



Can Social Media Be a Positive Force for Teens and Teachers?

Frederick S. Lane

Alaska Society for Technology in Education
2023 Annual Conference
18 February 2023

The Center for CYBERETHICS

THE CYBERTRAPS PODCAST

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Cybertraps & Cyberethics

The Center for CYBERETHICS

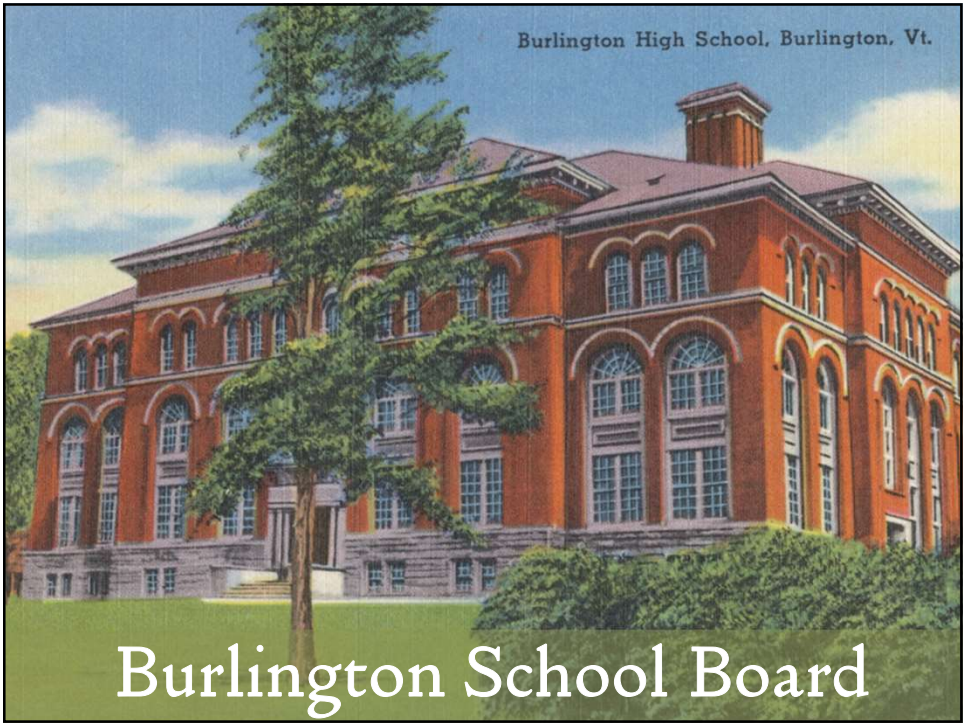
THE CYBERTRAPS PODCAST
Frederick Lane & Jethro Jones

The Cybertraps Newsletter

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A Brief History of Social Media

- **Before the World Wide Web**
 - Computer Bulletin Boards
 - Usenet
 - Online Services (AOL, CompuServe, Prodigy)
 - Internet Relay Chat / Chat Rooms
- **Before the Smartphone**
 - Friendster (2001) / LinkedIn (2002)
 - My_Space (2003) / Facebook (2004)
 - Twitter (2006)
- **The Big Three**
 - Instagram (2010) / Snapchat (2011)
 - TikTok (2016)

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Teen Social Media Use

- **Pew Research (2018)**
 - 90% of Teens Use Social Media Daily
 - 45% Online “Almost Constantly”
 - 25% Use Social Media => 4 hours per day
- **Common Sense Media (2019)**
 - 53% of Children “Own” a Smartphone by Age 11
 - 84% of Teenagers
- **C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital (2021)**
 - 49% of Children 10-12 Use Social Media
 - 32% of Children 7-9
- **Waiting on Pandemic Data**
 - Consensus / Anecdotal: Use Increased Dramatically

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Gorilla Glass: Half-Full or Half-Empty?

- **Downsides**

- Personal

- Distraction / Attention Span
- Depression / Body Dysmorphia
- Content / Disinformation / Radicalization

- Interpersonal

- Cyberbullying and Harassment
- Stalking / Sexual Objectification

- **Upsides**

- Socialization / Ratification
- Research / Education / Efficiency
- Organization / Activism

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Social Media Impact on Educators

- Same Psychological and Emotional Issues as Teens
- Blurs the Line Between Professional and Personal
 - Too Much Sharing of Information
 - Potential for Inappropriate Relationships
 - Conflict with Administration or School Community
 - Increased Risk of Criminal Activity
- Increased Exposure to Public Hostility

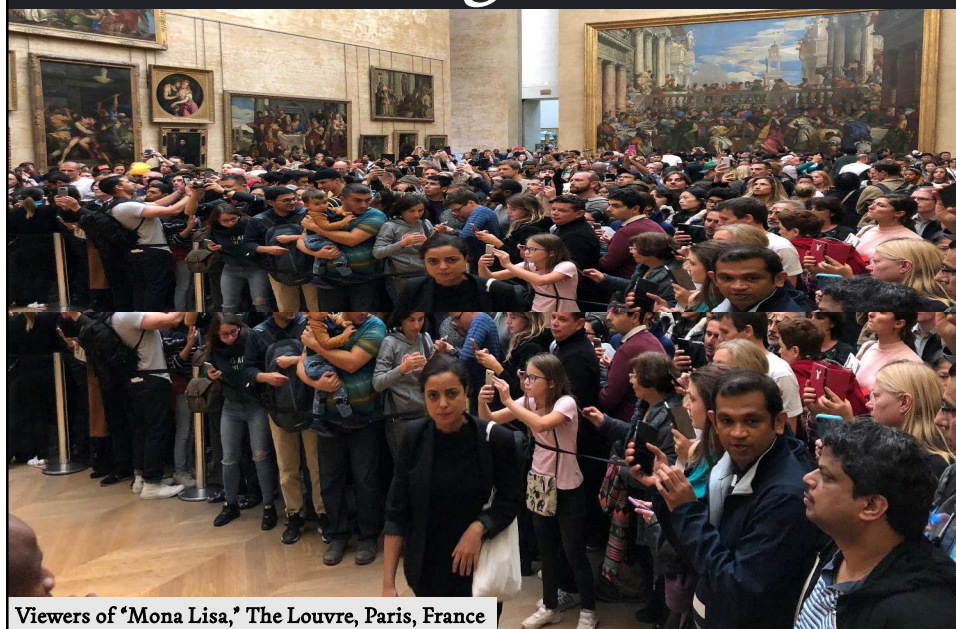
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Power Shifts – a Case Study

- Episode 108 of “The Cybertraps Podcast”
- Tyler Ray Johnson
- Senior at Tully High School (northern NY)
- Invited to appear in “Senior Spotlight” for school paper
- School principal vetoed one of his interview answers
- Johnson’s TikTok video goes viral
- Administrators allegedly lied about school policy

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Controlling the Crowd



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Can We Mitigate the Harms?

- **Behavioral Changes**
 - Self-Regulation and Self-Care
 - *Raising Cyberethical Kids*
- **Education**
 - Critical Thinking
- **Tech Solutions**
 - Positive Social Networks: BeReal, Gas, etc.
 - But Massive Tech Layoffs ...
- **Legislation and Litigation**
 - Congress Wants to Rein In Big Tech
 - Section 230 Challenges at Supreme Court

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