

# Did You Know?

## The Who's of Facebook

When students create profiles on Facebook, they assume the only people viewing it will be friends and classmates. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Facebook has long been known as an online social networking tool that allows users to connect to other people. But it has turned into something much more than a social tool. The details in members' profiles are open for view to anyone, including school administrators, perspective employers, and other strangers. Here are some things to keep in mind:

### **The "Private" Information on your Profile may not be so Private After All**

When members are posting notes, opinions, details, and joining groups, they are thinking more about *what* they post. The major piece that is missing is *who* will be viewing these things. More and more administrators have been using Facebook. Colleges nationwide such as Fisher College, the University of California, and Northern Kentucky University have issued school-wide warnings to students about the possibility of disciplinary action in response to the content of their profiles. An exceptional Fisher College student was recently expelled by school administrators for being part of a controversial group. Even if something seems harmless to you, it may seem more to others.

### **Your Profile Could Serve as Part of your Resume**

"My profile as my resume? No way." Yes way. Many employers check applicant profiles on Facebook. Many universities, including Brandeis, review applicant profiles before hiring students. Even if you have already been hired, a lot of employers check the profiles of current staff.

### **A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words**

You have a couple pictures of you having a good time with friends. There's no harm in posting them, right? Maybe. In fact, a picture of you having fun may not seem so innocent to employers or administrators. What photos to post on Facebook may be one of the blurriest parts of Facebook safety. It is important to think twice about every photo you post. Think about the content of the photo? Is this something you would want a stranger, employer, or admin to see?

Before you post something, whether it be a piece of your profile or a photo, stop and think twice. Remember the importance of *who* may see it. You also have the option of creating a limited profile, meaning your full profile will be secluded to a list of your friends. No matter how you choose to protect yourself, keep in mind that your profile is a public diary and anyone can read it.

The information from this "Did You Know" was found at:

<http://www.facebook.com/help.php?tab=safety> and <http://media.www.browndailyherald.com/.../2005/11/03/CampusWatch/The-Facebook.Not.Just.For.Students-1044229.shtm>

This was brought to you by the Resource/Referral program at EWC as part of a bi-weekly awareness project. R/R is located in the basement of Wilder Hall or you can reach us at 545-0883.