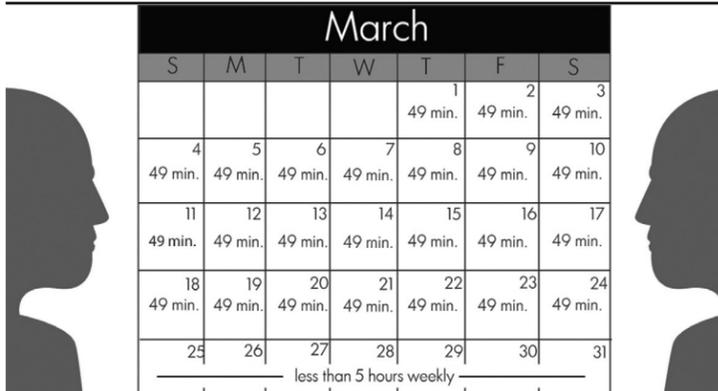


## A Growing Crisis: Families Drifting Apart



**DEBORAH CHEN**  
Staff Writer

"Mom and dad, can you please spend more time with me?" This is not something a typical teen would say, but according to a "Family Circle" survey that www.examiner.com conducted, this is how most teens feel.

In today's economy, it is normal to have both parents working full time. When they are not working, they are doing a multitude of other things that occupy their time, such as chores, watching television and sleeping.

The "American Time Use Survey" collects information regarding activities people do and the time they spend doing them. They have conducted a recent survey that shows that employed people from ages 25 to 54, who live in households with children under 18, tend to spend an average of 8.6 hours working, 7.6 hours sleeping, 2.6 hours doing leisure activities and 1.2 hours caring for others.

Despite the large remaining amount of time for parents to spend with their children, a BBC News article shows that a typical working parent only spends 49 minutes a day caring for their children. Additionally, a SourceWire article shows that parents have less than five hours a week to bond with their children.

"Although spending time with family is important, sometimes it

can take away the time that I want to use to pursue my own interests," sophomore Tiffany Huang said.

However, parents do not seem to share their children's views. A majority of the parents that were surveyed did not feel that they need to spend more time with their children. The gap between how parents and children feel may be because parents underestimate the amount of time their kids want and need from them.

"Parents need to communicate with their children more [...] so that their relationship will go smoothly throughout the years," Mandarin teacher Judy Zhu said.

Nowadays, even when parents are spending time with their kids, they might be simultaneously multitasking, such as grocery shopping. In time diary comparisons done by prb.org, it was revealed that parents now spend twice as much time multitasking as they did in 1975.

"I love spending time with my family because it brings [us] closer together and they will be there for me no matter what," senior Britney Lynch said.

Although teenagers seem to receive a lot of attention from their peers and teachers, these statistics show that there is a lack of bonding time between parents and their children.

**MOOR** graphic by  
ALISON TRAN

## Employers Going Beyond Surface with Facebook Profiles

**JOHNNY HUYNH**  
Staff Writer

In more recent years, the traditional job, college or scholarship application goes beyond an interview and filling out blank spaces on paperwork. A background check may even encompass something other than a criminal record or a drug test.

According to the job search site CareerBuilder.co.uk, at least 53 percent of employers use social networking sites as a basis to evaluate potential employees. Meanwhile, 24 percent of college admissions officers are using the same sources for applicants, according to a Kaplan Test Prep survey. In addition, 75 percent of scholarship providers also participate in such evaluations, as surveyed by FastWeb.com and the National Scholarship Providers Association.

Occasionally, these institutions would ask individuals

to "friend" them on Facebook so "friends only" and "private" posts would also be available for viewing. Sometimes, individuals are asked to hand over their usernames and passwords for constant monitoring.

At the University of North Carolina, each sports team must have a staff member be "responsible for having access

**"I don't think Facebook is an accurate way to see how people are alike; [...] people tend to say different things online than in person."**

- freshman Austin Ta

to and regularly monitoring the content of team members' social networking sites and postings."

Though social media observation is meant to maintain an institution's reputation, it brings about issues dealing with rightful civil liberties, such as free speech and privacy.

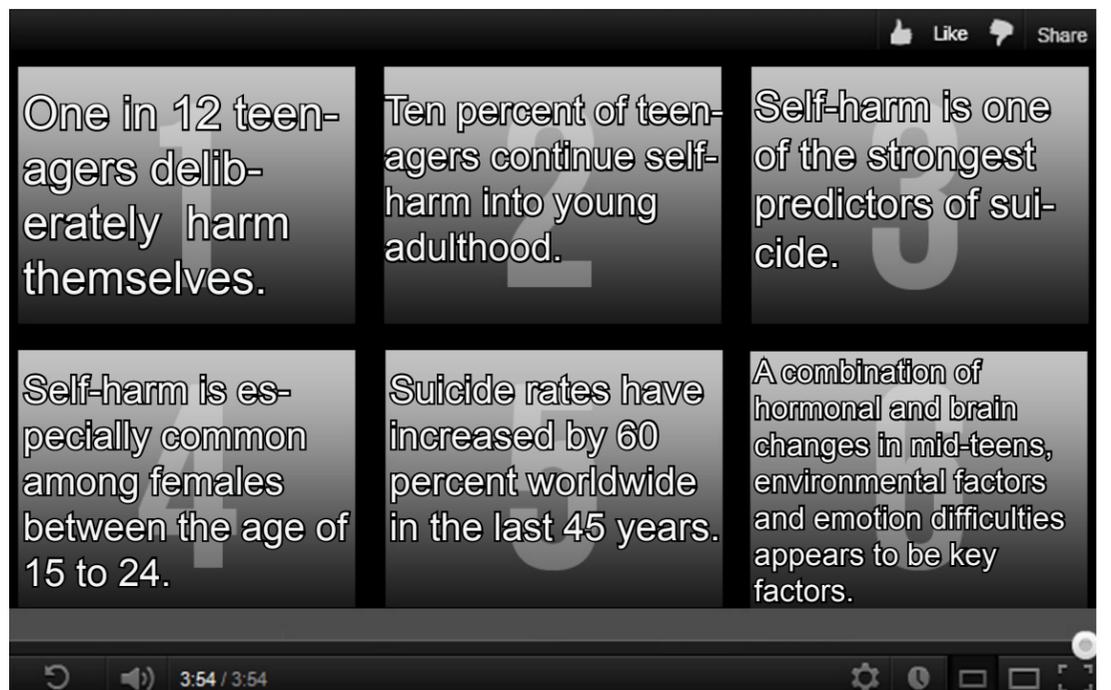
While such practices persist, activist groups, such as the

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), oppose to individuals being demanded to give away their Facebook passwords, suggesting that employers actually violate the rights of individuals.

Whenever an individual decides to set up a Facebook account, they need to indicate that they agree to a set of acknowledged rules in a Statement of Rights and Responsibilities. One of the acknowledgements includes not giving away one's password when one is the sole owner of an account nor "solicit login information or access an account belonging to someone else."

"Giving away [your] usernames and passwords is just not right, [...] you should be able to keep it to yourself," junior Devonne Hwang said.

As a common safety tip, one may be told that to keep in mind that Facebook is still a social networking site. Everything that is posted is not always privately concealed.



## Hitting High Notes with Low Costs

**CONNIE HO**  
Staff Photographer

At any given time of day, there is guaranteed to be music played from the many rooms drifting down the staircase and filling the foyer of the old Victorian house that the Neighborhood Music School calls home.

Synonymous with the idea of a house being a home, the students who attend equate their relationships with the staff and each other as being a family.

"Ever since I was little, I felt that way," Bernard Leon, a former student and now office manager at the school, said. "I like to tell the students: You just made a new friend."

The Neighborhood Music School is staffed by teachers who hold either undergraduate or graduate degrees from music programs at schools such as Stanford, CalArts, USC and UCLA. Teachers are hired based on the needs of the students.

"Every lesson that I have with

my teacher is a special lesson that makes me not only really love music, but also allows me to enjoy music," student Julie Johnson said.

Without sacrificing quality, the school aims to provide affordable music lessons in Boyle Heights. An array of programs from private lessons to group keyboard, violin, guitar and choir lessons are available, with choir starting at two dollars and fifty cents per lesson.

Not only is it a small community within itself, the school often reaches out to the surrounding community by playing shows at youth centers, city sponsored events and holding its own summer concert that features performances by students.

"At the very basic level, music is made to control people's emotions," Leon said. "There are many things you can do with music and it is worth noting that many would not be able to do so without our prices, without our caring and professional teachers teaching [them] how to be the best musician."

## 'Do You Think I'm Ugly?'

**DIANA LI**  
Staff Writer

Every day, millions of people access the Internet. Some use it to socialize, and others utilize it for work. While there are plenty of good reasons to visit the World Wide Web, there are also negative ones lurking around the corner; for teens with low self-esteem, it can be an open forum for them to ask complete strangers, "Do I look ugly?"

YouTube is one of the websites that teens visit to receive an evaluation of their physical appearances. One girl who uploaded a video on her channel confessed that, "A lot of people call me ugly, and I think I'm ugly. I think I'm ugly and fat." Her video has over 4 million views and more than 100,000 comments, most of

which are offensive. However, she is not alone; there are an estimated 300 to 1,000 videos posted with the same question waiting for confirmation.

Posted videos can lead to adverse consequences, such as fostering cyberbullying and pedophilia. Additionally, experts question the impact that critical remarks have on young developing minds.

"Negative feedback that is personal is rarely easy to hear at any age, but to tweens and teens who value as well as incorporate feedback into their own sense of worth, it can be devastating," nursing professor Elizabeth Dowdell said, according to usatoday.com.

Low self-esteem is attributed to disorders including depression and eating disorders. Teen promiscuity has also been linked to low self-

esteem, as well as body dysmorphic disorder, a psychiatric disorder in which the affected person is excessively concerned about an imagined or minor defect in their physical features. Contributors of low self-esteem include obesity, parenting style and school performance. Furthermore, both males and females post videos to gain security about their appearances.

"The main cause of low self-esteem is that teenagers these days always go for perfection [in] everything. However, we all know that it is impossible for anyone to be perfect, so teens eventually get frustrated because they can't reach [it]," Peer Counseling member Kunyou Guan said.

**MOOR** graphic by  
SHARON TRANG