

# ENTERTAINMENT

**Word Of The Week:**

**delphinidae** - noun - "dolphins."

*I brought my kids to Sea World, and they were very happy to feed the delphinidae, which were flipping happily in the water.*

## Number of Facebook users rises exponentially, gains on MySpace

By Matt Schwabenbauer  
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In the busy life of a college student, it can get hard to stay in touch with your friends. Having to budget time between going to class, doing homework, studying for tests, and going to work leaves little time for connecting with peers. This is where social networking websites like Facebook and MySpace come in handy. Through these websites, people can keep in touch with their friends, post pictures of themselves, and even find people they may have lost touch with over time.

The first thing most college students do when they start up their computer is check their Facebook profile page. Students are eager to keep up on who has "poked" them or written something on their "wall." These are just a few of the many features

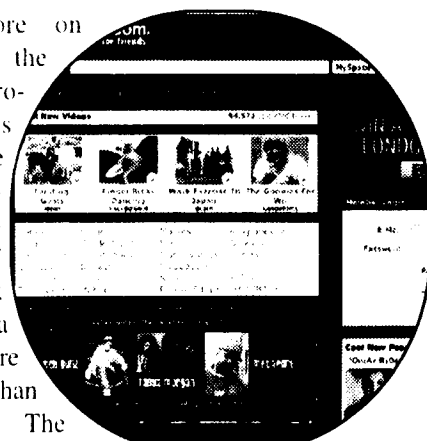
Facebook offers its users. With the popularity of Facebook rising constantly, it is quickly becoming a necessity in many college students' lives.

Before college, most people used MySpace. There is a clear divide in the social net-

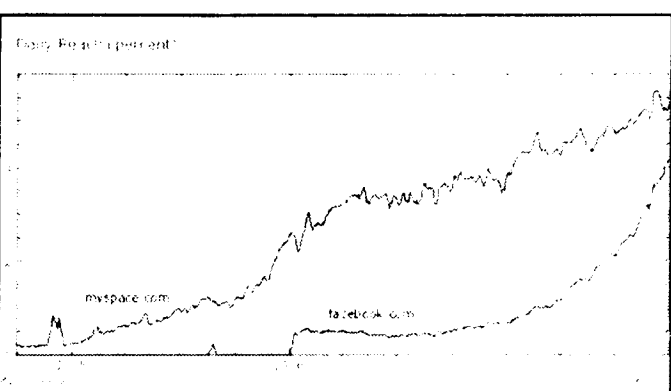
working community between what type of users each website has. MySpace is mostly populated by high school students, and Facebook tends to be more college-oriented. Some of this could be due to the fact that Facebook has only been open to high school students since 2005.

What is it that draws so many college students to Facebook over MySpace? According to Behrend freshman Matt McIlouth, "Facebook is a more mature community than MySpace. All the users tend to be older and are interested in connecting with their friends. MySpace users

focus more on who has the better profile. It's almost like a popularity contest." Facebook does have a more mature interface than MySpace. The typical MySpace page is loaded with huge pictures, blaring music and large font sizes that throw the profile's text right in your face.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A MySpace Page.



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Facebook has been steadily approaching MySpace's total share of internet browsers since 2006, especially in the past year.

Facebook, on the other hand, has a much more controlled layout. Instead of allowing users to alter the way their profile looks, Facebook lets them add applications which they can use to interact with their friends. "MySpace is a limited environment," says Behrend freshman Amanda Woiner. "You can pretty much only

comment and message your friends. Facebook has a lot more fun and interesting features. You can do things like send your friends beer or presents and even tag them in pictures from parties." One of the most alluring features of Facebook is the photos application. Users are allowed to upload as many pictures as they want, and can tag the ones that have their friends in them so they are automatically uploaded to their friends' profiles.

Recently, MySpace has been borrowing features from Facebook, including the photos application. MySpace users can now view their profiles in a simplified layout similar to Facebook, and even add applications similar to those of Facebook.

Although more college students may use Facebook, the numbers still stand that MySpace is the more popular website. According to press releases from both sites, the total number of MySpace users has topped 100 million, while Facebook is teetering on the edge of 49 million.

## American Gangster could be this year's best film

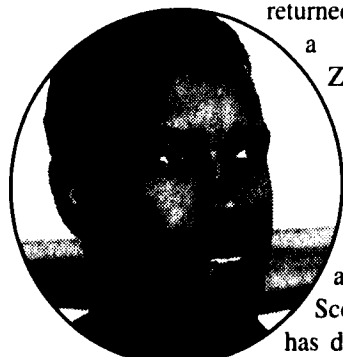
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Nov. 2. Ridley Scott's latest film achievement, *American Gangster*, hits the theatres. The movie follows the life of iconic Harlem gangster Frank Lucas (Denzel Washington) who smuggles heroin into the United States inside the coffins of soldiers returning from Vietnam. Chasing behind him is Richie Roberts (Russell Crowe), a detective looking to bring down Lucas's drug empire. The film has already received heralded reviews.

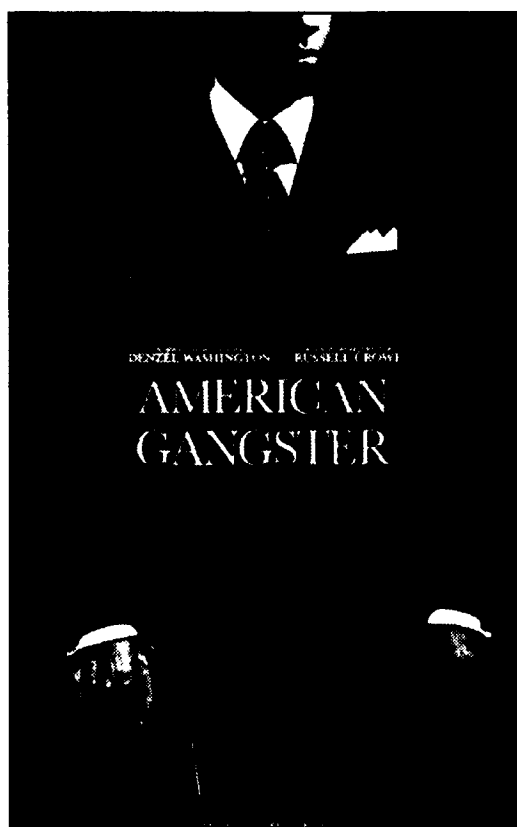
The story was bought by Universal Studios in 2000; it came from a New York magazine and was originally written by Mark Jacobson under the title, "The Return of Super Fly." In 2003, Universal Studios signed Brian De Palma to direct the film under the working title of *Tru Blu*, with the film's script written by Steve Zaillian. The film production was to begin in 2004 when Universal began engaging in talks with Antoine Fuqua to direct the film instead of De Palma. Yet, when October of 2004 came, Fuqua abruptly left the project. Universal shut down production of *American Gangster*, stating that due to time constraints and creative differences, the film would not be made.

In 2005, Universal again tried to start the project. They approached director Terry George to take lead and revise the script. Eventually George's vision for the film was scrapped and the studio returned again to attempt

a nother try at Zaillian's draft of the script. After several false starts and different directors, Universal Studios approached Ridley Scott in 2006. Scott has directed such classic films as *Alien*, *Blade Runner* and *Gladiator*.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Denzel Washington.



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*American Gangster*, starring Denzel Washington, is expected to be a hit in theatres this week.

Scott chose to direct *American Gangster* based on the paradoxical values of Lucas and Roberts: Lucas operating an ethical business despite its illegal nature, and Robert's continuing obsession with women despite his authority figure role. Washington is not a fan of gangster films, but was drawn to *American Gangster* because of Lucas's extensive depth of character. Crowe became involved in the project because of his former work with Scott in *Gladiator*. The film was shot entirely in Manhattan with much work done to make the streets appear as would have in the 1960s.

*American Gangster* is sure to be a great film, possibly even an Oscar worthy one. With such a great director and line-up of actors, it is almost certain to deliver.

## Colbert's presidential race cut short in South Carolina

By Connor Sattely  
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Comedian Steven Colbert made the first real step towards a Presidential bid by filing to appear on the ballot in South Carolina as a Democrat. The decision of whether Colbert would get a spot then fell to the Democratic Party in South Carolina. Unfortunately, that group of people shot down the popular TV host because he did not meet the requirements for a spot on the ballot.

The Democratic Party has two requirements for those who want to get a ballot spot in the state: that he or she is viable nationally and has spent time campaigning in the state.

Carol Fowler, the chairman of the state Democratic Party, as quoted by CNN, said "he does not appear to be campaigning to win if he is only running in one state."

Many Democrats in the state spoke out publically about Colbert's run, claiming that it cheapened the Democratic process, and that he would not be shown any leniency in the laws that he was required to follow.

"Stephen Colbert clearly didn't qualify under our rules, and it would have been a mistake and wrong to violate our rules," said Charleston Democratic party chairman Waring Howe.

Reaction among Behrend students tends to be a lack of surprise.

"It was dumb, of course," says Behrend student

James Wolfe. "But it would have been awesome if he had won. It would have been kind of scary, too."

Student Daniel Frankel agrees, and says that Colbert should have followed a much different strategy.

"If he was serious," he says, "he definitely would have started sooner. Everything he did was last minute, and even when he announced it, I was thinking, 'Wow, that's really sudden.'"

Though Colbert's run seems to be over, the shot at the White House may have done more than elicited some laughs amongst his fans. Many claim that

his presidential bid could have just been a ploy to sell more copies of his book, "I Am America (And So Can You!)"

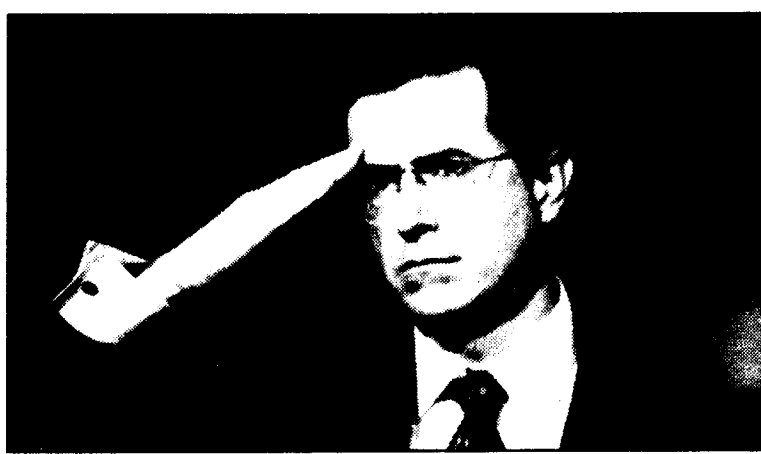
The book focuses on things that Colbert thinks are trying to threaten our country, and his various

olutions on how to save the nation.

For this year, his run for the White House seems to be done early, as he has said he will not seek the Republican ticket's spot due to a \$35,000 fine that he would have to pay for the spot.

As Colbert's fanbase grows, there remains no doubt that he is one of the most popular comedians of the modern age, and his fans could expect to see a repeat performance in four years. Perhaps Colbert's fake bid will encourage imitations from fans or fellow comedians.

Maybe next time, it will be serious. But, then again, Colbert's antics rarely are.



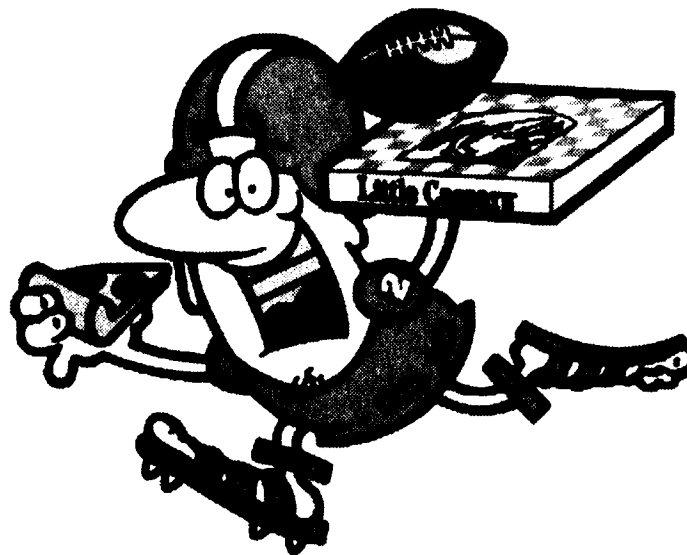
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Colbert's run for the Presidency has apparently ended, as South Carolina's Democratic Party denied Colbert a ballot spot.



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