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## INTRODUCTION

**W**hether we know it or not, each of us lives a life governed by an internalized code of conduct. Some call it morality. Others call it religion. I call it “the Bro Code.”

For centuries men have attempted to follow this code with no universal understanding of what such an arrangement meant: Is it okay to hug a Bro?\* If I’m invited to a Bro’s wedding, do I really have to bring a gift?† Can I sleep with a Bro’s sister or mother or both?‡

Now, for the first time on paper, I have recorded the rules of social decorum that Bros have practiced since the dawn of man . . . if not before. The Bro Code previously existed only as an oral tradition (heh), so I have journeyed the globe to piece

\* Never.

† Nope.

‡ Dude. Come on.

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together and transcribe the scattered fragments of the Bro Code, pausing only to flesh it out myself (double heh). ~~While not intending to write a "Guide to Being a Bro," if men should treat it as such and pass this compendium of knowledge from one generation to the next, I have little doubt it would bring a tear to my eye. But not out of it. That would be a violation of Article 41: A Bro never cries.~~

It is my hope that, with a better understanding of the Bro Code, Bros the world over can put aside their differences and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood. It is then, and only then, that we might work together as one to accomplish perhaps the most important challenge society faces—getting laid. ~~Before dismissing this pursuit as crass and ignoble, consider this postulate: without the sport inherent in trying to bang chicks, would men willingly have sex for the sole purpose of producing smelly, screaming babies?\*~~

Of course not

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Centuries from now, when a Bro applies the rudiments of the Bro Code to score a three-boobed future chick, the only thanks I'll need is the knowledge that I—in whatever small capacity—Bro'd him out . . . though if he could figure out how to bring me back to life, that would be pretty awesome, too.

—Barney Stinson

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## ORIGIN

**W**hile the story of the Bro Code is not nearly as simple and elegant as God handing down some stone tablets to Brose, its origins weave all the way back to the dawn of humanity.

~~In the beginning there was no Bro Code~~... which was unfortunate for the world's first Bros—Cain and Abel. Lacking an agreed-upon set of social principles, Cain killed Abel and committed history's first **Broicide**. As punishment Cain was doomed to walk the earth alone. Why? Because without a wingman, he had absolutely no chance to meet chicks.

Centuries later a Bro from Sparta and a Bro from Troy got in a fight over a chick named Helen. I know, "Helen" doesn't sound hot, but allegedly she had a "face that launched a thousand ships," so you can just imagine what her rack was like. The two Bros waged a terrible war over this chick—a war that could have been avoided had the Bros been familiar with the most

use something like this in your intro.

Think of the olympic muse,  
dun... dun... dun.  
Dunnnna.

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~~basic Bro Code: Bros before ho's. Troy put up a good fight, but the Spartan navy was very powerful. Soon hordes of Spartan seamen burst through the Trojan barrier, and Helen got half the gold for the next eighteen years.~~

Hundreds of years later, appropriately in Philadelphia (the City of Bro Love), a little known delegate named Barnabas Stinson scratched on parchment what is now considered the earliest attempt to record the Bro Code. Over the years Bros have amended and added rules, but Stinson's elegant words remain as the glorious preamble to the Bro Code.

While the original document is housed two stories beneath sea level in an undisclosed, vacuum-sealed, bullet-proof chamber, I was able to gain access long enough to manufacture this replica.

BA  
Background  
Intro

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## WHAT IS A BRO?

**Y**ou've probably heard the word "Bro" used liberally at your local bar or gym. Perhaps you've seen it recklessly confused with "dude" or "guy" in an adventure-themed soft-drink commercial. Maybe even you yourself have unwittingly tossed out a "Bro" when asking a stranger for the time. But an important distinction must be drawn: just because a guy is a dude, doesn't mean that dude is a Bro.

*Q: What is a Bro?*

*A: A Bro is a person who would give you the shirt off his back when he doesn't want to wear it anymore. A Bro is a person who will bend over backwards to help you bend someone else over backwards. In short, a Bro is a lifelong companion you can trust will always be there for you, unless he's got something else going on.*

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Q: *Who is your Bro?*

A: Your mailman is a Bro, your father was once a Bro, and the boy who mows your lawn represents the Bro of tomorrow, but that doesn't make him *your* Bro. When someone has faithfully upheld one or more of the codes in the Bro Code, then you may consider him your Bro. *Warning:* Exercise caution when bringing home a hot chick—your brother may or may not be your Bro.

Q: *Can only dudes be Bros?*

A: You don't need to be a guy to be somebody's Bro, provided you uphold the moral values contained within this sacred canon. When a woman sets a guy up with her busty friend, she's acting as a Bro. And if she sets him up with other hot friends after he slept with the first one and never called her again, then she's officially his Bro.

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## BROCABULARY

**A**s you thumb through *The Bro Code*, you may come across some words and terms you've never seen before. Many have been boldfaced and placed in the Glossary on page 193 so you can familiarize yourself with the **Bronacular**.

While Bros are always encouraged to spread the truth of the Bro Code, they are also cautioned against overusing "Bro." Such **Broliferation** cheapens the important mission of this book and, nearly as important, makes you sound stupid.

### APPROPRIATE "BRO" USAGE

*Nabroleon*  
*Tom Brokaw*  
*Bro Jackson*  
*Teddy Broosevelt*  
*Broce Springsteen*

### INAPPROPRIATE "BRO" USAGE

*Broan of Arc*  
*Brobara Walters*  
*Bro J. Simpson*  
*Geraldine Ferrarbro*  
*Broko Ono*



## ARTICLE 1

### *Bros before ho's.*

The bond between two men is stronger than the bond between a man and a woman because, on average, men are stronger than women. That's just science

#### DID YOU KNOW...

Article 1 can trace *its* genesis all the way back to Genesis. No, not the Peter Gabriel/Phil Collins pop triad, but the biblical book. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls has unearthed a once-lost passage that documents the earliest infringement of the Bro Code.

#### BOOK OF BARNABAS 1:1

*And everything of need was provided in the Garden. Fruit, water, companionship. But one day, Adam came upon a naked chick, Eve, and desired her olive leaf. And so Adam wenteth behind an apple tree to know Eve, totally ditching his Bro, Phil, who had Knicks tickets. Courtside. Long story short, humankind became self-aware, paradise was lost, and well, we all know what happened to the Knicks.*

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≡ ARTICLE 2 ≡

*A Bro is always entitled to do something stupid, as long as the rest of his Bros are all doing it.*

NOTE: Had Butch Cassidy come charging out of that cabin alone, people would have been like, "Dude, come on." If only one Spanish dude had decided to run down the street in front of a bunch of angry bulls, people would've been like, "Dude, come on." If only Tommy Lee had worn eyeliner in the early days of Mötley Crüe, people would have been like, "Lady, come on." The license to be stupid is why we have Bros in the first place.

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≡ ARTICLE 3 ≡

*If a Bro gets a dog, it must  
be at least as tall as his knee  
when full-grown.*

COROLLARY: Naming a lapdog after a pro wrestler or a character from a Steve McQueen movie does not absolve a Bro from the spirit of this article.

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≡ ARTICLE 6 ≡

*A Bro shall not lollygag if he  
must get naked in front of other  
Bros in a gym locker room.*

COROLLARY: If a Bro gets naked in the locker room, all other Bros shall pretend that nothing out of the ordinary is happening while, at the same time, immediately averting their eyes. When in doubt, remember the old adage: "If a towel drops to the floor, so should your eyes."

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ARTICLE 8

*A Bro never sends a greeting  
card to another Bro.*

There are no sentiments between Bros that cannot be articulated through the convenience and emotional distance of electronic mail. The following are a few emails for any **Broccasion** that succinctly get the message across without costing you the trouble and expense of having to find and then send an actual greeting card.

EMAILS FOR ANY BROCCASION

SYMPATHY

To: Bro  
From: Bro  
Subject: Dude

Sorry, Bro.

CONGRATULATIONS

To: Bro  
From: Bro  
Subject: Bro!

Nice, Bro!

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GET WELL SOON

To: Bro  
From: Bro  
Subject: Bro...

Don't give up, Bro.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To: Bro  
From: Bro  
Subject: Dude

Drinks on me, Bro.

THINKING OF YOU

To: N/A  
From: N/A  
Subject: N/A

N/A

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≈ ARTICLE 15 ≈

*A Bro never dances with his  
hands above his head.*

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≡ ARTICLE 16 ≡

*A Bro should be able, at any time,  
to recite the following reigning  
champions: Super Bowl, World  
Series, and Playmate of the Year.*



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≡ ARTICLE 19 ≡

*A Bro shall not sleep with another Bro's sister. However, a Bro shall not get angry if another Bro says, "Dude, your sister's hot!"*

COROLLARY: It's probably best for everyone if Bros just hide pictures of their sisters when other Bros are coming over.

**CHECKLIST FOR BRO-PROOFING YOUR HOME**

- ┆ Hide all pictures of hot sisters, moms, and first cousins.
- ┆ Open liquor bottles and dust the bar area to give the impression you actually use it.
- ┆ As a courtesy, move printed porn from the bedroom to the bathroom.
- ┆ Scan DVR playlist and remove embarrassing television programs like daytime talk shows.
- ┆ Open all windows.
- ┆ Display all remote controls on the coffee table, regardless of functionality.
- ┆ Disconnect answering machine, or ...
- ┆ Call Mom an hour before your Bros arrive.
- ┆ Coasters, coasters, coasters!
- ┆ Sign out of email account.
- ┆ Usher girlfriend/booty call off the premises.

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## ARTICLE 22

### *There is no law that prohibits a woman from being a Bro.*

Women make excellent Bros. Why? Because they can translate and navigate the confusing and contradictory whims that comprise the Chick Code.

#### DO CHICKS REALLY HAVE THEIR OWN CODE?

Yes, I'm afraid so. One morning, just before slipping out the door while my hostess was in the shower, I happened upon a copy of the rumored tome. I didn't have time to flip much past the pink bedazzled cover, but here are some of the phrases I remember seeing on the frilly pages within:

- A chick shall not sleep with another chick's ex-boyfriend, unless she does.
- A chick never pays for anything. Ever.
- If two chicks get into a fight, they shall make catty remarks and pretend to ignore each other, rather than simply stripping down and wrestling it out.

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- If a chick hears a chick-empowerment song like "I Will Survive," she shall stop whatever she's doing, grab another chick's hand, and shriek the lyrics at the top of her lungs.
  - A chick may get a dog as a pet, but only if it fits in her mailbox.
  - If two chicks are wearing the same outfit, each retains the right to accidentally spill a drink on the other.
  - A chick shall not operate a motor vehicle in a safe manner.
  - A chick has a free pass to slut it up on Halloween.



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≡ ARTICLE 24 ≡

*When wearing a baseball cap,  
a Bro may position the brim at  
either 12 or 6 o'clock. All other  
angles are reserved for rappers  
and the handicapped.*

ARTICLE 25

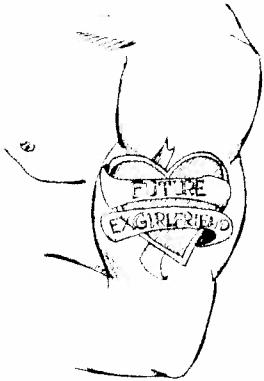
*A Bro doesn't let another Bro  
get a tattoo, particularly a  
tattoo of a girl's name.*

The average relationship between a man and a woman lasts eighty-three days. The relationship between a man and his skin lasts a lifetime and must be nurtured, because as we all know, the skin is the largest and second most important organ a man has.

BARNEY STINSON'S FIELD GUIDE TO TATTOOS

TATTOO

TRANSLATION



*"Hey, everybody, look at me!  
Not only have I made the foolish  
mistake of choosing a lifetime  
of monogamy, but I have  
permanently branded myself  
as off-limits."*

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≡ ARTICLE 41 ≡

*A Bro never cries.*

EXCEPTIONS: Watching *Field of Dreams*, *E.T.*, or a sports legend retire.

lies only to the first time he retires.

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≈ ARTICLE 47 ≈

*A Bro never wears pink.  
Not even in Europe.*

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≡ ARTICLE 62 ≡

*In the event that two Bros lock on to the same target, the Bro who calls dibs first has dibs. If both call dibs at the same time, the Bro who counts aloud to ten the fastest has dibs. If both arrive at the number ten at the same time, the Bro who bought the last round of drinks has dibs. If they haven't purchased drinks yet, the taller of the two Bros has dibs. If they're the same height, the Bro with the longer dry spell has dibs. Should the dry spells be of equal length, a game of discreet Broshambo\* shall determine dibs, provided the chick is still there.*

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\* Rock, paper, scissors for Bros.



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≡ ARTICLE 104 ≡

*The mom of a Bro is always off-limits. But the stepmom of a Bro is fair game if she initiates and/or is wearing at least one article of leopard print clothing . . . provided she looks good in it . . . but not if she smokes menthol cigarettes.*

Be it here resolved that at no point is it permissible for one Bro to engage in carnal delicacies with another Bro's mother. It is, however, allowed and encouraged for one Bro to graphically suggest to a Bro the athletic feats, animalia, and/or machinery utilized during a fictional encounter with his mom. (Nota bene: It is customary for a Bro to avoid such **Brocularity** if his Bro's mom is a nine or better, for fear of Oedipal inducement.) Should a Bro discover his Bro is adopted, he is free to pursue his Bro's adoptive mother, but only after first corroborating nonbiological parentage through notarized birth certificates, hospital records, or comparative deoxyribonucleic acid gel electrophoresis, whichever is most convenient.

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≡ ARTICLE 108 ≡

*If a Bro forgets a guy's name,  
he may call him "brab," "dude,"  
or "man," but never "Bro."*

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➤ ARTICLE 122 ➤

*A Bro is always psyched. Always.*

If you're having trouble getting psyched, or you need to get a Bro psyched, you can always make yourself a "Get Psyched" mix.

CLASSIC "GET PSYCHED SONGS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| "You Give Love a Bad Name"<br>—Bon Jovi                         | "Rock You Like a Hurricane"<br>—Scorpions         |
| "I Wanna Rock" —Twisted Sister                                  | "Come Sail Away"—Styx                             |
| "The Humpty Dance"<br>—Digital Underground                      | "Free Bird" (second half only)<br>—Lynyrd Skynyrd |
| "Don't Stop Believin'" —Journey                                 | "Panama" —Van Halen                               |
| "You're the Best Around"<br>—Joe Esposito                       | "Jessie's Girl" —Rick Springfield                 |
| "Lick It Up" —KISS  | "Talk Dirty to Me" —Poison                        |
| "Paradise City" —Guns N' Roses                                  | "Thunderstruck" —AC/DC                            |
| "Tom Sawyer" —Rush  | "High Enough"<br>—Damn Yankees                    |
| "The Transformers Theme"<br>—Vince DiCola with<br>Optimus Prime | "Hip Hop Hooray"<br>—Naughty By Nature            |
| "Dancing with Myself"<br>—Billy Idol                            | "Dr. Feelgood" —Mötley Crüe                       |
|   | "Round and Round" —Ratt                           |
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## VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Bro Code may result in a fine of up to \$250,000 or in some cases, permanent **dis-Broment**. Unresolved disputes over the Bro Code may be submitted via email to the International Court of Bros at [barneystinson@barneysblog.com](mailto:barneystinson@barneysblog.com), provided such disputes include pictures of the chicks involved. But only if they're hot—the chicks, not the disputes.

There is no greater affront to the spirit of the Bro Code than a willing violation. While occasionally a Bro may err due to inebriation, a momentary lapse of judgment, or if a chick is so hot that other Bros would say "he didn't really have a choice," any premeditated infraction of the Bro Code is inexcusable. When a Bro violates the Bro Code, he hurts not only his Bros but also himself, because he is no longer Bro worthy.

It's important to note that there are no tenets of the Bro Code that cannot be discussed in confidence with another Bro, and I would urge a Bro to seek permission from another Bro before doing something, or someone, that he feels might violate this sacred code. Note: A great time to get that permission is when your Bro is super drunk . . . like almost passed out.

If and when a violation occurs, a Bro has the right to administer the offending Bro a level of punishment befitting the infraction. He may choose from the Approved Punishments list.

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## APPROVED PUNISHMENTS

- Revocation of wingman status
- Text blackout
- Designated all-time tip leaver
- Assigned to solar-refraction seat in living room
- Removal from inappropriate email forwards list
- Waterboarding
- Temporary blacklist from barbecues/football Sundays
- Loss of permanent shotgun status
- Bumped from top position on "not using season tickets" list
- Removal from holiday card mailing list
- Revocation of airport pickup/drop-off privileges
- Must help offended Bro move heavy furniture
- Temporary removal from usual golf foursome
- Must return stuff loaned from offended Bro . . . even stuff he thinks his Bro forgot about
- No longer allowed to borrow the truck
- Offended Bro no longer required to bring beer over