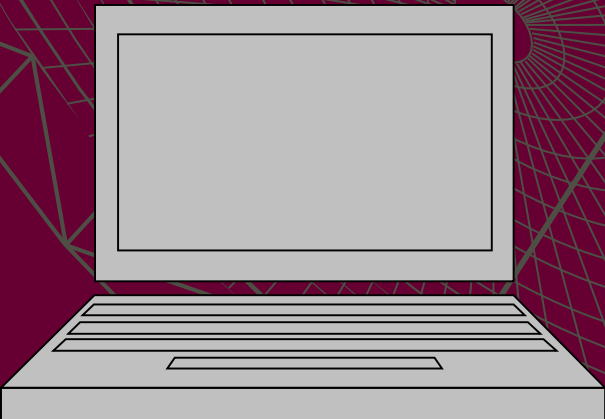




# MySpace and Facebook

Social networking, good or  
bad?



# What is FaceBook and MySpace?

- ◆ Social networking sites that allow users 13 and over to communicate with others across the United States and across the world

# Original Intentions

- ◆ Facebook was first used for Harvard University students as a communication device
- ◆ It later expanded to other colleges/universities in the Boston area
- ◆ Followed by use within the Ivy League schools
- ◆ 2006 it became a site for any age 13 and over

# Original Intentions (cont.)

- ◆ MySpace was a spin off of the site Friendster in 2003
- ◆ Through word of mouth and the ability to “friend” people, the website grew to be the largest networking site
  - Facebook and Twitter now has more users than MySpace



# Terms and Conditions: MySpace

## ◆ Eligibility

- All registration information submitted must be truthful and accurate
- Must maintain accuracy of such information
- Must be 13 years or older
- Use of the site does not violate an applicable laws

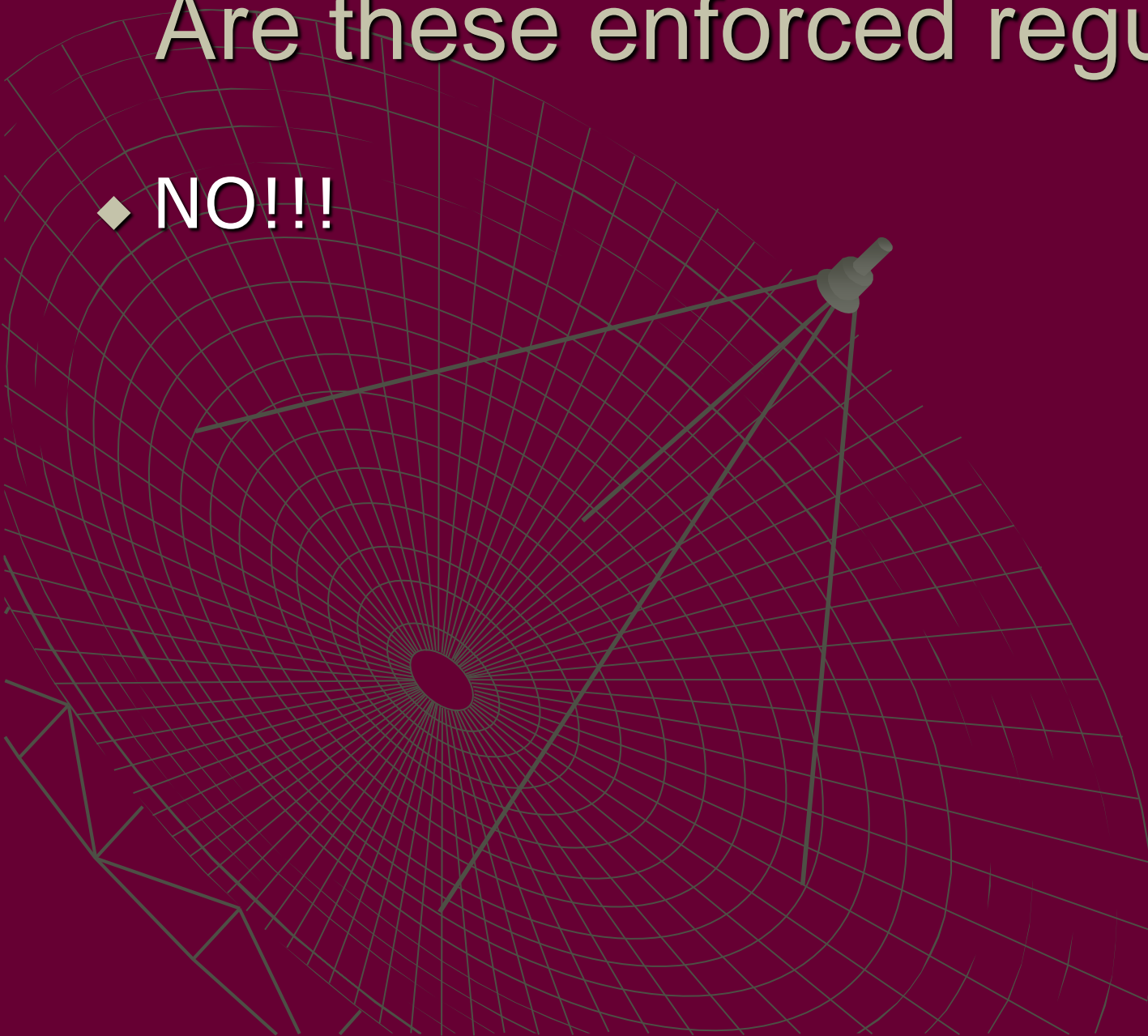
# Terms and Conditions: Facebook

## ◆ Registration and Account Security

- Will not post content that infringes or violates someone else's rights or violates the law
- Will not create more than one personal profile
- If site is disabled by FB, will not create another site without our permission
- Will not use if under 13
- Will not use if you are a convicted sex offender
- Will keep contact information up-to-date
- Will not share password
- Will not transfer your account to anyone without getting FB permission

# Are these enforced regularly?

- ◆ NO!!!



# Positive Qualities

- ◆ Communication tool
- ◆ Allows for broader experiences (pen pals)
- ◆ Communication with long distant family members and friends
- ◆ Allows for expression
- ◆ Reconnect
- ◆ Academic advising/assistance
- ◆ Political and social connectiveness



# Negative Qualities

- ◆ Public: millions of people have access to where you are, what you are doing, pictures, personal information
- ◆ Lost sense of morality: will say and do things that you would not normally do
- ◆ Predators: adults and juveniles
  - Means to bullying: tendency to be more cruel
- ◆ Addictive: becomes teen's reality, instead of reality

# Cases gone awry

## ◆ MySpace

- An Australian 16-year-old boy advertised a house party that attracted 500 people. Police cars were attacked, the dog squad and a helicopter was called in
- A 17-year-old girl hosted a party with the subtitle "Let's trash the average family-sized house disco party." Her parents were left with an American equivalent bill of \$48,000 from the police
- 17-year-old American high school student was shot dead at a party

## ◆ All of the above cases were advertised using MySpace

# Cases gone awry (cont.)

## ◆ Facebook

- Commissioner Patterson's Story

- ◆ 12-year-old niece was struggling to deal with divorce of parents and father leaving home
- ◆ Met older men via Facebook and ran away from home to pursue "relationships"
- ◆ Niece never returned home—got into life of prostitution and drugs



# Miscellaneous Facts

- ◆ Each year in the U.S., about 2,000 youth complete suicide
- ◆ Suicide is the third-leading cause of death among ages 15 – 24
- ◆ For every two victims of homicide, adults and children, in the U.S. there are three deaths from suicide
  - ◆ [www.facebook.com/topic](http://www.facebook.com/topic)
  - ◆ [www.nationalsafeplace.org](http://www.nationalsafeplace.org)



# Solutions

## ◆ MySpace

- Minimum age to use is 13 (not enforced)
- Profiles with ages set from 13 – 15 are automatically set to private
- Delete fake profiles
- 2007, found and deleted 29,000 profiles belonging to registered sex offenders
- Users whose ages are set over 18 no longer are able to add users ages 13 to 15 as friends unless they know their full name or email address

# Solutions (cont.)

## ◆ Interviewees

- Stricter federal regulations (end time for minors, age regulations)
- Severe school consequences (bullying/harassment)
- Increased teen and parent workshops to inform about proper usage of sites
- Curriculum on internet/social networking safety

# Solutions (cont)

## ◆ PARENTAL CONTROL

- Computers not in children's bedroom
- Have passwords to all accounts
- Limit time used (not past 10:00 at night and for only a certain amount of time, i.e. 1 hour)
- Be your child's "friend"—you see what they see, and other's see you as active parent
- Cell phones not in children's room at night (chargers stay in parent's bedroom)
- Familiar with technology
- Monitor friends and friends' parents