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Look back in horror: Was your first tweet truly cringe-worthy?

By Jessica Levco

Profound, compelling insights into beans, bike rides and David Sedaris

I just ate an apple.

Sadly, that was my first tweet.

When I came into work the following day, my editor walked over to my desk and started the Twitter Inquisition:

“Was it a Macintosh or a Fiji? How crisp was it? Did you put peanut butter on it?”

I was never going to live this tweet down.

When I ([@raganreporter](#)) joined Twitter, I had no idea what I was doing. I answered the “What are you doing?” question literally. Plus, did anybody even care? At that point, I had six followers: Mark Ragan, my apple-curious editor, a college roommate and three spammers.

[Note: The apple-curious editor in question offered a mini-resume, writing his first tweet in the third person. Wait. He’s doing it again in this editor’s note. Gad. A thousand tweets later, and [@word_czar](#) still doesn’t get it.]

Do you remember your first tweet? If you don’t take, take a look at this Web site: <http://myfirsttweet.com>.

Warning: It can be painful. When I asked communicators this question, I felt like I was asking them to look through their high school yearbook. And if you really want to take the trip down memory lane, check out My Tweet 16. Here, you can track down anybody’s [First 16 Tweets](#).

Here’s what you might think when you re-read your first tweet:

- Why did I say that?!
- I’m so lame!
- How come I don’t have any friends?

We asked some communicators if they remembered their first Tweet. Here's what they said and why they said it:

Helloooooo is anyone out there? How do I use this thing?

Ah, the good old days. But now, as part of State Farm's corporate media team, I use Twitter daily to highlight and promote information that is both newsworthy and relevant to our customers.

- Aymee V. Zubizarreta, corporate media relations for State Farm Insurance Companies

I love David Sedaris!

Not sure why I tweeted that, other than I'm a writer and maybe I thought it might attract other writers to follow me.

- Robin Bernstein, Write Time Communications

Does anyone know of a gas station with gas near Decatur Georgia?

I remember how connected and taken care of I felt when several people Twittered possibilities and wished me good luck. One person even followed a gas truck for me and Twittered where it was going. I was so happy!

- Patti Wood, certified speaking professional

Does anyone care what I am doing?

I entered the land of Twitter kicking and screaming. But before I knew it, I had hundreds of followers. Now I use Twitter to communicate, collaborate, learn and educate.

- Lorrie Houchin Thomas, founder of Web Marketing Therapy

Hello World.

It was for two reasons. The first was just to say hi to the world out there. Second, I wrote that exact same message nearly 20 years ago when I made my first computer program.

- Zaki Usman, marketing consultant for Target Info Labs

Working.

I had heard about Twitter and wanted to check it out. It was so overwhelming. I just signed on and posted an inane thing to say what I was doing.

- Sonya Beckley, account manager and PR specialist for LaBov & Beyond, Inc.

Getting Bike ready for this weekend in the Mad River Valley!

Before I knew how to link, what hashtags or RT's were, I still wanted to promote summer attributes of one of Vermont's gorgeous ski regions—and personalize it, too.

Makes me want to go for a bike ride right now.

- Jen Butson, director of public affairs for Ski Vermont

Setting up to work from home so I can nurse a sick kid.

I don't remember which kid was sick or what the illness was. I do remember thinking Twitter was another damn tool I had to learn to keep up with younger professionals chomping at the heels of my career.

- Ari B. Adler, professional communicator; adjunct instructor at Michigan State University and University of Michigan-Dearborn

I'm wondering what the big fuss about this Twitter thing is? I guess in time I'll see...

I tried Twitter out over a year ago, but little did I know how much time I would be spending on it.

- Brian Camen, public relations coordinator for Thunderbird School of Global Management

Writing a travel feature story! Read my story ideas at media.visitflorida.org.

I sent this as an intern at VISIT FLORIDA to understand how social media could benefit our travel PR team and the company as a whole. I was hired full-time a few months later.

- Nate Long, public relations representative of VISIT FLORIDA

I'm eating green beans.

HA! Everyone was Tweeting about their breakfast or announcing they had just blown their nose. I had hoped it would serve as a good barometer in terms of how my use of Twitter would change, and it truly did. Over the past year, I've been able to incorporate it into my daily stream of PR work without sharing my lunch menu once.

- Tom Parnell, senior account executive at Schwartz Communications

Another editor's note: Green beans, Tom?! C'mon! Why not garbanzos? Fresh, frozen, or canned? Did you grow them yourself or buy them from a store? French cut? Almondine? You've got 117 more characters, dammit!