the facebook gap

In the past, when culture-watchers described the Generation Gap, they were targeting the parent-child friction generated by trends in fashion, TV shows, films, and music. But with Generation Gap 2.0 those traditional sources of angst are pretty much off the table—like everything else in the world, the "Gap" has migrated to the Internet.

According to a new report by the Common Sense Media group, parents are close to clueless when it comes to what their kids are actually doing in the social-networking sphere. They're at least *half as likely* to say their kids are involved in a wide array of online behaviors as is true. For example:

- Kids spend more than twice as much time online every month (42 hours) than their parents think they do (18 hours).

- A fifth of all teenagers (22%) check social networking sites more than 10 times a day, but very few parents (4%) believe their kids are logging on that often. And half of all teenagers (51%) check their sites more than once a day, but only a quarter of parents (23%) think they do.

- More than half of all teenagers (54%) complain or make fun of their teachers online, but less than a quarter of their parents (23%) think they do.

- A quarter of all teenagers (25%) have created a false profile of themselves, but only a small number of parents (12%) guessed that was true.

- A sobering 13% of kids say they've posted nude or semi-nude photos of themselves online, compared to a barely-on-the-radar 2% of parents who think their kids have done so.

- Four out of 10 kids (39%) say they've posted something on a social networking site that they later regretted, but only a fifth of their parents (20%) said that was true of their kids.

- Almost a fifth of all kids (18%) have pretended to be an adult while chatting online, compared to just a smattering of parents (8%) who think they do.

- More than a quarter of teenagers (28%) have shared personal information online that they wouldn't share in public, but only a small number of parents (16%) think their kids have done so.