

Eye on Editorials

PAIR OF PENNIES

“What are you gonna to do with that?”

By **daniel j. taylor** – *Lion's Eye Editor*
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I find that conversations between college students and “real-worlders” are typically pretty boring. Apparently working 9-5 turns employees into clones, because these full-time working machines only ever say the same, repetitive thing...

Boring adult: So where do you go to school?
Me: Penn State.

Boring adult: HAPPY VALLEY!

Me: No, the local campus, on 352.

Boring adult: Oh. Well...uh, what's your major?

Me: American Studies--it's pretty cool. Really broad and I can take a lot of classes I like.

Boring adult: What are you gonna do with that?

That last question is more awful to me than smog is to Los Angeles. Again and again people want to know “what I'm going to do” with my major. They want to know what kind of job an American Studies degree will enable me to secure. They want to know how quickly I am going to settle in to some lame cubicle because they assume that, like them, I want to rot there for 50 years and then retire.

I am not much of a planner. When I applied to this university I had goals of leaving with a Civil Engineering degree and designing bridges, but that was too rigid so the day after orientation I came back and switched my intended major to Undecided. A few semesters later, I fell into a class with Dr. Cimbalá and he was a great professor who really made his material fascinating--so I decided to become a Political Science major. That was fun and interesting, but eventually I realized that it, too, was pretty strict and not really for me, so I rekindled my love affair with Undecided.

By this point I had compiled a pretty wide

selection of classes, from Classical Mythology to Calculus, and had no real direction--it was great! However, because some kind of focus is required for graduation, I needed to pick a major. After some searching I discovered--voila!--American Studies.

The beauty of the American Studies major is its freedom. There are oodles of classes that qualify, from Criminal Justice to Pop Culture, and you can pick from any of them. Since adopting this major I have been taking classes almost exclusively in areas of interest, allowing me to hone my analytic skills on social, philosophical, and political issues. American Studies is the quintessential college major--it strengthens writing skills, reading skills, and problem-solving skills. The most rewarding thing about it, however, is that (unless you want it) the major doesn't seem to impose an endgame upon you. It doesn't obligate you to answer questions like “what are you gonna do with that?”

I'm a lover of learning. I can do it outside of school, but the college environment is so ideal for absorbing knowledge that I am going to try and take full advantage of it while I am here. I don't want to spend my four-and-a-half years here (I'm a semester behind) stressing myself out and fretting over finding a niche in the workplace, post-graduation. I am going to spend them learning to read better, learning to write better, learning to think better.

I'm becoming a more complex and interesting person every time I sit in a classroom. I'm paying thousands of dollars a year to get out of here better than I was when I arrived. So why is it, then, that these boring adults keep asking me the same mundane questions? I want to talk about something cool--so don't ask me, “what are you gonna do with that?”

ADVICE COLUMN:



ALL ABOUT U

BY BLU

Dear Blu,

I have a situation in which someone wants to establish a relationship with me. I kind of want to do the same, but I can't completely trust the person. I don't want to end up hurt.....so how do I handle this?

From,
Confused

Dear Confused,

Thanks for writing in. First, I would evaluate why you have trust issues with this person. Since you already know that dealing with this person can be dicey, I would understand that you have a greater chance of being hurt, or having your heart broken (if you have love for them). Relationships are difficult in general, no matter what kind of relationship you have--friends, family, or romantic. You have to ask yourself if this person is worth the risk...What kind of person are you: are you the type to play it safe and only enter a relationship when “all signs are a go” or do you play it “as is” and live wildly on the edge? Determine the person inside of you and follow your instincts. I think you have good ones, (Umm...you did ask me for advice...just kidding) and follow what your heart tells you. Hope my advice helped you some. Tell me how it worked out for you, because I would love to hear from you again.

Live life and don't let it pass you by...

As always your friend,

Blu

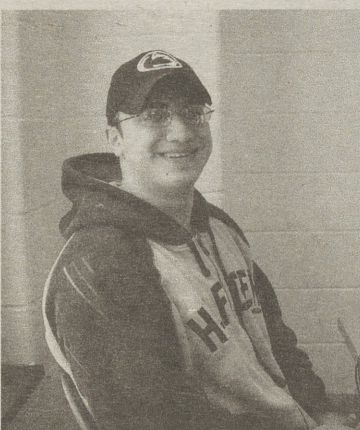
~In the October 28th 2009 issue of the Lion's Eye, only a portion of this article was printed. Above is the article in its entirety~

Having trouble at school, need some relationship advice, or just want to get something off your chest?

Feel free to write in to allaboutu001@yahoo.com and be heard! Send in your response by a Wednesday and you'll get your response the following Wednesday in the Lion's Eye's Op/Ed section. Your identity will always be safe and you will always get a reply... try it and who knows - maybe the next published question will be yours!

People Poll with Adrienne Showalter

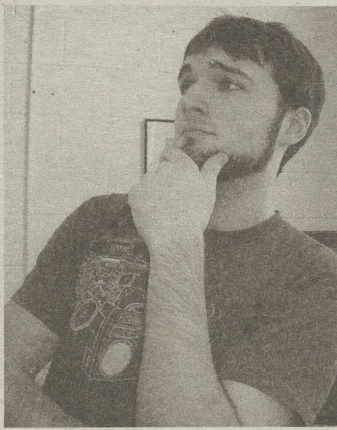
What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?



Ahmed Elshourbagy

Finance

“Everything”



Derek McMillan

IST

“Stuffin”



Laura Boyd

Sociology

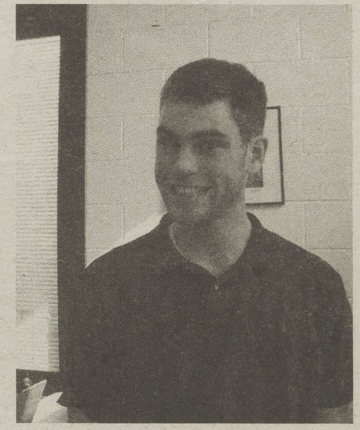
“Cranberry Sauce”



Mehak Qadeer

Business, Supply Chain Management

“Stuffing”



Tyler Dodge

IST

“Popeye's Homestyle Cajun Turkey”