

Texts From

Remember that horrible feeling you got in the pit of your stomach when you first saw that Facebook friend request from your mom? How about when your dad, who had previously criticized you for your incessant, "senseless" text messaging, started texting you about his bowel movements?

All of a sudden, two worlds are beginning to merge: your family life and your social life. And as hard as you try to resist the inexplicable force pulling these worlds together, in the end you'll probably be fruitless.

Mom's request might remain untouched in the corner of your Facebook page for a while, but eventually somehow she'll guilt you into accepting (she did, after all, bring you into this world).

You can keep ignoring those texts from Dad, too, but he'll probably flood your inbox with "RU THERE?s" and the ever-annoying question marks.

Yep, folks, it seems the parents have become the children when it comes to technology and social networking, which means the children have become the parents. And as every parent would agree, sometimes it's necessary to both set a good example and enforce a little discipline.

Sometimes setting a good example is as simple as filtering out all the bad stuff. Think back to when your parents spelled out swear words because you couldn't read yet. How about when they sent you to the kitchen to make popcorn during the semi-dirty scenes on family movie night (yeah, there are still movies I haven't seen in their entirety)?

This basic concept can be applied to the Facebook conundrum. Unless you want your mom to see the pictures of you passed out at that party last weekend, or the numerous swear words littering your wall, maybe you should consider placing her on a "limited profile" list. Or maybe you should start censoring the content you post on your profile for her sake. If you can't say it to your own mother, after all, maybe you shouldn't be saying it in the first place.

WHAT THEY'RE DOING WRONG:

1. TRYING TO BE "HIP" When parents join Facebook or start texting, they are so excited that they might finally be considered "cool" that some may start testing the waters by overusing ridiculous emoticons, acronyms and abbreviations. While it may have been fun to use text-phrases like "BRB" or shorten

turn the

WALK OF SHAME



into a

STRUT

By **KAYLA KIENZLE**

You've either done it or you've seen someone doing one: The dreadful walk of shame. On any given weekend morning, walk-of-shamers can be spotted prowling Ames' sidewalks, attempting to be as inconspicuous as possible—but often the short dresses, heels, messy hair, and smudged makeup gives them away. The truth is, in the bright morning light, walks of shame never go unnoticed. So what can one do to avoid scaring Sunday morning churchgoers? Follow these tips before you end up shamefully stumbling down Lincoln Way carrying the pumps you wore last night.



My PARENTS

By TAYSHA MURTAUGH

the words "two," "to," and "too" to a numerical "2" in middle school, text etiquette has changed. Of course, some abbreviation is acceptable, but over-simplifying language in a text or on Facebook is not only childish; it's also annoying. Besides, in a day and age that most cell phones have either T-9 word or full keyboards, it's unnecessary. The solution? Teach your parents to use this "text shorthand" sparingly and notify them when LOL goes out of style. Or just laugh at their barely legible posts and texts and read them aloud to your friends. When parents join Facebook or start texting, they are so excited that they might finally be considered "cool" that some may start testing the waters by overusing ridiculous emoticons, acronyms and abbreviations. While it may have been fun to use text-phrases like "BRB" or shorten the words "two," "to," and "too" to a numerical "2" in middle school, text etiquette has changed. Of course, some abbreviation is acceptable, but over-simplifying language in a text or on Facebook is not only childish; it's also annoying. Besides, in a day and age that most cell phones have either T-9 word or full keyboards, it's unnecessary. The solution? Teach your parents to use this "text shorthand" sparingly and notify them when LOL goes out of style. Or just laugh at their barely legible posts and texts and read them aloud to your friends.

2. OVERSTEPPING BOUNDARIES



...some parents are becoming friends with your friends (to further keep tabs on you, I can only assume). The only thing weirder than a parent jumping in on your friend's and your "wall-to-wall" conversation about your weekend plans is your friend and your mom texting about you behind your back. Seriously, how involved do some parents need to be? And how the hell do they manage to get a hold of all those numbers in the first place? Your friends might find your parents' behavior amusing or cute, but I know you don't.

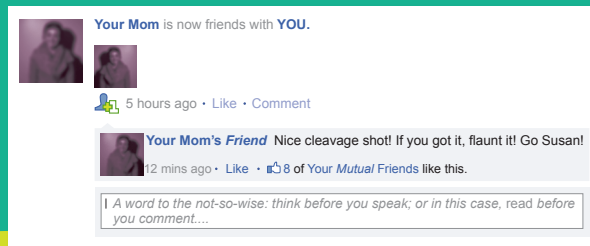
3. GENERAL MISUSE OF TECHNOLOGY

Has your dad finally learned the difference between writing on your wall and updating his status? Didn't think so. Maybe it's their Cataract or old age setting in, but moms and dads seem to have trouble

with reading and comprehending some aspects of Facebook and texting.

This is evident by the way they comment on a new relationship status or a new picture when they clearly intended to write on someone's wall. Case in point, when Mom's profile picture appeared next to the notification below in the facebook livefeed, her friend was clearly confused by what that meant. The fact that this is a new relationship between you and your mom makes this the worst possible place to comment on her breasts. Good job, Mom's Friend. A word to the not-so-wise: think before you speak, or in this case, read before you comment.

As humiliating as parents' cell phone and FB behavior is sometimes, the two forms of communication have proved very useful for maintaining relationships while away at college. Although letting them in is difficult at first, take the



plunge and accept that friend request. Deal with their attempts to be hip, their lack of boundaries and general misuse of technology, and laugh about it if you can.

TIP #1 extra baggage

START CARRYING A BIGGER BAG. I'm not saying you have to lug around a massive tote all night, but not much can fit into a five-by-three inch wristlet. Wear a cross-body bag. It's convenient and you can cram a lot into a reasonably-sized version.

TIP #4 be prepared

INVADE THE TRAVEL SECTIONS at stores like Target and Wal-Mart. They have tons of little things that are great for sticking into small satchels. Grab some gum at the checkout to put into your purse as well. That way, at the very least, your mouth can feel clean.

TIP #2 no raccoon eyes!

CARRY MAKEUP REMOVING WIPES. Raccoon eyes are not sexy. No one wants to wake up next someone who has yesterday's mascara smeared across their face, and you'll be a lot less obvious walking down Welch come morning. A face with no makeup is better than a face with runny, stale makeup.



The smartest walk-of-shamers always come prepared. You could altogether avoid having to do a walk of shame, but who doesn't like telling a good embarrassing story every now and then?