

# 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.

## Gaming boyfriends

By Catherine Frisina  
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It's last Thursday at midnight. Do you know where your boyfriend is? If you are like me, he is probably at one of the various gaming stores in Erie, waiting in line for the release of *Gears of War 2*. A typical war video game in which you, for lack of a better term, shoot things. While I'm sure there's more to it than that (apparently there always is with these types of games). Let's face it, I'm a girl and I don't really care for violent games. However, my current boyfriend does.

Since July, I have been listening to him talk about *Gears*, and how exciting it is, and how much fun it's going to be to play it, etc. etc. All of this kind of talk was reminiscent of hearing the boys talk in middle school, high school, and now college about *Halo*, *Halo 2*, *Guild Wars*, *World of Warcraft*, *RockBand*, *Guitar Hero*, the list goes on and on.

I'd like to think I am a good girlfriend, I try to be at least. So as I was sitting in class at 8 a.m. last Friday feeling a bit irritated with the knowledge that my boyfriend had finally gone to bed just two hours prior, I thought of the things that I've been doing or could be doing to deal with this sudden and hopefully short-lived obsession with a video game.

One: Be understanding. It's totally

normal for your boyfriend to have a hobby that doesn't involve you. Gaming is not a threat to your relationship as long as you are still being treated well.

Two: On the other hand, if you are feeling neglected, speak up. I've learned time and time again: men are not mind readers, so don't expect them to be. Tell them when you feel ignored; if he's a good guy, he'll listen.

Three: Learn about the games he is playing. Ask questions. Get him to teach you how to play. Show some interest because it's something he enjoys.

Four: If possible, go and hang out while he is playing. I'm sure this sounds absurd to most, but for games like *RockBand* and *Guitar Hero*, it's a lot more fun with more than one person. So join in, you may end up getting into the games yourself.

Five: If you really can't stand the game, do something you like while he's playing. Rather than sit alone pouting, read a book, hang out with your friends, draw - anything you enjoy.

So as for me, I will not be venturing to my boyfriend's dorm room to play *Gears of War 2*. In fact, I really enjoy writing, so as I am typing this out he is currently shooting the Locust Horde on planet Sera. I can only hope that he will be as understanding as I am trying to be right now when *The Sims 3* comes out in February.

## The Chinese have it right Developing the Technology Potential Field

By Joseph Smalley  
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It's a shame more economists are not physicists, or that more physicists are not economists. If they were, then the chances were much greater that good decision-makers would populate our government in Washington. The chances would be also greater that people who understand the physics of technology would surround President-elect Barack Obama.

Economics, as a word and a discipline, always connotes the image of money, but the Chinese economy is not simply a cash machine. It's a production machine. And with the wave of new investment from the Chinese government into the country, the machine is destined to grow.

What the Chinese are doing makes sense. They're spending hundreds of billions of dollars on expanding transportation, water, and power infrastructure. On rebuilding disaster-ridden cities, and effectively better integrating the rural regions with the urban industrial centers, even amidst the closing of numerous factories and deceleration of the economy. What's being done in our country makes little sense. We spend billions of dollars to keep afloat insolvent institutions while we watch the

infrastructure of our cities and countryside drown in structural deficiency.

The problem as I see it is a matter of physics. When we improve and expand infrastructure, we're doing more than just creating jobs for folks out of work. We are actually positively transforming the economic timespace upon which we all operate.

Consider a little thought experiment: Imagine a school with no computers. Now, with computers, but no worldwide web. Now, with the web but no search engine. Now, appreciate your search engines. Each improvement in information technology enables you to accomplish more work in a shorter amount of time. The closer you are to mechanical or intellectual tools, the greater is your potential to accomplish useful work (Note: just because your potential increases with proximity to a tool does not necessitate your intelligent use of that tool).

The same holds for basic physical infrastructure—roads, railways, ports, water supply and management, power generation and distribution. The point is that your potential as an individual human being to create is directly related to the technological potential field, and this potential can be increased with advances in basic infrastructure (in addition to IT infrastructure). Naturally, your own will is also a key

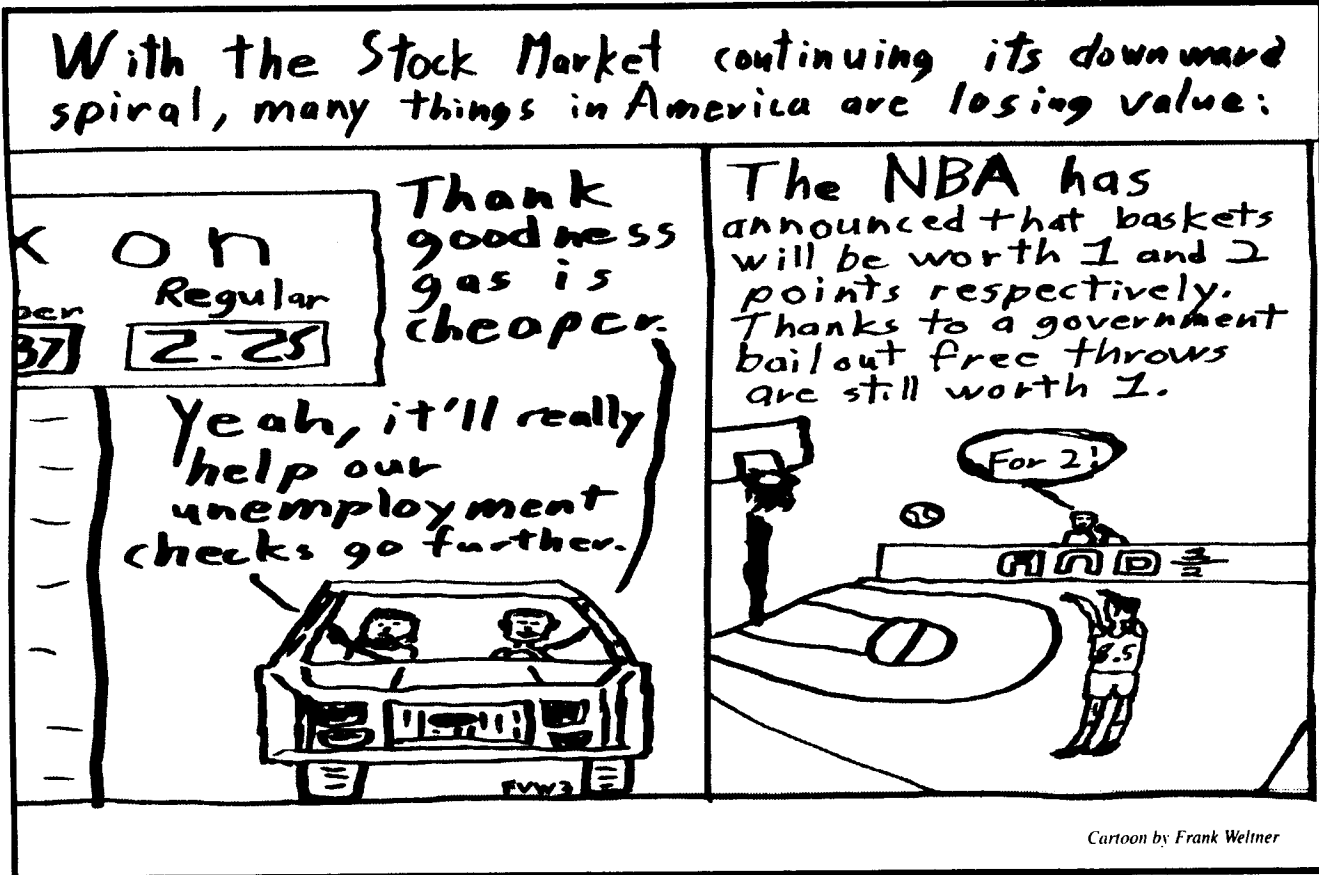
determinant of your creativity. In fact, your actions might transform the tech-pot-field.

The individual in China, even amidst political repression, has gained more power over nature and his fellow man in the recent decades, because the technological potential field in which she exists has improved and expanded so rapidly. Yes, she has more money and purchasing power, but this is an effect, not a cause of her influence within an increasingly global society.

Why have major corporations (e.g., GM, Ford) and governments on all levels in the U.S. failed to reinvest in infrastructure and new technologies?

The brand of economics taught in most schools tends to emphasize monetary and financial characteristics of businesses and industries, and deemphasize the importance of physical production. Hence, the cultural shift from respecting 'blue collar' work to idolizing 'white collar' work. The recent months of turmoil has made glaringly obvious the destination to which this mentality has misguided us.

Fortunately, we elected Barack Obama, who, at the very least, promises to use the government to expand the technological potential field. His first test: To learn the physics of technology and forget the economics of money-making.



## Surviving a power outage

By Jennifer Juncosa  
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It's here. There are salt stains on the bottom of your jeans and your winter shoes are not as practical as you would like. As the freezing temperatures and snows continue to come, there are tricks you learn to deal with.

As an upperclassman, I feel it is my responsibility to share the things I have learned. Hopefully this will benefit the lowerclassmen.

First of all, based on last year's events, Behrend is known for power-outages. So what do you do when it goes out for eight hours? Here are some activities you can do to pass the time.

When the power goes out, you can't do homework. You need to face the fact now. Instead, re-arrange your room. You can do it in the dark and it's a bonding activity.

Hallways are the only place with lights. They have emergency back-up generators. This is where you can play board games and do sleepover games from high school. Guys, you don't know them, but girls will share the best ones so you can enjoy them.

You will have to go to the bathroom in the dark. Just to feel better you should invite someone to be there in case you come across a problem.

Chinese food delivers to Behrend and snow is the best way to refrigerate the food in your defrosting fridge. No one likes warm milk.

Just because it might not be Christmas season, you can still carol. Go door-to-door singing random songs that will brighten anyone's day.

Hopefully this will help those sitting in their dark room. Just because you can't check your Facebook doesn't mean you can't have fun.

### Letter to the Editor:

Your October 31st editorial on the front page, along with page three, about the Behrend student who received multiple felony charges at the University Gates is libelous, and unwarranted. As a sophomore at Penn State Behrend I personally don't read our schools newspaper in order to derive my weekly source of gossip about what criminal actions our students have taken over

the course of the weekend (If I wanted to read about gossip and not news I'll purchase a copy of Star Magazine, not The Behrend Beacon). Lets face it 95% of us are engaging in illegal activities anyways (I.E. underage drinking), and to object to that idea would be ignorant. I understand the need to warn our students about the potential dangers that could afflict them, but shouldn't this be done in a fair and balanced way? I don't read editorials about how to

avoid the people who are driving under the influence, or who have drank so much that they belligerently attempt to start fights with strangers who so much as look at them in a manner they don't deem appropriate. I assure you that if you asked every student on campus whether or not they knew of an occurrence of drunk driving over the weekend a majority of them would say yes, and yet this goes unreported. I also don't see the danger that this accident

caused that warranted a 700+ word article to be written, seeing as how no one was harmed in the incident, minus the emotional duress that the girls may face, coupled with the damage to the cars. The other weekend while sitting outside my apartment at University Gates I saw a student being questioned by police with handcuffs on. If this story wasn't newsworthy then why is other? For these reasons I feel that you have done nothing but gossip about a student

who wished to remain anonymous, and yet his name was published in the article. That is the sole reason that this piece is unjust, it would still retain it's informational properties as well as informing your readers as to the "dangers" that could potentially harm them while at school.

Jonathan Altman  
Sophmore English major

### Letter to the Editor:

I couldn't agree with some of Christopher Alphen's thoughts in a Letter to the Editor published in last week's issue of the Beacon more. Students should have the right to express their beliefs freely and openly.

At the same time, many of the guidelines in which all clubs are expected to adhere to are in place for the student's protection and wellbeing. Flyers being

posted do not have to be "approved," but must simply have the name of the sponsor organization on them. This is so that persons unaffiliated do not come on to our campus and deface the entire school with posters (but, there are certain means to allow unaffiliated parties to distribute their literature).

The posting guidelines, available at the student toolbox page online, have been set up for good reasons. If no posting guidelines were in place, stu-

dents could post flyers everywhere. Not only would this cause our campus to look like downtown Los Angeles, but it would cost the students even more money. If posters are put up on painted walls, the adhesive being used could tear the paint off. If this occurs, walls would constantly need to be repainted, and that money will come out of our tuition.

As for their organization being kicked out of the REDC, and the threat

of security being called, I have no idea why this would take place. I would love to discuss the matter with Mr. Alphen to get all the details of this situation so that the Student Government Association can help to remedy it.

This is what we are here for, and why the students have elected us. While the SGA feels that the posting guidelines are necessary, we will be working to investigate other problems as described in Mr. Alphen's letter.

The SGA would also like to take this opportunity to let other students and organizations know that we are here to serve you, and if any problems ever arise, please bring it to our attention. Our meetings are at 5 p.m. every Wednesday in Reed 114, and we hope to see you there.

Brad Kovalcik  
SGA Vice President

### Beacon Thumbs Up

- Vitamin C
- Buses of all kind
- Oranges
- Flying projectiles

## Submission Guidelines:

Letters should be limited to 350 words and commentaries 700 words. The more concise the submission, the less we will be forced to edit it for space concerns and the more likely we are to run it.

The Beacon does not publish anonymous letters. Please include your major, faculty or administration position, and semester standing. Deadline for any submission is 3 p.m. Thursday afternoon for inclusion in the Friday issue.

The Behrend Beacon reserves the right to edit any submissions prior to publication. Please keep complaints as specific as possible.

Email submissions to [jdj5061@psu.edu](mailto:jdj5061@psu.edu) or drop them off at the Beacon office.

### Beacon Thumbs Down

- Scurvy
- Late nights
- Broken treadmills
- Being fooled by doors