

## Bee Editorial

# Parents need to be vigilant with Internet sites

The creation of the Internet is perhaps one of the most significant developments in recent years. Any information that we need is at our fingertips with the click of a mouse. It is a convenient way to shop, conduct research and even trace family lineages or search for high school classmates.

But, with every benefit of the Internet, there is also a curse.

In the past year and a half, Web sites such as MySpace.com and Facebook.com have been making it possible to network with people from across the world. The problem: teenagers are more educated about these Web sites than are most adults.

There have been several cases in the news about teenagers who, through the use of these Internet sites, have connected with someone they thought they knew.

Sexual predators are able to prey on

teenagers without even leaving their homes.

MySpace.com is a site for people to freely expose who they are — from posting their pictures to their likes and dislikes, height and weight and any aspirations they may have for their future.

Teenagers who post an abundance of information about themselves on a Web site may realize the perils of living in this age of technology. They are leaving themselves vulnerable to sexual predators who pretend to be just like them so that they may find a common bond to get closer to their potential victim.

Parents and adults in this century need to be more vigilant about monitoring the actions of their children — especially when it comes to the Internet.

In addition to the dangers of sexual predators, there have been instances of teenagers turning MySpace.com, an area of the Internet

that allows everyone to create their own Web page, into a hate site. Teenagers have been arrested for harassment in scenarios where they have posted hateful messages about other classmates on their Web pages. In some cases, a whole page is dedicated to degrading a person.

Founded in 1998, i-Safe Inc. has been aiding schools in promoting Internet safety education. It incorporates classroom curriculum with dynamic community outreach to educate teachers, parents and police on how to surf the Internet securely.

We must remind ourselves that we may not be able to put an end to the negatives associated with the Internet, but through the promotion of groups such as i-Safe, we can help each other stay informed of the dangers of the Internet. Technology is something that never stops changing. We must change with it.

## Spindle items



JILL SCHMELZER

Amherst Reporter

• **MAMMA MIA!** — Clarence editor Kim Karcher, Bee production manager Karl Scheithir and I had the opportunity to go to the opening night performance of "Mamma Mia!" at Shea's Performing Arts Center. And "my, my" what a great show

ed singing "I Have a Dream," chills shot up and down my spine.

As the play went on, more and more characters were revealed, each one adding a special touch to the story line. "Sophie's" mother, "Donna," played by Laurie Wells, kept the audience tapping their toes as she sang such songs as "Dancing Queen" and "S.O.S."

However, the performance that, in my opinion, stole the show was given by Laura Ware, who was "Rosie." Her character is a longtime friend of "Donna's," and the two of them, along with "Tanya," played by Lisa Mandel, used to be in a singing group together. Well, the now middle-aged gaggle of friends have reunited for "Sophie's" wedding. "Rosie's" character is an overweight woman in her mid-40s, and she is hilarious. Her awkward dancing and quirky comments had my belly aching from laughter. The way she tripped around the stage and chased her love interest had the audience roaring. Don't get me wrong, the entire cast

was spectacular, but Ware's "Rosie" was certainly the best performance of the night.

"Mamma Mia!" has left Shea's, but this season's lineup is a must see. "Cirque Dreams" makes its way to Buffalo Nov. 14-19. My all-time favorite musical, "Rent," will be center stage Dec. 5-10. Everyone's favorite 1980s teen queen, Molly Ringwald, will star in "Sweet Charity," to run Feb. 6-11. "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" will be performed March 20-25. "Monty Python's Spamalot" will be at Shea's May 1-6. And "Chita Rivera, The Dancer's Life," will close the season May 29-June 23. For tickets, call 847-0850 or visit www.sheas.org.

• **FAMOUS NAMES** — Are you an Amherst resident who has a famous name or know someone who does? Do you get a tabloid reporter calling you because your driver's license says you're Brad Pitt or Angelina Jolie? I want to hear your story. Recently, I've met a Matt

Lauer and a Gretchen Wilson but it wasn't in New York City at the "Today Show" or at a country music concert. It was right here in Amherst. I would be willing to bet that other people have famous names, too. Wouldn't that make an interesting feature? A former co-worker and I often spoke of the idea and she expressed interest in the matter as well. If I am intrigued by it and she was, then maybe the readers would find it an exciting topic. So, if you have a famous name or know someone who does, call Jill Schmelzer at 204-4914 or e-mail JSchmelzer@beenews.com.

• **MEET THE CANDIDATES** — Coffee with the candidates will take place at 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 at the Amherst Center for Senior Services, 370 John James Audubon Parkway. There is no fee, call 636-3059 to make a reservation before Oct. 17. The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Amherst Center for Senior Services.

## Out of the Past

### 125 Years Ago Oct. 13, 1881

Soon the political cauldron will commence boiling, and somebody may get scalded.

The Erie County Republican Convention met in St. James Hall, Buffalo, Tuesday afternoon and nominated Harvey J. Hurd for state senator.

Last Saturday morning at about nine o'clock, while a heavy thunder storm was in progress, several of the inmates of the Bee office experienced rather a singular sensation. While engaged in conversation . . . there was suddenly a brilliant flash which was followed by a crash like the report of a revolver, caused by the explosion of a ball of electricity in the office. It was later discovered that the telephone wire was broken. It is highly probable that hereafter, in thunder and lightning storms, the parties in the Bee office will be rather scarce in that portion of the building that holds the electric attractor.

Notwithstanding the dry weather, one of the largest cabbages ever brought under our notice is the bouncer left at our office by Dr. Daniel Reist. It weighs sixteen pounds and measures three feet, seven inches in circumference.

Although Ohio has furnished the nation three presidents, Garfield is the first to sleep in her bosom.

"A little heat that can't be beat, the window open wide; a little breeze, a little sneeze, and you're the doctor's pride."

### 100 Years Ago Oct. 11, 1906

The first snow of the season fell on October 10, starting about 5:30 p.m. and continuing all night. As a result of the eight inches of the wet snow upon trees, wires and roofs, damage was done all over this section of the county. A serious accident occurred about 8:00 p.m. when a team of horses ran into a live electric wire just beyond SS. Peter and Paul Church. The team became entangled in the wire and was slowly electrocuted.

### 75 Years Ago Oct. 15, 1931

The Mansion House, after years of serving the public, has closed its doors. The building stands empty, waiting to be either rented or sold. Its fate is undecided. Back in the Civil War days, public parties were held there to raise funds for relief work. (*Editor's note: This restaurant and dance hall stood on Main Street just west of South Cayuga Street.*)

Richard Cameron fractured his collar bone while playing on the Williamsville High School football team against Gowanda on Saturday.

A mass meeting for Republicans will be held at 8 P.M. Thursday, Oct. 22 at the Snyder Fire Hall. Everyone is invited to come and meet all county and town candidates.

William A. Leising of St. Bonaventure's College, Olean, N.Y., spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George J. Leising and family.

### 50 Years Ago Oct. 11, 1956

Residents are invited to hear Vice President Richard M. Nixon and State Attorney General Jacob K. Javits, candidate for U.S. Senator, at a huge Republican rally at Buffalo Memorial Auditorium on Tuesday evening, Oct. 16.

The Williamsville Central Schools will celebrate American Education Week on Thursday, Nov. 15. The distinguished writer, Ogden Nash, will talk in the Junior-Senior High auditorium.

Miss Dorothy L. Gray, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis M. Gray of 136 Park Drive, is serving as a hostess aboard Mohawk Airlines.

### 25 Years Ago Oct. 14, 1981

Patrolman Mark A. Cavagnaro, whose police work resulted in the quick solution of two robberies, last Friday was presented The Amherst Bee "Officer of the Year" award for 1981 at the annual Police Club Ball. Honorable mentions were presented to Patrolmen Michael E. Dailey, Dennis M. Dempsey, Thomas P. Kenney Jr. and Raymond A. Nitsche.