

# Selfies and beers and friends, oh my!

While selfies may have increased in popularity over the last decade, millennials certainly weren't the first generation to snap photos of themselves.

When Oxford Dictionaries announced "selfie" was selected as the Word of the Year in 2013, efforts were made to track down the word's origin. According to Slate.com, Oxford identified a 2002 science forum post on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's website as the earliest known example of the word's use.

Evidently, a young Aussie man took a photo of his stitched up lip, an injury he suffered while drunk at a "mate's 21st" birthday celebration. "Hopey," aka Nathan Hope, apologized for the photo's lack of clarity, "And sorry about the focus, it was a selfie."

Hope denied coining the use of the word, saying it was merely common slang to describe a picture you had taken of yourself. The thing is, self portraits — whether by taking a picture while looking in a mirror or with one's outstretched arm — have been around for ages. As far back as the early 1900s, the Kodak Brownie Box camera provided opportunities for people to take self-portraits.

I must say, however, the use of cell phones or digital cameras are much preferable in the art of the selfie.

Back when telephones

## A particular selfie taken in the early- to mid-1990s featured part of my face and more.

were attached to walls and a thing called film was widely used, photographers didn't have the luxury of instantly seeing what they had taken a picture of — thus affording them an opportunity to delete anything they didn't like. Sometimes a roll of film remained in a camera or sat in a drawer for months before being developed. Lacking the ability to view photos immediately could prove to be quite embarrassing to people who liked to take photos while also imbibing in too many adult beverages. I know this from experience.

A particular selfie taken in the early- to mid-1990s featured part of my face and more. Let's just say, it could have qualified for the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue ... uncovered. The unfortunate thing is, it was taken with a film camera — someone else's film camera.

By the time Kaci Parker had her film developed I had long-forgotten even taking the photo. If the truth be known, I likely forgot mere moments after snapping the picture.

Although my entire face wasn't caught on film, her neighbor Suzy Tosten immediately knew it was me. When she told me about it, I was mortified. Being the friend that she was, Suzy said she would get the photo and the negative.

When I got to work the next morning, I went to Suzy's office to see if she had retrieved the items from Kaci. However, before I could even get the words out of my mouth, I looked down and on her desk in a picture frame was the photo.

While they say a picture's worth a thousand words, I only needed one ... a four-letter one.

*Tammy Malgesini is the community editor. Her column, Inside my Shoes, includes general musings about life. Contact her at tmalgesini@astoregonian.com or 541-564-4539.*



**Tammy Malgesini**  
INSIDE MY SHOES

### IN BRIEF

#### Writers' series features 2 poets

A pair of Oregon poets will share the stage during this month's First Draft Writers' Series.

Amy MacLennan and Amy Miller are featured Thursday at 7 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. The readings will be followed by a question and answer session and short open mic time for up to 10 local writers. MacLennan's first full-length collection, "The Body, A Tree," was released from MoonPath Press in April 2016. In addition, her poetry has been included in multiple publications.

Miller works as the publications project manager for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and is the poetry editor for the NPR listeners' guide, "Jefferson Journal."

For more information about the monthly series, call 541-278-9201 or visit [www.pendletonarts.org](http://www.pendletonarts.org).

#### Umatilla ready to rock eclipse

While Umatilla County isn't in the path of totality, the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center is welcoming

people to join the celestial celebration.

The Path of Almost Totality Tailgate Party is Sunday, Aug. 20 from 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m. at Umatilla Marina Park. There is no admission charge. Live music is presented by Blue Tattoo and The Outsiders. A beer garden and food will be available for purchase. Also, recreational vehicle and tent sites available for a fee by calling 541-922-3939.

For more information, call 541-922-4825 or visit [www.facebook.com/umatillaoregonchamber](http://www.facebook.com/umatillaoregonchamber).

#### Parks & Rec plans eclipse trip

Travel arrangements, snacks and eclipse glasses are all featured in a solar eclipse day trip sponsored by Hermiston Parks & Recreation.

The cost is \$20 for Hermiston residents and \$24 for non-residents.

Those who want to attend need to register as soon as possible.

For more information, visit [www.hermistonrecreation.com](http://www.hermistonrecreation.com). To register, call 541-667-5018 or stop by the recreation office, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston.

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