

COMMUNITY

"Dependency on Personal Electronics"

written by

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COLD OPEN

EXT./INT. CAMPUS - MORNING (DAY 1)

An eerie silence seeps around campus. Students walk zombie-like, with their heads down and eyes focused on their cell phones. Not a single person talks or interacts with others.

A tumbleweed passes through a hallway full of people, but everyone is too distracted to notice.

ANNIE (PRE-LAP)

Ladies and gentleman, there is an epidemic on our hands.

INT. STUDY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ANNIE lectures as she stands next to a large SKETCHPAD on an easel. On the sketch pad are three crudely drawn stick figure images looking down at their cell phones.

Annie holds a long WOODEN POINTER which she uses to refer to the diagram.

ANNIE

Students walk around glued to their cell phones.

She tears the page off the sketchpad, revealing a line chart with a sharp increase.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

In the past five months, cellular use among students has gone from 20 percent of their free time to 90 percent.

She rips off another page, revealing a line chart in the exact opposite direction.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Meanwhile, in that same amount of time, the Greendale grade point average has plummeted from a C minus to an F plus plus. Which I'm pretty sure is only considered a passing grade at this school.

Another page is torn off, this time showing a giant question mark.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

The problem is clear. Phones are a major distraction. I propose--

DUNCAN

Aaaagh, I just needed one more striped candy!

ANNIE

Are any of you listening to me?

JEFF, BRITTA, ABED, SHIRLEY, DUNCAN, HICKEY, AND CHANG sit around the table. They too are face down on their phones.

JEFF

Shirley, did you get that picture?

A beep emits from Shirley's phone.

SHIRLEY

(laughing)
I did now.

ANNIE

Guys?

Chang uses his pointer finger to swipe something across his screen.

CHANG

Hot. Not. Not. NOOOOT.

ANNIE

Guys?

Britta attempts to speak a voice command into her phone.

BRITTA

Where is the nearest bah-gel shop?

PHONE VOICE

Now searching "Where is Fraggie Rock."

Fed up, Annie grasps the wooden pointer with both hands and slams it on the table, making a loud CRACK sound.

All look up. Annie regains her composure.

ANNIE

Save Greendale Committee, I would like to propose...

She rips off another page, showing a giant cell phone crossed out.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
...a campus wide ban of cell phones.

Everyone groans.

JEFF
Annie, you can't just take away people's phones. They'd go insane.

Annie tears another page, revealing a map of the United States with seven dots scattered inside it.

ANNIE
Seven colleges across the country have already implemented such a ban, and they have seen significant increase in productivity, grade point average, and school spirit.

HICKEY
Now, why would Greendale want any of those things?

ANNIE
I'll show you.

Another page is ripped away. This time is a beautifully detailed portrait of Jeff. Annie is speechless.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Abed, have you been using my sketchpad again?

ABED
There's a few others.

Annie tears off more pages in succession. First is a portrait of Shirley. Then is Starburns. Then is Luis Guzman. Last is a full body drawing of Abed with a muscular body.

Everyone oohs and awes at the last one, with some side comments.

DUNCAN Beautiful penmanship. JEFF Oh come on.

END COLD OPEN.

ACT ONE

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

DEAN PELTON and Annie walk down the hallway, among the sea of students on their phones.

DEAN PELTON

I don't know, Annie. Taking away cell phones from students would be like taking illegal immigrants from rich homeowners. Complete anarchy.

ANNIE

Seven colleges across the country have already--

DEAN PELTON

No need, I saw the illustrations. By the way, will Abed do nudes?

ANNIE

Dean, we formed the Save Greendale Committee in order to save Greendale. And so far, the best we've done is given a student a wheelchair so the handicap parking spot doesn't go to waste.

DEAN PELTON

And we're doing great ever since!

GARRETT and another student collide into each other and fall to the ground. Garrett squirms on his back like a turtle.

GARRETT

Help! I've fallen and I can't get up!

DEAN PELTON

Well I suppose there's a few things left to iron out. Alright, we'll give it a trial run. Starting Monday, a ban on all cellular telephones. That needs a catchier name... Cellu-Ban? No... Teleban ("taliban")!

They intersect with Jeff and Britta, who overhear the last bit of the conversation.

JEFF

Wow, even for Greendale that's a stretch.

BRITTA

You know I've thought about it, and getting rid of cell phones isn't a bad idea. When I backpacked through Europe, I didn't have a phone, and I did just fine.

JEFF

That's because the moment you got there you traded your phone for slinky.

BRITTA

Hey, those Swedes wouldn't let me into the hostel without one.

JEFF

Personally, I believe cell phones are a necessary add-on to our daily lives. It's just a matter of controlling the device, not letting the device control you.

They stop in front of the entrance to the cafeteria.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Watch. I bet I can compose a text message while simultaneously going to order coffee.

Jeff pulls out his phone and starts texting.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

He walks into the cafeteria without looking up from the screen. A female student is standing in his path, but without actually acknowledging her presence, he manages to walk around her and head towards the coffee bar.

He keeps going, and then stops suddenly in his steps. A male student who's texting passes by. Jeff waits for the guy to pass and then keeps going. In the background, we can hear the other student crash into a wall.

Next up is a table in the way. Jeff nonchalantly steps up onto the bench, then the table, then the other bench, and then steps down to the floor.

Finally he has made it to the counter, where a BARISTA is ready to serve him.

JEFF
One coffee please.

BARISTA
What size?

JEFF
Small.

BARISTA
That'll be four dollars.

Jeff releases his left hand from his phone, but continues to text with the right one. He reaches into his left pocket, and pulls out his wallet.

Back in the doorway, Britta looks on dumbfounded.

The barista sets a full COFFEE CUP on the counter as Jeff hands her a five dollar bill.

JEFF
Keep the change.

BARISTA
Enjoy your day.

Still texting, he grabs the cup with his left hand and walks back to the door.

JEFF
And send.

A beep emits from his phone and he looks up at Britta.

BRITTA
Alright, so you're talented. Who were you texting anyway?

Britta's phone beeps. She pulls it from her pocket, and Jeff starts walking away texting again.

BRITTA (CONT'D)
(reading)
"Britta Perry is the worst. Jeff Winger is better than her in every way." Hey!

She looks over at Jeff, who is already halfway down the hall. Without looking up, he waves her goodbye.

INT. DIFFERENT HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Annie hangs up FLIERS on the wall, while cradling a PURPLE NOTEBOOK and CLIPBOARD in one arm. Shirley assists her with the hanging. The fliers say "Teleban" on top, and below is clipart of a cell phone crossed out.

ANNIE

Thanks for helping me hang flyers,
Shirley.

SHIRLEY

No problem. It'll be nice not
having my cell on me. Maybe my boys
will stop asking me where the Pop
Tarts are every hour.

CASSIDY, a young student with frizzy blonde hair, approaches Annie.

CASSIDY

Hey Annie?

ANNIE

Oh hey Cassidy. What's up?

CASSIDY

Can I borrow your notes for
forensics? I was uh, "sleeping"
during class.

ANNIE

You know usually people use air
quotes when they mean to say
something other than the truth.

CASSIDY

Please? Everyone knows you write
the best notes in class.

ANNIE

I don't know...

CASSIDY

Alright, I'll just go ask Annie
Kim.

ANNIE

No!

Annie hands her a PURPLE NOTEBOOK.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I'll need it back on Monday. My
criminology notes are in there too.

CASSIDY

Oh no problem. Just come find me.
Thanks!

She darts off. Meanwhile, Annie consults her clipboard.

ANNIE

Okay. Propose cell ban, check. Get
Dean's approval, check. Hang up
fliers, check. Perfect. In three
days, Greendale will go from
cellular to spectacular!

ON BLACK: Three days later...

EXT./INT. CAMPUS - MORNING (DAY 2)

The campus is still eerily silent, but now the students walk
around aware of their surroundings. However, they look
cautious and paranoid.

Again, nobody is socializing. As if they've forgotten how.

DEAN PELTON (O.S.)

Good morning, Greendale! Glad to
see everyone is awake, alert, and
enthusiastic.

One student stands in line at the cafeteria. By habit, he
reaches into his pocket, only to realize nothing is there. He
panics.

DEAN PELTON (CONT'D)

Just a reminder that all our
Teleban is now in practice, and any
students seen with a cellular
telephone will be discarded. The
phones that it is, not the
students.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jeff and Britta walk among the crowd of confused students.

JEFF

What is going on here? They act
like they've never lived a day
without a phone in their hands.

BRITTA

They probably haven't! This is the real world, and they're seeing it for the first time.

JEFF

I'm just glad the ban only applies to students.

Chang catches up to the pair, acting as if he's been part of the conversation the whole time.

CHANG

True that, Winger! Just to rub it all in their faces, I'm using my phone even more.

He holds up a giant brick phone, something that would have looked appropriate on an episode of Saved by the Bell.

JEFF

Chang, I think the 80s are calling. Except they can't reach you because can that thing even take calls?

CHANG

Ha ha, very funny. But this baby's better than any ePhone or Raspberry. Three-month battery, clear reception, and two words: custom ringtone.

He presses a button. The phone begins playing what sounds like the infamous Nokia Tune, except the voice of Chang is singing: "Chang Chang Chang Chang, Chang Chang Chang Chang, Chang Chang Chang Chang Chaaaang."

CHANG (CONT'D)

Now if you'll excuse me, I have some very important calls to make.

Chang storms off as he begins a phone call.

CHANG (CONT'D)

Hello, can you connect me to the President's office? No? Well how about his secretary? Can I at least talk to a custodian...

JEFF

Wow, some people are obsessed.

BRITTA
(sarcastic)
You should be talking, Stephen
Hawking.

JEFF
Huh?

BRITTA
You said it yourself.
(poorly imitating Jeff)
"I'm Jeff Winger and cell phones
are a necessary part of our daily
lives."

JEFF
You've known me for this long and
that's the best imitation you can
do?

BRITTA
You've been on your phone nonstop
since the day I met you. If anyone
needs a ban from cell phones, it's
you.

Abed approaches them. A small number of STICKY NOTES with
short messages like "LOL" and "Lunch at 3?" and "Pop pop" are
stuck to his shirt.

JEFF
Dare I even ask?

ABED
I'm a text messenger. I go around
sending people's messages to fill
the void created without their
phones.

JEFF
And to think I once questioned your
value.

VICKI walks up to Abed. She places a sticky note on Abed
which reads "Meet me behind the bleachers ;)".

VICKI
That's for Neil.

ABED
25 cents, please.

She hands him a quarter. Abed gives her a wink-and-a-click-
and-a-finger-gun, and Vicki runs off.

ABED (CONT'D)

(to Jeff)

What's happening here?

JEFF

Britta thinks I wouldn't be able to handle the cell phone ban.

ABED

Hmm, she's got a point. Your phone is your defining character trait. Like Bart Simpson's skateboard or Linus's blanket. Take away the object and you become a completely different character.

JEFF

Stop comparing me to cartoon characters.

(to Britta)

And stop pointing out my flaws that don't exist. Sure, I like my phone. And I admit I use it a lot. But I'm not one of these lifeless zombies who uses his phone as a substitute for his boring social life.

Britta gets up in Jeff's face.

BRITTA

I bet you couldn't survive one day without your phone.

Jeff gets up in Britta's face.

JEFF

I bet you're wrong.

Abed squeezes in between their faces.

ABED

Ooh, I know how this works. Whoever loses the bet has to do something embarrassing. But through a contrived loophole you're both going to lose and thus both have to do something embarrassing.

BRITTA

Then how about we skip the bet and just see how long Jeff can last?

Abed thinks it over.

ABED

I'll pass. Let me know if you have
texts to send out.

He walks off.

BRITTA

So what do you think?

JEFF

One day without my phone? Easy.
Let's do it.

BRITTA

When do we start?

Jeff pulls his phone out of his pocket and tosses it into a
nearby trash can.

JEFF

Right now.

He storms off.

Seconds later, he saunters back.

JEFF (CONT'D)

It's kind of expensive to just...

BRITTA

Yeah.

Jeff grabs the phone from the trash can.

JEFF

I'll just lock it in my car. And
then it's on.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

The students still walk around with blank confused faces.

One is holding up his hand near his face and poking it as if it was a phone.

Annie leans against a wall, holding her clipboard.

ANNIE

Remove old flyers from bulletin board. Check. Separate class hamsters from dissected frogs. Check. Retrieve notebook from Cassidy. That's easy, I just need to... call her.

The problem hits her. Annie starts hyperventilating.

Shirley, who is right down the hallway, notices the incident.

SHIRLEY

Annie! Annie! What's wrong?

ANNIE

Shirley, you're older.

SHIRLEY

Come again?

ANNIE

Shirley, you're more experienced. How did people find each other before phones?

SHIRLEY

Well, we just had to go look around for them.

ANNIE

That sounds insanely difficult.

SHIRLEY

You poor, poor little girl. Who are you looking for?

ANNIE

Cassidy, you know the girl I lent my notebook to?

(MORE)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I have to give a presentation in
criminology and all my notes are in
there and...

SHIRLEY

Calm down. It's simple. We'll ask
around, and someone must know where
she is.

MONTAGE of Shirley and Annie approaching students. But each
time, they get a similar response.

STUDENT 1

Haven't seen her.

STUDENT 2

Nope.

STUDENT 3

Not today.

Finally, on their last attempt...

STARBURNS

Hmm... Cassidy?

ANNIE

Yep.

STARBURNS

Blonde hair, freckles?

ANNIE

Yeah?

STARBURNS

Walks around like she owns the
place?

ANNIE

(excited)

Yeah!

STARBURNS

Never heard of her.

Shocked, Annie slaps him on the cheek and then struts off.
Shirley follows her.

SHIRLEY

Annie?

ANNIE

I'm sorry, but this is just so frustrating. I need my phone.

SHIRLEY

Don't worry, I have a plan B.

INT. STAIRWELL - LATER

Abed jolts down the stairs. He's covered in several more sticky notes than when we last saw him.

Another STUDENT walks up the stairs and crosses paths with Abed.

STUDENT

Hey man, do you send pics?

ABED

Multimedia messages? Yeah, I can do that.

The student hands Abed a photo of a cat.

STUDENT 1

Yo, send that to Todd. He loves cat pictures.

ABED

25 cents please.

They make the exchange.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Jeff saunters in looking paranoid and spaced out.

BRITTA

Jeff, are you okay?

JEFF

Must... have... phone. Need... to... text someone.

Britta shakes her head in pity.

BRITTA

I knew you were too dependent.

In a flash, Jeff is back to normal. It was all an act.

JEFF

Come on, Britta. You really think I'd go total Norman Bates without a phone? I didn't even own one until 2005. I started my career with pagers and fax machines.

BRITTA

Alright, Mr. Smug. I get it.

JEFF

Now if you'll excuse me, I have a class of imbeciles to teach.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jeff walks into a classroom full of students sitting at their desks.

JEFF

Hello. Are there any questions about last week's reading?

The student sporting a skicap raises his hand.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Yeah?

SKICAP

Did Mr. Winger say he was having a substitute?

Jeff raises his finger but is speechless.

INT. JEFF AND HICKEY'S OFFICE - LATER

Hickey sits at his desk sketching ducks. Jeff runs in and stands at the doorway.

Hickey turns around to see what the commotion is.

HICKEY

You look like you've seen a ghost.

JEFF

None of my students recognize me.

HICKEY

Something does look different. Let me guess, you parted your hair to make it look like you woke up on the *other* side of the bed?

JEFF

This can't all be because I gave up
my phone, right?

Hickey gets up, wraps his arm around Jeff, and walks with him
down the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

HICKEY

Winger, I'll let you in on a
secret. A student will only
remember his teachers' names when
he wants to sleep with them or he
needs a letter of recommendation.
Otherwise we're all known by one
identifying factor. For example,
I'm the guy who draws ducks in his
free time. Duncan's the guy that
sounds like Harry Potter. Chang is--

Chang walks through them, still obnoxiously loud on his
phone.

CHANG

I'm not saying it hurts *all* the
time. Only when I'm crawling
through the vents without pants.
You don't expect me to suffer from
heatstroke do you...

HICKEY

Chang is the guy that just won't go
away. And you. You are the guy who
is always on his cell phone.

JEFF

I'm not that much of a one note
guy, am I?

HICKEY

Let's try a science experiment.

They approach a BLONDE STUDENT chatting to her friend.

HICKEY (CONT'D)

Excuse me, miss, do you recognize
this man?

She gives Jeff a staredown while twirling her hair. This girl
is clearly not the sharpest tool in the shed.

BLONDE
He, uh, looks familiar.

Hickey places a cell phone in Jeff's hands.

HICKEY
How about now?

BLONDE
Oh yeah, you're that law teacher,
aren't you?

Hickey snags the phone back.

HICKEY
And now?

BLONDE
Um, who are we talking about again?

They walk away.

HICKEY
Get it now?

JEFF
That's ridiculous! That was an
unfair test.

HICKEY
Why do you want these kids to
identify you anyway? I thought you
were trying to disassociate
yourself from Greendale.

JEFF
You think I dress and act this way
because it's comfortable? My
identity is my life. Student,
teacher, lawyer, it doesn't matter.
When Jeff Winger leaves a room,
everyone knows Jeff Winger was
there.

Jeff walks off hurriedly.

HICKEY
Where you off to?

JEFF
To get my identity back.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Abed is covered in many more sticky notes than before. He stands next to LEONARD, who is eating his lunch.

ABED
That'll be 25 cents.

LEONARD
I have to pay to *receive* a message?

ABED
25 to send, and 25 to receive.

LEONARD
You carriers are all crooks.

ABED
You could upgrade to the unlimited plan.

Leonard blows a raspberry and hands Abed a quarter.

Annie and Shirley run up to Abed.

ANNIE
Abed! Can you get this message to Cassidy?

ABED
Who?

ANNIE
Cassidy, with the blond hair.

ABED
I don't know who that is. She's out of my range. Sending this message to her would incite heavy roaming charges.

ANNIE
Fine. I see how it is. Plan C, Shirley?

SHIRLEY
Mmm-hmm.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

The two doors at the end of the hallway slam open like two saloon doors.

From the light emerges Jeff, dressed in a cowboy hat. The rest of his clothes still say "normal Jeff", but he saunters down the hallway like Clint Eastwood.

Everyone notices the spectacle, particularly Britta.

BRITTA

What's this?

JEFF

What do you mean? It's just me, Jeff Winger, teacher of law, the guy with the cowboy hat.

BRITTA

Are you doing this to cope with your identity crisis?

JEFF

I don't know what you're talking about.

(to random student)

Howdy, lil' missy.

Britta's not impressed. He quickly removes the hat.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Okay, the hat's not working? I have some backups. How 'bout the guy with a slight stutter, b-but one s-s-so slight you're not if it's a stutter or-or he's j-just really nervous.

BRITTA

Just admit you're lost without your phone.

JEFF

Never, because I'm not. I just have to figure out what my identity is. Now excuse me, because the guy who quotes Disney lines has stuff to get done. Til then, Hakuna Matata.

With that, Jeff makes his dramatic exit to the doors.

INT. STUDENT LOUNGE

Abed is making rounds with his notes.

He hands a sticky note to a MALE STUDENT sitting in a chair. The student reads and chuckles. Then he writes something on a new note and places it on Abed's torso.

Abed then goes to a FEMALE STUDENT sitting in a chair. Similarly, he hands her a note. She quickly reads it and responds with her own message.

We reveal Abed is walking a couple of feet across the same room, delivering messages back and forth between these two students, who must be engrossed in a very important text conversation.

INT. OUTSIDE THE DEAN'S OFFICE - LATER

Annie rushes in, Shirley tailing behind. RHONDA, the elderly secretary, stands behind the counter nonchalant.

ANNIE

Quick, emergency! I need to make an announcement on the PA.

RHONDA

Are you on fire?

ANNIE

No.

RHONDA

Do you have kidney stones?

ANNIE

No?

RHONDA

Did someone knock you up and now you want to pronounce your love to him?

ANNIE

No!

RHONDA

Then it hardly constitutes an emergency.

ANNIE

But Rita...

RHONDA

It's Rhonda.

Annie widens her eyes and puffs her lower lip out a little bit.

ANNIE

Please Rhonda? Pwetty pwease
Whonda? With a cherwy on top?

Rhonda doesn't react.

Defeated, Annie turns around and faces Shirley.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

That always works on my Bubbe when
I want candy.

SHIRLEY

You tried your thing, let me try
mine.

She goes up to the counter.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

Can't you help this poor, sweet
girl? All she wants to do is find
her friend. Surely you can look in
your heart and ask yourself, what
would Jesus do?

Still no reaction. Shirley turns around.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

Damn, she's good. Now what?

ANNIE

Plan D?

SHIRLEY

You know it.

Annie reapproaches the desk with a smile on her face.

Suddenly she jumps over the counter and pounces onto Rhonda.

ANNIE

Give me the mic, you bitch!

Rhonda may be old, but she's plenty fit. She and Annie
wrestle to get back up. Shirley runs around the counter to
help out, and to search for the microphone.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. QUAD - AFTERNOON

Britta walks among students who look like zombies, mental patients, and deer caught in a headlight. One student walks around in small tight circles. Another makes swiping motions with his finger, as if he trying to swipe the air.

Jeff enters the quad riding a UNICYCLE.

JEFF

Check it out Britta!

He loops around different students with ease.

BRITTA

I didn't know you could unicycle.

JEFF

Of course! I'm the guy who goes around campus on a unicycle!

He continues to ride around, feeling better than he has all day.

Then it starts to get wobbly. Jeff has trouble maintaining his balance. He goes off course and...

CRASH.

Britta runs over to Jeff, who is sprawled out against a bike rack. The unicycle frame is slightly bent.

JEFF (CONT'D)

There goes the deposit.

BRITTA

Jeff! Are you okay?

He stands up and dusts himself off.

JEFF

Oh, I'm okay. I'm more than okay. In fact, I'm Jeff Winger, okay guy. Average guy. Nobody guy. I think I'm going to go be nobody... somewhere else.

INT. HALLWAY - A LITTLE LATER

Abed is now covered in sticky notes, printed documents, and photos, from head to toe. Everywhere he walks, people add more and more things to him.

The faces, the interactions, the amount of work he has to do... it's all too overwhelming.

ABED

Sorry everyone. Service is temporarily down.

He dashes off.

EXT. ENTRANCE STEPS - LATER

Annie and Shirley, both with hair and clothes a mess, walk out of the school.

ANNIE

How can we not find her?

SHIRLEY

There's a lot of students at this school. Chance of running into someone you know is rare.

They walk past MAGNITUDE, PROFESSOR WHITMAN, and RICH, who are all standing casually against a pillar.

Annie and Shirley sit down at the bottom of the steps.

ANNIE

All I wanted to do was make a little bit of difference at this school. What's the point of the Save Greendale Committee if we're not doing any saving?

SHIRLEY

Oh Annie, don't say that. Look what progress you've made. Everyone's much better than before.

INT. STUDENT LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

GARRETT is stir crazy. He notices his pointer finger starting to shake and he immediately starts tapping it on the couch's arm.

GARRETT
Need... to... tap... screen!

He shoots out of the couch.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
I need my phone!

More students pop up.

STUDENT 1
Me too!

STUDENT 2
And me!

GARRETT
The Teleban must be stopped!

Students around the campus go nuts. They throw chairs, tear down the Teleban fliers, knock over tables.

MOB
(chanting)
Stop the Teleban! Stop the Teleban!

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Chang continues to chat on his giant phone.

CHANG
If I wanted to threaten the
Pentagon I would have claimed to
send a much larger bomb than that.

He hears people shouting from down the hallway.

CHANG (CONT'D)
Hang on one sec.

He turns around to see an angry mob of students running towards him.

MOB
Stop the Teleban! Stop the Teleban!

CHANG
Excuse me, I'm going to have to
call you back.

Chang hangs up. As the mob reaches him, he screams like a little girl.

INT. OUTSIDE THE DEAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Rhonda notices the mob of students run past her doorway. She walks over to the wall, where a small whiteboard has the message written: 80 DAYS SINCE LAST RIOT.

She picks up an eraser and removes the "8".

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Annie and Shirley walk.

SHIRLEY

So what are you going to do about the notebook?

ANNIE

I suppose I can do the presentation without my notes. I'm bound to find Cassidy eventually.

GARRETT (O.S.)

There she is!

The girls turn around. The mob of students has found them.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

There's the one that took away our phones!

ANOTHER STUDENT

Get her!

Annie and Shirley make a run for it. The mob chases after them.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

The room is empty, except for Jeff, sitting at a table. He drinks WATER from a clear plastic cup and looks like the loneliest man in the world.

We hear footsteps. Britta sits down across from Jeff.

BRITTA

Are you the guy that drinks water now?

JEFF

No. I'm the nobody. I'm the guy without any distinguishing identity.

Britta doesn't know how to respond.

JEFF (CONT'D)

All this time I've been criticizing people how they're glued to their cell phones. When it turns out, that's how people see *me*. I don't want to be remembered as the guy who spent his entire lifetime sending text messages and playing Bejeweled.

Suddenly the doors burst open. Annie runs in, the shouts of angry students behind her.

MOB

Stop the Teleban! Stop the Teleban!

The mob fills up the room. The students have become wild-eyed and savage-like. Shirley runs in behind them.

BRITTA

Jeff, you need to stop this.

JEFF

Why?

BRITTA

Sure, you're the guy with the cell phone. But in the years I've known you, I've learned you are so much more than that. You are the leader. You are the hero. Jeff Winger, you are the guy that fixes everything.

Annie is trapped in a corner. The mob slowly approaches her.

ANNIE

Heeeeelp!

JEFF

Britta, you know I hate it when you actually say something profound.

She smiles.

BRITTA

Go get 'em, cowboy.

Right when the students are about to jump onto Annie--

Jeff jumps audibly on top of a table. The mob turns around.

JEFF

People! People! We all miss our phones. Sure, they make communication a lot simpler.

Annie reacts positively. So does Shirley.

JEFF (CONT'D)

And they help us when we need a quick distraction.

Garrett thinks that over.

JEFF (CONT'D)

And perhaps, for some of us, they help us with our identity.

Britta shines proudly.

JEFF (CONT'D)

But don't forget... we used to live without these things! What would our parents say? They didn't carry these thing in their pockets, and they got along fine. What will our children say? Seeing us as a generation too scared to make direct contact with people and too dependent on their coping devices. We can do so much better.

The crowd considers these thoughts.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Besides, you can all use your phones when you leave campus.

Lots of mumbling in agreement.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Maybe we can learn to live without phones controlling our lives. Let us embrace this ban.

Dean Pelton steps up onto the table.

DEAN PELTON

It turns out we can't ban cell phones. Our flag pole is actually a cell tower, and T-Mobile will stop funding us if we aren't using it.

JEFF

Does that mean everyone can go back
to using their phones?

DEAN PELTON

Yes, the Teleban is disbanded.

JEFF

In that case, everyone disregard
what I just said!

The crowd cheers. FAT NEIL emerges from the group and walks
over to Annie.

NEIL

Annie, I've been looking for you
everywhere. Cassidy's got the flu,
but she told me to get this to you.

He hands her the missing purple notebook.

ANNIE

Thanks Neil.

FAT NEIL

I would have tried calling you,
but... you know.

Jeff rejoins Britta. No hugs, but their eye contact says all.

Abed appears out of nowhere and joins the two. He's no longer
covered with anything but his plain old clothes.

BRITTA

Abed, what happened to your text
messaging?

ABED

I gave up on it. Some things are
just better left to the machines.

JEFF

Maybe the real lesson is that we
should talk directly to people,
instead of relying on a messenger
to handle our dirty work.

ABED

No, I like my conclusion more, but
thanks.

EXT./INT. CAMPUS/HALLWAY - MORNING (DAY 3)

Everything is back to normal. Everyone is glued to their phones, but this time they're being more sociable (two people are watching the same screen; one is aware of his surroundings as he texts, etc.).

INT. STUDY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Save Greendale Committee--Jeff, Abed, Britta, Annie, Shirley, Duncan, Chang, and Hickey--are once again gathered around the table. This time no phones are visible. Everyone looks pretty satisfied.

ANNIE

I think we can all agree, we're all better off with our phones, as long as we use them with discretion.

Everyone nods and mumbles in agreement.

DUNCAN

So now what?

Awkward silence.

BRITTA

It's okay if I just check--?

ABED

Yeah.

Everyone mumbles in agreement, pulling out their phones and immediately succumbing to the screen.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Abed walks through a busy hallway, while holding up what we assume is his cell phone.

ABED

Hey Troy... How are you?... Oh, everything here is good. Everyone misses you, especially Annie. You won't believe what she said... What was that?... Hello? Troy, can you hear me?... I think my reception's bad. Hello? Hello?

Jeff quickly charges past him.

JEFF

You're talking on a stapler.

Abed lowers his hand, revealing he is in fact holding a STAPLER. He points to it while shouting ahead.

ABED

It's on contract for three more months.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW