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Jul 14, 2006 - 08:51 AM

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TeleParent: Big Mother Is Watching

55 Reads

Stumbling across **TeleParent.net** just sent a chill up my spine:

Claiming it's deployed in 5,000 classrooms for 150,000 students "in and around Los Angeles," the company's system lets teachers send automated phone messages and emails that let parents know when the kids are screwing up - or doing well - in class.

The firm's **press release** crows about the way kids are griping on MySpace about getting the dreaded TeleParent call:



"JUNIOR!!!"

Comments made by students on MySpace.com continue to show the difference the new system is making.

After being asked by another student to go out on a particular night, one student wrote, "naww. I have that stupid TeleParent. I need to do that stupid history homework and try to get my average grade around an A or B." Another student wrote, "I don't think so because my mom is mad at me because of that [expletive] TeleParent called me yesterday."

Apparently the teacher can trigger phone and email messages to mom and dad about incomplete homework, bad attitudes and even disaster response - in the parent's native language.

My jerky liberal knees stutter, "Invasion of privacy!"

My conservative-dad whip-cracking hand shrieks, "Excellent! More control over the little monsters!"

My civic spleen blurts, "*Anything* to help bolster lackadaisical parenting in the LAUSD!"

My 12-year old soul whines, "Dude, that is, like, SO wrong."

And my inner hacker wonders how long it will take someone to start gaming the system to sow porn, drug culture and total anarchy in households all over Los Angeles.

But I think my spleen is winning.



Posted by: Mack_Reed on Thursday, July 13, 2006 - 08:58 AM

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