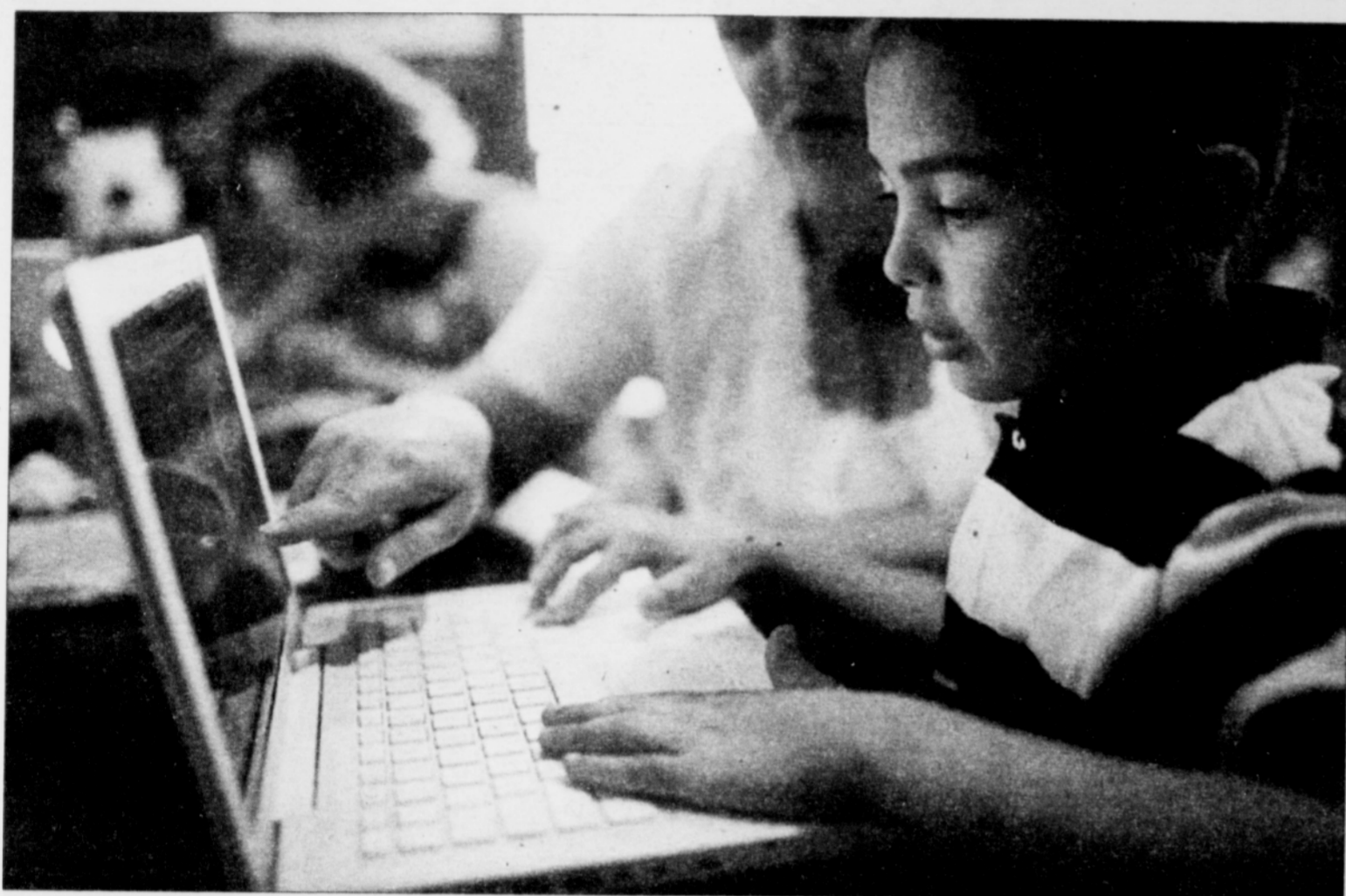


# i-technology



A survey of parents finds the Internet has become as important to families as television.

## Withholding Access to the Internet

### Parents place limits for bad behavior

(AP) -- No TV for a week, the time-honored punishment for misbehaving children, has been enhanced. Now, parents are also withholding Internet access to punish their kids, further sign that the Web has become as important to families as television.

As the two mediums converge, parents are quickly coming to see TV and the Internet in similar ways and are seeking to limit their kids' access to both, according to a report out this week from researchers at the University of Southern California.

The survey from the USC Annenberg Center for the Digital Future found that two-thirds of parents say they restrict their kids' access to TV as punishment, a number that has barely budged over the past 10 years. But the percentage of parents who limit Internet access as a form of punishment has nearly doubled in the last decade.

Among parents surveyed this spring, 57 percent said they withheld Web access to punish their kids. That is up from 32 percent

in 2000.

Michael Gilbert, a senior fellow at the center, said parents are starting to not see a big distinction between TV watching and Internet use. Even so, parents are still more comfortable with the amount of time kids spend on the Internet — 71 percent said it was "just about right" compared with just 51 percent for TV.

Earlier surveys by the center have shown that families are spending less time together than they used to, a decline that has coincided with the explosive growth of social networks in the past few years.

Now, parents are saying Internet access at home is also reducing the time their children spend with their friends face-to-face. Gilbert called this a worrisome trend, though noted that the number of parents to report this is still small — 11 percent in 2010 compared with 7 percent in 2000.

Of course, the Internet and social networks also make it easier to communicate and they help families stay in touch with loved ones.

"The answer is never about technology. It's always about parental responsibility," Gilbert said. But he noted that the explosive growth of digital technology

has made it increasingly difficult for parents to monitor what their kids are doing.

## Augustana Lutheran Church

NE 15th & Knott 503-288-6174

We invite you to join us **Christmas Eve**  
**"Jesus, the Light of the World"**

**7 pm Candlelight Jazz Carol Service**  
 Marilyn Keller, Ron Steen, George Mitchell, Kevin Deitz

**11 pm Candlelight Carol Service**  
 Organ & Choirs *Choir Director: Glenn Ludtke*

**CHRISTMAS DAY Worship 10 a.m.**  
 A multicultural, welcoming and affirming church  
 Rev. W.J. Mark Knutson, Pastor

## Be safe this New Year's Eve

All TriMet service is free after 8 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31.

- **Buses:** Buses will run on regular weekday schedules.
- **MAX Blue, Green and Yellow lines:** Late-night service is added, running every 30 minutes until about 3 a.m.
- **MAX Red Line:** Trains will run on weekday schedule. After Red Line service ends, a shuttle bus will carry riders every 15-30 minutes until 3 a.m.
- **Portland Streetcar:** Streetcar will run on regular weekday schedule; the last trip of the night at 11:27 p.m.

Get home safely this holiday. Cheers!

**TRIMET**  
 Plan your trip at [trimet.org](http://trimet.org)