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# Website lets BU women be rated; many object

By Matt Rocheleau and Stewart Bishop  
Globe Correspondents / December 8, 2010

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**Page 2 of 2** -- Meghan Faulkner, a senior and a board member of the Boston University Women's Resource Center, a student-run women's organization, said the lack of any privacy control was very troubling.

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"Our biggest concern is that a lot of people are on the site without their knowledge," Faulkner said. "There's a feeling like they have no control over it, and there is no way to verify if someone wanted their picture on this site or not."

Doody's site counters with an excerpt from Facebook's Statement of Rights and Responsibilities: "When you publish content or information using the 'everyone' setting, it means that you are allowing everyone, including people off of Facebook, to access and use that information, and to associate it with you (i.e., your name and profile picture)."

Facebook did not respond to requests for comment last night.

Despite Facebook's policies, Doody said he understands the privacy concerns, but he also said that the legality of such a website is in a gray area right now. He is hoping legal specialists will weigh in on the issue.

"I'm very interested to see what they have to say," Doody said. "I'm certainly concerned, at least a little bit. If it turns out to be illegal, I'll have to take it down."

A statement from BU's dean of students, Kenneth Elmore, said the university is not affiliated with the site and that "individuals with concerns regarding the website's content should address those concerns with the site's creator."

The statement continued: "All students are expected to abide by the Code of Student Responsibilities. The university will not comment on internal disciplinary matters. The opportunity to post anonymous content online creates a constant challenge to the environment of civility we work hard to maintain. We encourage all of our students to respect each other and act responsibly."

Doody said the inspiration for the site came from the recently released movie, "The Social Network," about the founding of Facebook at Harvard University. The movie depicts a similar concept called "FaceMash" that the founders of

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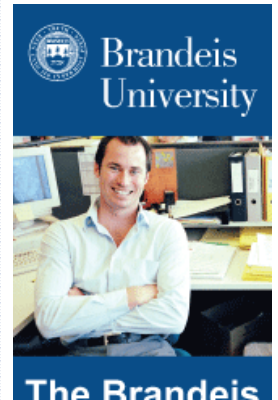
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Facebook had created before starting what would become the world's most popular social networking website.

RateBU.com, which is advertisement-free so far, has about 5,000 registered users and garnered 20,000 hits between Friday's launch through midnight Monday, Doody said.

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