

Extra page? Cell phone pics!

Don't you hate that feeling? You think the book is done and you find you have one DPS that you have no content for. You planned on having the Boomerang club but they never got back to you about their meeting or the state championship field hockey team but they ended up losing all their games. So now what do you do?

Well, here's a cool idea that just popped into my brain. Cell phone camera pics. Seriously!

It is estimated that one out of every two cell phones today has a camera on it. Now, it is a given that they don't take the best pictures. Nor do they take pictures that are big enough to enlarge. But as a cool feature in your book why not try this idea to fill that DPS?

First, register for a free e-mail account (you don't want to overload yours) and then put out an announcement that asks everyone with a cell phone camera to take a picture of something in school and e-mail or text message it to that e-mail address or to an IM chat address.

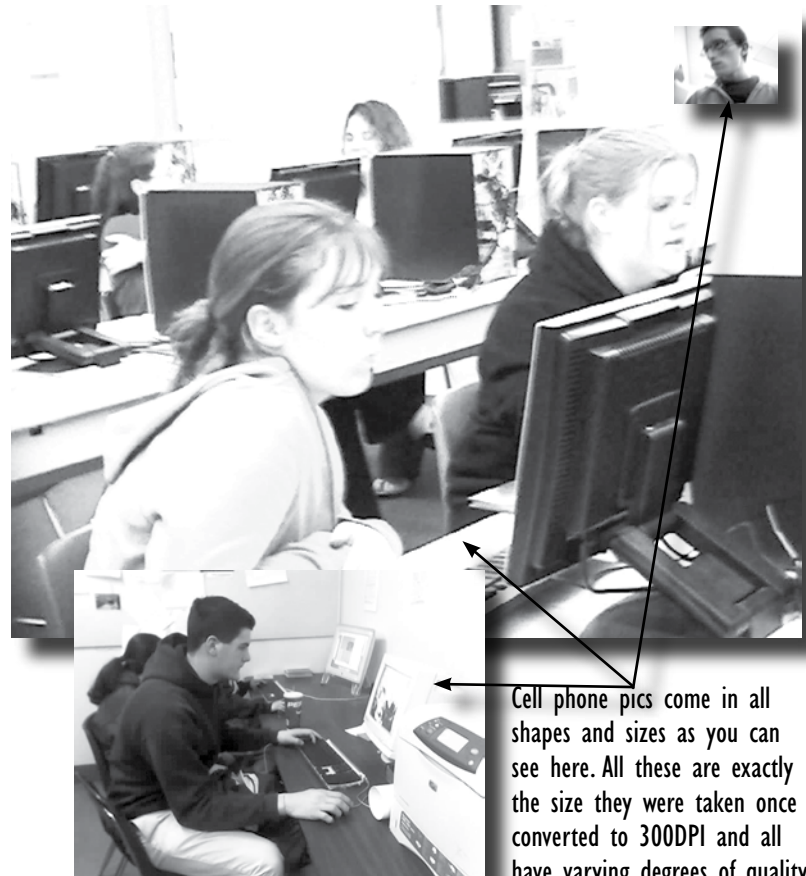
We tried this earlier in the month to see how we would do and when we just asked you fine adviser folks we found that many students (and advisers) have camera phones but are not sure how to get pictures off of them. This is a good thing. It means you won't get too many and the people you do get them from will be fairly tech-smart.

Once you have them, you need to realize that they are all 72 DPI and we need 300 DPI to print them in your book. You could open them in Photoshop and change their resolution. If you do, make sure that you have unchecked the Resample Image button or your cell phone picture will become very pixelated. But you don't need to do this.

You can just place them at a very small size using Picture Placer either with InDesign, PageMaker or YTO. Picture Placer will stop you if the photo is too small for the picture box you are trying to put it in. **(WARNING—DO NOT ENLARGE THEM AFTER PLACING THEM!)**

Take a look at the pictures on this page. All were taken with a cell phone camera and e-mailed or text messaged to us. All started out as 72 DPI images. Some were larger than others to start with. In fact the three photos below the montage are actual size in 300 DPI from different cell phones.

One last thing. We are in no way saying that this page is a journalistic masterpiece but we do believe that in its own way it is a mirror on our times and a great way to get more pics and people in your book. ✕



Cell phone pics come in all shapes and sizes as you can see here. All these are exactly the size they were taken once converted to 300DPI and all have varying degrees of quality.