

DON'T BE SQUARE

Written by

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Based on the novel, "The Junior High."

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TV Pilot Script for,

"Don't Be Square."

Written by Dr. Pelham Mead III

(Adapted from the Novel,
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TEASER**MAIN OFFICE OF CUCAMONGA JUNIOR HIGH-DAY.**

It is the typical start to a Junior high school day in upstate New York in 1967. The speaker on the intercom during homeroom is **John Cardone(23)**, Social Studies teacher. John is a one of a kind character and one of the three main characters of this story. He is married with one infant daughter, and he just graduated from College the spring before. John should have been a radio announcer in another life. He talks like Robin Williams in the movie "Good Morning Vietnam," by exaggerating the Gooooood Morning introduction to the morning announcements. John is slightly balding at age 23 and stands 5 ft. 10 inches tall. He is always cracking jokes and making up nicknames for fellow teachers. His students love him and he is already in his first year of teaching a very popular teacher among his peers.

JOHN CARDONE

Gooooood Morrrring Cucamonga Junior High school. Here are the morning announcements. On the Jewish holidays this fall school will be closed. Coach Bill Medley has asked me to announce that Fall Cross Country Track is now accepting new runners that want to try out. Cross country runners run one mile on the Junior High level. In high school they run two miles. If you are interested see Coach Medley. Here is a note from the Guidance department. All changes in class schedules must be completed by the end of the week. It looks like it is going to be another beautiful cool fall day today in Highland Falls New York, so dress warmly when going out for the Physical Education classes. This is Johnny C. Signing off for today reminding you, "Don't Be Square."

The school bell rings and students begin to enter into Business class 210 on the second floor of Cucamonga Junior High School. The teacher is Mr. **RALPH NEWTON(60s)**, early 60s,, a grey haired, thin build, Business Education teacher. He stands in the doorway smiling at the students as they enter. Ralph is an 'Old School' teacher who is slow, and methodical with his students. He follows the textbook exactly with his New York Brooklyn accent, and expressions like 'yous guys.' He is dressed in a white shirt, tie and brown slacks with dress shoes.

Suddenly, an Assistant Principal, **SAM KELP(50S)**, short stocky, crew cut hair style appears at the classroom door. SAM is a career assistant principal having been passed over for Principal several times. After a short Hello with **RALPH** he walks into the classroom.

SAM KELP(50S)

Good morning Mr. Newton, how are you doing today?

RALPH NEWTON(60S)

You're here again? You evaluated me the beginning of the month, and **SUE BLACKBERG, 30s**, the other assistant Principal, came in last week to evaluate me. I have tenure and there should only be one evaluation a year.(Showing a distressed face)

SAM KELP

Well, we felt there was a need for a follow-up, since your previous evaluations had too many "needs to improve ratings."

RALPH NEWTON

It seems to me you are exceeding your authority as assistant Principal in over-evaluating a tenured teacher in just one month.

SAM KELP

You are entitled to your opinion Mr. Newton.

RALPH NEWTON

Ok, class lets sit down in your assigned seats. Take out your textbook, and your homework. If you remember your assignment was to set up a small company called the Cucamonga Pet Feed Store. Your were to set up a budget, and starting inventory based on the numbers provided in your textbook. Billy how much did you provide for grain for horses and goats?

BILL GOLDBERG (13)

\$5,000 dollars Mr. Newton.

RALPH NEWTON

That is right **BILL(13)**. Good job. **SUZY(13)** can you tell me how many bales of hay you are projecting to sell this month in your store?

SUZY SMITZ (13)

(SUZY is a small 13 year old blond with a pony tail and rimless glasses) I anticipate that with \$3,000 in hay bales purchased that I will have to sell 60 bales of hay at \$50 dollars a piece.

RALPH NEWTON

Well, there is a problem Suzy. If you buy the hay for \$3,000 and you sell 60 bales of hay that will give you \$3,000 back. Where is the profit Suzy?

SUZY SMITZ

I do not know, Mr. Newton

RALPH NEWTON

Does anyone else have an idea how to make a profit on the hay bales if you paid \$3,000 for 60 bales of hay?

ROGER WHITE (13)

(Raising his hand) (Roger is a nerd, tall 5'9" with light brown hair cut short) Just add 50% profit to each bale of hay as a profit margin, so instead of selling each bale for \$50 (what you paid for the bale) you add \$25 dollars per bale.

RALPH NEWTON
So what would the profit be Roger?

ROGER WHITE (13)
I figure 60 bales of hay at \$75
each would equal \$4,500 total or
\$1500 in profit on the hay sales.

RALPH NEWTON
That is correct Roger, nice work.
Does everyone understand that you
have to make a profit to stay in
business? Are there any questions?

SAM KELP
Excuse me Mr. Newton what does
selling Hay have to do with
Business today?

RALPH NEWTON
Excuse me, I don't understand your
question. What do you mean Business
today?

SAM KELP
Well, these students are obviously
not farmers. Why are they working
on a business problem for a farmer?
Why not a gas station or a movie
house?

RALPH NEWTON
Because that is the scenario the
text book provides.

SAM KELP
Oh, I see you could not modify the
text book scenario to apply to
suburban businesses?

RALPH NEWTON
I don't see how it makes a
difference. A profit for a business
is the same regardless whether it
is for a farmer or a movie owner.

SAM KELP
I beg to differ with you Mr.
Newton. Perhaps if you were more up
to date with your examples the more
students would be signing up for
Business Education classes instead
of signing up for Yearbook instead.

RALPH NEWTON

Well I (suddenly Ralph's face looks distorted. He pauses and He reaches for his heart with a gesture of pain on his face, and falls down on the floor).

SUZY SMITZ

Oh my God, I think he is having a heart attack. Do something Mr. Kelp.

RALPH NEWTON

Someone run to the Nurse quickly and tell them Mr. Newton fell down and is not breathing.

ROGER WHITE

I'll run and get the Nurse.

SAM KELP

(Sam never gets out of his chair to check on Mr. Newton) Everyone stay in your seat. The Nurse will be here shortly, and she will know what to do.

Muriel Watson, School Nurse's office is two classrooms away from room 210 and the Nurse is there in minutes.

MURIEL WATSON(40S)

(School nurse)(Muriel wears the white uniform of a Nurse, she has brown hair with a little bit of grey showing, she wears glasses with dark rims, and is slightly overweight at 5'6" tall) What happened Mr. Kelp?

SAM KELP

He was teaching and all of a sudden got dizzy, grabbed his chest, and fell to the ground. I think he may have had a heart attack?

MURIEL WATSON

Let me check his vital signs. I am not getting a pulse. He isn't breathing. I am going to have to call for an ambulance. Meanwhile, I will give him CPR to see if that will work.

SAM KELP
Do what ever you need to do Muriel.
I am going to go and tell the
Principal Mr. Woorley. (Sam Leaves
the room)MRS. GREY(40s) Is Mr.
WOORLEY(60S) is his office?

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN OFFICE OF CUCAMONGA JUNIOR HIGH-DAY.

Sam Kelp rushes to Principal Woorley's office to tell him the bad news. He is overreacting because he knows he is partially responsible for causing Ralph Newton to have a heart attack in his classroom.

MRS. GREY (40s)
He is busy on the phone right now.
Is it important Mr. Kelp?

SAM KELP
Yes, tell him it is an emergency.

MRS. GREY
All right I will tell Mr. Woorley
that you have an important thing to
tell him.

SAM KELP
Thank you Mrs. Grey. I will wait
here until he comes out. (Sam
gestures toward a chair in the main
office).

MRS. GREY
Mr. Woorley is off the phone and he
says he will see you now Mr. Kelp.

SAM KELP
Thank you Mrs. Grey.

(Sam enters Principal Woorley's office)

SAM KELP (CONT'D)
Ned, we have a problem. I was
following up on your orders to
harass Mr. Newton with constant
evaluations today. While I was in
the classroom, Mr. Newton had a
heart attack, and I think he died.
Do you think anyone will hold us
accountable for his death?

NED WOORLEY(60S)

What happened? He had a heart attack? Well what the hell does that have to do with us? You tell **SUE BLACKBERG(30s)** to keep her mouth shut. Get Mr. Newton's personnel file, and destroy the evaluations you guys did this month. We don't want to leave any evidence that we were intentionally trying to force a teacher to retire. Have you got that Sam?(Ned's face was a combination of fear and anger).

SAM KELP

Yes Sir, you are the boss. We better cover our asses or there will be hell to pay. The Superintendent will want to know all the details, and the Union of course will get their two cents into the situation. We need to try and downplay the situation so teachers don't go around pointing fingers at us.

NED WOORLEY

Right you are Sam. Let's get on it right away, and I will call the Superintendent of Schools. Sam Woodruff is not going to like this one bit. Mrs. Grey call Mr. Woodruff for me on the phone.

MRS. GREY

Yes Sir, right away.
(Several minutes later)
Mr. Woorley, I have Mr. Woodruff, the Superintendent of Schools on the phone. Pick up on line 2.

SAM WOODRUFF (60S)

Good Morning Ned. What can I do for you?

NED WOORLEY

We have a situation Sam. A teacher just had a heart attack in his classroom.

SAM WOODRUFF

That is most unfortunate. Why is it a situation?

NED WOORLEY

Well, It might appear that I was trying to get Mr. Ralph Newton to retire by stressing him out with poor evaluations.

SAM WOODRUFF

So what is wrong with giving him the legal annual evaluation?

NED WOORLEY

The problem is, I instructed my assistant principals to evaluate him every week this month to pressure him into retiring.

SAM WOODRUFF

Really? Are you freaking crazy, Four evaluations in one month. Is that a national record for evaluations for a teacher? You stupid fool. How are you going to protect the district from being sued? And most of all how are you going to prevent the Union from going ballistic when they get a whiff of this teacher harassment? Boy, you got us into a real bad situation?

NED WOORLEY

I have instructed my assistant principal, Sam Kelp, to destroy the evaluations forms in RALPH's personnel file so that the Teachers Union cannot get copies of his evaluations. If they request them or find that we did four evaluations in one month, there will be no written evidence.

SAM WOODRUFF

Well that may help, but it may not work if his wife or anyone else has a copy of his past evaluations or if he told any colleagues of getting so many surprise evaluations. Let me ask the district lawyers what their advice is. I will get back to you today.

(MORE)

SAM WOODRUFF (CONT'D)
Meanwhile, sit tight and keep your
mouth shut.

NED WOORLEY
Yes Sir, I will try to downplay the
whole incident. I will contact his
wife, and express my condolences
and express to the faculty how
sorry we lost a great teacher. Good
bye.

(NED WOORLEY is seen looking out his office window and
reflecting)

FADE OUT.

(End of Teaser)

ACT ONE**INT. MAIN OFFICE OF CUCAMONGA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL-DAY**

Standing behind the Public address system in the right hand corner of the main office is **JOHN CARDONE(20s)** an explosive speaker, full of enthusiasm and sarcasm. JOHN is a Social Studies teacher that should have been a disc jockey. He is an Italian guy with thinning hair on top, and he wears horn rimmed glasses. JOHN is a teacher like no other teacher. He is sympathetic to his students. He takes the time to ask his students how they doing. He is a real caring person with a positive attitude, no matter what the situation. He is friends with everyone in the school in just his first year. He has more energy than a gang of teachers, and is always doing something to keep busy. JOHN can imitate anyone, actors, fellow friends, and famous people. He is man who tells jokes, makes up funny stories, and is always making people feel good.

He is dressed in a "spiffie" sports jacket, tie and slacks. **JOHN** is the "Voice of Cucamonga Junior High school," who makes the morning daily announcements every day. JOHN is the main character of this ACT ONE.

JOHN CARDONE (20S)

Good Morning Cucamonga Junior High School. (Announced in the manner Robin Williams used in the movie, "Good Morning Vietnam." Loud and with great emphasis on dragging out the Gooooood Mornnnning part).

It is with the greatest sadness that we take a moment of silence for the passing of a beloved teacher, Mr. Ralph Newton, who died of a heart attack in his classroom yesterday. Our condolences go out to his family. He will be greatly missed. Now onto a brighter note, the Cucamonga Junior High Tigers Football team , squashed The Panthers from North Junior High School yesterday with a score of 32-7. Let's give a big hand for **DANNY MATHERS(14)** who scored two running touchdowns!

On another note: Students are reminded that mid-term exams are coming in several weeks. Please check the assigned test room schedule on the Guidance bulletin board.

This years Faculty Basketball team will feature Rick the Runner, who never graduated from Syracuse, Don "The Tree Lee," Mel "The Mauler" Schwartz, Bill "the bomber Medley, Sam the stomper Steinfeld, and Joe the Jumper Bigone.

Tickets are on sale now for the annual Student vs. Faculty basketball game which raises money for the Student Yearbook fund.

The Cafeteria staff wish to announce that personal pizzas will be on sale during lunch from now on. An automatic Pizza oven machine has been purchased, and will be used to crank out those delicious Pizzas. Remember "**Don't be Square.**"

That's all for today. This is your announcer Johnny C. Signing off.

INT. CUCAMONGA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GYMNASIUM-DAY

The scene opens with the school bell ringing, and students seen running through the gym doors slamming the doors and running into the locker-rooms. After quickly dressing in the boys lockerroom, the boys all run into the back gymnasium where the sound of shouts, and doors slamming echo off the walls and ceiling. Standing in front of the class is a tall 6ft. 5 inches tall Physical Education Teacher dressed in grey pants with a blue stripe down the sides, a golf shirt with CUCAMONGA JHS Phys. Ed. Embroidered on the left of the shirt. He has white high top basketball sneakers on and a lanyard hanging around his neck with dozens of keys with a whistle also attached. WALT has light brown hair in a crew cut style. This is **WALT WILLEY(20s)** CUCAMONGA JUNIOR HIGH PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER and FOOTBALL coach.(Coach Willey was a star Basketball player at Ithaca College in upstate New York and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education).

Meanwhile, in the lockerroom **BILL MEDLEY**, the other PHYSICAL EDUCATION Teacher who is 6 feet talk, and trim and muscular with light blonde hair in a crew cut. He is wearing the same Instructor pants of grey with a blue stripe down the side, white addidas sneakers, a red T-shirt saying Springfield College, and a lanyard handing around his neck with many keys and a high pitch whistle. He is shouting for the boys to hurray up, and get dressed and lock up their lockers after they are done. The Second late school bell rings, and almost all of the boys are milling around the back gymnasium waiting for the shrilling blast of the teacher's whistle. Suddenly, the whistle burst out hurting everyone's ears.

WALT WILLEY (20S)

(Shouting to be heard above the noise) Line up, and sit on your attendance squads. Any medical notes bring them up now. If you have a mommies now, take it to the Nurse immediately, and have her approve the note and bring it back to me asap.

BILL MEDLEY (20S)

(Speaking to WALT WILLEY) Alright WALT, the lockerroom is cleared. All the students are in the gym.

WALT WILLEY

Squad one are there any absences?
No. OK, Squad Two, any absences?
Yes B2 is absent, That is JAMES FISHLY. Squad c absences..

BILL MEDLEY

While Coach Willey is taking attendance let's all stand up, and get ready for Jumping Jacks. Ready, begin 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, Stop. Pushups, assume the position on the floor, 10 pushups, (pause) Ready begin, 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

WALT WILLEY

COACH MEDLEY I have all the attendance and medical notes. We are ready for sit-ups. Class, buddy up with someone in your squad, one person will be on their back, and the other partner will be holding their straight legs. Sit-ups ready begin, 1,2,3,4,5,...10. Stop.

BILL MEDLEY

You know Walt we have too many students in this class. I count 101 students total. The class limit is 45 per teacher, which would be only 80 students. I passed **SAM FELDSTEINS'S** class in the big gym and he has only 22 students.

WALT WILLEY

Yeah, I was thinking about that too. Maybe it is because we are new teachers that we have these overloaded classes?

BILL MEDLEY

Exactly what I was thinking. How do we control the noise level in this small gym. I cannot blow the whistle every two seconds, when the noise level gets too high. We need to come up with a solution.

WALT WILLEY

Exactly, I cannot hear my own voice in this small gym with 100 screaming 7th and 8th graders. Let's take the class outside where the noise level will be lower.

BILL MEDLEY

Good idea Coach. Let's do it.(Shouting to the Gym Class). Class, we are going out today. The weather is still in the high 50's, so it is still good weather for Flag Football. Exit the gym by the back doors on the left and the right, and follow us up the hill to the Football field. Ready, Move out.

WALT WILLEY

See you at the top of the field coach.

(The double size class of 101 male students rush out of the gym with an ear defying roar with the safety bars on the doors slamming open and closed. All 101 students begin jogging up the 60 degree hill behind the Cucamonga JHS gymnasium. On the top of the hill, unseen from the bottom of the hill, is a full-sized Football field that the regular 9th

grade Football team plays their games.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD ON THE TOP OF THE HILL-DAY

From high up on the football field the two Physical Education teacher look down on the Soccer field where a small gym class is playing Soccer.

BILL MEDLEY

Hey Coach Willey, look down there on the soccer field. What do you see?

WALT WILLEY

I see a small group of students playing Soccer. Yeah, is it **SAM FELDSTEIN'S** gym class?

BILL MEDLEY

Yeah, He has all the 9th graders, all 22 of them, and we have 101, 7th and 8th graders. What is wrong with that picture? I have a headache after this class every time we work with them, because the noise is so loud in the small gym.

WALT WILLEY

We need to come up with a solution in controlling this large class. They don't even listen to the whistle, no matter how many times I blow it, till my ears are ringing.

BILL MEDLEY

(Shouting to the PE Class), one lap around the field and then we will line up in squads to practice centering the ball, quarterbacking and receiving the ball. The pass patterns we are going to work on are the button-hook pattern, and the square out or square in pattern. First to finish the run gets the football for the first squad.

WALT WILLEY

Hey Bill did you hear about Ralph Newton?

(MORE)

WALT WILLEY (CONT'D)

He had a heart attack right in his classroom. Sam Kelp the assistant principal was evaluating him at the time. Some students in his class said that Ralph had more than one evaluation that month and that may have caused the stress on Ralph's Heart.

BILL MEDLEY

That is very sad to hear. I like the man. We talked once in a while in the teachers cafeteria. He had been working for this district for 32 years. I imagine the Teachers Union is looking into the administrators role in his heart attack?

CUT TO:

INT. TEACHER LUNCH ROOM-DAY

JOHN CARDONE has early lunch, period 3. He has brought a bag lunch from home, and is looking for a table to sit at when he sees **SAM MOONSKI(50S)** the Science department chairman, and Chief Building Rep for the Teachers Union, He is sitting alone in the corner of the room at a table gesturing for JOHN to come over and join him. **SAM** was a heavy set Jewish guy with thin reddish hair, and a light beard. His large nose stuck our like a chimney, and was his most recognizable facial feature.

JOHN CARDONE
Good morning Mr. Moonski.

SAM MOONSKI(50S)
Actually, it is almost afternoon
John. How are you doing? Have a seat.

JOHN CARDONE
Thanks. I have to get used to eating lunch so early in the day at 11:05.

SAM MOONSKI
Yes, the three period lunch system is a pain but with nearly 1,000 students attending Cucamonga Junior High, we have no choice but to break up the lunch periods by grade level.

JOHN CARDONE

I was wondering how did this school
get the ridiculous name Cucamonga?
The first time I saw the name, I
could not pronounce it properly.
(Laughing).

SAM MOONSKI

Well the truth is that the South
Junior high students who knew they
were getting split between South
Junior high, and the new Junior
high, got the opportunity to pick
the name of the new building to
make them like it a little more.

The choices in the vote were,
Central Junior High, Eisenhower
Junior High, and Cucamonga Junior
High. The students hated the idea
of having to go to another Junior
High so much, that they all picked
the local Indian name of Cucamonga,
because they hated the name. Oh,
well?

JOHN CARDONE

That is a funny story. Do you have
any more gems about this school?

SAM MOONSKI

Do I ever? Did you know that when
they opened the school in September
of 1960 the school construction was
not finished yet, and the seats for
the auditorium had not arrived.

JOHN CARDONE

So what did the Superintendent of
Schools do?

SAM MOONSKI

He did not have a lot of choices.
He could tell 600 parents and
students that they could not attend
school for several weeks while,
other students were already in
school or he had to come up with an
alternative plan.

JOHN CARDONE

So what was the plan?

SAM MOONSKI

The Superintendent decided to forgo the Certificate of Occupancy inspection by the building inspector until the last five classrooms were finished, and the auditorium filled with seats. He took a chance and opened the school with construction still going on during the day. I heard they paid off the building inspector, not to inspect the building until all the construction was completed.

JOHN CARDONE

Did that plan work?

SAM MOONSKI

At least we did not have to postpone the opening date and have teachers, students, and parents in a waiting mode. The downside of that decision was it was impossible to be heard in the classrooms when the electric saws started in or hammering on walls. Teachers complained, but eventually they learned a sort of sign language during the noise. Students were patient when teachers had to hand out ditto flyers of notes almost every class. It took four weeks to finish the school properly.

JOHN CARDONE

That's amazing. I'll bet it was a real stressful time for everyone involved.

SAM MOONSKI

One other thing John, as you know I am the Chief Building rep for the Teachers Union. What have you heard about Ralph Newton?

JOHN CARDONE

Funny you should mention that. I heard some of my students taking about Ralph being a great teacher, and that an administrator came ever week in the past month to evaluate him. Is that legal?

SAM MOONSKI

No, it isn't legal. A tenured teacher gets only one announced evaluation a year. We heard that Ralph had four unannounced evaluations in one month which is a violation of the Union contract. Now we have to prove it and the administrators seem to have hidden all the evidence.

JOHN CARDONE

I find it hard to believe. Ralph was a great teacher from the old school of thinking, but still effective with his classes. Thanks for the stories Mr. Woorley. I have a class to run to. See you around.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK SCHOOL HALLWAY-DAY

(It was the first semester of 7th grade for student **PERRY GENOVESE(12)**. Perry had graduated from Oakwood Elementary school, and was looking forward to coming to Cucamonga Junior High school because it had the only gymnastic team in the county. Perry was only 4 ft. 10 inches tall, and undersized for a 12 year old boy. He was however, a great athlete who loved to run, tumble or wrestle. Perry's closest friend from Elementary school was a black student called **ALFRADEO DONELSON(12)**.

PERRY GENOVESE (12)

(Talking to his buddy Alfredo Donelson in the school hallway) My daily schedule in 7th grade wasn't too bad. I have Mr. Padua, the fat guy first period for English, Mr. Runner for Science second period Health Education with Mr. Weizner, Lunch 4th period, Social Studies with Mr. Cardone; Wood Shop period 6, Ms. Betty Strong for Music chorus, and Ms. Highcastle for Math last period 8.

ALFREDO DONELOSON (12)

Yea, you and I are together only period 5 and 8. I even put in for my schedule early in the summer and I did not get what I wanted.

PERRY GENOVESE

When I first walked into Mr. Padua's class for English I noticed the hard candies he had on his desk. When I looked closer at the candies I noticed that they has all melted and stuck together in one big clump.

ALFRADO DONELSON

I heard about those candies from some other students who have him for English. The word is don't ever try to eat one of his candies.

PERRY GENOVESE

What about Mr. Cardone? He was always wearing hair wigs to class to make the effect of a Revolutionary soldier. He even pretended to be George Washington in several classes. He had me in stitches. I signed up for cross-country last week. You should join us on the team Al. I know you like running and you are a good runner.

ALFRADO DONELSON

I didn't get Mr. Cardone for a teacher, I got Mr. **TOPOVER**, and all he talks about is when he was a part-time State Trooper in the summers at Harriman State Park.

PERRY GENOVESE

You know the Coach of the Cross-country team is the same guy who coaches the Gymnastic Team. His name is Coach Medley. I have him for 3rd period for Phys. Ed. You should talk to him Al. Remember when he came to your elementary school, and did a Gymnastic Exhibition? You said you loved it. Cross country goes from September to November, and Gymnastics starts in November and ends in March.

ALFRADO DONELSON

OK, I will talk to him today to sign up for Cross country.

(MORE)

ALFRADO DONELSON (CONT'D)
We will have a blast running for
the same team.

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM AT CUCAMONGA JHS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION MEN'S OFFICE-DAY.

The men's office had two desks crowded into one room with a bathroom off to the side. The walls are concrete over cinderblocks, very Spartan looking. A large metal cage sits on the floor full of basketballs, soccer balls, and Footballs. A bulletin board is behind the door with announcements on it and a calendar with the days for team games home and away. Overall the room is messy with cleats on the floor, dirty shirts handing from a coat rack, papers all over the desks, and red Delaney attendance books stacked on the desks.

BILL MEDLEY

Hey Walt, I have an idea how we can control that overcrowded gym class. Why don't we pull out the trouble makers and have them exercise all period while the rest of the class goes outdoors?

WALT WILLEY

That will never work Bill. I attended Catholic School when I was a kid and those Nuns put up with nothing. Discipline was their middle name. When we were too noisy the Nuns would yell kneel and we all hit the ground faster than the speed of light because anyone standing got punished by holding water buckets for long periods of time with your arms held horizontal to the ground.

BILL MEDLEY

How is that going to work for us?

WALT WILLEY

Simple, when we blow the whistle we will have everyone go down on one knee or genuflect.

(MORE)

WALT WILLEY (CONT'D)

Those that were still standing will do 25 pushups in front of the class. Peer pressure will work in addition to conditioned response.

BILL MEDLEY

Walt you are a genius. We will try your approach at the next class. I am sure in no time we will have that class as quiet as Sam's class of 22 students.

CUT TO:

INT. SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

FRED TOPOVER(50S) the Social Studies Department chairman is sitting behind his grey desk talking to JOHN CARDONE regarding JOHN's first classroom evaluation.

FRED TOPOVER(50S)

John I have completed your first class evaluation, and I have some points that need improvement.

JOHN CARDONE

(Angrily) I noticed you cited me for having students sitting on the radiator. Do you realize that the class only has 32 chairs and tables, and you allowed the enrollment to go to 35 students. This is 3 over the contract limit with the Union.

FRED TOPOVER

I realize that John, but I have to make mention of it to get the administration to transfer three students out of that class. If I don't cite you for the problem, they will say there is no problem.

JOHN CARDONE

Why did you put I needed improvement on student engagement? I do presentations in costume for my classes, but you missed all of them. I have a debate between Lincoln and Douglas arranged with Mr. Lee, and his Social Studies class also.

FRED TOPOVER

Well, I have yet to see any of
those demonstrations in your class.

JOHN CARDONE

Tell you what Fred, you come in
next Wednesday to my 4th period 7th
grade on-level class, and you will
see one of my demonstrations of
General George Washington telling
the class about the British chasing
him out of Brooklyn Heights and his
retreat to the upper Bronx to Fort
Washington, then to Fort Lee and
finally to the backwoods of New
Jersey chased by General Howe
British Army.

FRED TOPOVER

OK, John, I will take you up on
your challenge. I have not seen you
do any of this historical
demonstrations that you claim you
do on a regular basic.

JOHN CARDONE

Next Wednesday, then I will see you
4th period.

CUT TO:

EXT. CUCAMONGA JHS SOCCER FIELD-DAY.

Student **PERRY GENOVESE(12)**(PERRY is a short 5 ft. Tall
Student with light brown hair, and a gritty Italian attitude.
His mother is divorced, and he has a chip on his shoulder)
and his black friend **ALFREDO DONELSON(12)**(**AL** is the son of a
TEACHER from the SOUTH who moved to New York for a better
life. He is a scrawny kid with short black hair, and horn
rimmed glasses with a piece of tape on one hinge of the
glasses. They are out on the Soccer field during lunch recess
when a school alarm goes off. It is not the usual school
bell, but a fog horn like sound. An announcement comes over
the PA system which could be heard outdoors. It is Mr. Woorley
the school Principal.

NED WOORLEY

May I have your attention please.
This is not a drill. I repeat this
is not a drill.
(MORE)

NED WOORLEY (CONT'D)

Teachers and students and staff, please stop what you are doing and leave the building following the Fire Drill signs in the hallway. Go to the nearest exit and leave the building in a quiet and orderly fashion. Teachers line up your classes as far away from the building as possible out on the Soccer field or at the side entrance to the school grounds. I repeat this is not a drill.

PERRY GENOVESE

What do you think that is all about Al?

ALFRADO DONELSON

I think it is a Fire drill or something?

PERRY GENOVESE

Yeah, I guess you are right. Here come all the classes marching out onto the Soccer field. Now we have no room to play Soccer. Oh, well.

JOHN CARDONE and RICK RUNNER walk their classes out onto the Soccer field and instruct their students to be quiet during the drill. **RICK(20s)** is a short stocky guy with a short haircut and clean-shaven face. His hair is a dark brown with brown eyes.

JOHN CARDONE

(Shouting to another teacher RICK RUNNER) Hey, Rick what is going on?

RICK RUNNER (20s)

I think it is a Fire drill however they use the school bell for a fire drill. Maybe it is a bomb scare again?

JOHN CARDONE

A bomb scare? Are you kidding?

RICK RUNNER

No, we get several fake bomb scares a month. You are new. You will see what a pain in the neck they are in disrupting classes and wasting valuable time.

JOHN CARDONE
Do they ever catch these guys?

RICK RUNNER
No, not yet. They try to trace the call but the caller usually uses a pay phone and then runs. Someday they will figure out how to nail them and this fake bomb scare crap will be history.

JOHN CARDONE
(Seeing PERRY GENOVESE on the field JOHN CARDONE yells out) Hey Perry how are you doing?

PERRY GENOVESE
I am doing good, Mr. Cardone. What is going on a fire drill?

JOHN CARDONE
No, a Bomb scare we think. An administrator will come around at some point in a golf cart, and tell us what is going on and when we can re-enter the building.

PERRY GENOVESE
OK, thanks Mr. Cardone

CUT TO:

EXT. IN THE GYMNASIUM LOCKER-ROOMS THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS HAVE TO SEARCH ALL THE LOCKERS IN FOUR LOCKER ROOMS-DAY.

The school district bomb policy is that the custodians remain in the building, and search the hall lockers which they have the master keys to. The Physical Education teachers are the only personnel that have the Master Keys to all the locks in the Physical Education Boys, and Girls locker rooms so they have to remain in the building and search for a bomb in the locker-rooms. The custodians search the halls by school policy and the Physical Education Teachers search the Locker rooms.

SAM FELDSTEIN
(Standing in the Phys. Ed. Men's office) Listen everybody it is our job to make sure the locker rooms are free from any hidden bombs.

(MORE)

SAM FELDSTEIN (CONT'D)

If you hear something ticking in a locker use your master key and open the locker. Be careful in case the door is wired to the bomb. Check all the unlocked lockers where anyone could just put a bomb, and run away. We have to complete this task in 20 minutes or less. Paper bags, gym bags and towels are all suspect.

WALT WILLEY

I will take the back locker room first.

NORA NEWSON (20S)

(Nora is a tall 6'1" female Phys. Ed. Teacher with thick rim eye glasses and thick dark brown hair. She is wearing a light blue sweat shirt and pants matching outfit with black sneakers and a lanyard around her neck with three keys and a whistle).

Shelly and I will cover both of the girls locker rooms. If we fall behind in finishing we will call one of you men to come over and help us out.

BILL MEDLEY

Sam you and I will take the front locker room since it is the largest locker room with the most locks.

SAM FELDSTEIN

Well, lets do it. Come on BILL

BILL MEDLEY

Watch out for the sharp edges of the locker doors you can get cut Sam. I am going down the first aisle. Nothing yet. We are clear. The second isle is next. Something smells in this locker so I am going to open it. Phew, someone left a sandwich, and it rotted with mold on it.

Over on the other side of the gym where the girls lockers are located.

NORA NEWSON

I hate that we have to risk our necks looking for a bomb. I would not know a bomb if I fell over it.

SHELLY BLATT (50S)

(Shelly is an older woman with grey hair, dressed in high heels and a skirt and blouse. She does not look anything like a Phys. Ed. Teacher and is not wearing a whistle. She is her late 50's)

Laughing, your right NORA what the hell are we doing looking for a bomb. What administrator thought that would be a good idea. The first time a Physical Education teacher gets blown up will be the last time they use PE teachers to search for bombs.

Back to the men in the boys locker rooms.

WALT WILLEY

(Sweating) (Talking to himself)
Gotta be fast, gotta be calm. Open this door and that one, and the other, Nothing so far. Please let there be no bomb. What if I find something with wires hanging out of it?

BILL MEDLEY

(Yelling into the back locker room)
Walt are you all right back there?
Find anything?

WALT WILLEY

(Yelling back) I haven't found anything yet. I will keep you informed.

SAM FELDSTEIN

BILL, I think I hear something ticking inside this locker. Come over here and listen, what do you think? It sounds like a clock. Should we open it?

BILL MEDLEY

Go for it SAM, I will stand outside. Only kidding. Let's open it slowly.

SAM FELDSTEIN

(Sam opens the lock with his master key, then slowly opens the door to the locker. It is a wristwatch, and a loud one at that. Someone's football uniform is in here too. I guess the kid forgot to put his watch back on. I'll lock it up again. Keep looking.

Over on the other side of the gym in the girls locker room the two women keep searching for the bomb.

NORA NEWSON

(Speaking to Shelly), 15 minutes already. We only have five minutes left, should I call one of the men to come over, and help us?

SHELLY BLATT

No NORA, I am almost done, how about you?

NORA NEWSON

Just a few more lockers that are open. Maybe we can get done on time. My heart is racing. This is really stressful. I don't like bombs. (Laughing nervously)

Back over on the Men's side of the gym in the boys locker room.

BILL MEDLEY

Time is up SAM, let's get the hell out of here. I found nothing suspicious, how about you?

SAM FELDSTEIN

I am clear, WALT shut it down, and lets go. We are out of here. Hurray.

BILL MEDLEY

(Yelling across the gym to the two women) NORA and SHELLY, we are done are you guys done? Let's get out of here now.

All five of the Physical Education teaching staff run out of the building using the side door, and breath a sign of relief that they did not find anything.

Meanwhile assistant Principal SAM KELP is driving a golf cart around the building to make sure all the classes are lined up and quiet outside the building.

SAM KELP

Listen everybody, this is a bomb drill. We had a threat over the phone, and have to act according to protocol. When the alarm horn sounds again you can re-enter the building. Thank you for your cooperation.

(The loud fog horn sound blasts inside and outside the school building minutes later)

RICK RUNNER

(Standing out on the Soccer field with his class) Well it looks like our bomb scare is over and the entire period is wasted. Back to our classrooms.

JOHN CARDONE

(Standing next to RICK) Yeah, another wasted period. What a shame they cannot catch these pranksters?

CUT TO:

INT. JOHN CARDONE'S CLASSROOM ON WEDNESDAY, DAY.

It is fourth period for the "On level" 7th grade Social studies class. **FRED TOPOVER(50S)**, the Department chairman is sitting in to observe **JOHN CARDONE** do one of his Historical recreations for the students.

John enters the classroom after the students are seated with a white wig on his head and a jacket similar to the kind worn during the Revolutionary War by the Colonists army. The class begins laughing out loud.

(CONTINUED) (CONT'D)

JOHN CARDONE

Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

(MORE)

JOHN CARDONE (CONT'D)

My name is General George Washington, and I am in charge of the Continental Army who are fighting General Howe's British Army. The Continental Army just pushed the British soldiers, and dependents out of Boston on March 17, 1776. The 11 month siege of Boston is over and the British have left Boston with 120 ships for their Military base in Halifax, Nova Scotia with nearly 10,000 British troops and over 1,000 dependents or Torys as we call them.

I have come to New York to defend the city from the British with General Charles Lee of the Continental Army in charge. Now let's go around the room, and I want each student to ask me one significant or important question about the military campaign on Long Island, Manhattan, Bronx Heights at Fort Washington, and Fort LEE in New Jersey.

My headquarters are in the Archibald Kennedy Mansion at Number 1 Broadway in York Island as you may know. First student to start, the little lady to my right. What is your question ma lady?

SALLY JAMES(13)

How many troops did you have in New York and Long Island, General Washington in 1776?

JOHN CARDONE

Good question ma lady. We have 19,000 colonial troops. I split the Continental Army into fortified positions in Brooklyn on Long Island, and in Manhattan, with some held in reserve in the so called "Flying Camp," in Northern New Jersey, to be deployed when the British attacked New York.

PERRY GENOVESE (12)

General Washington how many troops did the British have?

JOHN CARDONE

Another excellent question young man. Let me see, according to our spies the British had 400 ships with 1200 cannons, and 10,000 sailors under the command of Admiral Lord Richard Howe, and they anchored in New York Harbor on August 13, 1776. On land more than 32,000 British and Hessian troops were under the command of the Admiral Howe's brother General Sir William Howe. Hessian troops are hired German mercenaries

WALTER JAMESON (13)

Who won the battle of Long Island on August 22-30, 1776?

JOHN CARDONE

Sadly, we lost the Long Island campaign because we made a mistake, and allowed Howe's troops to flank our troops by passing through the Jamaica pass.

SUSAN HOLD (13)

My question is similar to Walter's question. What did you do after the British had you surrounded on Long Island?

JOHN CARDONE

Realizing we had made some big mistakes, and Howe's army outnumbered us, we fled on August 28th and 29th during a heavy night fog, by boat to Manhattan. I commandeered every available boat and raft I could find.

RONALD HAYES (13)

Where did the Continental Army go after reaching Manhattan?

JOHN CARDONE

We fled to Fort Washington in the Bronx heights, but Howe's army followed us there and we eventually had to retreat across the Hudson river to Fort Lee on the palisades of the river.

The class went on for the full 50 minutes with JOHN CARDONE posing as General George Washington answering each and every question the student put forth. Mr. **FRED TOPOVER** the Social Studies chairperson was impressed with his evaluation of JOHN and he changed his initial evaluation to all points good.) (The school bell rings and the class gets up and leaves.

FRED TOPOVER

Well JOHN you proved me wrong. That was an excellent historical demonstration. You are well versed in all the facts surrounding General George Washington, and the class was well engaged in asking questions to try and trick you. I am going to change your first evaluation to all Good marks. Thanks you JOHN it has been a pleasure.

CUT TO:

INT. SAM MOONSKI'S, CHIEF BUILDING REP, SCIENCE PREP ROOM, DAY.

The Prep room is a dull looking room with no windows with a desk in the middle of piles of boxes, Chemistry sets and Biology charts around the room.

SAM MOONSKI (50S)

(Talking to RICH RUNNER, Science Teacher, and **PAUL PADUA(50s)** English teacher. PAUL PADUA is a 400 pound over-weight teacher who is also a Union Rep.) RICK and PAUL, I think we have a problem with the Ralph Newton situation. The Teachers Union has requested the evaluation forms for Ralph Newton from the administration. We have been told there are no evaluation forms in RALPH's personnel file. This leads us to believe the files have been destroyed to cover up their harassment of Ralph Newton.

RICK RUNNER

I have heard, as well as other teachers have heard, from Ralph's students, that different administrator came in to evaluate Ralph several times in one month.

PAUL PADUA (50S)

How are we going to prove the administration harassed Ralph into having a heart attack?

SAM MOONSKI

Well we tried the normal channels by making a formal request for his personnel file. Now it is up to the State Teachers Union Lawyers, and whether they want to bring a law suit against the administrators, namely Ned Woorley, Sue Blackberg, and Sam Kelp and the School District as a whole.

RICK RUNNER

What does the Superintendent of Schools Mr. Woodruff have to say?

SAM MOONSKI

He denies everything. He said he had no knowledge of Principal Woorley breaking Union laws by evaluating a tenured teacher more than once a year. We of course do not believe him. Proving he is lying is another problem.

RICK RUNNER

Where is there justice for Ralph? What about his family, his wife and grown children?

SAM MOONSKI

It will all have to play out in court if the Teacher Union Lawyers can get any evidence to prove their case. Time will tell.

FADE OUT.

INT. MAIN OFFICE OF CUCAMONGA JHS-DAY

Two months later a gentlemen shows up in the main office asking for Ned Woorsley. Mrs. Grey tells the stranger the Principal is busy at the moment. The stranger said he will wait.

MRS. GREY (40s)
What did you say your name was
again Sir?

MR. BILL ADDISON(40s)
My name is BILL ADDISON and I am
from Smith and Laney Law firm.

MRS. GREY
Mr. Woorley will see you now. Go
right in.

BILL ADDISON
Mr. Ned Woorley?

NED WOORLEY
Yes, how can I help you?

BILL ADDISON
Consider yourself served Mr.
Woorley. You have thirty days to
respond or your lawyer to respond
in Supreme Court in New City, New
York. Thank you (Mr. Addison walks
out before Mr. Woorley can say
anything).

NED WOORLEY
But, I (Pause) (Mr. Woorley is in
shock at being presented with a
subpoena for a lawsuit against him,
his assistant principals, the
Superintend of Schools Mr. Woodruff
And the School District for the
Wrongful Death of Ralph Newton).

MRS. GREY
What did he give you Mr. Woorley?

NED WOORLEY
A subpoena! (Shocked look on his
face)

FADE OUT.

INT. BACK GYM OF CUCAMONGA JHS-DAY

BILL MEDLEY AND WALT WILLEY, both PE teachers, have been
trying to cope with an oversized Physical Education class of
101 boys. The class limit should be 45 students to one
teacher. 80 should have been the maximum number of boys in
the class. Guidance over-enrolled 101 students this class
period and Coaches MEDLEY AND WILLEY- are stuck with them.

WALT WILLEY

All right class, let's quiet down.
Coach MEDLEY, and myself have
discussed how to get this
overcrowded class to quiet down,
therefore, beginning today when we
blow out whistle in the gym,
everyone is to go down on one knee.

Anyone still standing will get to
do 25 pushups in front of the
class. If you get caught standing
two times after the whistle is
blown you will receive a zero for
the class grade for the day, and
you will get to do 50 pushups.

BILL MEDLEY

Let's practice what Coach Willey is
talking about. Everyone stand up
please. When I blow the whistle go
down on one knee, and remain there
on the spot and quiet at the same
time. Ready (blows the whistle)

Everyone drops to the floor on one knee except two poor souls
that did not listen to what Coach Willey said.

WALT WILLEY

You two guys (pointing to two boys
standing) did you not hear what I
just said. Come up here now. Give
me 25 pushups, now.

BILL MEDLEY

I think we found a solution to our
noise problem.

The two students assume the starting position and begin their
pushups in front of the class.

BILL MEDLEY (CONTINUED) (CONT'D)

Now you see what happens when you
don't pay attention or listen to
what is being set. You end up being
embarrassed in front of your
friends.

From that day forward the largest boys gym class in the school had come under control for the first time in months.

CUT TO:

INT. SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOM OF JOHN CARDONE-DAY.

The second school late bell has just rung, and Social Studies teacher John Cardone is standing at the blackboard writing the assignment in chalk on the blackboard. As he turns around, and faces the class, all he sees is a sea of girl's thighs. Every girl had a mini-skirt on, and it covered very little.

From the front of the class all John could see was a crowd of wide-open legs, which was very distracting, trying not to look up, and be distracted. John looked out over his science class only to notice how all the girls were wearing no bras, and their nipples were sticking out through their blouses or they were wearing blouses with the front buttons open down to their waist exposing their cleavage. Junior high girls were very physically advanced, but had no clue how they managed to get the boys hormones pumping. You could almost feel sexual tension in the air.

JOHN CARDONE

Bonnie, in the assigned reading last night you read how General George Washington learned from his mistakes in the 1776 campaign. What mistakes did he make in that campaign on Long Island, Manhattan or the Upper Bronx?

BONNIE BLATT(13)

(A Short, cute red headed girl, with blue eyes wearing a mini-skirt) I think he made a mistake in the Battle of Long Island. He should have known that General Howe was known for flanking his enemies in battle, and he should have blocked the Jamaica pass to prevent his troops from being flanked.

JOHN CARDONE

That's right Bonnie. As he cannot help, but look up Bonnie's legs to see a pair of white panties.(John tries to look away so as not to be distracted by Bonnie's legs out in the isle.)(John turns to another students and asks) Bill or WILLIAM **William(13)**, (William is a tall student with blond hair cut in a crew cut style with a flat top look)

How did General Washington escape from Long Island before British General Howe could surround him?

WILLIAM STARKEY (12)

I don't know Mr. Cardone.

JOHN CARDONE

Really WILLIAM? OK, **JODIE**,
(A tall Jewish girl with a mini-skirt on) JODIE, how about you? Can you answer that question? (Jodie has a skirt on that was so small, it seemed like she had nothing on at all. Fortunately, she had her legs crossed to avoid grossing anyone out.

JODIE ROTHSTEIN (13)

He got all the boats he could and crossed the East River at night in a heavy fog.

JOHN CARDONE

That is correct JODIE, good job.(Trying to look away from looking up Jodie's thighs). GAIL can you tell me where the British first landed when they came to New York City?

GAIL LEVINE (13)

I believe they landed on Staten Island, Mr. Cardone.

JOHN CARDONE

Right you are GAIL. They used Staten Island as a base to attack the Continental Army at Brooklyn Heights on Long Island. What mistake did General Howe and his brother Admiral Richard Howe make when first landing on Staten Island? Anyone know? (Silence for a few seconds) Well the mistake the Howe brothers made was in not attacking immediately. They had their own agenda. Both brothers were members of Parliament and they voted against the war against the colonies. What they wanted was to negotiate a peace with the Continental Army and get them to turn in their arms and surrender. Then they wanted to help themselves to the spoils of war by taking over large tracts of land for their own profit.

WALLY MOON (13)

(Raising his hand) Mr. CARDONE didn't General Washington realize he could not win a war against 45,000 British troops?

JOHN CARDONE

No, he did not realize it at first until he saw how many troops the British sent to recapture their colony in New York and Boston. What George Washington did eventually learn was that he was always outnumbered and he could not play war the way the British wanted him to play. He had to be satisfied with small skirmishes and small victories, constantly on the run, trying to wear the British down. Washington wrote the Continental Congress after his defeat on Long Island and expressed his feeling that they could never defeat General Howe's massive Army. The only thing they could do was wage a war of attrition.

(MORE)

JOHN CARDONE (CONT'D)

Did Napoleon, or Alexander the Great realize that they could not win a war of attrition. Do we realize now that we cannot win the Vietnam War because the Communists are using the same tactics as General Washington, forcing a battle of attrition. The longer the war the less patience the British Parliament had in spending a great deal of money and getting nothing in return.

The class discussion went on for a while until the school bell rang signalling the end of the period. The students in Mr. Cardone's class jumped up, and all left the classroom)

As the classroom empties we see JOHN CARDONE looking out into the courtyard outside the school, shaking his head about the stress of looking at so many mini-skirts. It was an embarrassment he as a former Catholic school student would have to make a major adjustment.

FADE IN:

INT. PRINCIPAL NED WOORLEY'S OFFICE-DAY

NED WOORLEY is meeting with his two assistant principals, SUE BLACKBERG and SAM KELP regarding the recent subpoena regarding the untimely death of teacher Ralph Newton.

NED WOORLEY

Well we have a big problem now that a lawsuit on behalf of Ralph Newton has been filed against all of us, the School District and the Superintendent of Schools. I have spoken with SAM WOODRUFF the Superintendent and he assures me that the district will provide lawyers if this goes to court.

SUE BLACKBERG (30S)

I had all copies of the evaluation reports from Ralph's file destroyed. Fortunately, Ralph did not get the Union involved early on.

(MORE)

SUE BLACKBERG (30S) (CONT'D)
However, they have requested his
file already, and have photocopied
all his records yesterday.

SAM KELP

I never filed the evaluation I was
working on when Ralph had a heart
attack. Since I was in the room it
is going to be hard to deny I was
not evaluating him.

NED WOORLEY

You bring up a good point SAM. We
need to carefully protect ourselves
or this problem could explode
beyond our imagination. The Teacher
Union is sending their State level
lawyers down to our School District
to investigate the case. Do not
give any interviews without legal
counsel present. The Superintendent
doesn't know anything about the
case except what I told him. If he
feels threatened he might give us
up as sacrificial lambs. We have to
be real careful. Meanwhile,
everything should be business as
usual. Any questions? OK, let's get
back to work.

FADE OUT.

INT. MAIN OFFICE OF CUCAMONGA JUNIOR HIGH-DAY.

It is another day at Cucamonga Junior High and starting the day is the PA announcements from JOHN CARDONE, "The VOICE OF CUCAMONGA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

JOHN CARDONE

Good morning Cucamonga Junior High school. Here are the morning announcements on this cold November morning. Midterm exams are schedule for next week. All exams will be taken in the regular subject room by students. Check with your teacher what day you will be taking your midterm exam.

(MORE)

JOHN CARDONE (CONT'D)

Good news in sports, the Cucamonga
Tigers Football team has a game
against the Washingtonville
Patriots this coming friday on the
upper Football field here at
Cucamonga Junior High. **Don't be**
square, make sure you are there
this friday to cheer on our
Football team to victory.

A notice from the gymnasium, Mr.
Feldstein the Physical Education
department chairman wishes to
announce a second shipment of gym
uniforms for girls and boys has
arrived. Student can purchase their
PE uniform in the book store before
school or during lunchtime. The
Cross-Country track team won their
match against North Junior High
yesterday with 7th grade runners
Perry Genovese and Alfredo Donelson
coming in first and second place
respectively. Hats off to those two
athletes. This is Johnny C. Signing
off and remember, Don't be Square.

FADE OUT.

INT. HOMEROOM 121 WITH HOMEROOM TEACHER JOHN CARDONE-DAY.

After making the morning announcements JOHN CARDONE goes to his HOMEROOM assignment before the first period class. HOMEROOM is a ten minute period where the students meet for attendance taking prior to the first classroom period of the day. Any student not in their seat by the late bell is considered absent from school.

John is sitting at his desk in Homeroom 121 waiting for all the students in his homeroom to arrive.

It is 9:15 am according to the school clock in the hallway. A young girl is standing in the doorway talking to her friends before homeroom is over. A boy comes jogging down the hallway and stops at the doorway to talk to the girl. They begin to argue.

Before JOHN realizes what was happening a boy coldcocks or punches the girl with a right hook to her chin. She drops to the floor almost unconscious, and JOHN jumps up, and runs to her aid.

The boy is standing there taunting her, and calling her names. JOHN checks for a pulse by holding her wrist. Her pulse is fast and light.

ADRIENNE ROTH(13)

(Speaking to a girl friend of hers,
SUSAN standing in the doorway of
her homeroom) BILL said he wanted
to meet me after school today.

SUSAN GREEN (13)

Really, that is surprising. I
thought you did not like BILL

ADRIENNE ROTH

Do you think he likes me?

SUSAN GREEN

I really don't know. What about
your old boyfriend Malcomb?

ADRIENNE ROTH

We're done. I caught him cheating
on me with SYRENNNA WILSON.

A black student comes running down the hallway. It is Malcomb, ADRIENNE'S ex-boyfriend. He Stops at the doorway. He is a black student and ADRIENNE is white.

MALCOMB JAMES(13)

What's up bitch. You dropping me
just like that?

ADRIENNE and MALCOMB get into a verbal fight. Suddenly, without warning, he punches ADRIENNE in the jaw with tremendous force. ADRIENNE falls to the floor unconscious, and SUSAN GREEN screams.

SUSAN GREEN
Oh My God, Help, Mr. CARDONE, Help.

JOHN CARDONE is sitting at his desk in the homeroom and he looks up just in time to see MALCOMB coldcocks ADRIENNE, and SUSAN yelling for help. JOHN jumps out of his seat, and runs to the doorway.

MALCOMB JAMES
See bitch that's what you get.

JOHN CARDONE
(Talking to MALCOMB who is standing over ADRIENNE) Get out of the way Please. (His voice is strained from the stress of the situation). Are you OK? (He asks Adrienne while checking her pulse).
(Shouting) -ADRIENNE is not responding, and her eyes are in the back of her head. She has a faint heartbeat and fast. SUSAN hold her head off the floor for me while I call the NURSE.

JOHN CARDONE stands up and grabs the intercom phone, and calls the office. Hello, this is Mr. CARDONE in Room 121, call for an ambulance, and call the Nurse immediately. I have an unconscious girl in my doorway that was punched in the jaw by a boy.

MRS. GREY

OK, Mr. CARDONE, we are calling an ambulance immediately, and telling the Nurse to get there immediately.
Is she still breathing?

JOHN CARDONE
Yes she is, thank God.

Five minutes later Nurse Mayberry arrives.

NURSE MAYBERRY(30S)
What happened Mr. Cardone?

JOHN CARDONE

This boy punched ADRIENNE in the jaw, for no apparent reason, and she went unconscious, and fell to the floor.

NURSE MAYBERRY
OK, did you call an ambulance?

Yes, an ambulance is on the way.

NURSE MAYBERRY
I have a slight pulse. She is still unaware of where she is however.

JOHN CARDONE

I called an ambulance right away because she was unconscious, and may have suffered a concussion.

(Turning to Malcomb who was standing in the hallway)

Now MALCOMB you are going to tell Principal WOORLEY why you injured this girl for no reason. (Speaking angrily).

JOHN grabs MALCOMB by the shirt collar, and practically lifts him off the ground, and begins to walk rapidly toward the Principal's office in the front of the building. He drags the student all the way holding the shirt collar until he arrives at the principal's office.

It is then he realizes that MALCOMB's feet aren't touching the ground, and in his anger JOHN held MALCOMB off the ground all the way to the principal's office.

JOHN CARDONE (CONTINUED) (CONT'D)

Mr. WOORLEY, This student, MALCOMB JAMES took it upon himself to punch a girl names ADRIENNE ROTH in the jaw for no apparent reason. She fell to the floor unconscious in my homeroom. The nurse is sending the girl ADRIENNE ROTH to the local hospital to evaluate her condition. She might have a concussion.

NED WOORLEY

Well Malcomb, what do you have to say for yourself?

MALCOMB JAMES

She disrespected me, the bitch.

NED WOORLEY

Excuse me, we don't use that kind of language here.

MALCOMB JAMES

(Pouting) Well I am sorry.

NED WOORLEY (CONTINUED) (CONT'D)

Mrs. GREY call MALCOMB's mother, and have her come down to the school immediately. We are going to suspend MALCOMB for assaulting a girl in the school.

MRS. GREY

Yes sir, I will call **MRS. WILLIAMS(40S)** right now.

MRS. GREY (CONT'D)

Hello, MRS. WILLIAMS? This is Mrs. Grey, Principal Woorley's secretary at Cucamonga JHS. Your son MALCOMB has been in an altercation with a girl, and he punched her causing her to become unconscious. MR. WOORLEY wants you to come to the school immediately to pick up MALCOMB, and take him home. He is going to be suspended for a week from school. MR. WOORLEY will give you the details when you get to school.

MRS. WILLIAMS (40S)

I don't have a car, so I will have to call up for a taxi. It will take me at least 30 minutes to get there. Thank you for informing me of MALCOMB'S conduct.

NED WOORLEY

MALCOMB I want you to sit in my office until your mother comes to pick you up. Thank you JOHN. You may return to your first period class now.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDENT CAFETERIA LUNCH PERIOD-DAY.

7th grade student PERRY GENOVESE is talking to his black friend ALFREDO DONELSON in the cafeteria about school gossip.

PERRY GENOVESE

(Speaking to his friend Alfredo)
Hey Al, did you hear about that girl being knocked out in her homeroom?

ALFRADO DONELSON

Yeah, I know the kid who punched her. His name is MALCOMB JAMES and he is in my bus in the morning.

PERRY GENOVESE

Really, what is this kid like?

ALFRADO DONELSON

He is just a 7th grader like us, but I think he wants to be known by his friends as a 'Hard Ass.' He is always picking fights on our bus. I just stay away from him.

PERRY GENOVESE

Don't get involved. How about the cross-country match yesterday. Did you see that guy from the other team try to cut me off on the woodland path?

ALFRADO DONELSON

No, I was too far behind you in the woods to see what you were doing. I didn't get my second breath until we came out of the woods onto the Football field.

PERRY GENOVESE

I had to push the guy back when he tried to cut in front of me on that narrow path. The coaches never see that crap. I guess it is all part of cross-country track? Are you coming to practice today?

ALFRADO DONELSON

Sure, I will be there. I am beginning to like running.

PERRY GENOVESE

You want that muffin in your lunch?

ALFRADO DONELSON

No, you can have it.

CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL WOORLEY'S OFFICE-DAY.

Ned Wooley looks angry as he explains a situation that just happened. I've asked both of you to meet with me because the SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS SAM WOODRUFF and hired a replacement for RALPH NEWTON and he is a black man. I don't know what SAM'S thinking was, but I did not even get to interview this gentlemen.

The DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL **JUDY MEYERS (40S)** and SAM interview this prospective Business Education teacher and did not allow me to interview him for fear that I would not hire him. I think this situation is all about Board pressure to hire more minority teachers. I have to tell you I was very angry with SAM for doing this to me and I want to share with you why we did not get any input on his hiring. So, next week Mr. JEFFERSON JONES will be reporting to our school for his first day. Treat him well and do not attempt to harass him in any way. He is a bomb waiting to go off with the SUPERINTENDENT's backing.

SUE BLACKBERG

Wow, that is a first. The SUPERINTENDENT must really want to have black teachers on the faculty really bad? I had heard that the Board held a secret meeting after getting a poor review by the State on the amount of minority teachers in the district.

SAM KELP

I heard that rumor too. The pressure is on to hire minority teachers to match the increasing minority students in our school district.

NED WOORLEY

Remember be nice to this guy and stay away from him for now. I don't want him running back to the SUPERINTENDENT and spilling his guts that we treated a black teacher badly. Hush will be the word people. Have a good day now.

FADE OUT.

INT. RICK RUNNERS SCIENCE CLASSROOM-DAY.

RICH RUNNER(20s) a first year science teacher is preparing his classroom for an incoming class when MRS. SUE BLACKBERG appears at his doorway to speak with him.(Rick has dark thick hair, a muscular build and he is 5 ft. 9" tall. He wears glasses for reading but usually keeps them in his pocket. Rick is an occasional smoke and loves cigars)

SUE BLACKBERG

Good morning, Mr. Runner. I need to tell you RICK that this new kid **RICHARD FLYNN(12)** is being evaluated by the Guidance department as to his proper placement. He may have ADD or some other learning impairment. We just got his academic and discipline records the other day and realized that he was expelled from elementary school on numerous occasions. We may have to move him to a below level class, instead of an on level class like yours. For now just be careful what you say to him since he seems to have a chip on his shoulder.

RICK RUNNER

Thanks Sue, I will keep an eye out for RICHARD when he comes into my class this period.

SUE BLACKBERG walks away down the hallway.

RICK RUNNER returns to his desk in his classroom as the late bell rings. He begins to take attendance in his class book.

RICK RUNNER (CONTINUED) (CONT'D)

Welcome to Science 7, and my name is MR. RUNNER. Check your schedules and make sure you have Science 7 period six, M-F. Now let me check the attendance. To make things easy I want everyone to pick up their books, and line up against the wall. Thanks.

Now, where I call your last name take a seat in the first row. Five students will sit in the first row and then we will move to five more in the second row and so on.

(MORE)

RICK RUNNER (CONTINUED) (CONT'D)
This will be your assigned seat for
the semester. When I take
attendance and your seat is empty I
will assume you are absent. Are
there any questions about that?

Suddenly a student bursts into the room, huffing and puffing from running. He slams the door and then he quickly grabs the nearest seat.

RICHARD FLYNN(12)
Is this MR. RUNNER'S science class?

(RICHARD is a short 5.1 feet in height boy, with light blond hair, a scar over his right eye, and a very white complexion. He is dressed in a plaid shirt and Lee Jeans and old worn out sneakers. He has a high pitched voice almost like a girls voice).

RICH RUNNER
Yes it is, and you are late. What
is your name son?

RICHARD FLYNN
My name is Richard. Richard Flynn.

RICK RUNNER
OK, Richard I are assigning seats
for attendance, and you will sit
behind GAIL GOLD in row four.
Please take your seat.

As MR. RUNNER continued calling out 32 names of students in the class, Richard begins talking to his friends around his seat.

RICK RUNNER (CONTINUED) (CONT'D)
Richard, you need to stop talking,
and just sit there until we have
the attendance seating completed.

RICHARD FLYNN

(Richard gives MR. RUNNER an ugly face. Leaning forward in his chair he taps a girl named GAIL behind the head).

GAIL GOLD, (13)

Stop that please.

RICHARD FLYNN

(Laughs out loud) Ha hawwa

RICK RUNNER

(Stops what he is doing, and looks at Richard and says), Richard, this is the second time I have had to speak to you. Quiet down.

RICHARD FLYNN

(Gives Mr. Runner the middle finger, and says) "Fuck you."

RICK RUNNER

(Hearing the words "Fuck you," in his class, he becomes angry immediately. He walks over to Richard, and says). Richard step outside into the hallway please.

RICHARD FLYNN

(Shouting) No, you cannot make me.

RICK RUNNER

"Really" (as he grabs RICHARD by the arm, and starts to drag him toward the door).

RICHARD FLYNN
(Richard pulls away)

Losing his patience, Rick grabs RICHARD by the armpits and lifts him up, and slams him against the wall where the light switches were. As RICHARD slides down the wall the lights all go out creating a dramatic finish to the confrontation.

The class all breaks out clapping, and chanting, MR. RUNNER, MR. RUNNER. MR. RUNNER leaves RICHARD on the floor, and goes over to the intercom on the wall.

Taking the intercom off the wall, he calls the office to send a security guard to take Richard to the Guidance Office for the period. Security Guard **DAN HEALY**(70) appears, and tells Richard to leave the room, and follow him to the Guidance department. (Dan is a kind old man that is retired. He wears his pants up to his chest with a stained old white shirt and dirty dress shoes. He has a little bit of an Irish accent. His hair is completely grey and he is in his early 70's)

DAN HEALY (70)
(Dan is one of the school security guards. He is a gray haired, pale skin, Irish gentlemen) Hello MR.
RUNNER. Who is the student I am taking to Guidance?

RICK RUNNER
There he is DAN, RICHARD FLYNN is his name.

DAN HEALY
OK young man, lets go visit the Guidance Office. (Dan leads RICHARD down the hallway to the GUIDANCE office in the front of the school).

RICK RUNNER
(RICK returns to his desk) Alright, everyone has a seat now and I expect you to be in the correct seat every class so I can get the attendance quickly and accurately. Let's begin.

CUT TO:

INT. CUCAMONGA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL MAIN OFFICE-DAY.

One week later **JEFFERSON JONES (30s)**, (JEFFERSON is 6 ft. Tall, with a full afro hair style, a mustache, very dark skin and talks with a slight southern accent. He us dressed in a three piece business suit and florsheim shoes). The new Black Business Education teacher reports to the Cucamonga Junior High office for his first day.

JEFFERSON JONES (30s)

Good Morning, my name is JEFFERSON JONES, and I was supposed to report to CUCAMONGA Junior High School as the new BUSINESS EDUCATION teacher.

MRS. GREY

Hello, we were expecting you MR. JONES. Principal WOORLEY would like to welcome you to CUCAMONGA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. Just one minute. Mr. WOORLEY, the new teacher, MR. JONES is here. Shall I send him in?

NED WOORLEY

Sure, send him right in, MRS. GREY.

JEFFERSON JONES

Good Morning Sir. It is good to be here today.

NED WOORLEY

I just wanted to take a minute and welcome you MR. JONES to our school. You are replacing a very good teacher that served many years teaching in this district. We have had substitutes covering his classes since he passed away, so you may have to reorganize what they taught if anything. MRS. GREY will give you an class attendance book and a Lesson Plan book. Since we do not have a Business Education department chairperson, you will be reporting to FRED TOPOVER the department Chairman for Social Studies. Your lesson plans are due to him every two weeks before the friday payday. If you need an classroom supplies Mr. TOPOVER will provide you with them. MRS. GREY also has you teaching schedule for you. I believe you have prep second period and LUNCH DUTY fifth period and your own LUNCH will be fourth period.

(MORE)

NED WOORLEY (CONT'D)

You have five Business Education classes of 8th and also 9th grade students. 7th graders are not allowed to elect Business Education because their schedule is too tight. Again, welcome and my door is open if you ever have any questions or concerns.

MRS. GREY

Here are your supplies and schedule MR. JONES. Your classroom is at the top of the stairs, first class on the left.

JEFFERSON JONES

Thank you MR. WOORLEY, And MRS. GREY. I am looking forward to teaching here.

MR. JONES leaves the main office and heads toward his classroom up on the second floor.

FADE OUT.

INT. PRINCIPAL WOORLEY'S OFFICE-EARLY AFTERNOON, DAY

Principal WOORLEY Meets with his assistant Principals to report that the new black Business Education teacher has reported as expected.

NED WOORLEY

Well, SUE and SAM, Mr. JEFFERSON JONES has reported today and has begun teaching Business Education. If you meet him in the hallway be friendly. Meanwhile, stay away from his classroom.

SAM KELP

I saw him walking up the stairs dressed in a three piece business suit and a full afro hair style. He certainly stands out from the other faculty.

SUE BLACKBERG

He had a relatively easy teaching schedule with LUNCH Duty. I think he will blend in fine here.

NED WOORLEY

I certainly hope so. I am sure the Superintendent will be on my back for oral progress reports as to how he is doing. I will just have to take this situation in stride.

CUT TO:

INT. TEACHER CAFETERIA FOURTH PERIOD 11:50-DAY.

Several teacher have learned that a new black teacher was hired to replace Ralph Newton and they are discussing their views. Teachers **PAUL PADUA(30)**-English; **ROBERT MAULER(20s)**SOCIAL STUDIES, RICK RUNNER-SCIENCE and **BETTY STRONG(20s)**MUSIC are all involved at one table in the discussion

PAUL PADUA (30S)

(Talking to ROBERT MAULER) Hey Bob did you hear they hired a black teacher to replace Ralph Newton?

ROBERT MAULER(20S)

Yeah, Principal Woorley buckled to the pressure from the SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS to hire some minority teachers, since our staff was deemed all white by the Board of Education.

PAUL PADUA (30S)

Really, wow that is shocking. I never thought of our district as having racial imbalance in hiring.

RICK RUNNER

(Joining the table with his tray of food)-Did I hear you guys talking about the new black Business Education teacher. He stutters, and comes from Mississippi with a southern accent.

ROBERT MAULER

I guess the kids are going to have problems understanding him?

PAUL PADUA

I am all for more minority teachers being hired. We have a lot of black and minority students, and no role models of color on the faculty for the kids to follow.

BETTY STRONG (20S)

We have only two other black teachers out of 75 white teachers on the faculty. That seems to be an imbalance.

RICK RUNNER

It has been a long time coming since the district was cited in the 1950's for a lack of segregated schools. The Federal government gave the district one year to correct the imbalance of white schools to one all black school. The solution was to take the black students from the Hill area in the south and bus them to North Junior high to provide some black students to balance against all the rich white students from the north county.

BETTY STRONG

I never though NED WOORLEY particularly liked minority people. He always makes that mistake of calling them 'those people.'

PAUL PADUA

I haven't met the guy yet, has anyone else?

RICK RUNNER

I imagine we will meet him soon enough. I understand he came to school dressed in a three piece business suit and he has a full afro hair style.

ROBERT MAULER

I am sure with the Civil Rights movement in full swing we can expect to see a lot more minority teachers hired in the future.

BETTY STRONG

That is for sure.

PAUL PADUA

Hey RICK have you seen that new female Phys. Ed. Teacher, ahh Ronnie Bronson. She is really stacked, if you will excuse the expression BETTY.

RICK RUNNER

Yeah and she loves to wear tight sweaters. I understand from BILL MEDLEY that **SAM FELDSTEIN(30S)** the PE chairman is making a fool of himself catering to her every needs.

ROBERT MAULER

Really you guys are so petty. So what if a female teacher has a large chest. What do we men care? Only kidding, she is stacked. Sorry Betty.

BETTY STRONG

That is OK, I know how you men think. It is all about the physical looks of a woman.

RICK RUNNER

Well, she is a PHYSICAL- education teacher, Betty. Ha. With the emphasis on Physical.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. UPSTAIRS IN ROOM 204 ENGLISH-DAY.

It was a busy morning at Cucamonga Junior High. Fall was in full swing and the classroom heaters had begun to come on in the cold mornings. Suddenly smoke began to appear under **MRS. MEG ANGELO(30S)** English Classroom MRS. ANGELO was on a break in the Teacher Lounge at the time 10:30 am.

A student coming out of Nurses office next to room 204 noticed the smoke coming from under the room 204 door. She ran back into to tell the Nurse who came out and saw the smoke.

NURSE MAYBERRY

Hello, main office. We have a fire on the second floor. Smoke is coming out of room 204, MRS. ANGELO's classroom. The door is locked and I do not know where she is. Hurray call the Fire Department

MRS. GREY

Calm down MRS. MAYBERRY. I will send MR. KELP up there right away to confirm that there is a fire.

NURSE MAYBERRY

Hurray, I am telling you smoke is pouring out under the door of room 204 and it is not my imagination.

MRS. GREY

Alright Mr. KELP is on the way up to the second floor. He just left.

SAM KELP

(Running up the stairs to room 204, standing there gasping for breath)
Holy cow it is a fire. My keys cannot open the classroom, damm?
MRS. MAYBERRY where is your outside phone?

NURSE MAYBERRY

Right over there Mr. Kelp.
(Gesturing to a phone sitting on the nurses desk)

SAM KELP

I am going to call out for the Fire Department, we have a fire and have to evacuate the building. Hello, Highland Fire department. This is Assistant Principal Sam Kelp from Cucamonga Junior High School. We have a fire on the second floor in room 204. Smoke is pouring out of the room and it is locked. Hurray. The emergency code is ALPHA 360. Send fire trucks right away.

(MORE)

SAM KELP (CONT'D)
(Running back down the stairs, Sam enters the main office) MRS. GREY I am going to pull the main fire alarm. Cover you ears.

The Main FIRE ALARM goes off ringing in all the halls and classrooms in the building. Mr. Kelp gets on the PA and announces.

SAM KELP (CONTINUED) (CONT'D)
Attention please. May I have your attention please this is a fire drill please evacuate the building in an orderly fashion. Teachers exit by the nearest outside door to your classroom. There should be no talking. Calmly leave your classroom immediately. Let me repeat, do not delay, calmly walk in double file to the nearest outside door exit and leave the building. Ned, Mr. Woorley we have a fire on the second floor and it is for real. I confirmed it in MRS. ANGELO's classroom in room 204. We need to evacuate immediately.

NED WOORLEY
OK, lock all the doors and the vault and let's get out of here. Hurray I can smell the smoke already.

The administrators in the main office walk briskly out the front doors while all the classes on the first and second floor exit the building by the side doors. The teachers, students, and staff are all standing out on the Soccer field 100 yards away from the building which is starting to send black smoke up into the air.

NED WOORLEY (CONTINUED) (CONT'D)
Here come the fire trucks, thank God. Sam go and tell them where the fire is located.

SAM KELP

(Waving his hands to attract the attention of the Fire Chief in his red truck) Hello, the fire is on the second floor room 204 on the inside of the building near the front of the school.

FIRE CHIEF BUTCH LONG(50s)

(Talking to Sam Kelp) OK, if we enter through the front door our hoses might be long enough to go upstairs. We might have to go in from the side. **JIM** take the hook and ladder around the left of the building.

SUE BLACKBERG

What the hell is going on? Is this a drill or a real fire.

NED WOORLEY

I am afraid it is a real fire on the second floor in room 204. Sam confirmed that smoke was pouring out under the door and the door is hot and locked. He could not get into the room. I don't know where MRS. ANGELO is. It is her room that the fire has started in. The NURSES office is right next to that room and we could lose all the medical supplies and cots? Damm what a mess.

JOHN CARDONE

(Talking to NED WOORLEY) What is going on? I just went out for some lunch at the local Deli and when I came back I could see the black smoke stretching up into the sky from three miles away

NED WOORLEY

We seem to have a real fire on the second floor. Sam went up there to confirm the smoke pouring out from under the door of room 204.

JOHN CARDONE

Room 204, that is MEG ANGELO's classroom. Is she alright?

NED WOORLEY

We don't know where she is. Her room is locked.

JOHN CARDONE

I think she has a prep period second period. She must have been in the teacher lounge? That is where she usually goes during her break.

NED WOORLEY

We have no way of confirming that now. Maybe when Sam takes the golf cart around the building he may see her line up on the back side of the school?

JOHN CARDONE

Gee, I hope so. She is a good friend of mine. We play tennis together after school all the time.

Meanwhile, back in the building the classes are all filing out of the sides and back of the school building. Bill Medley was in the men's bathroom when the fire broke out. As he heard the fire alarm he quickly finished up in the bathroom and hurried out of the building on the second floor. The smoke was too thick to see through on the end of the hallway so Bill decided to go down the stairs and then out the side door. As the rushed down the stair case he saw a small girl lying crumpled on the floor near the bottom of the stairs on the first floor. He quickly runs over to her.

BILL MEDLEY

Hi I am Coach Medley, are you OK?
We have to get out of here quickly.
Can you walk?

SMALL FEMALE STUDENT

(Crying) I twisted my ankle and fell down, and everyone left me here.

No problem, let me carry you outside. Try not to breath the smoke in. We will be out of here in a flash. Be calm.

SMALL FEMALE STUDENT

(Crying) Thank you, (sobbing).

BILL MEDLEY

(Carrying the girl, he exits the side of the building choking from the heavy smoke) By the way what is your name little girl?

SMALL FEMALE STUDENT

My name is **NINA TURETSKY(13)**. Thank you Mr. CARDONE.

BILL MEDLEY

(Seeing the Math Department.
Chairperson-**ABE LEVINSKI(60s)**
directing students away from the building, he yells to him)
Abe give me a hand with this girl.
My arms are killing me...(cough)

ABE LEVINSKI(60)

Put her down and I will take care of her. What is your name? OK, can you walk? If not I will help you hop on one leg.

(MORE)

ABE LEVINSKI(60) (CONT'D)
Let's get away from the
building.(Abe is a short Jewish man
with greying hair and a bald spot
at the back of his head. He has a
thin beard, mustache, a large nose
and thick eyebrows).

BILL MEDLEY

(Asking **ABE LEVINSKI**)
What happened?

ABE LEVINSKI
I don't know, but I think a fire
started in Mrs. Angelo's classroom
on the second floor?

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. FLASHBACK TO A MONTH BEFORE THE FIRE-DAY.

JOHN CARDONE thinks back to a month before the fire when he was standing in MRS. MEG ANGELO's(20s) room 204, ENGLISH. THE MONTH IS OCTOBER.(Meg Angelo is a busty, big haired blond dyed. She is very outspoken and assertive. Recently divorced with two children. She is a pretty woman for mid-30s with lots of makeup and always dresses like a fashion model. (She is actually Jewish, but has married an Italian guy)).

JOHN CARDONE

John walking by MRS. MEG ANGELO'S classroom, when he notices clothes lines with papers hanging from them. He sticks his head in the door and says hello.

Hello, MRS. ANGELO. Hi MEG, I mean
MRS. MEG ANGELO, how are you doing?

MRS. MEG ANGELO
I am doing great, how are you DOING
JOHN?

JOHN CARDONE
My you are creative. What are the
clotheslines and the papers hanging
from them for?

MRS. MEG ANGELO

They are student project outlines
on cards, and I hung them from cord
to make an impression and to
demonstrate how many students were
doing writing projects."

JOHN CARDONE

That's great. Do you mind if I stay
a while and observe your class?

MRS. MEG ANGELO

Sure makes yourself at home, John
you are always welcome.

SALLY HALSTEIN(13)

Mrs. Angelo can you help me with my
outline?

MRS. MEG ANGELO

Gotta help this student, sit down
JOHN, and relax.

JOHN goes over to the window and sits down at the back of the class. On the window ledge JOHN notices something out of place. For some reason a pile of crumpled papers were stuffed into the space between the wall and the radiator. It looked really messy, and out of place. Just then he saw a student crumple a piece of paper, and throw it toward the existing pile of papers on the radiator near the window.

JOHN CARDONE

Meg you classroom is amazing. One
thing however, what is with that
mess of papers stuffed into the
radiator compartment?

MRS. MEG ANGELO

Oh yes, I have been meaning to have
one of the students clean it out.
We do not have a trash can, so they
have been dumping the papers on the
radiator.

JOHN CARDONE

Don't you think that could cause a fire?

MRS. MEG ANGELO

No, the radiator is turned off this early in the fall season. I will get to it soon.

JOHN CARDONE

I can get rid of it for you.

MRS. MEG ANGELO

Don't worry JOHN, I will get to it.

JOHN CARDONE

Well I gotta run. Thanks for letting me observe your class. Amazing creativity, I am most impressed. I wish we had more teachers like you.

END OF FLASHBACK

FADE TO BLACK.

1 EXT. THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING OUT ON THE SOCCER 1
FIELD-DAY

The fireman try to enter the school through the front doors, but their hose will not reach the second floor going up the stairs. a second approach with a ladder to the second floor. the fireman knock out the windows on the outside of the building and drag their hoses through the windows to the hallway outside. the fireman have to use axes to break down the door when the fire started. later, they made it to the second floor, the nurses office was ablaze, room 2006 next to 204 was completely in fire and smoke. after an hour to put out the fires, which had spread through the plaster walls through three classrooms in a row and the nurses office. Downstairs the water from the fireman flooded all ten thousand books on the shelves, ruining most of them completely. When the fireman were done, the two classrooms on the side of the outside of the building were trashed.

The fireman have to rip out the windows to gain access to the fire which was on the inside of the second floor classrooms.

FIREMAN #1 (40)

(Lead fireman climbing up the Hook and Ladder to the second floor of the school) HAND ME THAT AXE.

FIREMAN#2 (30)

Here is the axe. Cover your eyes with your helmet shield. The glass is going to spread in all directions. I am sure it isn't safety glass.

FIREMAN #1

OK, stand back here goes the first shot. (Fireman Swings his axe and smashes the side window of the second story classroom to a million pieces of glass shards in all directions.

FIREMAN#2

Hook the window frame and pull the whole thing out with your axe.

FIREMAN #1

(He hooks the hook side of his axe around the frame of the window and give a couple of strong pulls and the window frame drops one story to the ground) I've got it. Pass me up the hose and I will climb in the window.

FIREMAN#2

(Climbing up the ladder pulling the heavy hose) OK, here is the hose. Watch for sharp edges of the window as you step in.

FIREMAN #1

(Shouting) I'm in (cough) putting my respirator on too much smoke in here. Turn on the water.

FIREMAN#3 (48)

(Yelling) Water is turned on. Hold on tight.

FIREMAN#2

Slow down and let me get through the window with you. Steady here I come. (He steps through the window into a room completely filled with smoke)

FIREMAN #1

I cannot see the door, but I must
be near the front of the classroom.
Follow me and hold onto that hose.
Do we still have enough hose left
to get into the building?

FIREMAN#2

Yeah, we have plenty of hose line
left. Is the classroom door open?

FIREMAN #1

I found the door. It's open. Wow
the hallway is completely in
flames. Let's water down the
hallway so I can get to the locked
classroom. What number is it again?
Never mind we probably would be
able to see the classroom number in
this thick smoke. It should be the
second room from the stairway.
Follow me.

FIREMAN#2

I am pulling the hose and I am
right behind you. Spray the ceiling
so it doesn't collapse on us. Did
you find the second classroom yet?

FIREMAN #1

I think I found it. Stand back and
hold onto the hose I am going to
drop it so I can slam the door with
my axe. Ready? (He takes a full
swing with the axe with smoke
clouding his vision) The door
cracked. One more blow ought to do
it. You OK?

FIREMAN#2

I am OK. My oxygen is on. I can't
see anything but smoke. Is the door
open yet?

FIREMAN #1

Yeah, damm, I got it. The door is
down. Stand back for a blast of hot
air. OK, clear, let's blast the
hell out of this room to kill the
flames and smoke. Tell the CHIEF on
your walkie we are going to need a
second hose in here right away. Too
many classrooms are up in flames
for just the two of us.

(MORE)

FIREMAN #1 (CONT'D)

I found the source of the fire, but the room is trashed, walls burn out, windows blown out and the ceiling is gone. We are dosing it now.

FIREMAN#2

(Talking on his walkie talkie)
Chief can you hear me? Send up another two men with another hose. The fire is too big for us to handle. Do you confirm?

FIRE CHIEF BUTCH LONG

I hear you. We are sending up two more men with another hose. Keep trying to suppress the flames from spreading any further. Hang in there the next crew is headed up the ladder. Get those men moving up that ladder. Hold the water until they get in the window.

FIREMAN #1

We have got the flames out in the second room. The first room next to the stairs is next. It looks like a Nurses office (cough), lots of smoke. We'll hose it down next.

The second team makes it though the window and the water was turned on. They begin hosing down the other classrooms enveloped in flame. An hour later the fires were all out, and only smoke remains and the smell of burnt wood.

FIRE CHIEF BUTCH LONG (50S)

(Later on around 12:30 pm) Where is the Principal? I need to talk with the Principal right away to inform him of the status of the building.

FIREMAN#1

I think he is out in front of the building Chief.

FIRE CHIEF BUTCH LONG

(Walking to the front of the school building) Where is Mr. Woorley?

NED WOORLEY

(Shouting to the Fire Chief) Over here Chief. So what is the situation?

FIRE CHIEF BUTCH LONG

(Speaking to NED WOORLEY) We have put the fire out and are mopping up now. I toured the building on the first and second floor. The first floor library sustained a lot of water damage from the water leaking through from the classrooms above it on the second floor. The second floor we need to get some commercial fans to blow out the smoke for 24-48 hours.

My boys will bring some commercial fans back front the firehouse and put them in place tonight.

Upstairs on the second floor five classrooms are charred. You lost the Nurses office also, and the ceiling and floor tiles are also destroyed. I estimate you have several hundred thousand in fire damage, which I am sure your insurance company will cover. Now for the problem at hand.

I cannot release the building until we remove the smoke and close off the damaged areas. Your students will have to go home without coats and their books tonight. I know that is a hardship, but no one can go back into the building until we can clean the whole building of smoke.

NED WOORLEY

That is real bad news. Now I am going to have to send one of my Assistant Principals up to the High school to notify the Superintendent of Schools Sam Woodruff that we need buses immediately. We need to also inform him that the students will have to go home without coats in this November weather.

(MORE)

NED WOORLEY (CONT'D)

Sam can you take your car and drive up to the High School, and call the SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS and request school buses immediately to take all the Cucamonga Junior High students home?

SAM KELP

OK, I am on it. I will be back in fifteen minutes.

FADE OUT.

2

INT. CUCAMONGA JHS SOCCER FIELD-DAY.

2

PERRY GENOVESE

(Talking to a few students lined up on the Soccer field) Anyone get their coat? I have mine in the locker in the school and boy it is getting cold out here.

ALFRADO DONELSON

Yeah, my leather jacket is in the school locker also and all I have is this thin short sleeve shirt.

SUZY SMITZ (13)

I am freezing too. My legs are frozen in this mini-skirt. So much for fashion. When are we going to get out jackets and go home? It has been hours since the fire started. I missed my lunch hour too.

RICHARD WHITE (13)

Boy am I hungry. Just my luck to miss lunch and when are we getting back in the school?

3

EXT. SOCCER FIELD IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL-DAY.

3

NED WOORLEY

(Using a portable bull horn)
Attention students and faculty.
(MORE)

NED WOORLEY (CONT'D)

I have just spoken with the Fire Chief and he has informed me that the fire is tentatively out for now but the thick smoke is still on the second floor making visibility impossible. The FIRE CHIEF has informed me that he cannot release the building until commercial fans can be brought in to blow the smoke out of the halls and classrooms on the second floor. The library is completely flooded and cannot be used. Therefore, I know it isn't pleasant but we are ordering the buses to pick us up now and take everyone home without their coats or book bags. No one will be allowed to enter the building for 24-48 hours. Police patrols will be on duty all night to protect the school. I am sorry for this inconvenience but we have to listen to the FIRE CHIEF he is the one responsible.

CUT TO:

4

EXT. SOCCER FIELD IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL-DAY.

4

PERRY GENOVESE

Damm, I can't believe we have to go home with no coats.

ALFRADO DONELSON

I have thin blood, and I cannot take this cold without a coat.

CUT TO:

5

EXT. SOCCER FIELD, TEACHERS STANDING ON FIELD-DAY.

5

JOHN CARDONE

Well folks, it looks like I lucked out going out for lunch. I have my jacket on me.

Has anyone seen Mrs. Meg Angelo yet?

BETTY STRONG

I think someone said she was at the back of the building where the teacher lounge teachers went.

NED WOORLEY

SUE can you take the golf cart and look around the back of the school to see if Mrs. ANGELO is OK. Thanks.

SUE BLACKBERG

I will check MEG out right away. The golf cart is over by the janitors room fortunately far away from the side of the building with the fire.

NED WOORLEY

(Ten Minutes later) Sue did you find MRS. ANGELO?

SUE BLACKBERG

Yes, she is OK but a little shaken up that the fire started in her classroom.

SAM KELP

Ned, we have a major problem. One of the teachers, SAM MOONSKI told me one of the boys in his class is missing. The student asked to go to the bathroom shortly before the FIRE ALARM went off, and in the confusion of leaving the classroom, MR. MOONSKI did not realize that the student **BARRY NEEDLES(13)** was missing. He just happened to count all his students while they were line up outside and he was one student short. After asking the students in his class they reminded him that BARRY NEEDLES went to the bathroom just before the FIRE ALARM. What should we do? I have asked around all the classes line up outside and no one knows where BARRY NEEDLES is. SAM MOONSKI says he is a 7th grader, small in size wearing blue pants and a red and white striped golf shirt. He wears glasses and has light blonde hair in a short cut.

NED WOORLEY

A missing student. Oh, no. Now we find out. CHIEF I need to speak with you. CHIEF we just discovered we have a missing student by the name of BARRY NEEDLES. He is a small 7th grader dressed in blue pants and a striped red and white t-shirt. He has light blond hair in a short cut and wears glasses. He went to the bathroom on the second floor of the far wing of the school. The far wing is on the other side of the school from where the fire was.

FIRE CHIEF BUTCH LONG

Well that is a major problem. I can dispatch some of my men to search the building for this student. I am not confident that if he was anywhere near the fire that he could have survived. Can you show or tell me where the boys bathroom is located that he would have used?

NED WOORLEY

I think so but I will have to ask Mr. Moonski his teacher what boys bathroom is closer to his science classroom. Sue you have the golf cart, can you go around to where Mr. MOONSKI and his class are and find out where the nearest boys bathroom might be located.

SAM KELP

This is my worst fear, losing one student out of 1,000 students is easy to do. The timing was bad with the fire Drill going off just after BARRIE NEEDLES left the classroom. I am worried NED.

The fireman begin to search the building. A half hour goes by and still no word. The buses have begin to arrive and the students are boarding them and going home.

NED WOORLEY, SAM KELP, SUE BLACKBERG, JOHN CARDONE, BILL MEDLEY, WALT WILLEY, and NORMA NEWSOM, and SAM MOONSKI, all wait for word about missing BARRIE NEEDLES.

NED WOORLEY

Please GOD help them find this kid.
I can't take anymore stress I have
to sit down for a little bit.

SAM KELP

Are you OK NED? You don't look
well. I have a bottle of water do
you want some?

NED WOORLEY

Yes, let me have a little water.
This missing student thing is
killing me. I feel a little light
headed. I need to sit down.

FIRE CHIEF BUTCH LONG

Mr. Woorley we haven't found any
bodies in the fire area or in the
bathrooms. We searched the entire
building. We will keep looking all
night but the outcome does not look
good.

NED WOORLEY

What am I going to tell this kids
mother and father? Oh, my God why
is this happening?

FIRE CHIEF BUTCH LONG

The student in question may have
collapsed from smoke inhalation or
he may still be hiding somewhere in
the school. We just don't know.
There is a lot of smoking debris in
the classrooms, and my men said
they did not recover a body
anywhere in the ashes.

NED WOORLEY

I can't tell the Superintendent of
Schools about this until I am
absolutely positive as to what
happened to this student.

SUE BLACKBERG

Maybe he got out of the school and
walked home. Junior high students
are known to do stupid things like
that sometimes.

NED WOORLEY

We need some answers and before it gets dark in a few hours. CHIEF what do you recommend?

FIRE CHIEF BUTCH LONG

You can go home and I can put you on call if we find something we will call you first thing. There is nothing you can do here. Let us do our work and maybe this will turn out well in the end.

NED WOORLEY

Well, it is my responsibility to call Mr. and Mrs. Needles. It really pains me to have to tell Barrie's parents that he is missing in a school fire. Oh, well. I will call him when I get home.

All of the teachers and administrators reluctantly go home to wait for the dreaded call from the Fire Chief.

Somewhere in the school building in a Janitors cleaning closet, a frightened boy lies crying and curled up in a room that is locked from the outside. When the smoke started to move down the hallway he hid in a room with a slightly ajar door, which turned out to be a Janitorial closet, that had a self locking mechanism in the door. When **BARRIE** hid in the closet as the smoke enveloped the hallway the door locked closed. He banged and kicked the door again, and again, but he could not budge the locked door. The closet was full of cleaning supplies, pails and mops with a strong smell of ammonia in the air. **BARRIE NEEDLES(13)** was alone in a locked closet, and no one knew where he was. Barrie is a small 7th grader with wire rim glasses, light brown hair, freckles, and a short pug nose. His hair is a crew cut style).

FADE TO:

6

INT. IN A JANITORIAL CLOSET IN CUCAMONGA JUNIOR HIGH-NIGHT.

6

BARRIE NEEDLES is curled up in a pre-natal position falling asleep, with smoke seeping under the door, and smoke enveloping the hallway outside the closet. The light bulb overhead flickers, and then goes out, and then there was nothing but darkness. Barrie cries in the dark void of the closet.

BARRIE NEEDLES (13)
Help. Help me someone. (Cough)
(crying) Mommy, I am sorry.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.