



## Unintended Consequences of Sharing

---

### Directions

Read the following story and be prepared to discuss it in class.

---

### College Sued Over “Drunken Pirate” Sanctions

Woman claims teaching degree denied because of single MySpace photo

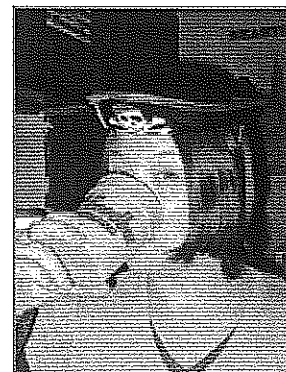
(<http://www.thesmokinggun.com/documents/crime/college-sued-over-drunken-pirate-sanctions>)

APRIL 26, 2007 — A Pennsylvania woman claims that her teaching career has been derailed by college administrators who unfairly disciplined her over a MySpace photo that shows her wearing a pirate hat and drinking from a plastic cup. In a federal lawsuit, Stacy Snyder charges that Millersville University brass accused her of promoting underage drinking after they discovered her MySpace photo, which was captioned “Drunken Pirate.” The picture from Snyder’s MySpace page (which she says was snapped at a costume party outside school hours) can be seen below.

In her complaint, Snyder, a 25-year-old single mother of two, says that Millersville officials discovered the image last May, while she was a senior working as a student-teacher at Conestoga Valley High School. A university official told her that the photo was “unprofessional” and could have offended her students if they accessed her MySpace page. At the time the “Drunken Pirate” photo was taken, Snyder was of legal age to drink, though her lawsuit notes that the photo “does not show the cup’s contents.”...

Despite good grades and solid performance evaluations, Snyder claims that school officials improperly denied her a bachelor of science in education degree and a teaching certificate. The university, Snyder added, instead granted her a bachelor of arts degree last May 13. Because the school refuses to confirm that she satisfactorily completed her student teaching requirements, Snyder claims that she has been unable to secure certification from Pennsylvania’s Department of Education. Snyder’s lawyer, Mark Voigt, told TSG (TheSmokingGun.com) that his client now works as a nanny. He added that school officials should actually be “celebrating” Snyder, a mother of two young children who returned to school to get a teaching degree.

---





## Lesson Assessment

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Before you post about someone else online, it's important to:

- a) Ask that person if it's okay to post
- b) Consider if you will upset anyone by posting
- c) Think about who might see what you post
- d) All of the above

2. Read the following online post by Elliot. Then underline three phrases that could negatively impact Elliot or his friend Brian's reputation.

Thanks for all of the birthday wishes, everybody! It feels great to be 16.

This weekend was crazy. Brian and I went on a camping trip with my older bro and some of his college friends. Brian said he knew about an awesome trail that was closed off to hikers. A park ranger found us, but we just lied and said we were lost.

The best part about the weekend? Drinking beer with the boys at sunset. What a life.

Who wants to give Brian and me notes for the History test tomorrow? We didn't have time to study!

Peace,  
Elliot

3. Look at the possible captions for this photo in the chart below. Circle the captions that make this photo okay to post, and mark an "X" over the captions that would make this photo inappropriate to post.



"Best concert ever!"

"We got so hammered this night!"

"Man, you can't even tell we drank before the concert!"

"You guys look great in this photo!"