Facebook and the Job Market

Do you know the statistics? Being part of a social networking website can play a major role in your job search. Get the facts!

- 96% of college students use Facebook
- 84% of employers have not heard of Facebook
- 26% of college students post information about drug and alcohol use
- 50%...post pictures without permission
- 50%...post profanity
- 50%...use privacy restrictions
- Should employers use Facebook in the hiring decision?
  - 64% of students say no and only 28% of employers say no.
- 4% of companies have a Facebook policy.
- 39% of employers google possible employees.

What you can do to protect your online image:

- Consider whether or not you are comfortable with employers viewing all information on your Facebook profile. This includes personal information like your political affiliation and sexual orientation, as well as other things like your Facebook groups or random comments on your wall.

- Temporarily remove private information and photographs before embarking on your job search. Photographs that have been removed or untagged can be uploaded or restored at a later date.

- Restrict access to your Facebook profile, allowing only your friends to view your personal information. At the very least, students should consider restricting access to their profiles by excluding alumni members until after completing their job search. This is a very useful privacy setting of which many students are unaware.

- Decline to comment, or be prepared with a witty answer, if asked about your Facebook profile during a job interview.