

## Don't sever important connections

I just moved to Alabama a few months ago and I find it difficult to make friends. Especially being out of school. The internet is always a great way to meet people out of work, and it's just so much easier. It's easier to talk to people and start a conversation as opposed to travelling to someplace like a club where social pressure and stress takes over. Not to mention keeping in touch with my friends back home. Calling long distance can really start to rack up a bill. What will happen if I'm restricted? What if my e-mail provider is affected by this? The thought of figuring out a new way to keep in touch with everyone and meet people is exhausting in it's own.

Aside from the internet being a social network, what would happen to those who take online courses? Schools can't afford to pay large sums of money to continue to offer their online courses. Hand in hand with classes, goes research. Sites such as wikipedia. My best friend and I often refer to sites such as this because there's always something we're curious about. Whether it be the definition of a word or all the movies an actor played in. It may sound stupid to some, but it's something we both enjoy. The quick and easy online references.

I've used the internet for years now and for all sorts of different things. From research for school papers to downloading an anime I'd like to watch. Not only is the internet a way to communicate with others, even worldwide, but it's a place to temporarily escape the stress and outside problems. What will happen if that's all taken away? Or worse, harshly restricted? Freedom of speech is exactly that, and should not be restricted in any way, shape, or form.