want.

Deborah Arthurs, author of

Gentlemen DON'T Prefer Men What Blondes: REALLY Want is a Brownhaired, Blue-eyed Size 14 Woman says, "Actually, the largest majority - 38.8 percent of guys - looked for an 'average' dress size of 8 to 10 in their perfect woman, with only 10 percent looking for a size 2 to 4. Women with a 'curvy' dress size of 10 to 12 came in as the second most popular size - proof indeed that while magazines fill their pages with skinny models, UK males actually prefer a more rounded build. Unsurprisingly though, men do have a limit. To be too curvy was deemed unpopular, with only 4.2 percent

cent expressing
a preference for
women size 14
plus."

Photoshop and allow people to only see what they want them to see Maybe it's Maybelline, or maybe it's Photoshop. On the internet, it is nearly



Facebook

has become a place for girls to edit all of their pictures before posting them. They are able to use

Jean Kilbourne, the wontan in charge of the "Killing Us Softy"

ith Unattainable Goal

series explains, "You almost never see a photograph of a woman considered beautiful that hasn't been Photoshopped."

imperfections from her face, making her skin appear flawless. She also may take off some of her so called "extra skin" and make herself look

thinner than her normal. healthy weight. Once that is insecure to me. From done. personal experience, the s h e changes most beautiful people I thecolor know don't wear makeup scheme enhance her features. And finally. she uploads it to the social networking site.

Photoshop also gives boys the impression that girls can appear perfect, considering that is what they see on Facebook. This creates the impression that girls have to look flawless, which in turn sends the message to girls that they have to be perfect.

Shakthi Jothianandan. author of "Should Teens Be Wary of Social Media," "Seventy-four says, percent of respondents were in consensus that most girls their age use social networking sites to make themselves look cooler than they are, with 41 percent admitting that this online enhancement

was applicable to them."

Kilbourne discusses how woman compare themselves to models altered By Emma Verdecchia

by Photoshop. Kilbourne says, "So the image isn't real; it's artificial. it's constructed.

"Girls

who feel

the need to look

perfect all the time

come off as really

and are gorgeous in

whatever they're

wearing."

real women and girls measure ourselves against this image every single day." A 1 1 girls have different opinions why some girls always have to look

pretty.

Sophomore Kelly Cole says, "Girls who feel the need to look perfect all the time come off as really insecure to me. From personal experience, the most beautiful people I know don't wear makeup and are gorgeous in whatever they're wearing. Obviously they feel prettiest dressed up, but it should never be a necessity."

Sophomore Anna Krahe has a different opinion.

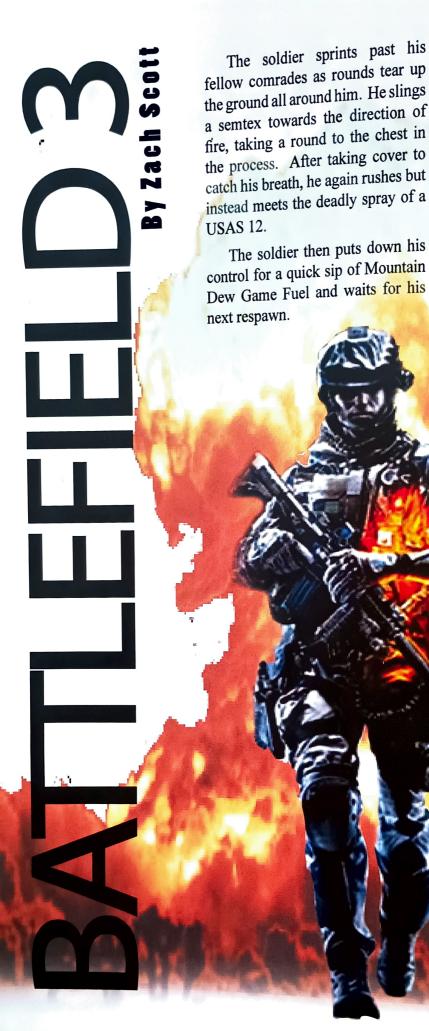
Krahe says, "Girls [dress up] to impress other people, especially guys. And they also do it so people will compliment them and their self-image will boost."

The most important confidencebooster girls should remember is that believing in yourself, not Cover Girl and MAC, is the building blocks of image.

Teenage girls need to realize no one is perfect, but no one should strive to be; the world needs individuals, so do not deny who you are. No matter how you look or what you wear, you will always be perfect in your own way.



For a girl to edit her picture using Photoshop she chooses the urfect picture and starts to erase any



Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3, which came out last Nov., has had the most successful opening, lasting five days, of any video game, rustling up a whopping \$775 million. This tops the highest five. day earnings in the movie world, with the Dark Knight pulling in a mere \$204 million.

As one of the top ten video game franchises, the Call of Duty games are renowned for their intense online game play and shocking single player campaigns, and this installment does not disappoint.

New game modes include survival mode, where the player faces waves of increasingly difficult enemies such as dogs; helicopters and even soldiers clad in juggernaut armor. In these modes, players can play with up to four friends or strangers, on or offline.

Much of the equipment has not changed from Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2, such as the continued availability of weapons such as the Striker shotgun, the Barrett .50 caliber sniper rifle and the throwing knife.

Gorecki plains the enhancement he has noticed and why his weapon of choice is the Striker.

"I like [Call of Duty: Moden Warfare 3] a lot better than [Call of Duty: Black Ops]. The his registration and lag have been improved along with the graphics. My favorite gun is the Strike because it suits my playing style. I [rush] the enemy and like to get right in their face," Gorecki says.

The Intensity of Skyrim and COD 3

By Haley Monahan

Fans of the Elder Scrolls series restlessly awaited the newest addition to the world of role-playing video games: Skyrim. Game trailers and chat forums for the game exploded with excited advocates of the new game the weeks prior to its release. The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim released on Nov. 11, 2011, and eager gamers didn't waste time preordering the game.

Taking place in the mythical world of Nirn, Skyrim is one of nine providences located on the continent of Tamriel. Home of the Nords, a race of large and husky men and women, Skyrim is a place of varied terrain. Players can expect mountains and snow as well as grasslands and sunshine. The scenery in Skyrim is one of the most breathtaking new features, Bethesda Game **Studios** has

outdone themselves with stunning scenes and lifelike characters.

Adventurers Skyrim of will have common goal of defeating dragon god who is prophesized destroy the world, but each gamers' quest can be as unique as he or she wants it to be. The vast amount of space and detail in the game allows for an individually personal journey.

Details such as armor rattling while sprinting and accounted difficulty swimming against currents put anyone in the center of the action. Skyrim "Skyrim looks very in-depth and well done compared to the previous games. I'm most excited about the extreme overhaul in the third person camera and a more organic quest experience."

Anyone who has seen the trailers



could be considered the most lifelike game the Elder Scrolls series has yet had to offer.

for Skyrim, which can be viewed www.elderscrolls.com, vouch for its stunning visuals and interactive game play. With beasts Senior Mike Janitor and creatures so real they can almost play!





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