



Nine Facebook Friends You Could Do Without

by Calvin Farrell

Sometimes, by choice or by circumstance, we find ourselves connected online to people we try hard not to socialize with in real life. It could be a cousin, neighbor, or co-worker, someone you shouldn't have added in the first place but felt obligated after the sixth friend request or several reminders in person.

It's possible that you didn't even realize what a terrible idea it would be to add them to your Facebook network; they could be one of those people who seem normal but develop a personality disorder when their fingers hit the keyboard.

Whatever the situation, you're stuck with them now – unless you're willing to risk their wrath or worse, tears, when they realize they've been unfriended and blocked. Sometimes it just doesn't seem worth it, especially with those we see often in person, so we do our best to tolerate:

1. Debbie Downer. Debbie's an unfortunate sort. She hasn't had a good day in 10 years, and her wall is littered with "Ugh," "Why does this always happen to me," and "FML." Trying to cheer up a Debbie is an exercise in futility, as she has an entire arsenal of depressing responses ready and waiting for whichever friend makes the mistake of feeding into her negativity. The only way to deal with a Debbie is to...not deal with a Debbie.

2. Little Big Man. He's only satisfied when he's making someone else feel stupid and small. He mocks your typos, starts flame wars on your posts, and is always right about everything. When he's losing an argument, you

can count on this cat to Google the topic and cite a random blog post as evidence because, if someone wrote it on the Internet, it has to be true. This tactic allows Little Big Man to dominate every conversation and become an expert on any topic in 30 seconds flat.

3. Chicken Little. This friend wants you to think the sky is falling. Constantly. You regularly point them to Snopes to dispel the three or four viral disaster warnings they post a week (ie.: THE INTERNET IS CLOSING ON MARCH 4TH!). Chicken Little is especially fond of sharing catchy, scary articles/videos and the rantings and ravings of political pit bulls. This friend could benefit from intensive counseling, a critical-thinking course, and possibly medication.

4. The Super-Successful Marketer. He's having a great time sitting at home raking in six figures and wants you to learn how! (For the low, low cost of \$1,499.) He's the man; he will hook you up. "For you, friend, I can work out a deal...I'll teach you how to teach people to be rich by getting rich teaching people to be rich, too!" He avoids direct questions about how much he's actually making but assures the world several times a day that it's A LOT more than you poor schmucks. At least, it will be...some day.

5. Drama Queen. She loves to post leading comments as status updates. Her post might read: "OMG, can't believe what's happening tomorrow!" or the infinitely worse, ambiguous death/injury announcement that causes every person on her list to think it

could be someone close to them: "Soooo sad, my heart is broken. RIP Rob." Rob who? Rob from work? Our old classmate Rob? She loves to stir the pot and takes pleasure in making people think she has a lot more going on than she actually does.

6. The Most Interesting Person in the World. These people suffer from a condition similar to verbal diarrhea and are compelled to share every inane detail of their life with the world. These people check in everywhere they go, update friends on every piece of food that passes their lips, and tell you how often they clean each room of their house. The Most Interesting Person in the World may also have a penchant for apps that allow them to share even more useless information, such as how many calories they burned in a day or what kind of mood they're in morning, noon, and night.

7. The Guy with the Missing Filter. Similar to The Most Interesting Person in the World, they share too much – but to the point of inappropriateness. They treat Facebook as a private phone call between two very close people (one of whom probably still didn't want to know) and either don't care or don't understand that the rest of the world may hold it against them later. The Guy with the Missing Filter considers hemorrhoids,



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menopausal hot flashes, foot fungus, sexual escapades, birthing stories, and bodily functions light conversation topics. Ask how they're doing or what they've been up to lately with caution.

8. Autopilot Andy. He missed the memo on social media and believes it's acceptable to set up HootSuite to autopost links to everything he's pinging online, clogging your newsfeed without engaging in any kind of human interaction whatsoever. Andy may even turn off his notifications, so he doesn't get all those pesky emails telling him people have questions or like his posts.

9. Snarky Blogger. Possibly the most nefarious and underhanded of all Facebook friends you could do without, the Snarky Blogger lies in wait, reading, observing, and collecting information for her next snarky post. You cross your fingers and hope your online ramblings don't become fodder for her mocking diatribes about who or whatever incurred her wrath that day. Even so, you keep her around because her biting wit is actually quite funny... when it's happening to someone else.

Be on your guard and try not to slip into becoming one of these characters. If you recognize some of your behaviors mentioned above, it may be time to rethink your social media strategy. ■



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