

“But first...”: The popularity of the selfie

Even after being named the word of the year in 2013, the selfie is still just as prominent on social networking sites. Selfies are growing in popularity in businesses as well. Promotions and advertisements are being created by big name companies that incorporate selfies. It seems to be a good business strategy, too. There are well over 100 million images on Instagram tagged with either #me or #selfie, and that number does not include images tagged on Twitter or Tumblr.

The term “selfie” is said to first have been used by a photographer named Jim Krause in 2005 in his book *Photo Idea Index*, who said a selfie is great because “they can be taken just about anywhere, anytime.” Selfies were popular profile pictures on MySpace, usually taken in the mirror with the flash on. As MySpace faded away and Facebook grew to prominence, selfies became less frequent because Facebook was more about interacting with friends, and profile pictures were usually with more than one person. Due to this, selfies as profile pictures were not used as often on Facebook as on MySpace.



Senior Shaun Evans took this selfie in the Prep library

One of the main contributors, if not the biggest contributor, to the selfie growing to what it is today is the implementation of a front-facing camera on the iPhone 4 in 2010. Although other phones had used front-facing cameras before, they were not as good as on the iPhone and most were only available in Japan or Korea. The availability and quality of the camera on the iPhone 4 made the popularity of the selfie grow even more because people no longer needed to turn a camera or their phone around in order to take a picture, specifically a selfie.

And from there, selfies have become a staple in today's society. It is not uncommon to see people taking selfies in public, especially with a group of friends. Selfies are also becoming common in media. Commercials for big corporations like Samsung and their Galaxy Gear, hit songs like *#Selfie* by The Chainsmokers, and promotional campaigns by companies like Axe Deodorant that encourage people to take selfies have fueled the popularity of the selfie and made it commonplace in media.

Whether or not this movement of accepting the selfie into society is a good or bad move is hard to say. It allows people to express themselves, although the exposure could be

negative. Some selfies generate lots of buzz around them which leads to coverage. Ellen DeGeneres tweeted a selfie along with some of her celebrity friends during the Academy Awards that became the most retweeted picture ever before the show was even over. Other selfie trends that were popular were the tag #selfieolympics that was used during the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, in which people would take selfies i



Junior Nick Ng takes a selfie

in odd positions. For all the selfies and trends that are fun, there are those that generate a lot of negativity and hate, like people taking selfies at funerals or selfies that are sexual in nature.

Disregarding the trends, selfies are most definitely here to stay simply because people are social in nature, and with smart phones and cameras always readily accessible, people are going to be taking pictures and making sure they look good in order to impress others. Just about everyone who has a smart phone has taken a picture of themselves, whether it was to share with others or not. The popularity of the selfie also makes good business sense for companies in order to advertise for their products. It allows them to create a promotion around something that is popular instead of creating something

entirely new.

Every day technology is getting more and more advanced, and every new product that can record an event with a selfie will be used for that purpose. Whether it is taken by oneself in the mirror, with a goofy face with friends, or atop a mountain with a GoPro, the selfie continues to be used and to be used in creative ways. The age of the selfie may have started nearly a decade ago, but their resurgence has made them even more popular, and with people pushing the limits of where or what they can do whilst taking one, there is no telling what is next up for the selfie.

Quantum Communications may make science fiction a reality

So far throughout the year, a few articles on science have popped up here and there. One of the more drastic and rare themes in science however has been taking a few leaps in possibilities recently. For a few years now, we have known about something called Quantum Entanglement. Basically, what this means is that two atoms or molecules have possible pairs out there in the world. If one of the two turns or spins one way, the other always guarantees that it will spin the opposite way instantly. An invisible bond with no delay whatsoever.

Scientists and students have been looking into how it may be possible to use something like this. There has been the general knowledge that making these pairs is difficult but not impossible. One method is to fire a high powered laser through

certain types of crystals, generating these paired molecules. Well, what can we do with them?

Quantum Communications. Right now for our communications, we either have wireless signals through satellites, or a wired connection which runs beneath the ocean on super-fast cable types. Fiber Optics. The idea came out that using these paired molecules. What if we could send data through them? The tiny delay from a cable would not exist at all if this was possible. You read what these paired molecules are doing at the send point, flip their actions, and you get an exact copy of the data that was sent in the first place.

How do you contain these paired atoms however? That was a problem which actually was not that difficult to figure out. Diamonds. A hard material, used in jewelry for it's shine, and sometimes in tools because it's difficult to break. These diamonds have a very tight structure in their molecular base; giving it it's hardness. However sometimes there are microscopic caves inside of these diamonds. Why not store them inside the pockets? The method of getting these paired atoms into the diamonds is still unclear. However, this is foreshadowing that we may be onto a new development on how our data reaches one point to another.

2014 Awards Assembly honors academic, athletic achievements

Monday, May 19 was the annual sports awards assembly. Like all assemblies, it started off with a prayer led by Fr. Jason. Following that, Mr. Murnock kicked off the assembly by

starting with the academic awards. The most notable of these were the congratulations to Nicholas Ng, who scored in the 99th percentile on the National German Exam for the second year in a row. He was also congratulated on being selected for an all expense paid trip to study in Germany for four weeks. Also mentioned during the academic awards were all members of the Academic Sports League team.

Following these academic awards, came the sports awards, where an MVP award was given for every sport. To recap, fall sports winners were senior Pat Kloecker for the Cross Country award, junior Dan Bauman for Water Polo, seniors Billy Fessler and Felix Manus-Schell were co-MVPs for Football MVP's, and senior Theodore Martin won the Soccer award.

The winter awards went to senior Matt Harris for the Basketball award, senior Zachary Miller for the Swimming award, junior Trevor Faulkner for the Hockey award, and senior Jake Gromacki for Wrestling. Gromacki also received a special mention for being the first D10 wrestler to place at states all four years of his high school wrestling career.

Finally, the spring sports awards went to senior Ted Desantis for the Baseball award, junior Bryce Boyd for the Track and Field award, and Senior Ryan Bleggi got the Lacrosse award. Following this, all students who lettered in three sports received a Tri-Sport award. Please congratulate these athletes for their accomplishments if you see them.