

# THE LAN PARTY TALK

by Herbert Midgley  
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TIME: Present

PLACE: A small room on a college campus

## CHARACTERS:

Arnold Patel - college student that is a computer hacker

Joe Halls – a life long gamer

ARNOLD and JOE have just finished a twelve-hour marathon of playing video games at the Lan Party that has just ended. Everyone has packed up their computers and left except for ARNOLD and JOE. Everything is cleared from the room and they are both checking the room to make sure that everybody's stuff is out before turning off the lights so they can go home.

ARNOLD

Man, that was a great time. I love the lan parties.

JOE

Yeah, but I can't believe that everyone was dissin' me.

ARNOLD

Joe, look at you. You have no job, a son that you never see and a pregnant girlfriend that has a job to support you.

JOE

Ok, Arnold. What are you trying to say to me?

ARNOLD

Everyone thinks you are a loser.

JOE

What!?

ARNOLD

Joe, man people hate you. I hate you. I hate what you stand for. I hate that you try to control everything. I hate that you can slide by in life while the rest of us have to work hard to make ends meet. At times I hate the sight of you.

JOE

All of this just because I don't have a job.

ARNOLD

You can't have a job. What skills do you have? Name one.

JOE

I started a Taco Bell.

ARNOLD

Joe, you were a cook there. Everybody knows it. You didn't mange it, you made tacos and burritos in the back.

JOE

I was a manger at Taco Bell.

ARNOLD

No you weren't. Can't you ever tell the truth? What is wrong with you? Do you always have to lie about everything?

JOE

I was the general manger at Taco Bell.

ARNOLD

No you weren't. Chris checked out your story. It was after that one time you told us how much money you made back then. None of us believed you. Remo bet Chris that he could prove it faster then him. It is amazing what you can't find on the internet. Oh, Chris won the bet.

JOE

Do you want me to show you the pay stubs that have?

ARNOLD

No, man. I want you to get a life! Grow up. You already have one child and you are about to bring in another one into this world with no way to support them. It is my taxes dollars that is going to pay for the food stamps that you will feed them with. MY MONEY! Get a job you bum.

JOE

I can't.

ARNOLD

You mean you won't. Look at Chris, he has two jobs so that he can go to college. And he doesn't have any family obligations. He is just a hard worker.

JOE

Chris couldn't get a girl if he tried.

ARNOLD

Joe, do you think that you some gift to women? You are a complete loser. And by loser I mean loser. Not a regular loser, but a loser that is such a loser that when you look up *loser* in the dictionary your picture is there under the term. *Joe the loser*.

JOE

You are just jealous. You can't get any girls either.

ARNOLD

I don't feel sorry for you, but rather I feel sorry for your kids. And you stupid girlfriends. What kind of a life are they going to have having a father that can't make enough money to buy a can of coke.

JOE

I could get a job.

ARNOLD

Then do it! That 401K that you cashed in, what was it, two thousand dollars. Most of it when to back rent. And you still owe James four hundred. I have lost count at how much money you owe to the other gamers.

JOE

That isn't any of your business.

ARNOLD

I don't want it to be a part of my business. But when you hear James go on and on that you own him money, it becomes a part of my business.

JOE

You know, forget you. Man, when I first met you I thought you were cool, but now you are. (pauses) You know what you are?

ARNOLD

What?

JOE

A control freak. You have to control everything. Every event, every RPG(Role Playing Game), everything. Arnold equals control freak. Man, you think that everybody hates me, no man. Everybody hates you!

ARNOLD

What!?

JOE

That's right, people talk about you behind you back. No one likes you.

ARNOLD

Whatever man. I know the truth, and so do you. When you look in the mirror, what do you see?

JOE

I see someone that will be famous.

ARNOLD

No, you see a loser that has mess up everything he had ever touched in his life. Live action RPG? Did you really think that you could get people here to pay money to go around and beat each other up with sticks?

JOE

One day Arnold, when RPGs take off again, I'm going to make bank.

ARNOLD

Joe, don't you watch TechTV. Of I forgot, you can't have cable because you don't have any money. People are making money with Live action RPGs, you don't have any idea how to run a business. And by the way, you stole that idea anyways. The only things that you have changed and added are the parts that make the game suck.

JOE

You are just jealous because I have minions that follow me.

ARNOLD

You are the king of the *dweebs*. Not nerds, because nerds are smart. Dweebs. You can be the king of the *dweebs*. Losers follow losers.

JOE

Arnold, you suck.

ARNOLD

We'll see who sucks. At least people don't hate me. Most have a lot of respect for me. And I have respect for them. Joe, man, you don't respect anyone, less of all is yourself. (Looks at his watch) It's getting late.

JOE

Yeah, I guess I need to go out and wait for my girlfriend to pick me up.

ARNOLD

Yeah you do that. Joe, think about what I have said tonight.

JOE

I will. Does everyone really *hate* me?

ARNOLD

Only the people that know you. (ARNOLD smiles) Have a good night and buy a paper and get a job on Monday. Then people will stop dissin' you.

JOE

I can't get a job.

ARNOLD

Why?

JOE

If I do, my ex-wife will find out where I live and have the cops arrest me for back child support.

ARNOLD

How much do you owe?

JOE

Three and half year's worth.

ARNOLD

Joe, don't you understand what child support is? It is money to *support* your child. The child that you helped bring into this world.

JOE

You don't understand. *She* takes the money and spends it on stupid junk. One time, she used up all of the money on my son's birthday. She used *my* money to buy *my* son presents while I couldn't afford to buy him anything. That was the last time I paid child support.

ARNOLD

Joe, you suck. You're a loser and I am so mad right now that I want to explode at you and your stupid comments. But, I am going home to watch DS9 on my big screen TV and then go to sleep. And I will forget that I have ever talked to you. (ARNOLD walks out the door.)

JOE

No one understands. (JOE shakes his head and walks out the door.)

(Fade out)

THE END

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