

PERSPECTIVES

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

“WWBFE”

By Jennifer Juncosa
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Everyone needs something in their life that can get them through every situation. Some would say that they would turn to “WWJD,” what would Jesus do, or something equalling inspiring. For me, I turn to my friends: Rachel, Phoebe, Monica, Chandler, Joey, and Ross.

Rachel is the spoiled one, Phoebe is the ditsy one, and Monica is the obsessive compulsive one. Chandler is the sarcastic one, Joey is the promiscuous one, and Ross is the intellectual one. These six people can get me out of anything.

You think I am kidding? Between all 230 episodes of *Friends*, I can say that I can relate a *Friends* episode to anything going on in my life. An example...

As an example, let's say you want to ask a guy out but you aren't sure if you have given him enough time to get over his previous relationship. Episode eight of season seven. Rachel: “When a guy breaks up with his girlfriend, what is an appropriate amount of time to wait before you make a move?” Phoebe: “Oh, I'd say about a month”. Monica:

“Really?” I'd say 3 to 4 months. Joey: “Half hour.”

Let's say you are a group of girls that need to show the guys that you too can play football. Play dirty. Episode nine of season three. Chandler is running past Phoebe with the ball, Phoebe flashes him, he stops and stares dumbfounded at her. Phoebe then runs up and takes the ball away. Chandler is running with the ball, Phoebe flashes him again, but Chandler covers his eyes, and keeps running. He then runs into a tree at the end of the field.

Let's say you want your boyfriend back but he is with another girl. Episode 25 of season three. Ross: “I was having a little chat with ah, Bonnie, and ah, guess what, she-she happened to bring up y'know, who was behind the um, whole head shaving idea, and now, who was it? Oh, that's right, that's right, it was you!” Rachel: “That was her idea, I just gave her a nudge.” Ross: “She said you gave her the razor!”

Like I said, everything that happens on a regular basis can be followed back to *Friends*. Probably not the best idea to always ask yourself “WWBFE,” what would be on a *Friends* episode, but it's been working out for me so far.

Are you a metro man?

By Neil Peters
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A few days ago my friend noticed my new clothes I'd just purchased from Hollister. She complimented me on my new, stylish wardrobe and gelled hair, and followed it all up by calling me metrosexual.

This statement interested me. I had never really considered myself as metro. Yes, I take pride in my appearance, wear nice clothes and bathe daily, but does that really place me in a completely different category of people? What if it does? Is that really a bad thing? Do my hygiene patterns and clothing choices make me a Metro-man? For that matter, what is the definition of a metrosexual?

“I think a Metrosexual is somebody who doesn't care what other guys think about their style,” said a freshman Emily Harrington. “A Metro guy is comfortable with his sexuality and with how he acts around other guys. It's more a matter of how you carry yourself, and being confident enough to take care of yourself.”

This view was the general consensus of most Behrend students. “I think of Abercrombie. I think of sparkling teeth and gelled hair, because the person cares about himself. I'm usually more attracted to more people like that,” says Holly Hunter, a freshman. “It's better than a dumb hick with tobacco chew hanging out of his mouth.”

It's not just women who are conscious of metrosexuality. There are plenty of perfectly straight men that are proud to be what they are. “I'd rather

look nice that look like a slob,” said ERnie Kuhs, a freshman. “Yes, you can have your ‘dress down’ days. But it's more about that you want to take care of yourself.” Alejandro Nieto, Senior seconded Ernie. “It's a straight guy who is in touch with his feminine side.”

Okay, so the definition of a metrosexual is a man, who likes to look clean, dresses well and doesn't care what anyone else thinks about it. If that is the case, it seems that being metro isn't necessarily about how you dress. It's just as much about your level of confidence and self-love. If being a metrosexual means being all those things, then send me to work at American Eagle because that's fine with me.

With all of this positive input, it is hard to believe that there are people who still have a negative stigma associated with the term, metrosexual. However, like most prejudices, it's more a matter of ignorance that anything else. When asked, most negative students said that they really didn't know any metrosexuals and automatically associated it with being homosexual.

So, to debunk any more misconceptions about what a metrosexual is or is not, here is my definition of what makes a metrosexual. A Metro-Man is someone who likes to dress to impress, be clean, and is confident enough to not care what others think. All in all, it seems like being a Metro-Man would actually be healthier for someone, emotionally and physically. So instead of asking yourself if you are metro, maybe you should ask yourself why you are

Letter to the Editor:

We were kicked out of the REDC. We were told if we did not leave, that security would be called. Why would something like that happen to students? Because we were trying to express our beliefs. In the Koche Building our pamphlets were ripped down in a matter of minutes. We were told we can't post certain literature in certain places.

We were told that we need approval to post anything on the walls of Behrend. College is a time of learning, a time of expression, and a time of sharing. College is a time for sharing ideas and ideals, a time for learning from one another, and becoming more open. They teach us in the classroom to stand up for what we believe in, then why are they telling us to leave a building for that exact reason?

We posted “unapproved” literature on “unapproved” locations on campus. In the Penn State's own handbook of rules and polices, it reads as follows: “As an academic community, The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the protection and preservation of the free speech.... These are fundamental rights, which must be practiced, protected, and promoted by the University.” This statement I could

not agree with more. The guidelines go on to say that freedom of speech shall be protected as long as it doesn't interfere or distract the learning process. I believe it is safe to say that posting literature in the hallways of the REDC does not interfere with the academic process in the classroom.

I ask that Student Government make a stance on this issue and make it clear to the student body that they may

express their beliefs with no restraints. Let the voices of the students be heard today, no student should be restricted on their freedom to speak, their freedom to debate, their freedom of thought, and their freedom to justice.

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Now that elections are over

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A President Barack Obama will provide much needed relief from the last eight years of misguided, misinformed, and unimaginative energy development, a major platform of his campaign. Our leaders have failed to inspire or innovate when it comes to energy production and job creation, instead pretending that the future will mimic the past with its policies, resources, and failures. Bush's coddling of the coal industry in West Virginia and the proposed tire incinerator energy plant in Erie reflect this type of thinking.

The Associated Press reported in early Oct. that “The Interior Department has advanced a proposal that would ease restrictions on dumping mountaintop mining waste near rivers and streams, modifying protections that have been in place for a quarter-century.”

Mountaintop mining is more like a euphemism for “destroying ecosystems, biodiversity, and ruining the health of West Virginians.” When people think of coal mining, they normally have an image in their head of miners going deep down into shafts to extract coal which is then sent up to the surface. As the concentration of coal has dwindled, coal companies started using mountaintop removal mining. This type of mining literally blasts the tops off of mountains, throwing thousands of tons of rubble into valleys and streams that took natural forces millions of years to form.

At every opportunity over the last eight years, the Bush administration moved the goal posts for mining companies in West Virginia when they were found in violation of federal laws. Environmentalists sued the federal government after companies were found in violation of the Clean Water Acts standards in the early 2000's, after the Bush administration refused to enforce the

law. Bush just relaxed the standards, opting to change the law instead.

The environmentalists campaigning against mountaintop removal aren't some hippy pot smokers cut off from reality. Those campaigning are families that have been in the coal industry for generations; parents who have seen their children sickened by the leaking, toxic waste coal companies store near their schools; neighborhoods and cities that have seen the worst flooding in centuries as rivers and streams are diverted. These are people that have relied on the coal industry for jobs, sustenance, and a way of life for generations, turning against the coal industry.

The city of Erie is going through a similar issue with energy production. Erie Renewable Energy LLC has proposed a tire-to-energy plant near the former site of International Paper on the lower east side of Erie. Local residents are resisting its construction efforts. Developers insist that it will be safe for residents and provide a clean alternative to coal and other energy plants, while providing 65 jobs for local residents. However, when one of the leading developers, Greg Rubino, has recently been forced to resign from the Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority amidst increasing investigation into improper dealings. As reported by the Erie Times-News, “one of Rubino's companies made a secret \$30,000 payment in 2003 to Erie real estate broker Jeffrey J. Johnson, who was then chairman of the Erie Zoning Hearing Board, at a time when another company involving Rubino had controversial business before the board.” I am skeptical of anything coming from their mouths.

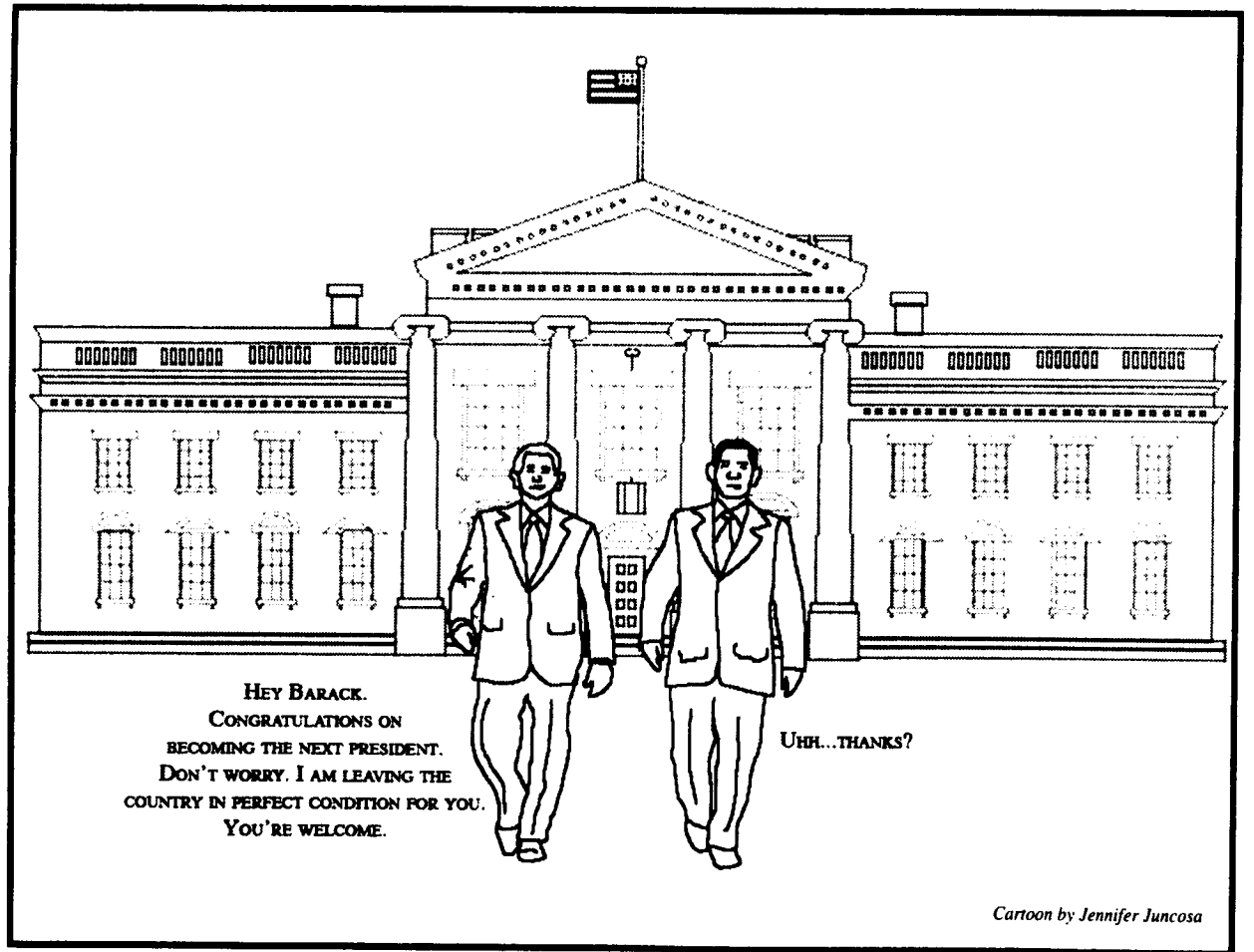
There is little evidence that the burning tire plant will be safe. The only other plant in existence in the United States, which only burns a third of the amount of tires compared to the proposed plant, is 15 miles from the nearest residential neighborhood. This plant in Erie will be built in a densely populated area with five public schools in a one

mile radius. The plant would also draw over one million gallons a day from Lake Erie to cool and power turbines. An intake of that amount of water daily could have catastrophic effects on Lake Erie's wildlife, sucking in fish and creating an area ripe for bacterial contamination as the warmer water is discharged into the cooler lake.

If the city, state and developers were serious about developing clean renewable energy, they would pursue better options that do not threaten the health of this city's inhabitants or environment. Cleveland and the state of Wisconsin are finishing up research on placing 300 ft. wind turbines in the Great Lakes to generate energy. Preliminary studies have been positive. One turbine alone could power 450 homes. They are safe and clean. Offshore wind farms are already prevalent across much of Europe. If job creation is a serious motivation, then the number one priority for developers and politicians in this area should be developing a local cottage industry for developing, constructing and maintaining wind turbines.

Some are worried about them being an eyesore. But if those wealthy enough to own houses on the lakefront or own a yacht are unwilling to put up with are majestic monuments to our commitment to a clean future, then they have no right to ask the lower income resident of the lower eastside to put up with a tire to energy plant.

Are burning tires and mountaintop removal really the best answer we have for energy production? Changing laws, back room deals, destroying the environment, devastating communities? We're wasting money protecting coal companies when we should be spending prudently on our future. The future of energy production isn't coal or burning tires. Instead of providing for the welfare of its people, the government has written them off and put all their chips into a dying industry.



Cartoon by Jennifer Juncosa

Beacon Thumbs Up

- No more political commercials
- *Friends*
- *South Park*
- Random heat wave

Submission Guidelines:

Letters should be mailed to 310 South State Street, Room 200 words. The more concise the submission, the less we have to read. For more concerns and information, contact the editor at 508-313-1313. The Beacon does not publish advertisements. For more information, contact the administration post office at 508-313-1313. The Behrend Beacon is published weekly. Email submissions to jj5061@psu.edu. For more information, contact the Beacon office.

Beacon Thumbs Down

- Coffee scum
- BCS
- Possible forecast
- Missing cell phones