# OPINIONS

# Social media apps make self-expression easier

Social media has been around for more than a decade. Every day you walk downtown or in the hallways, you see someone liking a picture of a Starbucks Mocha on Instagram, or sharing the funniest meme they found on Facebook. Some people think the internet is just a bunch of useless blogs that mean nothing, but they don't know how helpful it becomes when it comes to connecting with family and friends.

To me, social media is one of the best ways to get in touch with anyone. Also it's definitely a faster way to communicate. I don't see it as a total popularity thing though, as most people see it. Take Instagram for instance. Yes, I do take the occasional selfie, but I like posting my art and the music I listen to. It's a great way to show those kinds of things and it feels good when people

like it.

Having a Twitter is different. My Twitter is basically

surrounded by people who like the same music. I talk to people who are equally, if not more, obsessed with the same bands I'm obsessed with. It's awesome that



I get to talk to people from all around the world who share similar interests and I've met some cool people just by retweeting and favoriting tweets. It also allows me help people who are going through a hard time, because I know, even if it's just some stranger, that when you make sure someone is okay, it means a lot.

I personally think that helping people who are going through hard times is the best part about checking my Twitter or my Instagram. I love helping because I can relate to most of them. I try my best to make them feel a little better by the time I'm done talking. That's always been my goal.

Facebook is probably the best way to get ahold of family and friends. For me, it's my alternate for texting. I don't use my Facebook a lot. I only use it when someone messages me or there's an announcement for journalism. I can say that Facebook is the best way to contact people because it's so fast and easy.

All in all, I love using my social media because I can show off the things I love like my drawings or music. It's the best way to express myself and I like it that

By Kaylee Wolgamott

# Online differs from real life

How many times have you gloated over the number of friends you have on Facebook, or the number of followers you have on Twitter? Does that even mean anything? Chances are it doesn't. Most likely the people you are "friends" with are barely acquaintances; maybe they're just people you pass in the hallways. You might be one of those people who goes and adds your other friend's friends. These days people seem to count quantity over quality.

I'm not saying you can't build a strong relationship with someone over the internet, but it's unrealistic. You message someone on Facebook and while you're waiting for them to type their answer back you click over to another tab. When they finally answer you back you respond with LOL:). It's possible to have an effective conversation with someone on the Internet, but it's still a far cry from sitting down across from them and using your voice. When you type back and forth on the Internet you miss out on hearing some-

one's tone of voice, body language, and other subliminal messages. In a study, Dr. Albert Mehrabian, author of Silent Messages, found that only 7% of communication involves what a person actually says. The other 93% comes through elements like tone of voice and body language. If you aren't speaking with someone face to face, how much are you missing?

The most annoying things about Facebook are the cryptic messages that show up in the news feed. If you have a problem with someone, go, tell them, and try to work it out. That's another problem with social media. It affords people anonymity, and they write things they wouldn't even consider mentioning

in real life. The inappropriate messages people post in YouTube comments are sent through a computer screen and the only identification is an inane username like "hotdawg762." In real life saying certain things to someone could earn you a knee in the crotch or a slap across the face. People should

have licenses before they are allowed to comment on YouTube videos.

Social media can negatively affect a person's self-image. It's nearly impossible to keep from comparing yourself to other people on Facebook. The whole point of Facebook is to show off. If someone posts about their accomplishments, such as finishing first place in a competition or getting an award for something, you line up their accomplishments against your own and you may begin to feel inadequate. When it comes to social media it's all about you. People are extremely selfcentered. It's not a personality trait we can just turn off, and social media only magnifies it. You can't look at someone else without comparing yourself to them. I don't know about everyone else, but every time I see someone post a ridiculous picture of themself on Facebook I die a little inside, especially if it's a duck face. #SELFIE. So, since I don't take selfies and post them for the entire world to see, I am obviously better than everyone who does. When

you tweet on Twitter about the awesome new band you just discovered you are really saying, "Look at me, my music choices are so original. If you start listening to them too, you are a huge copycat, and if they become popular later, keep in mind, I listened to them first." Admit it, you've felt that way. I understand, I've thought exactly the same thing.

With the growth of social media there has been an increase of cyberbullying and sexual predators. It's extremely easy to harm someone anonymously over the internet, and people take advantage of this weakness.

In the end, social media can't compete with real life. The events in real life are far different from what you read on the internet. How about instead of sitting at home in front of the computer, you call up a friend and go out somewhere. Take a walk, ride a bike, volunteer at a local library. Just don't expect to form long-lasting relationships in the comments of a Youtube video.

-By Katriel Conners

## Bird's Eye View: Does Social Media have a positive influence on society?

Emma Hoernlein, fr.

"Generally it doesn't. But I guess it always depends how it's used."

Shane Orme, soph.



No, but it has the potential to."

Bethany Hitt, jr.



"I think it depends on what you're using it for." Casey Messman, sr.



"I think it does because it keeps everyone connected with modern technology."

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## Goodbye strangers, it's been nice



So this is where I have my big goodbye to high school, I guess. I'm gonna make it an Oscars speech, and thank everybody who's been so lovely and wonderful and helped me and my class get here. Because it's still hard to believe that it's here at all.

Ms. May, my awesome journalism and AP English teacher, thanks so much for helping me through the craziness of senior year and being an editor: you were pretty much a lifesaver.

Mr. Bellingham, with your insanity and your gosh darn PERSIA that we never used, thanks for mak-

ing history memorable (in other news: you owe me three dollars from that time before the AP test when I listed all the presidents in order.) And Mr. Monegan, because even though I don't understand anything in physics or chemistry, at least they were entertaining and I got to star in a movie. And learned the harsh truth about albatross meat.

Thank you Ms. Langley for helping me finally understand how govern-

ment works. And even though she's not here anymore, I would love to thank Frau Rush for being spastic and looney and teaching me enough German that I could completely baffle a German guy in Italy.

And to my friends: we are definitely going somewhere this summer; I don't care if it's Seattle or Hawaii or somewhere. Susanna, you're such a sweet tall person and we're absolutely buying an apartment together in college! (Because we'll be so rich.) And Elmira, discovering tv with you was quite a journey. (Now you need to watch Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Supernatural.) Amelia, I hope you'll survive without my wisdom... Just kidding: you'll have a ton of fun on top of the school.

Grieta gets her own paragraph, because she is my editor and my darling. I know I wouldn't have survived this year without you to keep me sane. And we certainly got plenty of opportunities to laugh this

year, which I so needed. We are absolutely hanging out in college next vear!

And I know that there are more I've forgotten, but it's so hard to remember everything I did in high school. Just know that if you ever taught me. I appreciate everything you did because I certainly wouldn't be going to the U of O with a ton of scholarships without all your hard work and encouragement. The staff at this school is a lovely bunch of people and I

-By Cheyenne Cox

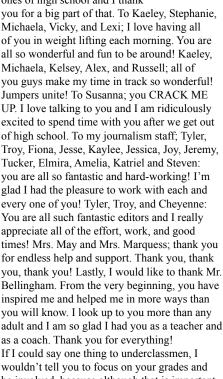
## Goodbye, thank-you, good luck



Well, this is it. We are out, we are done. I can't believe that those four years flew by so insanely fast. High school was wonderful. For starters, I want to thank the friends that have kept me up and helped me along. Maddie Loveland, you have been my best friend since fourth grade and I don't know what I would do if I hadn't met you. To my amigos, Emilee, Leah, Pearl, and Karly; you guys have been so fun to hang out with and you guys always make me laugh. I am glad I have made so many wonderful memories hanging out with you all! To

Cheyenne; I love you so incredibly much and I would not have made it through journalism if it weren't for you and your contagious laugh. To Logan, Tyson, Jarrett, Miles, Matthew and Austin....you are all great. I'm glad I got to know you all at least a little bit. To the rest of my freshmen P.E. class, thank you for a great year! To Ashliegh; I can't even begin to thank you for everything you have done for me, from being an excellent coach to an astounding friend. These past

few months have been the best ones of high school and I thank



be involved, because although that is important, if that is all you do with your life during high school, you have missed the point. The point of life at this time is to make connections. Get close to people, get your heart broken over and over again, and find out who you are, who you want to be, and how you're going to get there. Have fun, but don't forget that our decisions can shape us in one way or another. But most of all, have people around you. When you look back at high school, you won't remember when you got everything done and when you got all A+'s. You're going to remember the great nights you had with the people you grew up with. Just live and all of the rest just comes naturally. Good luck everyone!

-By Grieta King



Dearest Senior Class of 2014,

We had a lot of fun times together, you and me. It's an amazing thing knowing we are the one-hundredth class to walk across the stage and flip our tassels. As we all pack our things and head out into the real world, I wish you all lives filled with obedient children, quality tattoos, and hefty tax returns. Here's to many reunions ahead. May the beat of N'Sync echo in your graduation memories forever!

> Much Love, Leah Lowe, Ginger President

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## No more rolling in the actual dough for this pizza boyl

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen to vou Elmira High. It has been a bumpy ride, but yes, "things change and

friends leave and life doesn't stop for anyone," according to The Perks of Being a Wallflower. Life goes on, things get better; classes get easier, and sometimes harder. but you make new friends and connections to get

I am currently enrolled at Oregon State University and Linn Benton

Community College. My dream is to become a pharmacist! No more rolling in the actual dough for this pizza boy; next time it will be metaphorical! I'll be making about \$60 an hour! But like my mom always says, "Don't count your chickens before they hatch."

through it all.

A big thanks goes out to my mom, who has always supported me in my school career, staying up late to hear me complain about life, work, school, picking me up from dances, doing my extra credit crossword puzzles... The list goes on. Yes, she still makes my bed and does my laundry; I will miss her a lot when I go off to college. For

now, sorry mom you'll still have to board me for a few more years! I also want to give a big



to my dear friend, partner in crime, Allison Myers. Thanks for always having my back since sixth grade. You are the definition of a true friend, and I know we can count on one another to always be there for each other. I can't wait to grow old with you Terri!

All through high school, I kept looking for a club or a group to find my niche. The past month I realized I had found it sophomore year. Journalism was the answer to my search. I have never liked reading, but I love to write and tell stories! It's a great class, and I have enjoyed the staff whom I have worked with. I have to thank Savannah Olsen for teaching me anything to know with Photoshop. I also have great faith in the new photo editor for next year's paper; Jesse Sagen will do a great job.

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen! Have a great summer break and nice life after high school!

-By Tyler Miller

# Where has the time gone!?

It's insane how the time flies! It was only yesterday that I was sitting in the theater on freshmenonly day! Now I'm graduating, and I must say goodbye. I would just like to thank Mrs. May. You were an amazing English teacher; I learned so much from you! Ms. Saint, I will miss you so much. You always bring smiles to your students' faces! Bell! I loved your classes. You have prepared me so well for college; I am so grateful! Drum-roll please... MY FRIENDS!

Rebekah Golz, you have been my best friend since sophomore year. I remember the first day we actually talked like it was three hours ago. I'm so glad we are friends, and that we will remain friends!

Tyler Miller, I'm glad we are becoming better friends every minute. We are going to the same college!!!! That makes me so happy that we will still have classes together!

Cheyenne Cox, we aren't good friends but I've come to call you a friend this year. You are a really good editor! Grieta King, why

are you so



photogenic!? Like seriously girl, go model! You are really awesome and I just adore your laugh! I'm going to miss you next year!

I'm probably forgetting a whole lot of people but I would like to say goodbye to you all! I just want to say that I'm going to miss you guys! Journalism staffers! I LOVE YOU AND WILL MISS YOU TERRIBLY.

Hey all of you guys who are going to be here next year... live, love, laugh, cry, craft, build, adapt, achieve, fall, rise, fix, read, do, write, overcome, but most of all live! Don't slack off when you are in school! But don't forget to really truly live! School is important, but so is life!

-By Troy Dardis

# **Ask Freddy The Falcon**



#### Dear Freddy,

What do I do if I have a friend who's always offering me drugs even though I don't really want them?

Sincerely, Drugless

**>>>>>>>>>** 

#### Dear Drugless.

Just say no! Just kidding, nobody listens because it's always overused and such a negative answer. Maybe say something like, "I don't know if I want to get so high, that I think that light-up shoes are E.T. trying to signal home." I guess a simple "No" would work. Either way, make your opinion clear on what you want.

Making light of it or giving a response like "not right now" gives the impression they can ask again. Just stay true to yourself, dude. Don't let yourself be swayed if you don't want to do it. If you do want to, well, then I guess you don't need my advice. Just mean what you say and say what you mean, and they should get that when it comes to drugs you're not keen.

Sincerely Yours, Freddy the Falcon

**Next** year Freddy returns, bearing advice. **Drop your let**ters to Freddy in the Letters to the Editor box in the Library?

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### Instagram catapults people to stardom

Editor's Note: Email interviews secured by Falconer reporters

Instagram, a social networking site that allows people to post and share photos and videos with others, has about 150 million active users monthly from all around the world, some of whom are famous.

For the people who know about and have Instagram, has anyone ever wondered what it would be like if hundreds of people liked and commented on your photos on Instagram daily? There are people every day who get that kind of attention because they have so many followers, as many as 11,000 or more. These people have become "Instafamous."

Sidney McCabe, 20, from Wichita, Kansas, has around 12,000 followers on Instagram.

"I had an account before the one I have now that over a period of about three years I'd accumulated 13k followers. When I remade my current account, I asked my followers from my first one to follow it. I got several thousand from just the rollover onto my new account and I keep it up the same way I did on my first account," said McCabe. She gets comments of all kinds on her posts. Her reaction to the comments depends on what kind of comments they are.

"If they're sweet, I try to keep up with all of them and thank them. If they're questions, I do my best to answer them. And if they're rude insults, I either delete them or reply and correct what they're saying (nicely if I can). Every couple days I do get hate comments," said McCabe.

She said there are many positive and negative effects that come with the fame.

"The pros: You always have people who have your back and talk to you

when someone to listen and you need feel relatively important, I suppose. The cons: There's always someone watching and waiting to make you feel bad. Anything and everything about yourself, your appearance, and your personality are criticized by people who have no idea who you are. You have to learn to have tough skin and stage\_lyrics]; at the time she had 130k followers. She would mention me a lot, so that's one of the ways I started growing. Then she posted a picture about me that hit the pop page so a lot came from that. I was pretty close to 10k at the time. Then randomly this Instagram famous guy was like 'I'm going to get you to 10k, you deserve

it. And I think from about 15k I started telling my followers to follow a person and they would tell them to follow me which made me gain incredibly. Here and there I've met 'Instagram famous' people who have helped me as well, but ever since I've been doing it on my own," said Johnson. Johnson agrees with McCabe that he gets all kind of comments from followers.

"Honestly, what they comment on my photos leaves me completely speechless. Being told that I'm perfect and flawless everyday has brought my self-esteem up so much, which is one of the reasons I love having Instagram. Sometimes it's crazy to know that some girls 'fan girl' over me. It feels so surreal, like I'm in a dream. In getting all the good comments, I get hate comments all the time. People have said pretty hurtful things. I'm not going to say it doesn't get to me because it does, but after I

read the sweet comments, it makes me feel better," said Johnson.

Johnson said there are many good things about the Insta-fame. According to him the sweet comments are the

best because they make him feel ten times better about himself. He also says being able to talk to his followers make him happy. Johnson said that he doesn't like having people at school know about his account.

Alina Bogachuk, @leiartista, 16, lives in Washington and has over 122,000 followers on her famous art account. "I started my account about two summers ago, like 2012," said Bogachuk.

She says she doesn't consider herself famous, and she didn't expect her account to be so popular. Once she gained 100 followers, though she knew her account and future would expand.

Most of the people Bogachuck know are aware of her account. She said her parents think it's cool that she posts her art, but they're not too interested in the account itself. She also gets support from friends and family. She says that Instagram has given her many opportunities with business and companies. She has started selling her art as her passion grew larger.

"I like Instagram because it allows people to express what they feel through a photo," said Cassidy Johnson, fr. "Also, you can see what other people are doing in life without being creepy about it!"

Insta-fame has its perks, but in the end, school ultimately comes first. Perhaps school work should take precedence over before social networking

-By Kaylee Wolgamott



not take anything to heart because you're just a person on the internet with a lot of followers," said Mc-Cabe. McCabe said her fame doesn't make her feel any different than it did before she started her account, but it's definitely neat.

Alec Johnson, @aleccjohnson, 16, lives in Sheridan, Oregon, and has over 35.000 followers.

"I made my Instagram last year around my birthday. I really didn't think I'd get any followers. Then I started talking to Sam [@samon-

#### COOK'S CORNER: MINT CHOCOLATE CHIP CHEESECAKE BROWNIES

ngredients:

For the brownies:

1/2 cup (1 stick) salted butter

8 ounces coarsely chopped semi-sweet chocolate

- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

For the mint cheesecake layer:

8 ounces cream cheese, softened

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 2 drops liquid or gel green food coloring
- 2/3 cup mini chocolate chips



Directions:

Make the brownies first: melt butter and semisweet chocolate in a medium saucepan on medium heat, stirring constantly (about 6 minutes). Remove from heat and let cool to room temperature (about 15 minutes). You may also stick the chocolate/butter mixture into the refrigerator to cool to room temperature quicker.

Stir sugar into cooled chocolate/butter mixture until combined. Add the eggs one at a time, whisking until smooth after each addition. Whisk in the vanilla. Gently fold in the flour and salt. Pour batter into prepared pan, reserving 1/4 cup of batter.

Make the cheesecake swirl: With a hand-held mixer on medium speed, beat the softened cream cheese, sugar, egg yolk, peppermint extract, and food coloring in a medium bowl until completely smooth—about 1 minute. Manually stir in the mini chocolate chips. Dollop spoonfuls of the cream cheese mixture on top of the prepared brownie batter. Cover with the last 1/4 cup of brownie batter. Glide a knife through the layers, creating a swirly pattern.

Bake brownies for 30-35 minutes

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## Touring bands come to Eugene

Eugene is hosting a plethora of concerts this summer. From

top ten pop artists to post grunge and new rock power players to local indie bands, there will be a little music for all tastes over the summer.

Pop artist Bruno Mars will be playing Matthew Knight Arena this August 11. For those who don't know who Bruno Mars is, he is a hyper-popular artist who blends rock, pop and soul. His influences are Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley. A listener at his concerts can expect to hear "Locked out of Heaven," "When I Was Your Man," and screaming fans. Another pop artist in town this summer is Jurassic 5 on July

Country fans will not be this disappointed this summer either, with such stars as Lee Brice, Brad Paisely, Dierks Bentley, Trace Adkins, Montgomery Gentry, and the Steep Canyon Rangers with Steve Martin. Many of these concerts will be taking place

at the Bi Mart Country Music Festival.

Two guitar greats, Santana and Rod Stewart, will be playing Matthew Knight Arena on July 31. For more contemporary rock, Daughtry, Plain White Tees, and The Goo Goo Dolls will be

-more-

playing at the Cuthbert Amphitheater on July 18. Uncle Kracker will be playing in the summer concert series in Albany on August 7.

As always, the county and state fairs are working to get big names, and many seem to have found them. The Lane County Fair will be hosting alternative rock band Everclear, punk band Eve 6, and country singer Trace Adkins. The Douglas County Fair in Roseburg will feature performances from Johnny Lang, Thomas Rhett, Seether, and Deep Purple. The Oregon State Fair will feature The Newsboys, but has yet to announce other concerts.

# Spark a reaction

Teen summer reading program kickoff is June 27 at 10am. Come and win door prizes, shirts, books, and prize baskets! Grand prize is a Kindle! Some events are: Divergent, July 24 at 1:30pm; \*Cupcake Wars, July 31 at 1:30pm; \*Murder Mystery, August 7 at 1:30pm; and Ice Cream Party, August 14 at 1:30pm.

\*= Must sign up before the event, limited space NOTE: Dates and programs are subject to change. To stay updated, please go to the library's website. www.fernridgelibrary.org



As seniors prepare to leave high school, much of their art from previous years is recognized. Some have taken an art class every year of their high school career, while some have only just started. Artwork includes ceramic pots, drawings and paintings.



## Top 10 reasons we<sup>3</sup>re glad to leave high school:

- 10. College and its infinite possibilities.
- 9. Sleeping all the livelong day.
- 8. No more icky cafeteria food.
- 7. Summer and sunshine and joy.
- -By Tucker Barnes 6. College. How exciting is that?
  - 5. Fire drills in the cold rain and wind.
  - 4. Summer road trips with bestest besties!! 3. Becoming responsible adults...
  - 2. No more dealing with underclassmen.
  - 1. College. Collegecollege.



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## FACE YOUR FEAR, THE BATN

Gemini (May 21-June 21): You look carefully before you... and upon a pillar before you there lies what you have traveled so far to reach. You have fought demons, snakes, pirates, and thieves to finally reach your destination. Stretching out your fingers you hear a sound behind you. Turning, you see the final guardian, the last opponent you must face on your epic journey. Only one man has ever bested this knight, and he perished long ago. You raise your sword and stare into the eyes hidden behind the cowl, the eyes of fear embodied, the eyes of the Batman.

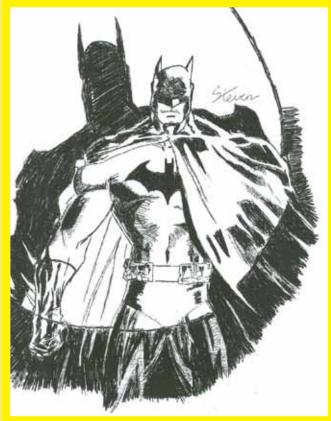
Cancer (June 22-July 22): Kids, just remember not to trust stranger star crabs. They might seem friendly enough on the horoscope page, but all they will do is put you in the back of a space van and fly away into the stars to sell you to the Star-Spawn of Cthulhu. So please, don't listen to them.

Leo (July23-August 23): One of our stars will be exploding soon, and we're closing the

constellation. You may be concerned about your future and what will happen to it, but don't worry. It'll all be over very soon.

Virgo (August 24-September 22): Behold, the mighty race of The Space Walrus has come to earth to rain their fiery revenge. Bow before them, and perhaps they shall allow you to live as servant in their new walrusworld, whereupon you shall begin great resistance culminating in the destruction of the Great Walrus himself, and showering you with glory and fame.

Libra (September 23-October 23): You will have an opportunity to help someone in need soon. Whether you do so of your



own free will or for payment shall greatly affect your short-term future. One shall see you trapped in a pit full of annoying midgets while the other shall see you valiantly riding a large dog into battle against the Hooba-Jalooba tribe. Choose wisely.

Scorpio (October 24-November 22): How do you feel about scorpions? Do you have an affinity for them? No? Oh dear. I'm so sorry, we had to put them somewhere. Have fun dealing with that mess.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 22): Seniors! Go forth unto the colleges and workplaces of the world and bring the shining monies that lie within back to your

humble abode, showering you with fame and luxury. Then wake up and go to work at McDonald's.



Capricorn (December 23-January 19): You shall earn a place in history, not in

the manner you expect. Let's just say that life is going to change for you. Very soon. In a manner you do not expect or can even imagine. If you do see a strange man riding a walrus, get his name. He's going to be big someday.

Aquarius (January 20-Febuary 19): Have you ever considered the possibility of a sudden velociraptor attack? No? Do you at least have crossbow? A machete? Anything? Oh my. I give you... Maybe a week. Sorry.

Pisces (February 20-March 20): Someday, you will be rich. The cause of this may or may not be related to your recent walrus riding activities. If anyone treats you with kindness, please give them a lift to their destination. It will change their life forever.

Aries (March 21-April 20): Congratulations, my friend! You are finally finished with high school, and I'm sure my helpful advice has helped through all of your hardships and trials. Alas, now we must part ways, never to see each other again... unless you're not a senior. Then I'll see you in three months.

Taurus (April 21-May 20): There is a storm coming. Prepare yourself for the hardships that are coming your way, and take heed: you cannot fight what is coming alone. You will need help. Soon a great warrior riding a space walrus shall come to your aid against those who oppose you. The Hooba-Jalooba tribe shall rise again.

-By Jeremy Cooper

#### Unless you slayed a dragon and came to Those Birkenstocks are sexy! Cheese Do you have a phone book? I love frogs, hallelujah! America to sell can kill You textbooks...DON.T TALK TO ME! YOU'RE IN A people, you I like to sleep My eyeballs feel full! It's either a midget or a in my trunk... robot…I haven't decided yet. It's very comfy! She can never take my mirth!

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