

Upcoming Events [Y.E.S. 2008](#)

28-30 March, Oxford, Mi.

[Kairos Weekend](#)

28-30 March, Szczyrk, Poland

MEDIA REPORT

FOXNews.com covered a new, teen fad: exchanging headless nude photos with classmates via cell phone and then trying to guess which of your friends it is.

[Software](#) has now been developed for monitoring your children's cell phones ([secretly](#) or [openly](#)). The software records every text message, every image sent and every number called.

So, as new technology is increasing children's communications "freedom", parents find more and more need to monitor every activity of each of their children. Sadly, it means more and more parents are also the police.

**STUPIDITY GOT US
INTO THIS MESS, WHY
CAN'T IT GET US OUT?**

-- WILL ROGERS

AIR PRESSURE

Schools now block Internet sites to prevent youth from accessing harmful material. Here are *some* of the site categories they block. Alcohol, Anonymizers, Chat Rooms, Cheating, Credit Cards, Criminal Skills, Dating Services, Drugs, Fantasy Sports, Gambling, Gaming, Gruesome Content, Hacking, Hate Speech, Malicious Software, Media Downloads, Messaging (IM, SMS, MMS), Mobile Phone Utilities, Nudity, Online Auctions, P2P/File Sharing, Personal Network Storage, Phishing, Pornography, Profanity, Shareware/Freeware, Shopping, Sports, Spyware, Tobacco, Violence, Visual Search Engines and Weapons.

Does filtering software really work? Somewhat, and sometimes, but new technology makes it hard to keep bad stuff from seeping into the lives of teens. Can you build a wall that never leaks? Not really. The next, new, bad thing is already seeping into youth culture and will probably soon be affecting our children. Can we build the perfect defense against the world's offense? No. We can do some effective things but what is really needed is a good offense.

The Metrodome in Minneapolis is a helpful image for an effective offense



strategy. This stadium has a cloth roof that is held up by positive air pressure. When you are in the stadium you don't notice that the air pressure is above normal. Then the game finishes and the exit doors open. As soon as you get in front of the doors you are blown out the doors because of the positive pressure of the stadium. Nothing seeps into the stadium.

In a similar way, youth are much more resistant to the pressure of the world when they are filled with the Spirit, with strong conviction, clear thinking, vision and purpose.

Most youth react to *defensive* parenting and *defensive* youth work. One of the main things it

communicates to them is, "Be afraid." Most of them are already afraid enough – possibly not of the right things – but they are afraid!

TO THE POINT

Successful youth work equips teens with courage and faith. It fills them with a positive approach to the challenges they face. If we equip them with courage, they will be heroes. If we equip them with fear, they will be cowards.

Youth Modes of Communication

(Ranked by frequency of use)

1. Cell phone (talking)
2. Landline (talking)
3. Texting (text messaging)
4. Instant Messaging
5. *Face to face!*
6. Facebook/Myspace etc.
7. Email

An AT&T-Rex

Face it. Some day you will be a technological dinosaur. How does next week on Tuesday sound?

It probably won't happen that fast but one place it could happen is the cell/mobile phone.

More Than a Phone

Sofia, a high school junior, sent 6,807 text messages last April. She knew she was texting a lot but couldn't believe her bill for \$1,100. She averaged 230 text messages per day.

Morgan Pozgar, a 13-year-old girl from Claysburg, Pennsylvania, won last year's [LG National Texting Championship](#) by correctly typing *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!* Even though the sound of it is something quite atrocious. If you say it loud enough you'll always sound precocious on the keypad of a mobile phone in 42 seconds using her thumbs only. (It took me 90 seconds to type 150 random characters on my phone.) Morgan sends 8,000 text messages per month.

VOCABULARY

Text Messaging: a typed message sent by phone.

OMG GAL: "Oh-my-god, get a life!" in text speak.

Instant messaging: real time, typed communication over a screen.

Mash-up: combining two or more media or programs together.

Typewriter: a manual word processor that prints directly to paper (archaic).

Ok dinosaurs, you own a cell phone and you use it to make calls. Do you have to look at your keypad to type? **OMG GAL!** How will you ever text 22 messages per day like the average (backward) American teen? Teens in the Orient average 60 text messages per day.

Is your phone your **typewriter**? If yes, you might be Japanese. Three of the top ten best-selling books in Japan in 2007 were typed on **cell phones**. A young woman



Rin and her typewriter.

named Rin, wrote [If You](#) in six-months during her senior year in high school. She thumb typed on her cell phone between classes and uploaded the text to a web site for storage. Her book sold 400,000 copies in hardcover.

The cell phone is becoming the keyboard of choice among teens.

NO MATTER HOW GREAT YOUR TRIUMPHS OR HOW TRAGIC YOUR DEFEATS, APPROXIMATELY ONE BILLION CHINESE COULDN'T CARE LESS.

-- LAZLO'S CHINESE RELATIVITY AXIOM

More Than A Keyboard

While dad is contemplating the large screen HDTV, his daughter is eyeing the three-inch screen on a videophone. Why? It will be her all-in-one communicator. She'll take notes in a class in Ann Arbor while instant messaging her boyfriend in Berlin. On the bus home she'll call her roommate about dinner and then catch CNN news on the Internet. After dinner she'll download Mariah Carey's hit *Touch My Body* from MTV. Next she'll use the phone to record a video of herself lip-syncing the tune at 120 frames per second and 5.0-megapixel resolution. Using the phone's touchscreen editing, she will overlay the song to her video and instantly upload the **mash-up** to youtube before typing her term paper at sixty words per minute on the cell phone keyboard.

My cell-phone, my camcorder, my instant messenger, my i-Pod, my TV and the Internet all in one. Folks, your kid's cell phone is about to go on steroids.

I'll meet your thumbs in the dinosaur museum.

Lies & more lies & statistics

- 25% of dating teens have communicated with a boyfriend or girlfriend **hourly** between midnight and 5am via cell phone or texting.
- One in six communicated 10 or more times an hour through the night.
- In Singapore [Mobile and Wireless](#) is expecting to provide wireless phone re-charging at no cost within six months.
- [Maho-no-i-rando](#): an uploading site for cell phone novels now hosts over one million books being written in Japanese.
- One in four teenage girls in the USA has a sexually transmitted disease.
- 78% of TV advertisers say 90% of advertising is only 67% percent effective with the 23% of the population who are teenagers. Huh?

IF YOU THINK THE PROBLEM IS BAD NOW, JUST WAIT UNTIL WE'VE SOLVED IT.
-- ARTHUR KASSPE

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