

Dan tries to park

by Daniel D. Ester

I can no longer conceal an incident that occurred in August, during the first week of classes. I was approaching my vehicle when I spotted the dubious ticket under my wiper. I was still suffering from Neo-Semester Daze Syndrome and my mind was trying to calculate just exactly how the entire summer break had gone by within what seemed like a three-day period. I knew I wasn't dreaming (because I wasn't naked) so I had to accept the cold truth that school had once again started.

When I got to my truck, there was a ticket under the wiper. Before I so much as touched the ticket, I circled my truck and attempted to ascertain what I might have done wrong. Was I parked illegally? No. Had my inspection or registration sticker expired? No. Had I written a nasty column about Police & Safety lately? No.

So I retrieved the ticket, thinking perhaps it was just a welcome back note. Well wasn't that a stupid thought. Instead, it was, "Welcome back to Behrend! Just a friendly reminder, you are parked in a non-space, and please don't park here again. And to gently help you remember, you now owe Penn State 11 bucks. Have a nice day, and thank you for shopping at Police & Safety, where our motto is: We Are The Almighty Supreme Gods of the Universe."

I re-circled my truck, and discovered that I WAS parked in a real live space, and there were no signs that said Anti-Space. So, not being the type of person to mindlessly open his wallet and fork out money just because the Penn State Swat Team violated

my vehicle with a piece of paper, I drove over to the Police & Safety Fort and politely asked the Desk Sergeant if I might speak with the General.

All jokes and nasty remarks aside, the person with whom I spoke was very polite and attentive. He didn't reverse my ticket, though. I could file an appeal, he explained, and it would be reviewed by the Council of Student Nazis.

To make a long boring story short, I ended up paying the \$11. But here's what I don't understand: Why are appeals handled by an internal Penn State mechanism? Isn't that sort of thing supposed to be handled by a magistrate?

The bottom line is this: When you drive onto Behrend property, you've entered the Sovereign Realm of the Empire of the Penn State University Kingdom, and they basically have you by the reproductive unit.

I've once again managed to deviate from the real purpose of my column (who'd of thunk it). I'm here to review yet another of the Division of Science Seminar Series which was October 22. Dr. G. William Baxter presented, "Cellular Automata Models of Granular Materials."

Baxter is an Assistant Professor of Physics at Behrend College. He earned his Ph.D. in Physics from Duke and performed his post doctorate work at the University of California at San Diego.

As for why Baxter came from sunny California to the barren wastelands of Erie, no one will ever know.

Baxter's lecture was quite interesting. He shared his research which deals with modeling the flow of granular materials such as grain or rice. These materials are, of course,

perishable products, and they must be stored in huge silos and then dispensed via funnel-shaped hoppers when they're ready to be transported.

One thing that particularly struck me about Baxter was his enthusiasm toward his work. He came prepared and showed good visual aides to help demonstrate what he does, and he spoke without the technical nonsense that typically bores people into a coma. After having interviewed Baxter, I would definitely say he's the one you want to pick if you're trying to decide which physics class to take.

Although I'm sure most of you would rather bow down and cry out, "Master, I worship thee!" every time a Police & Safety officer walks past than sit through a physics seminar, I nevertheless rate Baxter with the prestigious and highly-pursued score of NNNN (that's four Newtons, my non-physics friends).

Before I end this column, I hereby beg for mercy from Police & Safety for my treasonous remarks. I promise to donate to the Police & Safety Ball, and I will be very careful that I don't park in an anti-space. Perhaps someone could send me an email (dde104@psu.edu) and tell me if there would be a tremendous explosion if a parking space collided with an anti-parking space?

Don't miss the First Fall Colloquium, "The Dynamics of Life: An Introduction to Mathematical Biology," presented by Dr. Richard Bertram, Dr. Carl Panetta, and Dr. Joseph Paultet, Thursday, November 7, 3:00 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall. Refreshments will be provided, and you'll want to show up at 2:30 p.m. for the Social Hour!

Roommates and living

by Joneatra Henry
Collegian Staff

It is almost the end of the semester and many students are trying to figure out how to get rid of their current roommate. The average person has not shared a living capacity with someone they do not know before entering college.

Roommates may be of a different race, background, or religion. Sometimes it is scary to have to share with someone who is different, especially living quarters. Before coming to college, one may dream of the ideal roommate. But upon the roommate's arrival, the person might be shocked to have someone different than who was imagined. Everyone is different, but some of us see the differences before the similarities. College is a great place to educate oneself academically and socially.

The first social problem many students may face is trying to get along with a new roommate. Students may put up barriers, avoiding the new roommate instead of trying to overcome the obstacle of differences. Instead, try these ten basic steps to get along with a roommate.

Roommates should have mutual respect for each other. Roommates should compile lists of likes and dislikes and, from there, create some rules that meet both of their needs. Roommates should avoid stereotyping. One way to do this is by means of communication.

The second step is for the roommates to compile a list of likes and dislikes. The lists will not match exactly, but they will show each of them the roommates' interests and will help each of the roommates to become more comfortable with each other.

Just because one roommate does not like something that the other

roommate does, it does not mean that he has to eliminate this like. The best way to solve this problem is by compromising, which is the third step for helping new roommates get along.

After viewing each of the lists, the roommates can now come up with some basic rules to help keep peace within the living space. Some of the things that roommates usually have a problem with are quiet hours, company curfew, smoking, and cleaning. These next rules should be used to try and fit each of their needs.

One rule, which is the fourth step, in getting along with a roommate is agreeing on a quiet or study hour. In college, roommates have different schedules. It is important that each roommate respect the other's right to have quiet or study time. Roommates should agree upon a time that is suitable for both of them to study. Doing this enhances the roommates' friendship.

A fifth factor that will help roommates get along better is to establish a company curfew. Few roommates will have the same friends, and fewer want the same company in their room all day, everyday. For this reason, roommates should set a company curfew which could easily be the same as quiet hours.

In addition to the quiet hours at night, roommates should also be considerate of each other in the morning. One roommate does not have to be absolutely quiet in the morning, but it would help not to make excess noise.

In addition to noise, smoking is a problem for roommates, regardless of who is the smoker. People who smoke believe that they have the right to smoke, while non-smokers believe that they have the right to clean air.

If one roommate smokes, he/she

should not assume the other roommate is in agreement with this or vice versa. A way that some college students solve this problem is for the smoker to smoke outside the building. The smoker can still smoke and the non-smoker is not bothered by it.

It is also good to have a rule about cleaning. One roommate may be a "neat freak" while the other may be a slob. It will help if the roommates make rules about dishes, garbage, laundry, and making the beds.

Without the commitment of best friends, one way for roommates to become comfortable with each other is to talk. It would be hard to get along with a roommate without communication.

Roommates should avoid stereotyping. No one wants to be stereotyped, even if they seem to fit into a certain category. Roommates should also know about each other if they want to get along better.

During the first couple of days, new roommates will find that they do not know what to say or how to act. The first way to break the ice is to ask questions about each other's background. Once the roommates become familiar with each other, the communication lines will become open.

Respect, compromise, and communication are the three most important rules for getting along with a roommate. Respect and communication will help each roommate to avoid stereotyping. The list of likes and dislikes, and a little compromise from both roommates, will help create rules about study hours, company curfew, smoking, and cleaning. By following these ten helpful hints, roommates should be able to get along better.

A dirty word

by John Rosomondo
Collegian Columnist

Why is Liberalism such a dirty word? Liberalism is a dirty word precisely because it attempts to create a world in which human beings may decide for themselves what is true and untrue. Ultimately Liberalism seeks to overthrow any notion of transcendent divine truth.

The New Age and Humanistic proponents desire to establish an amoral civil religion in which human beings are free to do what they please because they are their own gods. History has repeatedly shown the results of such thinking, namely war, unbridled greed, lust, and violence.

From the very beginning Liberalism has resulted in unspeakable acts of cruelty. The French Revolution was a clear example of what Liberalism is capable of doing. The revolutionaries were motivated by liberals such as Rousseau, Voltaire, and Thomas Paine. Their aim was to establish a state based upon the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity, and yet it deteriorated into an orgy of violence against the very institutions that had made France great.

Most importantly the liberal revolutionaries hatred of the absolute norms of the Roman Catholic faith resulted in ferocious persecutions against the Church. Including one in which my priestly ancestor lost his head.

The Roman Catholic Church has frequently been the target of Liberalism because she mandates that there are certain ineffable truths that cannot change.

Liberalism is an ideology solely based upon subjectivity and irrationality therefore it cannot maintain any form of order. If any form of order manages to be established through liberalism it will fall because there is not any immutable truth to preserve the order.

If truth is subjective then there is absolutely no way liberalism can maintain institutions that will stand the test of time. The very individualism advocated by liberals of all stripes ultimate results in the dissolution of any bonds that hold a society together.

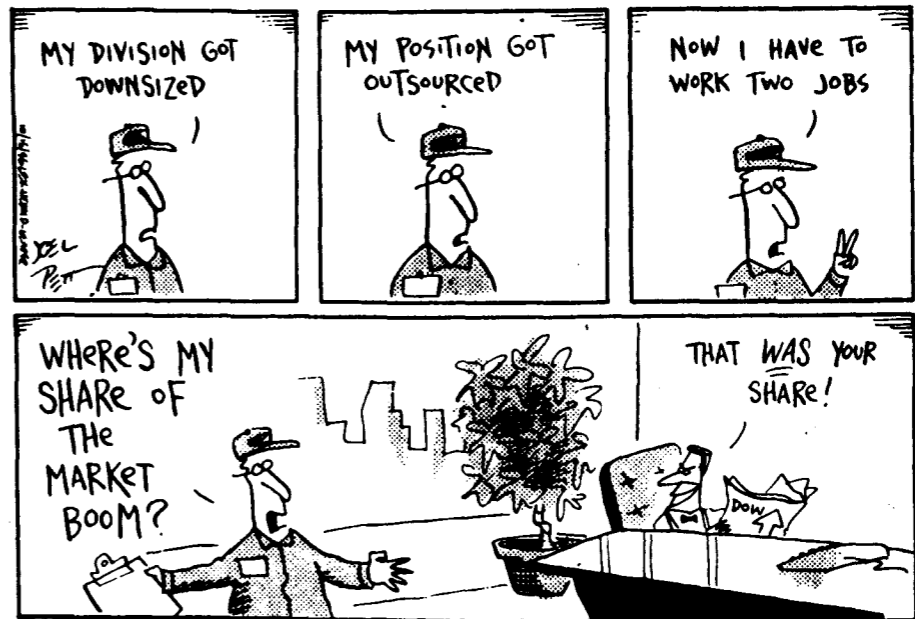
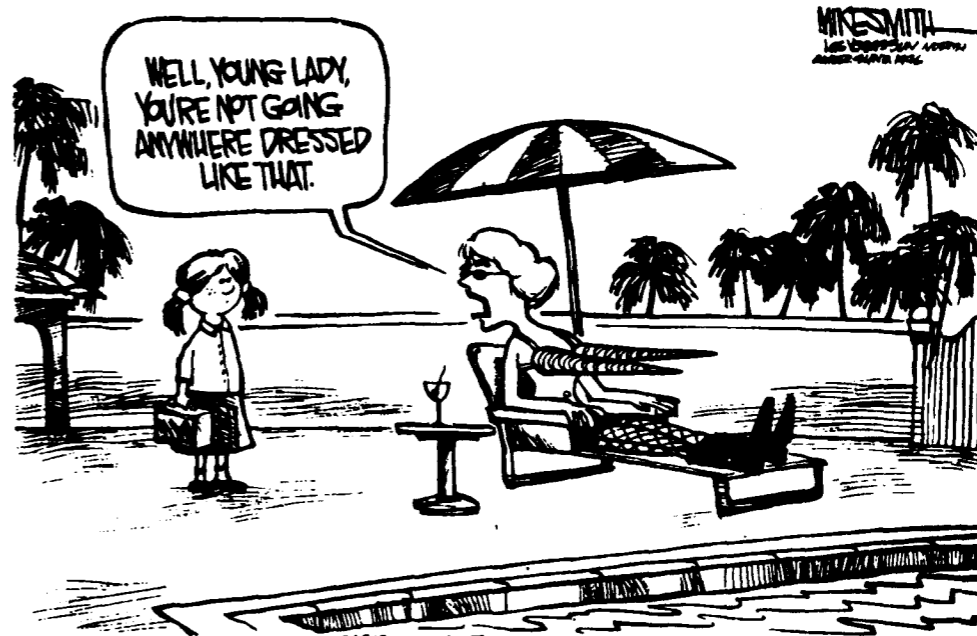
Human beings are not infinitely perfectible as liberals maintain because they will always serve their own interests. It is purely delusory to believe that personal freedom is the highest good because human beings always will misuse their freedoms

and ultimately complete anarchy will result. Freedom without the constraints of order and justice will result in every person's personal freedom infringing upon the freedoms of others in society. St. Paul said it best, "All things are permissible, but not all are beneficial."

We cannot allow ourselves to be seduced by the false promises of liberalism. History has shown that if a society abandons the wisdom passed down from previous generations, we will end up destroying that society. Change cannot be sudden and radical because such change often will create problems far worse than existed previously.

Great societies such as Egypt, Greece, Rome, and China remained great because they were driven by common goals, ideas and a faithful respect for tradition. It was not diversity that brought power and strength, but unity and a desire to conserve all that made that society great.

All cultures are the results of generations of development and perfection. Change can be a good thing as long as it can be carried out in a responsible manner that is faithful to the knowledge of the past.



Canada's social problems

by Adam Levenstein
Collegian Staff

On October 25, Canadian workers shut down Toronto. So what?

Toronto is the fourth largest city in North America. Approximately 1 million people stayed home, and hundreds of thousands picketed the city. It has been estimated that 80 percent of Toronto businesses were closed for business.

This came after Ontario government, led by Premier Mike Harris, began instituting cutbacks in all areas of Canada's social programs. This includes welfare, the health care system, education, and public-sector workers.

Not coincidentally, Harris is known in some circles as "Newt of the North."

There was little mentioned in US newspapers, on television, or on the radio. Canada lies along this country's northern border, and Toronto is a short drive away. Yet Americans (meaning US

residents), for some reason, are virtually unaware of Canada's existence, much less the political activity within. For instance, ask yourself: Who is the Canadian Prime Minister? Chances are you do not know the answer.

Hint: Jean Chretien. The same cutbacks are currently under attack in the United States. Welfare "reform" is the cry of most, if not all, politicians.

Yet most people are unaware of what "workfare" consists of: welfare recipients will be forced to work previously \$12 per hour Union jobs for rent and food, no more. They will be living hideously below the poverty line, only now they will be placed at the disposal of "generous" corporations.

Health care is under attack in both countries. In the United States most of the health care system is privatized, yet the cutbacks go on in the form of corporate "downsizing" and attacks on Medicare/Medicaid.

In Canada, however, the health care system is nationalized; everyone has access to the system regardless of income. Under Harris' cutbacks, 16 hospitals in Toronto alone will be closed. Do not be too hasty in considering yourself lucky; hospitals have been closing all over the US.

Student loans are being cut severely. Recent bills in congress (the remnants of the "Contract with America") have cut student loans, work-study programs (as if it is not hard enough to find a job), as well as funding for public schools and universities.

The Ontario government is following our government's footsteps; cutbacks in education are including tuition hikes, reductions in student loans, cuts in teachers' salaries and layoffs of school employees, among others.

My point is that even though Canada is rarely considered by Americans, its citizens are facing the same situation as US citizens.

the difference is simple; working people in Canada have yet to be fooled into thinking that the cutbacks are good for them. There is nothing to be gained by an uneducated child, nor is there anything to be gained by someone who has no access to health care.

Working people and students in the United States should emulate those in Canada. Believe it or not, the same social programs that are now being cut were once fought for.

These programs were not given to people by the graciousness of the government; working people took to the streets and demanded that the working day be lowered from twelve hours to ten, and finally to eight. Working people fought for every social benefit that is now being cut -- and more.

Take to the streets! Fight for what has been fought for! Changes are made in the streets, not in the ballot boxes.

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