

# Clashes in Cyberspace II

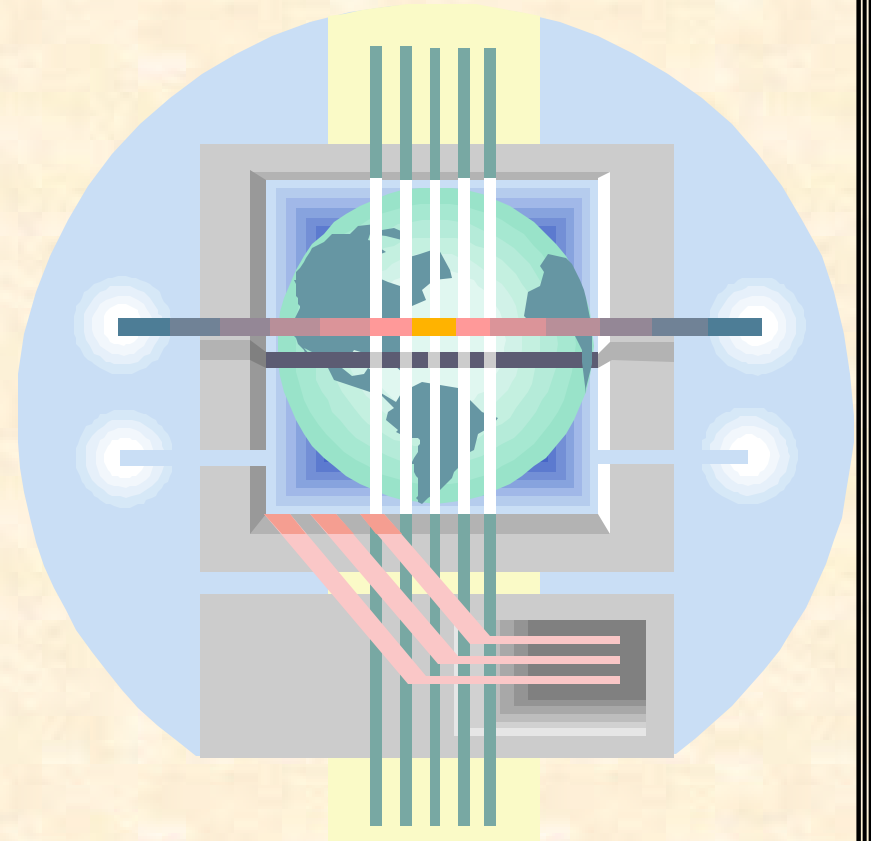
## Social changes and personal relationships

### PART I

- Simulation
- Self (selves?)

### PART II

- Surveys and Studies  
*(the Internet paradox)*
- Net addiction
- Anonymity
- Personal relationships and new media

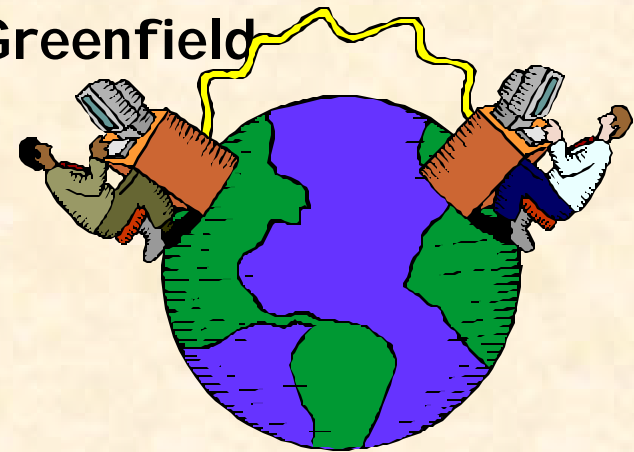


- Recent studies/surveys about net use and effects on individuals/community
  - Carnegie Mellon study (Sept 1998) findings?
    - Rebuttals
  - Stanford University study (Feb 2000) findings?
  - 10-year UCLA study *underway*....began 1999.



# Internet Addiction

- What is the controversy?
  - What does **Dr. Sara Kiesler** (CMU researcher) suggest?
  - Another: **Dr. Nathan Shapira** (Psychiatrist, U of Cincinnati College of Medicine): “Netomania”
  - **Dr. Kimberly Young** and **Dr. David Greenfield**
    - Who are they?
    - What do they assert?
      - Reasons?
    - Greenfield survey ...
      - His critics
- The world’s first cyberpsychologist ...



- **Dr. Kimberly Young**, Psychologist, U of Pittsburgh

Since 1994: Pioneer in study of **Internet addiction**.

1999 presentation to APA:

- Identified 5 general subtypes:
  - Cybersex\*, cyberrelationships, online stock trading or gambling, information surfing, and computer games.

[www.netaddiction.com/articles/cyberdisorders.htm](http://www.netaddiction.com/articles/cyberdisorders.htm)

[www.netaddiction.com/resources/test.htm](http://www.netaddiction.com/resources/test.htm)

- \**Cybersexual* addiction: (Dr. Alvin Cooper's area of research)

<http://netaddiction.com/articles/cyberaffairs.htm>

- Examines how ability to form romantic and sexual relationships over the Net can result in separation and divorce IRL.

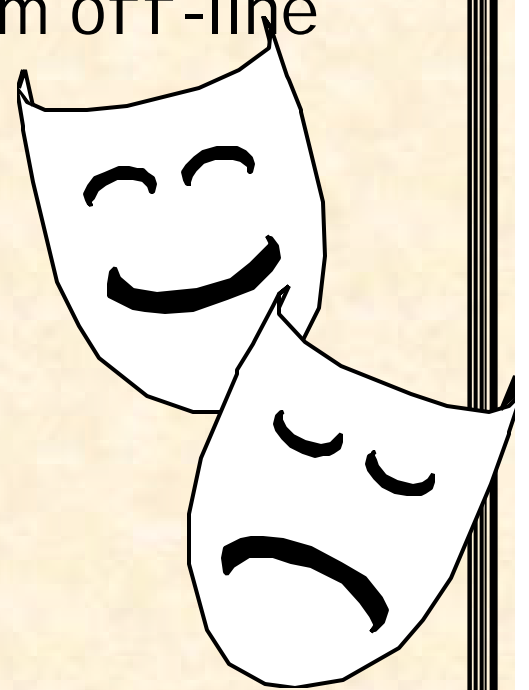
- **Greenfield's web site** (Center for Internet Studies):

[www.virtual-addiction.com/](http://www.virtual-addiction.com/)

Interesting points here ....?

# Anonymity

- How is on-line anonymity different from off-line anonymity?
- What gives U.S. citizens the right to anonymity?
- What are some of its benefits?
- What are some of the risks?
  - related psychological term for this?
- Pseudonymity?
  - Are you completely anonymous on AOL?  
[epic.org/privacy/tools.html](http://epic.org/privacy/tools.html)



- What's the clash? (Brock Meeks)
- What did Meeks have to say about the EFFECT of divulging identities of anonymous authors?
  - Most famous case: Julius Helsingius's pseudo-anonymous remailer service (Finland)
- Why is anonymous communication likely to remain legal in the U.S.?
  - ACLU v. Miller (1997)
- Evidence: What did Meeks say is beginning to occur in this regard?
- Secure anonymous remailers

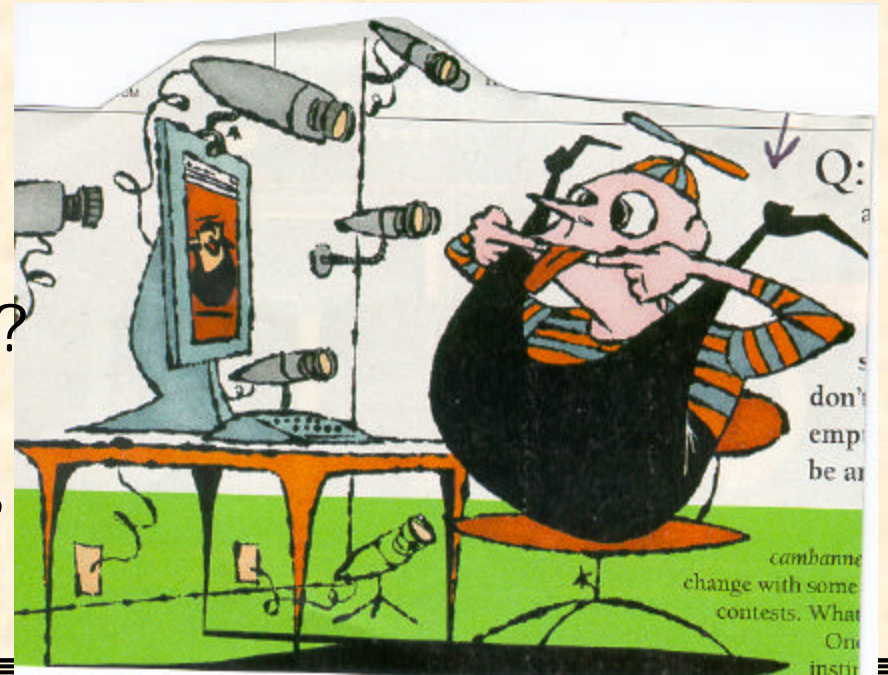
Case Study 2: Bungle<sub>6</sub>  
(from RH-16)

# Flip side of anonymity

From a recent article in *Time Digital* magazine

Q. I just got a Web cam for my birthday, and I thought it would be a lot of fun to showcase my personality on the Web. But I'm worried that I'll be sitting there doing all this outrageous stuff and no one will be watching. I don't want to waste my "A" material on empty seats. How do I guarantee there will be an audience before I go live?

- The bizarre
- The 'boring'
- The educational
- Why do they/(we?) do it?
- Why do we watch?
- Precursor to Reality TV?



# Cyber-relationships

- You want to meet your soul mate....
  - “e-versions” of dating services
  - Custom websites
- Some questions to answer/discuss...
- Risks .....
- Are people just stupid? *Or is it easier to be deceived with computer-mediated communication vs. IRL? Why or why not?*
- Minimize risks before you meet?
  - Digression
- Risks, of course, aren't new...
  - Any HYPE? Sensationalism?
  - Minimizing risks of F2F meeting





- Serious net flirting or "netsex"
  - You catch your partner at the keyboard.
    - He/she says: "But it's just for fun; a fantasy; it's **not** real. It's just text on a screen!"
  - What would your reaction be? Why?
  - Would it make a difference if...
  - Is this like a "1-900" phone call?

*The medium cannot help us to develop moral values if we don't already have them in place.*

*HOWEVER: is technology totally neutral?*

*Complexity of behavior choice rises with "psychological distancing."*