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Section O
November 22, 2020
Original Satire Partner Assignment

Color Code for Devices:

Repartee

Sarcasm

Logical Fallacy

Irony

Hyperbole

Paradox

Imagery

Appeal to Logos

Appeal to Pathos

Understatement

Anticlimax

Characters:

Present: Joe Schmoe

Future: Nova La'Zen

Person in metallic bodice with a strange jumpsuit, golden necklace, and blazer materializes.

Nova La'Zen: Ni 'lo! What time is it right now?

Frazzled man with unkempt hair nearly knocks into Nova La'Zen, spilling coffee on his suit.

Joe Schmoe: You're in my way, weirdo. I'm late for work, and you just made me spill my coffee!

Nova La'Zen: My mistake, sorry about that. *(Laughs)* I forgot you guys spoke in Old English.

Joe Schmoe puts headphones on and walks away. Nova La'Zen chases after Joe Schmoe.

Nova La'Zen: Wait, I'm from the year 2100. Please, I would like to ask a few questions!

The two step onto a subway. Subway sign flashes: Hurricane detected off the coast of Florida!

Nova La'Zen: Sir, do you find that there are problems when these natural disasters occur?

Joe Schmoe: No, never. Insurance always wants to pay extra money for damage to *my* house!

(Seriously) But I live far enough away that the hurricane winds don't really affect me.

Nova La'Zen: So do you think it is important to try and lower the amount of hurricanes?

Joe Schmoe: Look lady, or guy, whatever. I'm busy as a senior manager at an oil company, and the last thing I want are any questions. If you are curious about the company, get an interview.

Nova La'Zen: Oil? Don't you know what that has done to our world? I'm not talking about just you, I'm talking about every person on this earth, damaging the future everyday.

Joe Schmoe: Oh, you're one of those activists like **Theta Grunberg**. News flash: it's not real.

Nova La'Zen: Oh, I have news for you, mister. You should see my world, 80 years in the future.
Joe Schmoe yanks out his headphones, surprised, and begins to grin.

Joe Schmoe: Wait hold on, the future? Like with flying cars and everything? Wow, you're lucky. Everything is going to be perfect in the future.

Nova La'Zen shakes her head in disappointment.

Nova La'Zen: That's what you think? There are no flying cars; the auto industry crashed harder than any industry in the history of the world, all because they depended too much on oil.

Joe Schmoe: Well, I guess that's the future's problem. If the higher ups won't do anything about it now, then I can't and won't do anything either.

Nova La'Zen: But what about the future generations? What will happen to them?

Joe Schmoe: *(Laughs dryly)* I won't be around in the future, so why do I care?

Subway sign flashes: Flooding as a result of hurricanes all over the southeast coast!

Nova La'Zen: See? Climate change is already happening! Isn't that the least bit alarming?

Joe Schmoe: Let me tell you this: Floods have never happened in this area, and never will.

Nova La'Zen: *(Visibly distressed)* But coral reefs are crumbling! Glaciers are melting! Wildfires--

Joe Schmoe: Good, I never liked the ocean anyway.

Nova La'Zen: In fact, your town is going to be underwater in a matter of a few years! You will be able to smell the seaweedy, salty ocean no matter where you are.

Nova La'Zen shows him a picture of a graveyard underwater in the future that she took herself.

Joe Schmoe: What am I even looking at?

Nova La'Zen: You see? You can't even recognize your own grave. The sea levels rose so much that when it floods, your tombstone is stuck **six feet underwater, being eroded away where no one can reach.** Your future families won't even be able to visit your grave, if they even survive.

Joe Schmoe: Hey, I don't even know if you are telling me the truth or not. You could have just photoshopped this picture for all I know.

Nova La'Zen: **How about I present to you some facts that will show the true effect of human impact on the earth? (Graph above)**

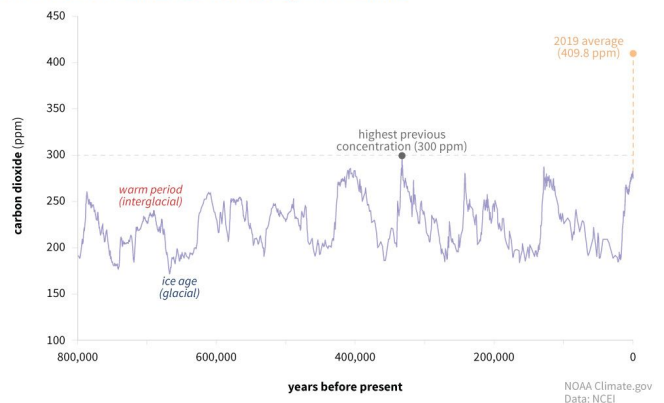
Joe Schmoe: (Shrugs) These are just normal fluctuations because climate is an overall pattern. Hey look, scientists make up a bunch of things. In fact, I can make another graph (below). **This one has a few different things, and suddenly it's not so alarming, is it?**

Nova La'Zen: First of all, this is completely inaccurate. Scientists deal in facts, and the fact is that, at this time, humans are doing irreparable damage to the earth.

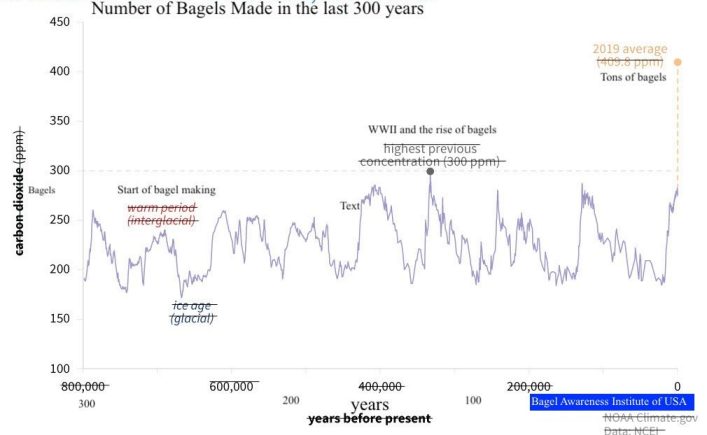
Joe Schmoe: Yeah, right. **You think you're so smart, huh, coming from the future?**

Nova La'Zen: Picture this: raging wildfires on one end of the country burning all that humans have done; while in another part of the country, there will be tropical storm after tropical storm, each stronger than the last. (Voice getting louder, more desperate) This is my reality! I don't have the privilege to deny or ignore it like you do. **If you continue with your life as it is, you are creating this world of suffering for all.**

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Joe Schmoe: Stop, I don't want to hear about this. It's too depressing to be guilted into things like this. If we stop worrying so much about it, we'll have time for actually important things.

Nova La'Zen: Like what? What could possibly be more important than the fate of our planet?

Joe Schmoe: Well, my oil company is organizing a charity event--to look good for consumers.

Nova La'Zen: Hold on, that's good too. What kind of event is it?

Joe Schmoe: It's an oil-burning competition. We see who can use the most oil--our product, of course--by driving, flying, heating houses, the like. And the winner gets to dump all of the losers' oil into the ocean or lake of their choice, complete with a lifetime supply of plastic straws.

Subway announcement: Next stop, the Petroleum District. Joe Schmoe prepares to exit the car.

Nova La'Zen: Wait! Aren't you going to do anything to help? You still have time before this happens, you could change the future!

Joe Schmoe: Again: Not my problem.

Joe Schmoe steps out of the subway and does not look back.

Sources:

<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-atmospheric-carbon-dioxide>