

## “A teenagers guide to staying safe on the Internet” By Emily Homonoff.

Emily Homonoff, 17, acted as Jan’s consultant on teenage social networking, for *Teaser*. Here are her tips for staying safe on the Internet.

- 1) As a **general rule**, do not post anything online, that you'd be embarrassed if your parents saw
- 2) **Privatize your profile**- because you would not want any creep, who's undeserving, to be peeping through your stuff. Most social networks have this option which won't allow anyone to see your profile unless you've accepted into your network.
- 3) Use a **different name**- if you create an alias or simply, leave out your last name, it will make it nearly impossible for anyone you don't like to find you.
- 4) Don't post your **cell phone** number- try to think, 'would I want everyone I know, to have my cell number?' Crank calls are a bee-atch.
- 5) Only **add friends you know**- if someone says that know you, but you can't remember them, then they probably don't really know you...
- 6) Don't post **embarrassing photos** - this will not only avoid attracting creeps, but it will also serve a good purpose, when applying for college or a job. Fun photos are okay, but you shouldn't be able to see alcohol or bongos or even beer pong cups in the background. You shouldn't look dazed or even confused. Nothing sexual – even if it's just a joke. No slutty pictures.
- 7) When updating your **status** never put "looking for a relationship" on the internet, because, is it really true? Even if it is, it makes you sound easy, very very easy
- 8) When using **public computers**, be sure to sign out completely, and never walk away from the computer you are using. This is practically yelling, "Hey creepers!"
- 9) Stay away from **chat rooms**; this never ends well, never ever. Most creepy things that happen in the Internet happen in chatrooms. Plus, **you** can waste hours that just go by.
- 10) When **all else fails** just ...stay off of the Internet! You'll get your homework done.