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Apps feed teens' yen for online anonymity

Social-media sites that mask identities raise cyberbullying fears

BY CECILIA KANG

When the message appeared on Ryan Dominick's smartphone, the 14-year-old paused to muster some courage. In it was a link sent by an unknown user that could contain anything from a flirtatious come-on to an embarrassing put-down.

It turned out to be a picture of Ryan photoshopped to make him look overweight, complete with multiple chins and engorged cheeks. Luckily, the athletic and confident freshman found the picture hilarious.

"LOL," he responded to the anonymous sender while literally laughing out loud and showing the picture to friends.

The picture was typical of the pranks exchanged among Ryan's Los Angeles classmates on the anonymous-messaging app Backchat, one of a fast-expanding breed of social-media apps that mask users' identities and can create messages that self-destruct. Anonymous and ephemeral, apps such as Whisper, Secret, Ask.fm and Snapchat fill a growing demand among teens for more fun, less accountability and more privacy online.

But the boom is opening secret new corners of the Internet at a time when educators and law enforcement officials are worried about the safety of youth online. As teens look increasingly for alternatives to the social giants Facebook and Twitter, the anonymous apps create the opportunity.

PRIVACY CONTINUED ON A2

A tiger for government paper use

BY LISA REIN

As the Obama administration pushes to do more business over the Internet, finally seeking to close the technology gap with the private sector, the digital makeover is running into a dogged opponent called Consumers for Paper Options.

The group is working the halls of Congress in closed-door meetings, underwriting research favorable to its position and mounting a news media campaign in an effort to preserve Washington as the capital of paper — and slow the move away from printed checks, forms and other paper communication.

The lobbying group has had some recent victories, including language tucked into last month's budget deal that requires the government to plan for resuming paper delivery of annual Social Security earnings statements to some of the nation's 150 million future retirees. And it's been claiming these wins in the name of the elderly and low-income Ameri-

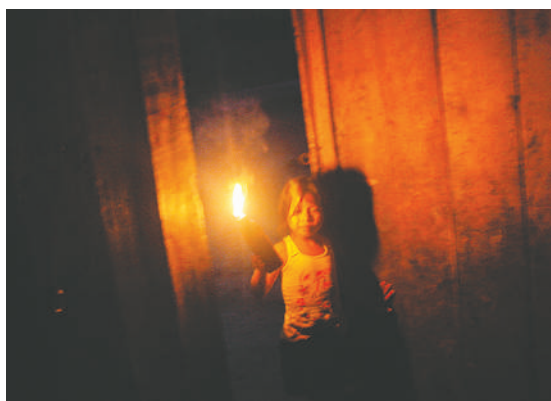
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Adding fuel to the fire

In Ecuador, oil drilling stokes tribal and environmental tensions

BY NICK MIROFF | IN YAWEPARE, ECUADOR



PHOTOS BY DOMINIC BRACCO II FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

TOP: Venancio Nihua and his son walk with Edison Alvarado, carrying saw, at the end of the workday in Yawepare, Ecuador. ABOVE: Vanessa Nihua, 6, totes a lamp her family uses for cooking.

An oil pipeline runs through this village to a Chinese rig at the end of the road. At night, when the rig is pumping, the pipeline is too hot to touch, but villagers say that in the morning it's a good place to dry laundry.

That is its only apparent benefit to the families here, members of the Waorani tribe, lured out of the jungle by missionaries more than a generation ago. Its members live in plank-board shacks with no running water, amid the noise and dust of the fuel trucks, road crews and oil workers.

"All of this used to be our territory," said Venancio Nihua, the son of a Waorani hunter, trying to support his seven children by raising chickens. "We don't want the oil companies to come any farther."

An unprecedented drilling push by Ecuador's government has brought new tensions to Yawepare and the country's Ama-

zon lowlands. As the chain saws and bulldozers cut deeper into the forest, critics say the government is triggering brutal warfare between the Waorani and a smaller, breakaway tribe living in "voluntary isolation" beyond the oil frontier.

Ecuador, an OPEC member, pumps more than 500,000 barrels of crude a day, but with production falling, the country is moving to drill inside one of the world's most ecologically complex and fragile places, Yasuni National Park, an area that is also home to the tribes. The government says it needs the money to pull the country out of poverty and provide education, housing and electricity to the Waorani and other forest inhabitants who have been living on the sidelines of the oil rush for too long.

The families of Yawepare say

AMAZON CONTINUED ON A10

Tourists killed by blast in Egypt

INSURGENT TACTICS SEEN AS SHIFTING

Sinai attack hits bus; 2 S. Koreans, driver die

BY ERIN CUNNINGHAM

CAIRO — An explosion ripped through a bus carrying South Korean tourists in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on Sunday and killed three people, the deadliest attack on vacationers here in years, signaling a potential escalation in the fight by Islamist militants against the Egyptian government.

The insurgency that sprouted last summer had previously confined itself to targeting Egyptian military and police forces. But as the government continues its broad repression of Islamists in the wake of the military's removal of Islamist President Mohamed Morsi in July, the attacks could turn into a much bloodier guerrilla-style conflict, analysts say.

"This is more of a challenge to the government and the state's authority than there ever was before," said Kamal Habib, a founding member of Islamic Jihad, a group that was at the forefront of a similar revolt in Egypt in the 1990s but that later renounced violence. He noted that today's insurgents are using heavier weapons, such as missiles and bombs.

The bus blew up Sunday afternoon when it was parked just 200 yards from the Israeli border in the resort town of Taba, sending black plumes of smoke into the sky, according to images on Egyptian state television.

There was no immediate assertion of responsibility for the attack, which killed two South Korean tourists and the Egyptian

EGYPT CONTINUED ON A15



FABRICE COFFRINI/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE VIA GETTY IMAGES

American hardware

Bode Miller races to a bronze in the men's super-G, his sixth career medal in the Winter Olympics. Teammate Andrew Weibrecht took silver, and Norway's Kjetil Jansrud won gold. Story D1.

Toughest job at Olympics? It's pretty difficult to judge.

BY RICK MAESE

KRASNAYA POLYANA, RUSSIA — When Phoebe Mills showed up for her second Olympics appearance, a full 26 years after her first, she realized not everything had changed. There was still that feeling inside: a need to perform, a drive toward perfection.

"Yeah, I felt the pressure, for sure," Mills said. Back in 1988, Mills was a gymnast, a 15-year-old bronze medal winner at the Seoul Summer Olympics. Here at the Sochi Games, though, she reports to the snowboarding venue for a different, increasingly prominent role: judge.

Judges are not the face of the Olympics — and they prefer it that way — but they've never been more important. In 1988, when Mills was an athlete, figure skating was the only winter sport that relied on judges. Today in Sochi, however, winners aren't solely decided by a stopwatch, finish line, scoreboard or measuring tape. There are now 17 events — a total of 51 medals — that are dependent entirely on human discretion, expertise and subjectivity.

OLYMPICS CONTINUED ON A6



Sally Jenkins
Extreme winter sports and bad snow are a dangerous combination. D1

Another spill
Lindsey Jacobellis falls during the semifinals of the snowboard cross. D7

More online at
wapo.st/sochi

IN THE NEWS



RICKY CARIOTI/THE WASHINGTON POST

Feeding time The largest migration of snowy owls in 50 years is tied to a recent abundance of a major food source: lemmings. A5

A bumpy ride Loudoun County has more gravel roads than any other Virginia county, and people want to keep it that way. B1

THE REGION
State Senate budget leaders backed a plan to tap \$2 billion a year in Medicaid funding to extend health insurance to low-income and disabled Virginians. B1

D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray's retention of Cathy L. Lanier as police chief has made it difficult for his political opponents to criticize him on crime. B1

THE NATION
Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP presidential nominee, suggested that the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky scandal would

not be an issue if Hillary Rodham Clinton runs for president. A4

ENVIRONMENT
Secretary of State John F. Kerry urged developing nations to do more to cut greenhouse-gas emissions. A15

THE WORLD
A faction of Pakistan's Taliban said it executed 23 soldiers who have been held captive since 2010, even as other elements of the group hold peace talks with the government. A20

A United Nations investigation is set to con-

clude that North Korea has committed crimes against humanity, according to a leaked outline of the report. A10

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY
Mount Vernon events commemorate George Washington's birthday.

TUESDAY
A new round of nuclear talks involving Iran, the United States, Russia and other nations begins in Vienna.

WEDNESDAY
President Obama participates in the North American Leaders Summit in Toluca, Mexico.

Housing starts for January are estimated at an annual rate of 950,000 units.

Producer prices for January are expected to show a 0.2 percent gain.

THURSDAY
The Dalai Lama addresses the American Enterprise Institute.

Jobless claims for the week ended Feb. 15 are projected at 335,000.

FRIDAY
The Winter Meeting of the National Governors Association is held in Washington, D.C.

January existing-home sales are estimated at an annual rate of 4.65 million units.

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Strong impression
How a 1928 photograph influenced a 92-year-old's first novel. C1

SPORTS
Nats' dilemma
At spring training, Thomas Boswell looks at talent vs. execution. D1

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(DETAILS, B2)

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