

O p i

Op-Ed

By **Simson Garfinkle**
Guest Columnist
 with introduction by **Simson Garfinkle and Rebecca Firman**
Commentary Editor

Simson Garfinkle was a recent speaker at Oswego State University as part of the "Our Digital Age" series. He is a writer for the *Boston Globe* and *Hot Wired* magazine, as well as a specialist on computer security. Garfinkle is currently completing a book about privacy and security in the next century which will be available next year.

Mr. Garfinkle's message is relevant to every person on this campus because it concerns the protection of vital, personal information—information like social security numbers, which are widely used and exploited in many arenas, including academia.

Keep this essay in mind, consid-



ering the recent hacking of President Clinton's pager.

College is the place where students are meant to be challenged to think about points like the ones raised in this essay; it is a place where debate is supposed to happen.

Turn to page 35 for information on hockey star Pat Duggan.

The
**LITTLE
WHILE**
Restaurant

Lunch Served
11:30am-3:30pm
Dinner Served
M-W 4pm-10pm
F & S 4pm-11pm
Sun noon-10pm

•WEEKLY SPECIALS•

<p style="text-align: center;">MONDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10oz. PRIME RIB Deliciously Char-Broiled \$8.95</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TUESDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Take a friend out to Dinner for only \$6.25 Buy 1 Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner get 1 FREE (line in only please)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WEDNESDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALL YOU CAN EAT Prime Rib \$13.95 While it lasts</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THURSDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KIDS EAT FREE! (With purchase of adult entree 12 & Under)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FRIDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HADDOCK Fried \$8.25 or Broiled \$8.95 with choice of side (soup or salad)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NY STRIP or PRIME RIB \$12.95 with "All You Can Eat Shrimp", served with relish sauce, baked & white</p>

SUNDAY SPECIAL: Back by Popular Demand.
CHICKEN & BISCUITS \$6.95

GIFT CERTIFICATES ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Rt. 104 West Oswego
(3 miles past college)
Reservations always reco.

•FREE DELIVERY•
Up to 3 miles
(\$6 minimum charge)

343-9750

Privacy Now!

When that first group of humans sought refuge from the world inside that first cave, they were committing an act of privacy. They were cutting off the outside from the inside. They were creating a sacred space. They were saying to the world around them, "You may go this far, and no further. What is inside this cave is ours and ours alone. You may not intrude upon it. You may not change it. You may not know it."

The world outside roared, but our ancestors won. They created a private space, and everything was different.

Today we live in a different world. It's a world of farms, and cities, and planned communities, and skyscrapers, and the Internet. It's a world filled with video cameras, hidden microphones, and surveillance satellites. It's a world where vast telemarketing enterprises follow our every move, trying to figure out how to make us buy things that we really don't want or need. It's a world in which our words and actions are being constantly scrutinized by the state security apparatus, on the lookout for the next terrorist, or drug dealer, or organized criminal.

It's a world in which privacy matters more than ever.

Privacy is a natural resource that is owned by the people of the planet. A forest that is empty of people has no privacy. But when two people hike into that forest by themselves, they create their privacy. Those two people have a right to speak in that forest without being overheard. They have a right to look at the trees around them without seeing advertisements. They have a right to walk without having their movements tracked.

Today politicians and business leaders pay lip service to privacy. They treat it as some kind of abstract notion from an earlier, more primitive, quaint time. Of course, no politician dares to say that he or she is opposed to privacy. But in the next breath, our politicians argue privacy must be balanced against other needs, like efficiency, and law enforcement, and the public's right to know.

We say that we have had enough.

For more than a hundred years, we have fought a losing battle to preserve our right to privacy. We have fought in the press, by writing letters and articles in support of the right to privacy. We have fought in the legisla-

tures, by passing laws to protect this piece or that piece of our privacy. We have fought in the courts, by bringing action against those who have violated our privacy. And we have fought in the schools, by instilling our belief in the importance of privacy into the next generation.

On this day, we open up a new front.

On this day, we declare that we will no longer "play by the rules" in the fight to protect privacy. We know that those who would destroy our privacy are the same people who are writing the rules.

On this day, we take up arms against those who would destroy our democracy and our freedom by sacrificing our right to informational self-determination. From now on, we will control what is done with our data, and how.

Our plan is simple. We will force the world's businesses and legislatures to adopt strong privacy policies and laws out of their own self-interest.

Privacy Now! will bring about this sea of change in modern political thinking by exploiting every hole in every data protection law and practice that has been created by our leaders over the past hundred years. We will force our leaders, for the first time, to face the consequences of their decisions.

Privacy Now! will perform data outings of the individuals who operate the great direct marketing machines of our time and the leaders who work to sabotage pro-privacy legislation. Privacy Now! will collect names, addresses, telephone numbers, Social Security Numbers, income, buying habits and widely circulate this information. Privacy Now! will publish the home phone numbers of people who run major telemarketing organizations. It will print the address of direct marketers and invite people to send them junk mail. When possible, Privacy Now! will use established public and legal techniques to amass these vast anti-privacy profiles. But we know that many of these "men behind the curtain" have gimmicked their computers and their laws so that they receive privacy where the general public does not. We therefore will not stop at what is legal, only at what is possible.

Privacy Now! will attack the soft underbelly of our communications infrastructure. We will intercept the telephone calls, faxes, e-

mail messages, and pager traffic of politicians and business leaders using off-the-shelf technology. We will then anonymously distribute the transcripts and recordings to a world wide audience. Our message will be clear: the world's communications systems must be made over to guarantee security of their messages through technical means, and not merely legalistic ones.

Privacy Now! will orchestrate acts of data terrorism to punish organizations that maintain files on American citizens. Privacy Now! hackers will break into computers and scramble records. They will liberate corporate databanks by putting the information on the Internet, so that ordinary citizens can see what sorts of data and tools are available to American businesses. We understand that these actions will appear to violate the privacy of some innocents. We apologize: your privacy is already being violated, you simply do not know the extent.

Privacy Now! will encourage acts of data subversion. It will encourage people to submit false records to information processing systems, to transpose digits of their social security numbers, "accidentally" misspell their names, and generally lower the quality of the data stream, until that time that there are significant privacy protections in place. Privacy Now! does not advocate anarchy or fraud. Instead, it argues that data is sacred, and organizations that cannot handle accurate data in a responsible manner should not be entrusted with it.

Privacy Now! is not an organization. You cannot join it. Privacy Now! is a movement. It is an idea whose time has come. Already, people around the world have spontaneously taken up the fight for Privacy Now! These people, and millions more, will not be denied their thirst for autonomy, freedom and individualism. They will carry out the Privacy Now! program. They will turn the tables on the world's data czars. They will remake the information age. They will achieve their privacy by any means necessary, and they will do it now.

-PN!-