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Intro Comp and IS

19 September 2017

Selfies, Pokemon, and the Internet

Technology has been present as I grew up. It is the anchor for younger children, and even teens. Few of us 'millennials' know the life without electronics and other forms of modern technology. Some go as far as to say, "I don't know what I would do without my [phone, internet, etc...]." Tech has a definitive influence on culture and vice versa, but that doesn't make it good.

Modern technology has made vast improvements. The Motorola DynaTAC 8000x was the first commercially available mobile phone. As TIME puts it, "It weighed 1.75 lb., stood 13 in. high, stored 30 numbers, took 10 hours to recharge and cost \$3,995." (Ha). Now we have mobile phones costing as low as \$20 without service. This is an awesome accomplishment, but with anything good, comes something that can be equally bad or even worse thanks to sin.

The Iphone is a popular phone with many features and has started a technological advancements with the consumer in mind. If you want to see how much culture has impacted technology, the iPhone is the best thing to look at. iPhones have had a large amount of consumers and fans, and with a company with a big enough fan base have done something right; they got what consumers wanted/needed accomplished, and did it right.

Apple is the company that modernized selfies. The reason Selfies are so popular is because the addition of the front facing camera. Selfies did not immediately take off upon the

creation of this camera, yeah some people took photos with it, but the quality was not good. This article states it very well, “People had been snapping self-portraits with cheap cell phones for years. But the pictures didn’t look great. Self-snapping was seen as tacky, uncouth, a thing for MySpace. The iPhone 4 changed that. The first iPhone with a camera on its front, it let you take good-looking pictures of yourself.” (Manjoo)

The biggest thing that has come and kept on with millenium culture is the selfie. Many people take selfies, but that doesn’t make a selfie a good thing. If you break down what a selfie is, you get a picture of yourself with some sort of a fancy background and a ‘cool’ facial expression. Selfies are for everybody and is strongly encouraged if you want to be hip and modern. That’s only brushing the surface, a selfie is a narcissistic idea and is influencing our culture towards a negative path. As a baby, you only care about yourself, you don’t understand much about anything.

Selfies are assisting our society with becoming more and more narcissistic. The Bible says, “37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (*English Standard Version*, Mat. 22:37-39). Selfies shift the focus from God, to us. Selfies are not wrong, but they are if you value the picture over God and your friends and family you are sinning.

Another big thing with the iPhone is the creation of the first robotic assistant built into your phone; Siri. She can text people for you, she can give you answers to your math problems, and even attempt to make jokes. Siri also had flaws, some of which deterred people from using it

for logical reasons, instead to use Siri as a toy to play with. Siri is flawed, but still contains some form of use.

Remember when *Pokemon GO* came out? It became the biggest thing that was on a mobile phone in history. *Pokemon GO* tried to give introverted and gamers a reason to get off there but, step outside, and walk around. They accomplished their goal extremely well. It also helped connect people socially. This was a good thing right? Never forget that every good thing that happens will have something bad it will be used for. *Pokemon GO* does not get any special skips. If you decided to not watch the news channels talk about pokemon catching, you missed you catch. There have been incidents where cars smashed into people while they attempted to catch a Weedle. Worse things happened, people got jumped because their hopes for finding another Weedle led them late on a late night stroll down an alley in Kensington. The news is extremely important to watch if you haven't heard.

The news is amazing! It updates you on things around the world that you would otherwise have no clue about. The news, you get it through the internet, TV, and newspaper. The news is a great thing, it is extremely informative, but information is controlled by those who wield it. And that can be a good thing or extremely bad. Just imagine if the news never told you about school shootings and Trump and his plans for this country. That would be terrible, and allow the government to slowly turn into a dictatorship if they so desired.

The Internet is a big source of news, past and present. The Internet is insanely large and full of useful information. The internet has grown to be the biggest thing since Thomas Edison [NOT Albert Einstein] invented the lightbulb. The Internet makes research easily accessible, and for communication basically anywhere. Great things! And everything indeed has bad along with

it, people fight over the internet and have these childish arguments. Don't even get me started on the gaming community. This isn't the worst side of the internet, there is also something called the 'deep web'. In the deep web, there is in fact applications to join ISIS, there is child pornography plastered all over some servers that are being hosted from Idaho. It's chilling to the bone to think about.

How can you not see this new generation rising and bathing in the sight of their own self image? It is a big deal, modern culture is slowly on a downwards spiral dedicating itself to a single letter that makes up a word; I. Yes, this world is on a downward spiral and clearly it's causing certain negative effects. If you do not believe in the Bible, times are full of pleasure, and fun. If you do however, these are exciting times. In Timothy the Bible says, "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. **2** For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,**3** heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, **4** treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,"(*English Standard Version*, 2nd Timothy 3:1-4) Selfies? Bring them on!

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