

Facebook once again invades personal privacy



Lauren Kellett

It seems every few months Facebook changes its format. Many wonder why the masterminds behind the website so often change something that was fine the way it was. Usually the changes are subtle and everyone adjusts after a week of complaining. This time, I worry the changes might not be so soon forgotten, as Facebook finally has reached its full potential as a stalker's dream come true.

In college, Facebook is an important tool for meeting new people. You meet someone in a class who seems cool, catch their last name and find them on Facebook in the never-ending quest to have the most friends. So what happens when someone you hardly know has access to thousands of your photos, posts and interests? Honestly, probably nothing, but with new modifications like the Timeline and Open Graph Application, lack of privacy starts to become a serious issue.

In a couple of weeks, Facebook will be adding a timeline on the right side of your profile, according to a Sept. 23 CNN article. This can be a timeline of your entire life, if you so choose. Embarrassing status updates about your tragic eighth grade breakup can pop up without your control. Pictures from a crazy high school party will be shown at random to add some humor to your online scrapbook. Users can't change what they posted in the past, which can lead to some painful reminders of uncensored posts from long ago.

Another change is the Open Graph Application This app, with your permission, will gain access to your accounts with Netflix, Spotify, Hulu, Words with Friends, Nike Plus and many more, to update information on your timeline as you use these services. So the next time you log on, you'll see "Lauren Kellett just listened to Lady Gaga on Spotify. Watched an episode of "Arrested Development" on Netflix. Downloaded a Harry Potter e-book. Ran a 5k." Do people really care about all of this information? According to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, they sure do.

How about those "like" buttons we know and love? Get ready to see them throughout the Internet. That's right, they aren't just for Facebook anymore. You might be reading an article online from "Rolling Stone" and see that little blue thumbs up at the end. By clicking this, you posted that article to your Facebook to share with all your friends. Now everyone can see exactly how you procrastinate throughout the day and have access to everything you surfed through instead of studying for that big French test.

Perhaps the most annoying new feature is the separation between "recent stories" and "top stories" on the newsfeed. Why does Facebook get to decide what I find most interesting? Why would it think my Aunt Sophie's update about her new cat's favorite place to sleep is a "top story?" It's all just a bit too controlling.

Zuckerberg said in the CNN article that he thinks "Internet users will continue sharing significantly more of their lives online each year," and that the timeline is "an important next step to help you tell the story of your life." But Mark, why do we need to tell the story of our life online? What ever happened to getting to know someone first, and then learning the mysteries of their past? Apparently that is too old fashioned for our cyber-loving generation.

With all of that said, I think it is clear Facebook finally has crossed the line of sharing way too much. No one needs to know what all 800 of their friends are doing at every moment of their day.

But faithful lovers of Facebook, never fear. Some of these changes, like the Open Graph App, are completely optional. So if you'd rather the world didn't know you were catching up on your "Spongebob" seasons via Netflix, it does not necessarily have to. I just feel sorry for those who will be plagued with too many friends who want to share way too much.

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gold status food service private bathrooms movie theaters
flat screen TVs tanning beds 24/7 fitness centers

\$6,000 for a luxury dorm room

...or **\$3,500** for the **TRUE** college experience?

Lauren Moll/ Index

Luxury dorm rooms distract from college experience



Jazmine Newsome

The first thought that comes to people's minds when they imagine the college experience — dorm rooms, lofted beds, microfridges and sharing bathrooms. Now, colleges are trying to provide the luxuries of home for students on campus to lure them to their schools.

Movie theaters, tanning beds and private bathrooms are becoming part of the college experience, according to a Sept. 22 CNN article. The idea is that students will overlook the stereotypical dorm rooms for ones with the hi-tech commodities.

Landmark Properties is one of the private companies that has helped contribute to these new luxuries for students. Its units span through southern colleges including the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, the University of Georgia in Athens and North Carolina State.

Dorm room living is supposed to be simple. Without the extras, students can focus on the real reason they're there: education. These excess amenities are unnecessary.

Video games and movie theaters give students more activities to do instead of homework. When studying and sleeping should happen there are now many other options available to students.

Dorm room living helps with interpersonal skills as well. When a lot of privacy is provided it forces separation between students. Friendships easily are made when there aren't many activities to do during free time. What some would call boredom actually creates time to get to know people. Some say the friends you make in college are the ones you'll have for life, and this comes from getting to know a person well. You can't get to know someone on a personal level while tanning or playing "Call of Duty" on their university-provided gaming system.

The high prices of these luxuries are not worth it. The furnished apartments with couches, flatscreen TVs, kitchens, and washer and dryer units cost up to \$6,000 per semester. The cheapest residence hall on Truman State's campus, Centennial Hall, costs about \$3,200 to \$3,500 per semester, and West Campus Suites costs about \$4,000 per semester. Why pay this much for a residence hall if it's going to take away from having the "true" college experience?

An example that displays that top notch dorm living is not always the best idea can be found on Truman's campus — West Campus compared to Centennial. Students who live in

West Campus have many secluded areas throughout the residence hall. In Centennial, where I live, it feels like a community — students hang out in the lounges and mingle. In West Campus, students don't necessarily hang out in the lounges because private living rooms are provided in their rooms.

The colleges creating luxury rooms are handing luxuries to students like they are expected. This is not preparing students for the kind of lives they will lead when they get out of college. It will be a major culture shock for them when they go from a high-end pad to a shabby apartment with few to no groceries in the fridge. It's like a spoiling a child. You hand everything to him without making him work for it. In the real world, you have to work for what you want in life. Living with the necessities but not the extras gives students an idea of how life will be after college. It can motivate them to want to succeed so they can improve their lives later down the road.

The extras are taking away from the educational purposes of attending college. Simple dorm rooms create more free time. With that free time, friendships are made and studying and homework can be done more easily. When it comes to residence hall living, simple is the way to go.

Jazmine Newsome is a freshman political science major from O'Fallon, Mo.

AROUND THE QUAD

What are the Truman residence halls lacking?



"They do a pretty good job. The level of Sodexo could be raised, though."

Sara Cassabaum
sophomore



"The dorms need more visibility for students in knowing how they impact energy usage on campus and in the dorms."

Kyle LaVelle
junior



"Nothing really. I liked having a separate living room and extra sink in West Campus, but Centennial is best for freshmen."

Cassandra Hester
junior



"Better toilet paper — a lot of people would enjoy that."

Ram Golan
junior

Pageants fail to define beauty, harm self-worth



Zach Vicars

Some of the touted highlights at the first Bacon Fest on Saturday were the Oscar Meyer Weinermobile, free BLT sandwiches and the Ms. Sizzle pageant. While the thought of stuffing my face with a juicy BLT is enough to make my mouth water, the thought of a peaceful Saturday being tainted by a beauty pageant is enough to make me want to throw up.

I thought that by coming to Kirksville — this vortex of rural life and progressive ideas — I would be able to escape the inane vanity of the beauty pageant. But, this great scourge to American culture is seen even here.

There are a proud few — often

parents of young girls — who fervently support these beauty pageants. I personally know college students who like to attend the pageants or watch them on TV, chalking them up as petty entertainment. Others think there's nothing wrong with girls putting on a dress, answering a few questions and seeing who the judges like best. But a closer look at beauty pageants will reveal they are teaching young girls to place their values in the wrong places.

Maybe I'm biased, because I even become a little queasy watching a dog show. As an owner of a purebred Italian greyhound, I can't imagine subjecting him to being examined, evaluated and ranked based on his physical appearance, showmanship and demeanor.

It might sound crass, but beauty pageants do the same thing, except they are judging real human beings with real feelings. Whether or not we like to admit it, young girls invest their emotions in these Victorian rituals. Tears of joy certainly were shed Saturday, and I'm sure there was a tear or two of disappointment, as well.

Either way, the girls participating in these pageants probably are attaching

some amount of self-worth to their performance. What's more, this performance isn't a test of skill — like a soccer game, spelling bee or piano recital. Rather, pageants evaluate participants based on factors that deeply affect young girls, like beauty, character and charm. It is flat-out wrong for anyone to be evaluated on such personal matters by a panel of judges, but it's that much worse when children are dragged into the mix.

Still, mothers living vicariously through their daughters and college-aged viewers of TLC's "Toddlers in Tiaras" will argue beauty pageants are harmless because the girls voluntarily participate — or even beg and plead for the chance to compete. But the underlying question is: Why are they volunteering? Is it because all young girls dream of winning a beauty pageant? Is it because of some innate desire to be judged greater than their peers? Or is it because by buying Barbie Dolls, listening to Miley Cyrus and watching Miss America, we have altered the definition of beauty for young girls?

Most boys want to grow up to be a sports star or firefighter, and many girls hope to someday be a beauty queen or an actress. That's because our culture has

told boys they must be strong, powerful and successful. But, they've told girls they must be beautiful — if we define beautiful as pretty, perfect and a little dumb.

It doesn't take a Truman degree to see how much damage this gender profiling inflicts on a child. While boys are pressured to exert all their energy into sports at the expense of other interests, girls feel they must change the way they look, act and carry themselves. Imagine how many social-adjustment issues we would avoid if, instead of applying these harmful social pressures, we encouraged children to have respect for others, to be true to themselves and to develop their own standard of self-worth.

Every child, boy or girl, deserves to know they are beautiful because of who they are. That affirmation should come from family, friends and other people the child can trust. No child should ever feel they need to compete with others to be beautiful.

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