

Ghosts of Parkview High

by

Steve Hopstaken

Steve Hopstaken
(952) 994-1683
Hopstaken@gmail.com

WGAW# 868273

GHOSTS OF PARKVIEW HIGH

SERIES OF SHOTS FROM 1979

EXT. CITY LIMITS SIGN

The sign reads: "Welcome to Grand Rapids, Michigan". A smaller sign attached underneath reads "Birthplace of President Gerald Ford."

EXT. RECORD STORE

Signs read: "Yes, we have the Grease Soundtrack on 8-Track!" and "Coming Soon: Olivia Newton-John's Xanadu!"

EXT. MOVIE THEATER

Sign in window reads "Now with 2 screens!"

EXT. SEVEN-ELEVEN CONVENIENCE STORE

Signs read: "WE HAVE POP-ROCKS!"

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. PARKVIEW HIGH SCHOOL SIGN - MORNING

It is the first day of school, 1979. We see the outside of the run-down suburban school. The large brick corner sign on the lawn is topped with metal letters that read "Parkview High". A message sign with removable letters below it reads "Welcome Back Students."

A group of THREE "BURNOUTS" dressed in raggedy denim jackets are smoking a joint behind the sign. RON FOGERTY snuffs out what is left of the joint, and puts it into a cough drop tin. The other two burnouts, TED and SHEILA scurry away as Ron goes to the front of the sign and rearranges "Welcome Back Students" so it reads "We Studs come." He looks proud of his accomplishment as he walks away.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

11th Grade "preppies" DAWN KNACK and FRANK CASH are sitting at a table welcoming students as they come in. A banner behind Frank on the wall reads: "Sign Up for Student Council Meeting." A banner behind Dawn reads: "Sign up for Dance Committee."

FRANK
 (to passing student)
 Still not too late to sign up for
 student council....

The passing student ignores them and breezes past.

DAWN
 ...Or Dance Committee.
 (to Frank)
 This is going to be the best year ever,
 don't you think so, Frank?

FRANK
 Yes, Dawn. Junior year is great, we get
 to hang with seniors and we can serve
 as role models for the freshman and
 sophomores.

RICK FOSTER, an over-sized junior, flanked by two fellow
 football players, BOBBY GRECO and ALEX VAN DAM come strolling
 by the table.

FRANK
 (to Foster)
 ...Hey, guys. I hear the team looks
 good this year.

VAN DAM
 (to Frank)
 So what? You're Howard Cosell, now?

Greco and Foster laugh.

DAWN
 Do you guys want to sign up for dance
 committee? It's lots of fun. We could
 use some guys with muscles to move
 tables.

Greco leans across the table and puts his face just inches
 from Dawn's.

GRECO
 Dawn, I have better uses for my muscle.

Foster comes around to the back of the table toward Dawn and
 reaches for her skirt under the table.

FOSTER
 Come on, show me the crack of Dawn.

He lifts her skirt and she struggles to hold it down.

DAWN
 (scared)
 Don't be gross, Rick.

FRANK
 Stop it guys....

VAN DAM
 Or what?

Frank doesn't have an answer.

GWEN VAN HOCKER a very pretty sophomore girl wearing a cheerleader outfit comes up to the table. Greco backs away and Dawn settles back into her chair, relieved.

GWEN
 Hi, guys.

Greco quickly comes around the table to greet her.

GRECO
 Hey, baby.

He hugs her and they kiss hello.

ANGLE ON DOOR

MIKE HOFFENOPER, a very short sophomore enters in a disheveled and rushed state. He passes nerds CLINT, EDWARD and RHONDA as they trade Star Wars cards. Clint is wearing a "Logan's Run" tee-shirt and bell-bottom jeans, Edward is wearing a polyester suit and Rhonda is dressed in white painter's pants and a James Taylor concert shirt.

CLINT
 No way I'm giving up a Princess Leia card for a crappy Grand Moff Tarkin! You are such an ass wipe.

EDWARD
 Listen, dickwad. This card is hard to find, it's worth a dozen Leias.

Rhonda notices Mike and smiles.

RHONDA
 Hi, Mike.

Mike doesn't respond and continues past them. He notices Greco ahead, and there is fear in his eyes now.

MIKE
 (to self)
 Crap!

Mike keeps his head low and tries to go by unnoticed.

ANGLE ON GRECO AND GROUP

GRECO
Dork alert. Watch this.

Greco hacks up a luggy and waits for Mike to pass. Greco spits and nails Mike in the back of the head.

GRECO
Score! First luggy of the season!

He high-fives Van Dam.

ANGLE ON MIKE'S FACE

He is angered and humiliated but he doesn't turn, just lowers his head and walks away faster.

ANGLE ON GRECO AND GROUP

GWEN
(disapproving)
Why did you do that? What did he ever do to you?

ANGLE ON GRECO

He thinks about it.

FLASHBACK INT. SCHOOL GYM -- MORNING

The KIDS are piling out of the gym into the locker room. The only people left in the gym are MR. MEISTER the gym teacher, Greco and Mike. Mike is across the room dealing with a broken shoelace.

MR. MEISTER
(yelling)
Greco! Come here.

Greco trots over smiling.

GRECO
(smacking gum)
Yeah, coach?

MR. MEISTER
I told you three times to lose that gum.

GRECO

(laugh)

Yeah, okay.

An angry Meister slaps him across the face hard and the gum goes flying out of Greco's mouth. It lands at Mike's feet. Mike is stunned by the sudden burst of violence.

MR. MEISTER

That will wipe the grin off your face.
Now go pick up that gum and throw it
away.

Greco sheepishly goes over near Mike and bends down to pick up the gum. Their eyes meet. Greco's eyes are teared up, but his gaze turns to anger as he stares down Mike. Mike averts his eyes.

END FLASHBACK INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

GRECO

He's always givin' me lip. Fuckin'
retard.

Dawn holds out her sign-up sheet.

DAWN

Hi, Gwen. Do you want to be on dance
committee this year?

GWEN

I'd like to, but with practice and
everything, I don't have the time.
(to Greco)
We'd better get to class.

They go off arm-in-arm. Greco and Van Dam trail behind.

DAWN

(calling after them)

Okay. Call me if there are any good
parties this weekend.

(to Frank)

They won't call. That Gwen thinks she's
so hot.

(whispering)

A friend of Peggy's says Gwen had an
abortion over the summer. It's like her
second one. She's such a slut.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - MORNING

A GROUP of groggy 10th and 11th grade boys are lined up near the wall of the run-down gymnasium.

They are dressed in out-of-date gym clothes (even by 1979 standards), including several shirts with Farrah Fawcett poster screen prints. Mike Hoffenopper, and JACK KNOFF seem out of place in the middle of the line. They are both a good four inches shorter than all the others. Jack is also overweight and wearing a "Dr. Who" tee-shirt. Mike's tee-shirt says "One Wild and Crazy Guy!"

Near the front of the line are Rick Foster and Bobby Greco.

Near the end of the line RAY LABADIE looks the most out of his element. He is dressed in street cloths and a leather jacket. He is skinny, and tries his best to look tough.

Mr. MEISTER, the gym teacher is observing the troops. The kids are fidgeting and talking among themselves.

MR. MEISTER

(blows whistle)

Listen up! Before we choose sides for B-ball, I have a few announcements. Starting on Friday this class is going co-ed.

All the boys groan. Jack, who looks scared, raises his hand.

JACK

Mr. Meister?

MR. MEISTER

Yeah, Mr. Knoff?

FOSTER

(coughing the words)

Jackin' Off!

MR. MEISTER

Cut it out, Foster.

(to Jack)

What is it, Jack?

JACK

Are we going to have to share a locker room with the girls?

Mike rolls his eyes at the question. The other kids laugh.

MR. MEISTER

And they say there are no stupid questions.

(beat)

What do you think?

Jack just shrugs.

MR. MEISTER
 (noticing Ray)
 You...new kid.
 (he checks his clipboard)
 Ray. Where are your gym clothes?

RAY
 This is what I wore in my last school
 for gym.

Ray just stares him down.

MR. MEISTER
 Well...make sure you bring shorts and a
 tee-shirt tomorrow.
 (to class)
 When the girls come on Friday our first
 coed activity will be gymnastic
 tumbling.

The boys groan again.

MR. MEISTER
 The rest of the curriculum will stay
 the same...except for the addition of
 square dancing.

The boys groan again, this time louder.

MR. MEISTER
 And I want you all to be on your best
 behavior.

GRECO
 I'm not dancing, that's so gay!

MR. MEISTER
 If you want to try out for varsity
 football this year, Mr. Greco, you'll
 dance. And like it.

GRECO
 Yes, coach.

MR. MEISTER
 Square dancing is fun. It's not faggy.
 Mrs. Meister and I happen to be
 accomplished square dancers. Do you
 think I'm queer?

GRECO
 No, coach.

Meister blows the whistle.

MR. MEISTER

Let's play some basketball. Foster,
Greco, you're captains.

They seem quite pleased at this and take places next to Meister facing the line. Jack steps out of line and raises his hand again.

JACK

I have a note from my grandma that says
I can't play basketball because of my
asthma.

MR. MEISTER

You're not sitting out this year. You
can stand to lose a few pounds. Get
back in line.

Foster points to the tallest kid in line.

FOSTER

We'll take Van Dam.

GRECO

Van Timmer.

FOSTER

Vanderjack.

GRECO

Van Dyke.

FOSTER

Vander Vos.

GRECO

Van Allen.

DISSOLVE TO:

A FEW MOMENTS LATER

The line has been picked clean of anyone with athletic talent. All that is left is a tall but spazzy TOMMY and Mike, Jack and the new kid Ray.

GRECO

I'll take the new kid.

Ray slowly crosses over to Greco's group.

FOSTER

(rolling his eyes)

Tommy.

TOMMY

Far Out!

Tommy tries to "high-five" Foster, but Foster doesn't respond.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
(high-fiving air)

Yeah!

MIKE
(mumbling to self)
Please don't let me be last.

GRECO
(disgusted)
Hoffenoper.

Relieved to not be picked last, Mike trots over. Greco trips him and he falls and slides across the floor. The gym teacher sees this but ignores it.

FOSTER
(to Jack)
Come on tubby.

Jack smiles as though he has been picked like the rest and strolls over.

FOSTER
(quietly to Jack)
Touch the ball, Fat Albert, and you're dead.

GRECO
(quietly to Mike)
Don't even think about touching the ball, faggot.

MIKE
Yeah, whatever.

Meister tosses the ball up between Greco and Foster. They jump for it and Foster knocks it to the ground. The ball bounces and lands at Ray's feet. He quickly snatches it up and dribbles. Greco and another BOY are on him, but Ray is pretty good. He dodges and dribbles past them. Foster puts himself under the net.

FOSTER
Here! Here!

Ray fakes a throw to Foster but throws for the net from half court. It almost goes in, but bounces off the rim. Greco catches it and dribbles it toward his own net.

FOSTER
(to Ray)
I told you to pass it to me, homo!

MR. MEISTER
(blows whistle)
Watch your mouth!

RAY
(baring his teeth)
What did you call me?

The game suddenly stops.

FOSTER
A homo.

Ray puts himself just inches from Foster's face.

RAY
I'm not. Ask your mother.

The kids all gasp at the insult.

Foster grabs Ray by the shirt with both hands and begins shoving him. Ray shoves back.

MR. MEISTER
(blows whistle)
Break it up!

They don't and Meister is forced to go over and pull them apart. They angrily back away from each other.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - LATER

The game is over and the boys are piling in. GRECO'S TEAM is cheering and hollering.

GRECO
(singing)
"We are the champions my friend. We'll
go on fighting to the end!"

FOSTER
(glaring at Ray)
Only by one point, dork.

GRECO
(singing louder)
"You are the losers and we are the
champions!"

Greco disappears behind of row of lockers. Ray is undressing for a shower. Foster shoves him against the lockers, but he holds his ground and pushes back.

FOSTER

You are so dead.

Foster takes a swing at him. Ray pulls back and the punch misses entirely. Ray returns a punch to Foster's stomach and knocks the wind out him. Greco comes up from behind Ray and grabs his arms and holds them behind Ray's back. Ray struggles but can't free himself. Foster regains his breath and stands.

FOSTER

Lucky punch.

OTHER KIDS gather around to watch the fight.

GRECO

(impatient)

Come on, Foster. Finish him off and let's go.

INT. PRINCIPAL HEDGECKOCK'S OFFICE - LATER

Ray, Jack and Mike are sitting in front of the principal's desk. HEDGECKOCK is in his late fifties and sporting a bad perm (and even worse leisure suit) to make himself look younger. Ray is holding a blue ice pack over his eye. His lip is cut and caked with dried blood.

MR. HEDGECKOCK

I'll ask you one more time. Who did this to you?

RAY

I fell.

MR. HEDGECKOCK

Don't get smart with me Ron.

RAY

Ray.

MR. HEDGECKOCK

Okay, Raymond.

RAY

Ray.

MR. HEDGECKOCK

(sighs)

If you don't cooperate with me I can't help you. Now who hit you?

Ray remains silent.

MR. HEDGECOCK

(to Jack and Mike)

I know you two saw what happened. Who was he fighting with? Rick Foster?

MIKE

We didn't see. We came in after it happened. We just helped him to the nurse's office.

MR. HEDGECOCK

Fine.

(turning back to Ray)

If you want to play games, I can play games. Either you tell me who did this or you will have detention for a week.

RAY

Okay.

(pause)

I'll take the detention.

MR. HEDGECOCK

(angry)

Listen.

(changes to fatherly tone)

I know what it's like to be the new kid in school...

RAY

No you don't. If you did we wouldn't be having this conversation. Give my the detention and spare me the bullshit.

MR. HEDGECOCK

You don't talk that way to me, young man. Maybe your principal in Detroit put up with it, but at this school you're going to show some respect. Your little outburst is going to cost you a week of detention.

RAY

(calmly)

Okay.

MR. HEDGECOCK

You're all dismissed, get to class.

They get up to leave. Ray turns.

RAY

Mr. Hedgecock, sir.

MR. HEDGECOCK

What?

RAY

Could I possibly postpone the detention a week? My grandma is in the hospital and...well the doctor says she could go at any time.

MR. HEDGECOCK

(awkwardly)

I see. Well, I think that could be arranged.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mike, Ray and Jack exit and start walking down the empty hall. They aren't in a hurry to get to class.

JACK

(to Ray)

Sorry to hear about your grandmother.

RAY

(laughs)

Give me a break. Don't tell me you believed it.

MIKE

Making up a story isn't going to get you out of detention. You just put it off a week.

RAY

Naw. Next week she dies. If I play my cards right I'll get a day off from old Bush-Weenie himself.

JACK

Bushweenie?

MIKE

Hedge--Cock. Bush--Weenie.

JACK

I don't get it.

RAY

(to Mike)

Is he always like this?

MIKE

Yes.

JACK
Like what?

MIKE
See?

JACK
How could you lie about something like that?

RAY
I guess I was just born bad.

They stop in front of a classroom.

RAY
Speaking of bad, how about skipping sixth hour?

MIKE
How? Not even Hedgecock would believe three sick grandmothers.

RAY
You guys go to your classes and I'll come by and say you're wanted in the office.

MIKE
What about you?

RAY
I have sixth-hour study hall. The first day of school I told the study hall teacher I switched to choir. I've been skipping all week.

JACK
But you'll get caught!

RAY
I didn't in my last school. I skipped sixth hour the whole year.

MIKE
(impressed)
Wow. A whole extra hour everyday to do what you want.

Ray starts to walk away.

RAY
So, I'll come get you sixth hour. That is if you pussies aren't too scared to skip.

Jack is about to object, but Mike punches him in the arm.

JACK

Ow.

MIKE

We aren't. See you then.

EXT. PICNIC TABLE AT PARK - AFTERNOON

Ray, Mike and Jack are sitting at a picnic table near a duck pond. They are taking turns drinking from a huge bottle of Mountain Dew. Ray is throwing rocks into the pond trying to hit the ducks. He stops and takes out a pack of cigarettes.

RAY

(offering pack)

You guys want one?

JACK

(taps chest)

Asthma.

MIKE

No, thanks. They make me throw up.

JACK

(looking around, paranoid)

What if someone sees us here and calls the school?

RAY

Lighten up, Jackie. All this worrying could give you an ulcer.

MIKE

Or an asthma attack.

JACK

You won't think it's so funny when I'm under an oxygen tent in the hospital.

MIKE

(to Ray)

Why'd you pick a fight with Foster?

RAY

If you don't make a reputation for yourself on the first day, then other people will do it for you. It's better to have them think you're a psycho than a chicken.

JACK

Foster's the psycho. I hear he was kicked out of Ohio in junior high for killing a teacher. They didn't throw him in juvy because he was too young.

RAY

He got the better of the deal. I've been to Ohio twice and juvy once. Juvy was more fun.

MIKE

Sounds like you've been the new kid before.

RAY

My dad sets up new K-Mart's. As soon as he trains in all the managers we move to another town.

MIKE

God, I'd hate that.

RAY

It's not so bad. It's nice to start over sometimes. Besides, I've discovered the secret is to not be sucked into one of the groups.

JACK

What do you mean?

RAY

I've been to five schools in the last three years. Every school has the same five groups--jocks...

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Foster, Greco, Gwen, Van Dam and OTHER ASSORTED JOCKS and CHEERLEADERS are sitting at a cafeteria table.

RAY (V.O.)

...drifters, who move from group to group thinking everyone likes them, but now one does...

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Frank and Dawn approach the jock's table. Frank takes a homework assignment out of his notebook and gives it to Greco. He very happy to see it. Frank and Dawn sit down as Greco copies the homework.

RAY (V.O.)
...burnouts...

EXT. PARKVIEW HIGH SCHOOL SIGN

Ron, Ted and Sheila are behind the sign smoking a joint.

RAY (V.O.)
...nerds...

EXT. PARKVIEW HIGH SCHOOL GYM -- SCIENCE FAIR

Clint, Edward, Raoul and Rhona are sitting at table in front of their exhibit, which is "Life in the Year 2000." A large collage behind them shows a man in a business suit jetpacking to work amongst flying cars. A model of a "Ramada Inn on the Moon" is on the table next to them.

EXT. PICNIC TABLE AT PARK - CONTINUOUS

Ray skips a stone across the pond.

RAY
...and ghosts. Those kids no one notices.

MIKE
And what are you?

RAY
I'm a free agent. A group of one. A clique of none.

JACK
So what are Mike and me?

RAY
Ghosts. You weren't built to be jocks, or born rich so you could hang out with them. You're not smart enough to be nerds or social enough to be drifters, or bad enough to be burnouts.

JACK
(offended)
So that makes us ghosts?

RAY
You're invisible. No one knows who you are, or cares. Someday they'll look through the yearbook and go, "who was that guy?"

MIKE

You know, I was sick for two days once and none of my teachers noticed I was gone.

JACK

I'm not a ghost. Lots of people in school are my friends and the teachers like me.

RAY

Okay. You've been going to this school for two years now? How many times have you raised your hand in class?

They remain silent.

RAY

None. Am I right? How many school functions have you gone to?

They shrug their shoulders.

RAY

Any extra-curricular activities? Ever been to a party? Ever played Dungeons and Dragons with the nerds?

JACK

A lot of people don't do those things.

RAY

Sure. But who are they? You don't even know their names. They're all ghosts who you pass hall and don't even notice.

MIKE

You're making it sound like it's our fault that we aren't popular. I'm the shortest kid in school. Jackie is the fattest.

JACK

Am not.

(to Ray)

I'm the fattest short kid.

MIKE

We can't help it if people don't like us.

RAY

Hey, you act like it's a bad thing. If you lay low people don't bother you.

(MORE)

RAY (cont'd)

Look at me, I put in my five hours and go home.

They are approached by fifteen-year-old SCOTT. He is wearing a faded army shirt and khaki pants.

SCOTT

Hey, Hoffenoper. I never thought I'd see you skipping.

MIKE

Hi, Scott. I thought you moved away. You've haven't been in school.

SCOTT

I stopped going.

JACK

You can do that?

SCOTT

My mom works so I pretend to go to school and when she leaves I go back to bed.

MIKE

This is Ray.

SCOTT

Hey.

RAY

Hey.

MIKE

You know Jackie.

SCOTT

I don't believe it. The Jack-Off is skippin' school.

(to Ray)

You're a bad influence on these two.

MIKE

Hasn't Hedgecock called your mom and told her you haven't been going to school?

SCOTT

He calls and leaves messages on the machine. But I just erase them. Then yesterday I had my cousin call and say she was my mom. She said we moved. He hasn't called since.

RAY

Cool. You never have to go to school again, my friend.

He slaps him a high-five.

MIKE

What do you do all day?

SCOTT

I dunno. Hangout here and at the Seven-Eleven. Sometimes I ride the city bus downtown and walk around down there. I jumped a train once. That was cool.

(beat)

You got any pot?

RAY

No. This town is dry, man.

SCOTT

Tell me about it.

(to Mike)

Did you hear? Ricky Higgbee's mom found a pot pipe in his room and called the cops on him.

MIKE

No way!

SCOTT

Yeah. And she got mad when the cops wouldn't throw him in jail. That is so harsh, man.

RAY

(looking at his watch)

It's after three. We aren't skipping anymore.

Ron Fogerty approaches the group. Scott gives him a soul hand shake.

SCOTT

Yo, Fogerty my friend.

They break the handshake and slap each other's palms with the low five.

RON

What's up? You going to introduce me to your friends?

MIKE

It's me, Mike.

Ron just stares at him.

MIKE

We have, like, three classes together.
We've had classes together every
semester since eighth grade.

RON

Really?

RAY

(to Mike)

Yeah, but you guys aren't ghosts or
anything.

SCOTT

(to Ron)

Man, you gotta help me score some weed.
I'm freakin' out.

RON

(looking around)

Why not yell that a little louder. Man,
keep your voice down, this park is full
of fuzz.

(looking at Jack)

And I'm not too sure about these three.

SCOTT

No, man, they're cool. You guys party,
right?

MIKE

Of course.

Just then a very old man comes by walking a poodle.

RAY

(nodding in the old man's
direction)

Watch it, man. That guy.

RON

What?

RAY

Can't you tell?

SCOTT

What?

RAY

That guy's a narc.

SCOTT
(laughing)
No way.

RAY
Look at him, that ain't no hearing aid,
he's wearing a wire.

ANGLE ON OLD MAN

The dog pees.

ANGLE ON RAY AND GROUP

MIKE
(catching on to the joke)
Yeah, I think he spoke at my church
once. He's a cop all right.

RON
(paranoid, whispering)
Okay. Okay. Stay cool. Let's just walk
away.

The old man starts to walk toward them.

SCOTT
Shit. Shit, he's coming over here.

RAY
You guys go. We'll stall him.

RON
You sure?

RAY
Yeah, we're not holding.

RON
(scurrying off)
Thanks, man. I owe you one.

SCOTT
See you.

RAY
Yeah. See you around.

They watch Ron and Scott briskly walk away.

RAY
What a pair of fuckin' losers.

MIKE

They're okay. They might be burnouts,
but they don't hurt anybody.

RAY

They're a waste of space. Someday we'll
be paying for their welfare checks so
they can sit around at home, watching
Hogan's Heroes stoned.

They just sit, staring at the ducks for awhile.

RAY

What are you guys doing tonight?

MIKE

Nothing. Why?

RAY

You want to help me get back at Foster?

JACK

(cautious)

How?

RAY

It's something I like to call "the
bottle trick," but we'd have to break
into the school to do it.

JACK

No way!

MIKE

(skeptical)

How would we get in?

RAY

I unlocked a window in study hall. It's
in the center court yard so no one will
see us. Are you in?

MIKE

Yeah, we're in.

INT. RAY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

ANGLE ON STAIRS

RAY'S MOM and RAY'S DAD are in the living room having an
argument. Ray comes down the stairs dressed in dark clothes
and carrying a gym bag. He stops at the bottom of the stairs
a moment to eavesdrop.

RAY'S MOM (O.S.)
I suppose all our friends know!

RAY'S DAD (O.S.)
For cryin' out loud, you're paranoid!

Ray leaves slamming the door on his way out.

RAY'S MOM (O.S.)
Please don't treat me like an idiot! I
saw your car parked at her house!

RAY'S DAD (O.S.)
Oh! So now you're spying on me?

INT. JACK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

JACK'S GRANDMA is sleeping in a chair in front of the television. Jack sneaks past, but then comes back and turns off the television. He tucks in grandma with a blanket from the couch. He quietly opens the front door and sneaks out.

EXT. MIKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

ANGLE on basement window on side of house. Mike awkwardly opens the window and climbs out.

EXT. SCHOOL CENTER COURTYARD - NIGHT

Ray, Mike and Jack enter the courtyard from an alley. In front of them is a large wall of windows looking into the dark study hall. Ray is carrying a gym bag and wearing gloves. He is also the only one smart enough to wear dark clothes. Mike and Jack are wearing lighter clothing that jumps out in the moonlight.

RAY
(looking back at them)
Jesus, could you guys be any brighter.

Ray notices that Jack's shirt has glow-in-the-dark letters that reads "Roller Boogie."

RAY
Don't tell me you wore a glow-in-the-dark shirt, dickwad!

JACK
Huh?
(looks down at chest)
Wow, I didn't know this shirt did that.
Cool.

RAY
I'm regretting bringing you guys
already.

MIKE
What's in the bag.

RAY
Stuff.

Ray counts the windows and stops at one near the center.

RAY
Here it is.

He pulls the window from the bottom and it flips up.

RAY
You guys coming in?

JACK
I thought you just wanted us to be
lookouts.

RAY
There's not much need for that, is
there, day-glo boy? Your hanging around
out here will do more harm than good.

MIKE
What if there's somebody in there?

RAY
There's not. I saw the janitor go home
a couple of hours ago.

MIKE
What if the cops come by.

RAY
They can't get in. The doors are
locked. It's dark in there, they won't
be able to see us.

MIKE
I don't know.

Ray tosses his bag in through the window and climbs inside.
He turns back and pokes his head out.

RAY
If you're not coming in, go home.

JACK

Come on, Mike, let's go home. If my grandma wakes up and finds I'm gone, I'll be grounded for the rest of my life.

MIKE

(takes a deep breath)
I'm going in.

RAY

Hurry up then.

Mike scrambles in.

RAY

(to Jack)
Are you going to be a pussy, or are you coming in with us?

JACK

(hesitantly)
Okay. But if we get caught can I say you forced me to do it?

RAY

Yeah, sure.

INT. STUDY HALL - CONTINUOUS

Jack struggles in through the window making a lot of noise. The other cringe and look toward the door in fear that someone has heard.

RAY

(whispering)
Be quiet!

MIKE

(whispering)
Why? I thought you said no one is here.

Jack finally gets in.

RAY

I'm ninety-nine percent sure. But what if someone stayed behind to work late, or came back because he forgot something?

JACK

Let's get out of here!

RAY

I'm not saying there's anyone here. I'm saying we have to be careful just in case.

Ray shuts the window then quietly makes his way to the door.

MIKE

(to Jack)

I can't believe I'm doing this.

JACK

(praying)

Oh, God don't let me get caught in here.

MIKE

I haven't seen you this nervous since Greco pulled your pants down and threw you into the girls' bathroom.

JACK

(panicked)

Oh, my God...Oh, my God. We're going to get caught. I just know it.

MIKE

(excited at the thought)

Yeah. Wouldn't that be something. No one would suspect we'd do this.

FANTASY SEQUENCE INT. POLICE STATION

Mike's mug shot is being taken as TWO POLICE MEN and MIKE'S MOM and Mike's Dad are watching.

MIKE'S MOM

(sobbing)

Why, why, my baby...

MIKE'S DAD

(comforting her)

Where did we go wrong?!

Mike is handcuffed and being led away. Mike stops and turns toward his parents.

MIKE

It's not your fault. Some kids are just born bad.

INT. STUDY HALL - CONTINUOUS

Mike snaps out of it as Ray comes back.

RAY
(picking up his bag)
The coast is clear.

They follow Ray to and out the door.

RAY
Don't shut....

Jack lets the door slam behind him.

RAY
...the door. You idiot.

Ray tries the knob and it is locked.

JACK
Oh, my god we're trapped!

MIKE
Calm down. We'll just go out a side
door.

RAY
And what if there's an alarm or
something?

MIKE
I hadn't thought of that.

RAY
I can't believe I brought Lenny and
Squiggy along. Just don't touch
anything else. Come on.

They continue down the dark hall. After a few steps Ray stops
and the others freeze. He listens then continues down the
hall.

JACK
(whispering to Mike)
This is so creepy. Like in that movie
"Halloween."

MIKE
You never saw "Halloween."

JACK
I saw the ads in the paper, and that
gave me nightmares for a week.

RAY
Shut up! Jesus, anymore talking and
I'll call the cops on you.

He stops at an office door marked "Janitor." Without saying a word he opens the bag and takes out a hammer and screwdriver.

MIKE

What's this got to do with "the bottle trick?"

Ray begins to take the pins out of the door hinges.

RAY

Keep talking and I'll cram this screwdriver up your nose.

Ray pulls out the bottom pin and then knocks out the top. He puts the hammer back in the bag and uses the screwdriver to pry the door loose from the hinge side.

RAY

(to Mike)

Help me get the door off.

Mike helps pull the door free and they set it against the wall.

INT JANITOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

They enter the janitor's office. Ray looks around.

MIKE

Why are we in here?

RAY

I need the key to the lockers to make my trick work.

JACK

They use combinations.

RAY

They can also be opened with a key. Geeze, haven't you guys ever had your lockers searched?

MIKE

Don't the janitors take the keys home at night?

RAY

There's always a spare set.

He goes to a cabinet and opens it. There are hundreds of keys hanging in it.

MIKE

Crap. You'll never find it in there.

Ray runs his finger over the keys and finds a little one.

RAY

It's always the smallest key. Here it is.

(looking at another key)

What's this?

(reading)

"Master key." Looks like we hit the mother load.

Ray pockets the key.

RAY

I'll make a copy at my dad's K-Mart and put this one back tomorrow night. Let's put the door back on.

INT HALLWAY IN FRONT OF FOSTER'S LOCKER - LATER

Ray, Mike and Jack stop at Foster's locker. Ray puts the key in the hole at the center of the combination lock. It fits perfectly.

RAY

(opening locker)

Presto. Doug Henning couldn't have done it better himself.

They get a whiff of Foster's gym clothes.

MIKE

(holding nose)

Geeze, it smells like blue cheese. Doesn't this guy ever wash his gym clothes?

RAY

(holding hand out)

Bottle.

Mike digs through the gym bag on the floor and pulls out a big, half-full bottle of whiskey. He slaps it into Ray's hand. Ray takes off the cap and takes a swig.

RAY

(offering bottle to Mike)

Want a swig?

MIKE

No, thanks.

Ray screws the cap back on and carefully places the bottle on the top shelf of the locker.

He pushes the bottle back a bit and tips it toward him as if to test where a tipped bottle would rest with the door shut. He shuts the door and gives the lock a spin.

RAY
(to Mike)
Coat hanger.

MIKE
What?

RAY
Coat hanger.

Mike digs through the bag and finds an unbent coat hanger. Ray takes it and puts the hook end through the top vent holes of the locker.

RAY
(concentrating)
Now, if I can just loop the neck of the bottle...there.

He tips the bottle until it falls against the door.

RAY
That oughtta do it.

JACK
Do what? I don't get it. Is that it?

MIKE
When Foster opens his locker tomorrow morning the bottle of booze will fall out and break on the floor.

RAY
And if we're lucky, a teacher will be walking by and catch him.

JACK
But he'll get detention. Or suspended. For something he didn't do.

MIKE
This is Foster. You know, the guy who steals your lunch money everyday because he says you're too fat.

JACK
But that doesn't make what we're doing right.

RAY

How else are we going to fight back? He beats me up and I'm the one who gets a detention. This is the only way we can get justice.

Ray hears something.

RAY

Quiet. I heard something.

They listen a moment. Then the sound of flushing toilets echo down the hall.

MIKE

(whispering)

Shit! Someone's here!

In a panic they make a mad dash down the hallway. And slide around the corner.

ANGLE ON HALLWAY AS THEY ROUND THE CORNER

They sprint for the exit. Mike comes to a sudden stop.

MIKE

Wait!

The others continue on to the door.

MIKE

Wait! The toilets flush themselves automatically once an hour.

Ray and Jack hit the pushdown handle on the door and the doors fly open. They run out into the night.

Mike laughs and just strolls to the door.

MIKE

Pussies.

He hears flushing again. Scared, he runs out of the building just as the doors swing shut.

INT HALLWAY IN FRONT OF FOSTER'S LOCKER - MORNING

The hallway is crowded with STUDENTS on their way to their first classes. Mike, Jack and Ray are standing in front of Ray's locker and are watching Foster walk up to his own.

MIKE
(quietly to Ray)
There he is. This is going to be so cool.

As Foster is entering the combination on his locker, Mr. Hedgecock walks by.

ANGLE ON RAY'S LOCKER

RAY
(watching)
Come on, Foster...get that locker open.

ANGLE ON FOSTER'S LOCKER

He is having trouble with the lock and tries it again. Mr. Hedgecock disappears around the corner.

ANGLE ON RAY'S LOCKER

RAY
Damn.

ANGLE ON FOSTER'S LOCKER

He gets the combination right, lifts the latch and opens the door. The bottle falls out and smashes at his feet.

ANGLE ON CORNER

Mr. Hedgecock pops his head back around the corner to see what the noise was.

ANGLE ON FOSTER'S LOCKER

He steps back trying not to step in the glass and backs right into Hedgecock.

MR. HEDGECOCK
A little morning libation, Mr. Foster?

FOSTER
I don't know how that got in there!

MR. HEDGECOCK
I suppose a ghost left it in there?

A CROWD of students gathers around to see what's going on.

ANGLE ON RAY'S LOCKER

Mike, Ray and Jack watch with amusement from a safe distance.

ANGLE ON FOSTER'S LOCKER

MR. HEDGECOCK

You'd better come to the office with me.

FOSTER

I'm not going anywhere, I didn't put it in there. I've been set up!

MR. HEDGECOCK

I said, come with me!

He grabs Foster roughly by the arm. Without thinking, Foster breaks away and punches him square in the face. We hear Hedgecock's nose "crunch." Dazed, Hedgecock drops to the ground like a wet sack of cement.

The crowd of kids lets out a collective, "Oooooo."

Horrified at what he has done, Foster runs away from the scene of the crime.

ANGLE ON RAY'S LOCKER

Ray, Mike and Jack are stunned by what has just taken place.

MIKE

Holy shit.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - LATER

The class is in progress. GIRLS and BOYS are waiting in lines for their turn on the tumbling mat. Mr. Meister and the GIRL'S GYM TEACHER, are busying showing the class tumbling techniques. Ray, Jack and Mike are together in line.

JACK

(whispering to Mike and Ray)

Did you hear? Foster has been suspended!

MIKE

That's not the half of it. I hear he had a gram of coke hidden in his locker.

JACK

Did we put that there?

MIKE

Shhhh! No, you moron. He's been dealing drugs. They say he might go to jail.

(thinking)

Wow. We busted a drug dealer.

JACK

No telling how many lives we've saved.

RAY

(sarcastic)

Yeah, you two are a regular Starsky and Hutch.

Gwen is on the mat. Ray can't takes his eyes off her.

RAY

Who's that?

MIKE

Gwen Van Hocker.

RAY

She's a fox.

MIKE

She's also Greco's girlfriend.

RAY

You've got to be kidding? She'd date a slob like that?

MIKE

It is very sad. They say he has even taken Polaroids of the famous Van Hocker knockers. He's showed them to the guys in the locker room.

RAY

She doesn't look like a slut. Believe me I'd know. My sister's one.

MIKE

Well, I think she was drunk at the time, or something. But Ron Fogerty has seen the pictures.

JACK

My girlfriend is prettier than her.

MIKE

What? That girl you met at camp that lives in Canada?

JACK

She is real!
(to Ray)
Her name is Donna. We kissed and
everything.

MIKE

Yeah, right. Remember at your cousin's
birthday party when we played spin the
bottle?

JACK

Shut up!

MIKE

(to Ray)
He had to kiss a girl and he passed
out.

JACK

I had the flu.

RAY

(quieter)
I made copies of the keys. We'll put
the originals back tonight. I tried the
master key and it opens just about any
door. We've got the run of this place.

Greco walks by and spits a big luggy onto Mike. He laughs and
starts to walk off. Ray notices Greco's shoelace is untied
and steps on it. Greco trips over his feet and hits the
floor. Embarrassed, he picks himself up.

GRECO

Who tripped me?

RAY

Careful, your shoelace is untied.

GRECO

(looking down)
Oh.

Not sure where to place his anger, Greco walks off mad.

RAY

Okay. Why does that guy have it in for
you anyway?

MIKE

I don't know.

RAY

How long has he been picking on you?

MIKE

A long time

SERIES OF SHOTS

A) INT. SCHOOL BOYS BATHROOM

Greco is sticking Mike's head in a flushing toilet.

B) INT. SCHOOL GIRLS BATHROOM

Jack has his pants around his ankles as a group of girls surround him laughing. The door swings open and a pantless Mike is pushed in.

C) EXT. SECOND FLOOR CLASS ROOM

Greco is dangling Mike out the window by his ankles.

D) INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY IN FRONT OF GRECO'S LOCKER

Greco spits on Mike as Mike tries to sneak by him.

E) INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY IN FRONT OF MIKE'S LOCKER

Greco spits on Mike as he walks by.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. SCHOOL GYM - CONTINUOUS

RAY

Why don't you stand up to him?

MIKE

That just seems to make things worse.
There was this one time...

FLASHBACK INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

In a cafeteria full of STUDENTS, Mike walks past Greco with a full tray of food. Greco knocks the tray out of his hands.

MIKE

What did you do that for you big
lummoX.

Greco grabs Mike by the back of the shirt and drags him to the center of the cafeteria. He holds Mike in place by bending his arm behind his back.

GRECO
 (shouting over the lunch
 noise.)
 Attention everybody. Hoffenoper has
 something to say.

The crowd quiets down and everyone looks on.

GRECO
 (quietly to Mike)
 Say, I'm a asshole.

MIKE
 That would be "An" asshole. Not "A"
 asshole.

GRECO
 Say I'm an asshole, then!

MIKE
 Okay.
 (shouting)
 Greco's an asshole.

GRECO
 (pushes his arm up)
 You stupid faggot! Now say you're
 sorry!

MIKE
 I'm sorry you're an asshole.

An enraged Greco push his arm even harder and we hear a "CRACK". Mike goes white and passes out from the pain.

END FLASHBACK INT. SCHOOL GYM

RAY
 He broke your arm?

MIKE
 Well, dislocated my shoulder.

RAY
 Why didn't the cafeteria monitor do
 anything.

MIKE
 Greco was the cafeteria monitor.

RAY

Man.

MIKE

The teachers eat in the teacher's lounge so they're never around.

RAY

Let's get Greco next.

Gwen finishes on the mat and walks past Ray.

GWEN

Hey.

RAY

(cool)

Hey.

The boys drool as they watch her walk away.

MIKE

The weird thing is that she had a crush on me in sixth grade. We used to hang out all the time.

JACK

Yeah, remember when I was the first kid on the block to get cable TV and she used to come over and watch "Lost in Space" with us?

MIKE

Yeah. Then she got boobs and turned into a snob.

JACK

(to Ray)

We have HBO now. And ten cable channels. You can come over and watch if you want.

Ray is too busy watching Gwen bend over and tie her shoe to respond.

MIKE

Sometimes at the Roller Boogie she still talks to me if none of her friends are around. She even asked me to skate once during Girl's Choice.

RAY

Does she go there often?

MIKE

Just about every Saturday Night open skate. You want to come with me Saturday?

RAY

(thinks)

Naw. Skating is for dorks. Besides I can't stand that Disco music.

MIKE

From eight to eight-thirty its a "No Disco" skate.

(beat)

You do know how to skate?

RAY

Yeah. I skated a lot when I was a kid. Maybe I'll come.

Ray watches Greco talking to Gwen. Ray pulls out the master key he is wearing around his neck on a shoe string and feels it.

Rhonda, a nerdy girl approaches Mike.

RHONDA

Hi, Mike. Kinda weird having boys and girls in the same gym class, huh?

MIKE

(irritated)

Yeah. I guess.

She stands there a moment waiting for him to say more, but he doesn't.

RHONDA

Well, see ya around.

MIKE

Yeah.

Ray and Mike watch her leave.

RAY

(to Mike)

What's wrong with you. She was practically stripping for you.

MIKE

She's like, fourteen. She should be a freshman, but she skipped a grade. Besides she's a nerd.

RAY

A nerd is a step up for you.

MIKE

She's gross. She never washes her hair, dresses like a boy and isn't even out of her training bra.

RAY

She's a carpenter's dream...flat as board and easy to nail. Besides she ain't always going to be fourteen. Put in the work now and it will pay off later...unless you want to be wacking off to your Farrah Fawcett poster for the next three years.

INT. ROLLER BOOGIE SKATING RINK - EVENING

The place is packed with both KIDS and ADULTS in a wide-variety of silk shirts and funky pants. A disco ball on the ceiling throws colored light everywhere as the skaters skate to Fleetwood Mac's "Tusk." A DISC JOCKEY is spinning the records from a booth at the far end of the rink. To one side of the rink is a concession and video arcade area. Around the rink there are carpet-covered, mushroom-shaped benches for sitting.

Ron Fogerty is dance skating, doing all sorts of fancy moves. He is wearing a shirt that says "Disco Sucks." He sees Mike, Ray and Jack approach the rink and skates toward them. He skates out of the rink and comes to a smooth stop right in front of them.

RON

Hey, dudes, what's happenin'?

MIKE

Not much.

(admiring Ron's skates)

New wheels?

RON

Yeah. Cost me three-hundred bucks but they're sure worth it. Teflon bearings, man. Super smooth. Speaking of super smooth...you guys want to party?

Ron pantomimes smoking a joint.

RAY

Maybe later.

RON
Skating high is so cool! Ya gotta try
it.

RAY
Is Gwen Van Hocker here tonight?

RON
(looking around)
Yeah. I saw her somewhere. Maybe in the
concession area or the arcade.

JACK
I'm going to play the new Star Wars
game. You coming?

MIKE
No. I'm here to skate.

Mike rolls out onto the floor. Jack rolls awkwardly toward
the video arcade area.

RON
Why do you hang out with those losers,
man?

RAY
Cover, man. Hang out with some good
kids and the heat gets taken off of
you.

RON
Yeah?

RAY
Yeah. You don't see the school cop
going through my locker like he does
yours?

RON
No...what? The school cop was going
through my locker?

RAY
Yeah. This morning. You mean no one
told you?

RON
No, man. Shit. I had an ounce hidden in
my gym socks.

RAY
He didn't find it. At least I don't
think he did. You'd better lay low just
in case.

RON
You are so right.

Burnout Ted comes skating up to them.

TED
(to Ron)
Let's go, rocket man. I'll meet you in
the parking lot.

RON
In a minute.

Ted skates away.

RAY
There's something not right about that
guy. Isn't he a little old to be a
sophomore?

RON
He was held back a couple of years in
Junior High. But don't tell him I told
you.

RAY
Funny. I saw him talking to the school
cop just before they went through your
locker.

RON
No way. Ted is cool, man. He parties
harder than anyone.

RAY
Have you seen that TV Show "David
Cassidy, Man Undercover?"

RON
No, I don't watch TV, it rots your
brain.

RAY
He plays this young-looking cop who
poses as a high school kid so he can go
undercover at school and bust kids.

RON
(laughing)
Ted ain't no David Cassidy.

RAY
I'm just saying, Ted is the kind of guy
they would recruit. Has he been acting
funny lately?

RON

Kind of. I caught him going through my sister's underwear drawer last week.

RAY

Has he suddenly come into some cash? They pay these informants some big bucks.

RON

Now that you mention it. But he said he made some cash selling coke to Foster.

RAY

And then Foster is expelled? Hmrrrrrr.

RON

No way. Ted is cool.

RAY

Well you know him better than I do. But someone seems to be on to you.

RON

(worried)

This is so not cool. What should I do? Can I hang out with those dorks with you?

RAY

Those dorks are mine. No, you might want to try hanging with some nerds.

RON

Ewww, no way. They creep me out.

RAY

Think of it. They're smart, they can help you with homework. The teachers love them. When's the last time you heard of a nerd going to jail?

RON

True.

RAY

And it is a whole other group you could deal to. They've got money to spend on Star Wars cards and Alan Parsons eight-tracks. If you could get them to spend even half of that on pot.

RON

My little brother is a nerd and my parents think he's so pure his farts don't smell.

RAY

There you go. If cops can go
undercover...why not dealers?

RON

Yeah!

(thinks)

But those dweebs aren't going to let me
hang with them.

RAY

You just leave it to me, I'll hook you
up.

The song "Convoy" comes on.

RON

Oh, I love this song. I gotta go, catch
you on the flip side, good buddy, ten-
four.

He returns to the rink. Ray stands for a moment and rolls
slowly forward. He loses his footing and almost falls but
catches himself on the rink wall.

Mike skates out of the rink and back to him.

MIKE

You can't skate!

RAY

Can too! I'm just...a little rusty.
Just leave me alone.

Mike shrugs and skates off.

GWEN (O.C.)

Hey.

Ray wheels around and almost loses his balance. He tries to
recover and lean against the wall in a cool way.

RAY

Hey. Gwen, right?

GWEN

Yeah. So you like to skate?

RAY

Yeah. Love it. Umm. But I twisted my
ankle and I'm a little wobbly.

GWEN

You should sit down.

They sit on one of the carpeted benches.

RAY
Yeah. Twisted it running.

GWEN
Oh, are you on the track team?

RAY
Uh, no. I was at my other school. I still keep up with my training.

GWEN
You should try out for the team. Our cheer practice area is right by the track, and let me tell you, it is a pretty sorry group this year.

RAY
Maybe I will...as soon as my ankle gets better.

GWEN
You want to get a drink or some nachos or something?

RAY
Sure.

She helps him to his feet.

GWEN
You just lean on me.

RAY
(smiling)
Okay.

They slowly skate off toward the concession area.

INT. VIDEO ARCADE/CONCESSION STAND - CONTINUOUS

Jack is playing a Ms. Pacman game as Ray and Gwen roll in.

RAY
(to Jack)
I thought you were going to play Star Wars.

JACK
(not taking eyes off screen)
Too hard.

He sees the reflection of Gwen in the screen and is startled. He turns to see the couple rolling over to a nearby table.

Gwen helps Ray to a seat and then skates to the concession counter. Jack loses his last turn on the game and goes over to Ray.

JACK
She touched you and everything!

RAY
(grinning)
Yeah. Pushed her boob right against my ribs.

JACK
(looking at Gwen at the counter)
Wow.

RAY
Now scram, before she comes back.

JACK
Right.

Jack skates away down a hallway that has a "Rest Rooms" sign above it.

INT. ROLLER BOOGIE SKATING RINK HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ron, Ted and a female burnout, SHIELA are standing near the "Emergency Exit" door that is near the men's room.

RON
Jack, man. Come here.

JACK
(skeptical)
Me?

RON
Yeah. Come here.

He rolls over to them.

RON
How you been man?

JACK
Okay.
(beat)
What are you guys doing?

RON
We're going outside for a minute. You want to come?

JACK
Why?

RON
Why not?

JACK
Okay.

Ron opens the door and they roll out into the night air.

EXT. ROLLER BOOGIE SKATING RINK - CONTINUOUS

Ron puts a rock in the door to keep it open a crack and they move behind a dumpster. Ron lights up a joint, takes a toke and passes it on. A curious Jack goes over to them.

JACK
Is that marijuana?

TED
What are you, a narc?

JACK
No!

They laugh and then pass the joint back to Ron. Ron takes a hit then offers it to Jack.

JACK
No, thanks. I saw this Dragnet rerun where a guy smoked grass and then painted his face blue and ate bark off of a tree.

They laugh again.

SHEILA
(to Ron)
Man, he's all right.

JACK
Well, anyway pot makes you dumb....no offense.

RON
I'm a straight "B" minus student. Are you?

JACK
(ashamed)
No.

RON

It makes you smart. It expands your perceptions, man. You know who doesn't want you to smoke pot? The beer and cigarette companies, man. They want people to keep buying their stuff, so they give weed a bad name.

JACK

Really?

RON

Yeah. One toke of this and you'll go up a couple of I.Q. points.

He offers it to Jack again. Jack takes it.

INT. VIDEO ARCADE/CONCESSION STAND - CONTINUOUS

Ray and Gwen are sitting together in a booth. They have a couple of drinks and some nachos in front of them.

GWEN

...so I think I want to break up with him, but I don't want to hurt his feelings.

RAY

You are pretty young to be settling down. High school is when you're supposed to keep yourself free.

GWEN

That's what my mom says. Of course she doesn't like Bobby.

(beat)

So, do you have a girlfriend at your old school.

RAY

(fake sadness)

I did. But....I don't want to talk about it.

(beat)

She died.

GWEN

(grabbing his hand)

Oh, I'm so sorry.

RAY

She was pretty...like you. She was working at the Dairy Queen and was cleaning out the ice cream machine one night. Some bastard turned it on to be funny and....

GWEN

(gasp)
Oh! How horrible.

RAY

Yeah.

He fakes some tears.

GWEN

Do you want to get out of here and get some air?

RAY

Thank you.

They get up and start to leave. She is supporting him.

RAY

Don't tell anyone you saw me crying.

GWEN

I won't.

INT. ROLLER BOOGIE SKATING RINK - LATER

Mike is zooming around the rink to "Summer Nights" from the Grease Soundtrack. A PRETTY GIRL skates by and his attention is momentarily diverted. He slams into STACEY who is skating onto the rink from the sitting area. They both fall. He quickly recovers and tries to help her up.

MIKE

I'm so sorry!

He falls down. Stacey gets up laughing.

STACEY

Nice bumping into you. My skate was untied. It was my fault.

She helps him up and they skate to the sitting area and sit down so Stacey can tie her skate.

MIKE

I didn't know you skated here, Stacey. I've never seen you here before.

STACEY

I usually skate at the Jenison Rink,
but it's closed because someone stole
all their 8-Track tapes.

MIKE

Bummer.

STACEY

Did you hear what happened to Foster?

MIKE

Yeah. I saw him punch Bushweenie right
in the face.

STACEY

Wow, really?

MIKE

I'm surprised he's not in jail after
something like that.

STACEY

Gwen says he was on coke, he's not
thinking straight. He's really an okay
guy. We used to go out in junior high.
Before the drugs, I mean.

MIKE

(awkward pause)
Ummm. So do you want to skate?

STACEY

(smiling)
Yeah.

They go off onto the floor.

STACEY

(as they round the corner)
Isn't that your friend Jack?

ANGLE ON JACK

He is standing in the center of the rink stoned. He is just
staring up at the disco light ball as people skate around
him.

JACK

Wow. Wow. I can taste the lights!

Mike and Stacey skate up to him.

MIKE

Jackie? You okay?

JACK

(still staring at the
light)

This means something. It's like the
ship in Close Encounters of the Third
Kind.

(looks at Mike)

Only smaller.

STACEY

He's weird.

MIKE

You have no idea.

JACK

I am so smart right now...I think my
head's going to explode.

STACEY

I think he's high.

MIKE

He would never do drugs. He even drinks
Pepsi-Free because he's afraid of
caffeine.

STACEY

(watching people whizz by)

We'd better get him off the floor
before someone runs him over.

They help him out of the rink.

INT. CAFETERIA KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

Ray, Mike and Jack are wheeling out several large 25-lbs.
barrels of potato salad on a cart from the walk-in
refrigerator. Jack is admiring the food inside.

JACK

I've never seen so much food in one
place! Well, except for the
supermarket.

RAY

(to Mike)

He's still stoned.

JACK

I am not! I am un...stoned. Unstoned.
Is that a word? Unstoned? It sounds
funny.

Jack stuffs a few ice cream sandwiches in his pockets and comes out to join the others.

Ray shuts the refrigerator door and rejoins Mike to help push the heavy load.

MIKE

(as they wheel)

Did you have trouble sneaking out tonight?

RAY

Hell, I could come in at two in the morning and my parents wouldn't care.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

They continue to wheel their load down the dark hallway. Jack turns on a flashlight to lead the way.

RAY

Besides, my folks are a little preoccupied these days. My dad says he's moving out.

JACK

No way. Why?

RAY

Moving in with his girlfriend.

MIKE

I can't imagine my dad having a girlfriend.

RAY

My dad's a prick.

They stop in front of Greco's locker and pop the lid off one of the barrels.

MIKE

This stuff smells like sulfur.

Ray opens Greco's locker.

JACK

I wish I had a dad. Even if he was a prick.

MIKE

You have one, Jackie. You just don't know who he is.

RAY

Where's your mom, dead?

JACK

Naw. She had me when she was fourteen. She left me with my grandma and ran away. She comes back sometimes. But never for very long.

RAY

Well, I wish I had a grandma I could go live with. Things are getting pretty bad. My mom drinks like a fish. My dad's never home and my sister dropped out of junior college and is dating some married guy.

Ray takes his gym bag that was stored under the cart and takes out a brick trowel.

MIKE

Man, how do you stand it?

Ray takes a big scoop of potato salad with the trowel.

RAY

(grinning)

I keep busy.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY GRECO'S LOCKER - MORNING

Greco is turning the combination on his locker as Gwen looks on.

GWEN

Where were you Saturday? You promised to come skating.

GRECO

I can't practice football all day and then go skating. I want to party on Saturday night.

GWEN

I think we need to talk.

GRECO

Yeah, whatever. Hey, Foster's having a party the weekend his parents are out of town.

GWEN

Isn't he in jail?

GRECO

No, he's in some treatment program. And it turns out that coke he had was baking powder. He might even get to come back to school.

GWEN

(sniffs)

What's that smell?

GRECO

I don't smell anything.

Greco opens the door and is stunned to find the contents of his locker embedded in a solid wall of potato salad, perfectly troweled right up to the edge of the door.

GWEN

(holding her nose)

Eewwww!

INT. PRINCIPAL HEDGECOCK'S OFFICE - LATER

Hedgecock has a large bandage on his nose and two black eyes. He is seated in front of the P.A. System and has the mic in his hand. He blows on the microphone until it whistles.

MR. HEDGECOCK

Attention. Good morning. Time for morning announcements.

INT. ALGEBRA CLASS - CONTINUOUS

Mike is sitting in class as he and the OTHER STUDENTS half-listen to announcements.

MR. HEDGECOCK (OVER P.A.)

Last night perpetrators broke into the school, vandalized a fellow student's locker and stole items worth two-hundred dollars from the cafeteria.

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS - CONTINUOUS

Ray is sitting in class as he and the OTHER STUDENTS listen. He is trying to keep from laughing. Greco is washing the potato salad off his chemistry book in one of the lab sinks.

MR. HEDGECOCK (OVER P.A.)

This is a very, very serious matter.

INT. BAND CLASS - CONTINUOUS

Jack is sitting in class as he and the OTHER STUDENTS listen to announcements. Jack looks terrified. He's sweating and breathing heavily and looking around as if someone is watching him.

MR. HEDGECOCK (OVER P.A.)
Breaking and entering is a felony and the police have been called. Anyone with information, please see me.

Jack raises his hand.

BAND TEACHER
Yes, Jack?

JACK
I have to go to the...bathroom.

BAND TEACHER
Okay. Make it quick.

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS - CONTINUOUS

Ray is smiling as he watches Greco drying off his book.

ANGLE ON DOOR

Ray sees Jack go by.

RAY
(to self)
Shit. I'll kill that little narc.

Ray raises his hand.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Jack is just about to the door when Ray comes running up behind and tackles him, pushing him up against the wall.

RAY
(quietly)
Where are you going?

JACK
(trying to struggle free)
I can't live with the guilt....

RAY
Don't be a pussy.

JACK

I'm not. Don't call me that. We could go to jail.

RAY

Yes. What would your grandma think of that?

Jack thinks about it.

RAY

It could give her a heart attack or something.

JACK

Okay.

Ray lets him go. Mike comes rushing up.

RAY

Oh, Jesus, not you too?

MIKE

What? No!

(punching Jack in the arm)

I came to stop him. I knew when I heard Bushweenie talk about the cops he'd crack.

JACK

Can I help it if I have a conscience?

RAY

Great. What are we going to do about Richie Cunningham here?

JACK

Oh. Like you're the Fonz! You're not the Fonz, Mike!

MIKE

(thinking)

Jackie. What's the greatest TV show ever?

Jack is about to answer.

MIKE

Not counting "Star Trek." Or "Dr. Who." Or "Land of the Giants."

JACK

"Mission Impossible."

MIKE

And why is it great?

JACK
Because they trick the bad guys into
giving themselves up?

MIKE
Right. They use their heads. They fight
for right using clever capers. That's
what we're doing.

JACK
Really?

RAY
Yeah. We're a team. A covert operation.

MIKE
Jim Phelps wouldn't go running to the
principal of an Eastern Block country
and blow his cover.

JACK
(inspired)
We're just like the I.M. Force.

MIKE
And if you are caught or killed the
secretary will disavow any knowledge of
your actions.

They start to walk back to class.

JACK
Do you think we could be killed?

MIKE
It's dangerous work.

RAY
And if you freak out on me again --
I'll kill you.

JACK
(excited)
So what are we doing next?

RAY
Anything we want.

INT. SCHOOL POOL - NIGHT

Mike and Ray are swimming in the pool. Jack is on the diving
board trying to work up the courage to jump.

RAY
Jump!

MIKE

You can do it!

Jack almost does but chickens out and stands there. Ray swims off camera.

MIKE

Come on, Jack. If you don't jump you'll be a coward all your life.

ANGLE ON RAY

Jack is unaware that Ray is climbing the ladder.

JACK

(eyes closed)

I can't.

Ray pushes him off and he hits the water with a big splash.

JACK

(surfacing)

I did it! I did it!

MIKE

I told you it was easy.

JACK

(swimming toward ladder)

I'm doing it again!

Ray dives in and swims over to Mike.

MIKE

(to Ray)

You know what would be cool? If we could hide in the girls' locker room.

RAY

Yeah. And take a camera or something.

(thinks)

But where would we get the film developed?

Jack splashes into the pool again.

MIKE

I'd like to see Stacey Swift in the shower.

Jack swims over to them.

MIKE

Did you ever notice how she looks like Farrah Fawcett-Majors?

JACK

She does not.

MIKE

Well, a little. Just in the face.

RAY

So you're warm for her form.

MIKE

Yeah. She's nice, too. She talked to me once.

JACK

When?

MIKE

The other night at the roller rink.

JACK

I don't remember that.

MIKE

That's because you were stoned. And there was that one time she interviewed me for the school paper after I had that Bunsen burner accident.

JACK

She had to be nice to you.

RAY

(to Mike)

You know, you should work on the school paper. That way you'd get to work together. Late at night, in the dark room, seeing what develops.

MIKE

Not a bad idea.

RAY

Of course that would mean hanging out with nerds and drifters.

MIKE

Mostly nerds. Ever since Peggy bumped Dawn from the editor position it isn't considered cool to work for the school paper.

RAY

I hate how one group gets to decide stuff like what's cool and what's not. What gives them the right?

MIKE

And that Dawn is such a bitch. Her and Frank are always gossiping about everybody.

RAY

See, they're not even important enough to have rumors about them. We should fix that.

Ray swims toward the ladder.

RAY

Come on, it's getting late and we have a lot of work to do.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

STUDENTS are busying getting ready for the first class of the day. A GIRL is opening her locker. Next to her is a BOY opening his. He finds that the contents of his locker have been switched with his neighbor's.

GIRL

Hey, this isn't my stuff.

BOY

And this isn't mine.

He swings the door shut and looks at the number to make sure he has the right locker.

BOY

This is my locker...

On the other side of him ANOTHER MALE STUDENT is opening his locker. He pulls out a set of Pompons and shakes them. Gwen is on the other side of him and is pulling a big violin case out of her locker.

GWEN

(looking at Male Student
down a few lockers)

Hey! That's my stuff!

She looks down the hall and sees that everyone has the same problem. The STUDENTS are running around confused as they try and find their stuff before class starts.

ANGLE ON MIKE AND JACK

They both look on in amusement as they stand in front of their open lockers.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY NEAR GRECO'S LOCKER - CONTINUOUS

Greco is observing all the chaos. He hasn't opened his locker and is reluctant to do so. He lifts the latch and jumps back as he opens it. He is relieved to find nothing falls out on him. He carefully swings the door open to check the contents. It is then he notices a picture of himself on the inside door dripping with fake blood.

GRECO

Ahhhhh!

Horrified he slams the locker door and backs away.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Greco is standing near his gym locker still shaken. The other students are filing out into the gym. He just stands there as if in trance. Suddenly a hand grabs him by the shoulder.

FOSTER

Boo!

Greco jumps in fear!

FOSTER

(laughing)

Man did I get you!

Greco turns to face Foster.

GRECO

Don't do that man. Hey what are you doing back?

FOSTER

What with the break ins they finally believe I didn't put that booze in my locker.

GRECO

But you're the one doing it...aren't you?

FOSTER

Can't be me, I was out of town this weekend.

GRECO

But you punched Hedgecock?

FOSTER

My parents said they would sue him for grabbing me. That's assault.

(MORE)

FOSTER (cont'd)

You should see Bushweenie, man. Every time I pass him in the hall he starts to shake.

GRECO

(strangely quiet)

Glad you're back. There is some weird shit going down around here.

FOSTER

What's wrong, you look like you've seen a ghost.

GRECO

(opening his locker)

I think someone is out to kill me, man.

Greco opens his locker and a huge amount of multi-colored Jello spills over and plops onto the floor. Foster laughs then Greco shoots him a look.

FOSTER

(stops laughing)

What? It's funny.

GRECO

Please tell me you did this. I won't get mad. I just need to know. Are you the one messing with the lockers?

FOSTER

(grinning)

Maybe I am. Maybe I'm not.

Mr. Meister peeks his head into the locker room.

MR. MEISTER

Come on, girls, class has started.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - CONTINUOUS

Ray is line with Jack as they wait their turn to climb a rope. Mike is half-way up the rope as Rhonda approaches.

RHONDA

(worried)

That looks really high.

RAY

Not so bad, only thirty feet or so. And you have this paper-thin foam-rubber mat to break your fall.

They watch Mike struggle to the top.

JACK
You're almost there, Mike!

RAY
(to Rhonda)
So you got a thing for Mike, huh?

RHONDA
(embarrassed)
No. Why, did he say something about me?

RAY
No. But I know Ron Fogerty thinks
you're cute.

RHONDA
The burnout?

RAY
He's trying to get clean. Besides, most
of those guys smoke pot because they're
so lonely.

RHONDA
He said he liked me?

RAY
Only that you'd be pretty hot if you
fixed yourself up a little. Did anyone
ever tell you that you look like Pat
Benatar?

RHONDA
(flattered)
Really?

RAY
Yeah, if you got that style haircut,
put on a little make up, a leather
skirt. You'd be a stone-cold fox.

She runs her fingers through her hair.

RHONDA
But Ron Fogerty?

RAY
You're right. People wouldn't
understand. And your parents would hate
him.

RHONDA
(smiling)
They would, wouldn't they?

INT. CHEMISTRY LAB - AFTERNOON

Ray is standing by a Bunsen burner looking in an open text book. He is heating up a beaker of blue liquid. Next to him is his lab partner, Dawn. The CHEMISTRY TEACHER is sitting at a desk at the front of the class.

DAWN

Hi, I'm Dawn. Dawn Knack. Knack with a "K." You're Ray right?

RAY

Yeah.

DAWN

Nice to meet you. I'm good at chemistry, you'll be glad I'm your partner.

RAY

(looking at book)

Uh, huh.

DAWN

I know just about everyone in school. I could introduce you to people and show you around and stuff.

RAY

(looks up)

Umm...

She mixes something in a beaker and keeps talking.

DAWN

Do you play sports? I'm on the golf team.

RAY

I'm not much into the whole extra-curricular thing.

DAWN

I'm on the yearbook committee too. And I always work the school plays. Do you act?

RAY

No, not really.

DAWN

(talkng fast)

You should try out. We're doing "Guys and Dolls" this year. You'd make a good Nathan Detroit.

(MORE)

DAWN (cont'd)

But really I don't have time for it what with student counsel and quiz bowl. Say, you wouldn't be interested in quiz bowl?

RAY

Not in the slightest.

DAWN

I'm going to a party at Foster's at the end of the month. His parents are in Jamaica. Do you want to come? Not that I'm asking you on a date or anything. Just as friends. I have a boyfriend in college, he goes to Michigan Tech. But we could go together and I could introduce you to some girls.

RAY

Thanks, but I have plans.

DAWN

Did you have your locker switched today? I did. They say it was the Phantom of fifty-nine. It was this kid who had a heart attack in gym because the coach made him run a hundred laps without stopping. But I don't believe in ghosts. Do you?

She pours a liquid into the beaker and it foams over.

DAWN

Oh, sugar! I don't think that was supposed to happen.

Ray helps her clean it up.

DAWN

So. I heard about your girlfriend. It was so sad.

RAY

Huh? Oh, yeah.

DAWN

My dad's a therapist, so if you need someone to talk to.

RAY

Uh, no thanks.

(thinks a moment)

I um, already have a grief counselor. Your friend Frank recommended him.

DAWN

Frank?

RAY

Yeah, his psychiatrist recommended someone.

DAWN

Frank is seeing a therapist?

RAY

Oh. I've said too much. Forget I said anything.

MR. HEDGECOCK (OVER P.A.)

Attention. Here are the afternoon announcements.

(clears throat)

As you know we had vandals again last night.

DAWN

(to Ray)

What's wrong with Frank?

INT. PRINCIPAL HEDGECOCK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

He is sitting in front of the P.A. system. Everything in his office is turned upside down, the painting on the wall, the furniture, etc.

MR. HEDGECOCK

The police have been called again and they are sending an officer over to question every student in alphabetical order. When the first letter of your last name is called over the P.A. report to the cafeteria.

(clears throat again)

In other news the film strip, "So Now You are a Woman, a story of menstruation" is missing. If you find it, please return it to the library.

INT. ALGEBRA CLASS - LATER

Mike comes into class just as the bell rings. The STUDENTS are talking amongst themselves and not paying attention to the MATH TEACHER up at the front of the class.

MATH TEACHER

Settle down. I know we all had a strange day, but let's find our seats.

Mike sits behind PEGGY, a nerdy girl in pigtails. She turns to talk to him.

PEGGY

Did he hit your locker too?

MIKE

Yeah. Switched mine with Jack's.

PEGGY

It was so weird. They say it was the Phantom of fifty-nine.

The kids are still milling around, exchanging mixed up books and homework.

MATH TEACHER

Come on, I'm not kidding let's get to work.

MIKE

(whispering)

The Phantom of fifty-nine?

PEGGY

(whispering)

You know, that kid who choked to death in the cafeteria when those football players made him eat ten hotdogs in a row. They say he choked to death twenty-years ago today. The ghost is after Greco because he's on the football team. It filled Greco's locker with potato salad because it's always served in the cafeteria on hot dog day.

MIKE

(amused)

You don't really believe in ghosts, do you?

PEGGY

Of course not. But it makes a good story.

MATH TEACHER

Peggy. Is there something you'd like to share with the class?

PEGGY

No. Sorry.

Mike opens his notebook and writes "The Phantom!" He stops and then leans closer to Peggy.

MIKE

(whispering)

Peg. I was thinking of working on the paper.

PEGGY

(keeps facing the front)

Cool. We could sure use your help. Brian and Connie are out with mono. Our next meeting is tomorrow during lunch in the photo lab.

MIKE

Oh, and did you hear about Dawn?

PEGGY

What?

(sarcastic)

Did she miss church Sunday?

MIKE

This summer she went to a party at Clint's family's beach house and from what I hear she had a really good time.

PEGGY

(whispering)

Clint? The nerd?

MIKE

Yeah. She did Clint and Edward at the same time.

MATH TEACHER

Something you want to share with us, Mr. Hoffenoper?

MIKE

No. Sorry.

PEGGY

(Whispering, confused)

At the same time? Is that even possible?

He waits for the teacher to turn back to the blackboard.

MATH TEACHER

We left off on polynomials...

PEGGY

(very quiet)

No way. She wouldn't let anyone get to first base, let alone a couple of geeks like that. They're just bragging.

MIKE

(whispering)

I didn't hear it from them. Rhonda told me. She was there and so freaked out about it she was crying when she told me.

PEGGY

Wow. I always thought that goody-two-shoes act was a fake.

INT. PRINCIPAL HEDGECOCK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ray is arranging a pile of long fluorescent bulbs behind Hedgecock's desk. He is wearing latex gloves. The camera pulls back and we see the room is full of fluorescent bulb piles. Most of the stacks are about four-feet high and held together with duct tape. Some are in the shape of a pyramid, others making a square. Mike comes in with a huge arm load of light bulbs. He too is wearing gloves.

RAY

Don't put them in the closet, or the file cabinet -- they're both full.

MIKE

Second floor is done. How many does that make?

RAY

I don't know. I lost count after three-hundred.

MIKE

I turned Van Antwerp's memorial plaque upside down.

RAY

That ought to freak them out.

MIKE

(proud)

And...

(pulls something from his pocket)

I cut the head off the fifty-nine football trophy.

He tosses the head to Ray.

RAY

Nice touch!

Jack enters with an arm load of light bulbs and carefully puts them behind the door.

JACK

Can we go now?

RAY

I guess, but it would be cool if we could get all the lights.

MIKE

I want to go too. I have a busy day tomorrow.

RAY

Yeah, I guess you're right. I'm trying out for track in the morning.

MIKE

You? Becoming a jock?

RAY

Track doesn't count. Hell it's like being on the bowling team. Besides, I'm only doing to get to closer to Gwen.

JACK

Did you touch her boob again?

RAY

Yeah.

(holds up his palm)

This time with my hand. While I was kissing her good night. French kissing her good night.

JACK

Wow.

MIKE

Greco's going to kill you.

RAY

She says they aren't serious.

MIKE

Oh, I'm sure Greco will just step aside. Say, why don't you take her to Foster's big party? Greco and Foster can take turns beating you up.

RAY

I'm not scared of them. I just might crash that part...

(thinking)

You know what would be cool? If we invited everyone.

He sits down in front of Hedgecock's typewriter.

RAY

In fact, I think I'll just type up a few invitations and run them off on the mimeograph machine.

He starts to type.

JACK

I've really got to go, I haven't had any sleep all week.

MIKE

I think we're working on something.

JACK

It's going to be morning in a couple of hours, people will see us leaving.

Ray stops typing.

RAY

(to Mike)

Here, run me off a hundred of these.

Mike takes it and exits to the outer office.

RAY

Now where is that locker assignment list?

Ray starts going through Hedgecock's files.

RAY

Here we go. Time to put together an invitation list.

Jack plops himself down in a chair.

INT. SCHOOL NEWSPAPER OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Mike enters as other STUDENTS are leaving. PEGGY is sitting at a desk.

PEGGY

You're late.

MIKE

I had to eat lunch first.

PEGGY

We don't eat lunch. If you're going to be a serious reporter you give up the luxuries of lunch.

MIKE

Got it.

She hands him a pink slip of paper.

PEGGY

Hall pass. Good all semester. Tell your fourth-hour teacher you're working for the paper and you have to leave fifteen minutes early.

MIKE

(looking at slip)

Cool.

PEGGY

Don't abuse the pass.

MIKE

I won't.

PEGGY

I want you to interview the principal on this Locker Phantom.

MIKE

Uh. Now?

PEGGY

Tomorrow at lunch.

MIKE

I thought there'd be training or something.

PEGGY

(irritated)

Just ask him what is being done about the break in. He'll talk on and on...you know Hedgecock...then write down what he says. Not that hard.

Stacey comes out of the dark room with a black and white photo.

PEGGY

(taking photo and examining it)

Is this him? He's creepy looking.

STACEY

It was hard to find a picture of him. He wasn't in any school activities. I had to copy it from his memorial plaque.

(MORE)

STACEY (cont'd)

If he hadn't died during the school year I don't think there would be any pictures of him.

PEGGY

Herman Van Antwerp. Even his name is creepy.

She turns the photo toward Mike.

MIKE

Man, he looks like he's thirty years old.

STACEY

All the boys looked like that then. I think it's the buzz cut.

The bell rings.

PEGGY

(points to the door)
Class has started.

MIKE

Huh?

PEGGY

You are abusing the pass.

MIKE

Uh. Right. See ya later... alligator.

He backs out of the room, turns and walks into the door.

MIKE

(trying to recover
gracefully)
Umm, bye.

STACEY

(amused)
Bye.

ANGLE ON MIKE'S FACE

He hears the girls giggling at him. He slaps his forehead.

MIKE

(to self)
See you later alligator? Stupid.
Stupid. Stupid.

ANGLE ON STACEY AND PEGGY

STACEY

Say, did you hear about Frank?

PEGGY

No.

STACEY

Seems this summer he accidently killed his cousin in a fishing accident.

PEGGY

No!

STACEY

And now he's so guilty about it he's become a chronic bed wetter.

INT. CHOIR ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jack and other STUDENTS are standing on risers while MS. HYDUCK is playing the piano. The class is practicing, ABBA's "Take a Chance on Me."

CLASS

(singing)

"Take a chance, chance, chance, chance.
Take a chance on meeee."

MS. HYDUCK

(stops playing)

No, no. The tenors go "take-a, take-a, take-a chance:" throughout. Oh, never mind, well pick this up tomorrow.

The bell rings and the kids start to file out.

MS. HYDUCK

Oh, Jack. Can I talk to you a minute.

JACK

(surprised)

Me?

MS. HYDUCK

(smiling)

Yeah, you.

He comes up to the piano.

MS. HYDUCK

Have you thought about trying out for the musical this year?

JACK

Me?

MS. HYDUCK

Yes, you. I think you'd be perfect for the role of Nicely Nicely Johnson.

JACK

Does he have to sing?

MS. HYDUCK

He opens the play and has three of the best songs. When I did this show four years ago the song got a standing ovation.

INT. DREAM SEQUENCE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Jack is standing in the spotlight as the CROWD cheers and throws roses at his feet.

INT. CHOIR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack is mesmerized by the thought.

JACK

Wow.

(afraid again)

I don't know if I could sing in front of people.

MS. HYDUCK

You do it in choir all the time. Remember last year when you did that solo?

JACK

That was just one verse. And I was really scared.

MS. HYDUCK

You did a great job.

(she hands him a sheet of paper)

Auditions are Friday. I'll help you practice after school, if you want.

JACK

Okay. I'll think about it.

INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

The nerds, Clint and Edward, are sitting at a table with another nerd, RAOUL. Rhonda comes in with Ron trailing behind. Rhonda has a new haircut, is wearing too much purple eye shadow and a short leather skirt, ala Pat Benatar.

CLINT

You're late Rhonda, we have to...

RON

Hey.

EDWARD

What do you want, Fogerty.

RHONDA

(taking Ron's arm)

He's my new boyfriend and he's helping us with the project.

She plops herself down in a chair. Ron stands for a moment then sits down. The nerds look stunned.

RHONDA

Ron, this is Clint, Edward and Raoul.

RON

Hey, so, what's the deal?

CLINT

Nothing you can help us with, I'm sure.

RAOUL

We're doing a project for the science fair. Any ideas?

RON

How about the effects of THC compounds on the human brain.

They seem interested.

CLINT

You mean cannabis?

RON

Yeah, marijuana, pot, weed, reefer, Mary Jane, buds, grass, hay, hemp, herb, jive, rope, stinkweed, stuff, tea, wacky tobaccky....

They just stare at him.

RON

I mean about how it freaks people out
and stuff. Why it's bad for you.

EDWARD

You know, that's not a bad idea.

RHONDA

It beats doing another rat in a maze.

RON

Whoa. We could get a rat high.

CLINT

(excited now)

Yeah and make him go through the maze!

Ted approaches the table.

TED

(to Ron)

They told me you were in here and I
didn't believe it. Let's sneak out,
man.

RON

Can't you see I'm busy, man. Get lost.

TED

Whatever.

He leaves.

RON

Watch out for that guy, man. He's a
school cop.

CLINT

Wow. You'd never know it by looking at
him.

RON

He's a sneaky little shit.

(whispering)

And I think he's the Phantom. You know,
to freak us out.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Frank is sitting at a table. A banner over his head reads:
"Sign up for Play auditions." Jack cautiously approaches and
starts to sign the sheet.

FRANK
(pulling the sheet away
from him)
What are you doing?

JACK
Signing up for the play.

FRANK
I think you want this sheet...for the
stage crew.

JACK
No, Miss Hyduck said she wants me to
try out for Nicely, Nicely Johnson.

FRANK
Okay.
(slides him the sheet)
But do you really want to embarrass
yourself like that?

JACK
(sad)
I guess not.

Jack sulks away.

Stacey approaches the table and signs the sheet.

FRANK
Hey, Stacey what part are you trying
out for?

He turns the paper around and reads it.

FRANK
Sister Sara. Very ambitious.

STACEY
You don't think I should?

FRANK
No, no. If you want the lead you should
go for it. I think you have a shot at
it.

STACEY
Thanks.
(quietly to him)
Oh, and I heard about your problem and
I just wanted to let you know I had the
same thing. I mean when I was little.

FRANK
Problem?

STACEY

Sometimes it just takes awhile for
people to grow into their bladders.
It's nothing to kill yourself over.

She smiles and walks away.

FRANK

What? Bladder?
(yelling)
Hey, come back! What have you heard?

INT. PRINCIPAL HEDGECOCK'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

He is standing behind his desk looking out his window through
the slats in the shades. Mike is sitting in a chair in front
of the desk with a note pad.

MR. HEDGECOCK

Yes, he's out there somewhere. Probably
a former student, now an ex-con looking
for revenge.

MIKE

Can I quote you?

MR. HEDGECOCK

(turning back to Mike)
Huh, oh no. I mean we don't know who it
is. But he picked the lock on the front
door--and all the lockers, so it has to
be someone who has some professional
training as a thief.

MIKE

Was anything taken?

MR. HEDGECOCK

Yes, two hundred dollars in school
property....potato salad.

MIKE

What are we doing to stop further break
ins?

MR. HEDGECOCK

(grinning)
We have a few tricks up our sleeves.

MIKE

(worried)
Like what, security guards?

MR. HEDGECOCK

No, that would have to come out of the personnel budget -- which is used up for this year. No, we dipped into the general building fund to hook up a little surprise for the vandal.

He goes over to the closet and opens it. Inside is a display panel with a keypad and lights.

MR. HEDGECOCK

The Protector-Knight Two-Thousand. Twenty-seven zones of protection covering every inch of this school.

Mike looks dejected at the news.

MIKE

(thinking)

How come the janitor doesn't set it off when he comes in?

MR. HEDGECOCK

He has two minutes to get to this pad and punch in the cancel code.

Hedgecock turns and admires the panel.

MR. HEDGECOCK

We'll catch the bastard yet.

Mike glances on the desk and notices a slip of paper that reads "Access Code." It is upside down but he can still make out the numbers and scrambles to write them down. Hedgecock turns back to face him and he quickly settles back into his chair and returns to his article notes.

MIKE

(writing)

"...catch that bastard yet."

MR. HEDGECOCK

Don't write that down.

MIKE

(scared, thinking he saw the number)

What!

(realizing)

Oh, right.

(crossing out)

Don't write "Bastard."

MR. HEDGECOCK

Say "We will catch the perpetrator," or something like that.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

Two tables of STUDENTS are sitting, waiting to be called into the teacher's lounge just off the cafeteria. Jack is sitting nervously waiting his turn. Rhonda is also sitting at the table across from Jack, doing her homework.

JACK

(to Rhonda)

Ralph has been in there with school cop a long time.

RHONDA

(not looking up from her work)

It's only been two minutes. He spends two minutes with everyone.

(she looks up at him)

I hear they can look in your eyes and tell when you're lying.

DREAM SEQUENCE INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Jack is tied to a chair in a dingy room. A pull-down lamp hangs from the ceiling, the bright bulb only inches from Jack's eyes. A cop circles him. We can't see what he looks like because he is hidden by shadows.

COP

We know it was you! I can spot a law-breaker a mile away!

JACK

(defiant)

You won't make me talk! I want to see my lawyer. Perry Mason.

COP

Listen. Just testify against the other two and we'll let you go.

JACK

No, never! I'll never tell on my friends!

COP

Ha! We didn't know there were two others!

JACK

Damn! I gotta learn to keep my mouth shut.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Jack snaps out of it.

OFFICER FOGERTY, a policeman, escorts a student out of the lounge. He looks down at his clipboard.

OFFICER FOGERTY
(calling)
Jack "Ka-Noff."

The STUDENTS at the table giggle. Jack gets up and heads toward the lounge.

JACK
(angry)
It's Jack "Noff" the "K" is silent.

OFFICER FOGERTY
(smiling)
Sorry.
(holds out his hand for
shake)
I'm Officer Fogerty.

JACK
(puzzled)
Are you Ron Fogerty's dad?

OFFICER FOGERTY
That's right.

JACK
(laughs)
Umm. Nice to meet you.

OFFICER FOGERTY
Why does everyone laugh when they find
out I'm Ron's dad?

Jack shrugs.

OFFICER FOGERTY
I just want to ask you a few questions.
There's no need to be nervous.

JACK
(suppressing laugh)
Oh, I'm not nervous anymore.

INT. CALCULUS CLASS - AFTERNOON

Clint and Edward are sitting next to each other. They are now dressed as burnouts, wearing AC/DC concert shirts. Their eyes are very red, and they are doing their best to stay awake.

The CALCULUS TEACHER is moving among the desks passing out corrected tests. The test is placed face down on Clint's desk, he turns it over and is shocked to see a "B-". Edward receives his test, turns it over and sees he got a "C+". He bangs his head on his desk. Clint rips his test in half.

EXT. SCHOOL TRACK - AFTER SCHOOL

Mike, Jack and Ray are in the bleachers. Ray is dressed in a tee-shirt and shorts and is stretching his legs getting ready to run.

JACK

...So I might try out for the play.
Maybe.

MIKE

You should.

JACK

I'm afraid people will make fun of me.

RAY

Don't they make fun of you now?

JACK

Yeah.

RAY

So what's the difference?

JACK

I don't know.

RAY

Screw 'em. At least they're supposed to
laugh at you in a play.

JACK

Yeah! Screw them! I'm going to do it.

(beat)

I think.

RAY

Don't you see, this is your chance to
infiltrate the drifters.

JACK

It is?

RAY

Yeah, we could use an operative in that
group. If you're in the play they have
to be nice to you, if only in front of
the drama teacher.

JACK

I guess it can't hurt to try out.

ANGLE ON TRACK

The OTHER RUNNERS are lining up as the coach looks on. The coach looks up into the bleachers.

COACH

Ray! Let's go.

ANGLE ON RAY AND THE GUYS

RAY

Gotta go. Watch these pussies eat my dust.

He starts down the bleachers, stops and turns back to Jack and Mike.

RAY

You guys can sleep over at my house this weekend and we can work Friday and Saturday night.

MIKE

I don't know...with the alarm and everything.

RAY

You got the code. We only have one chance to use it. After we hit them again, they'll change it.

MIKE

Okay, I guess you're right.

JACK

Won't your parents mind us staying over two nights?

RAY

That's the beauty of it. My dad's moved out and my mom is going to Muskegon to see my Grandma for the whole weekend. My sister will be there but she's cool.

COACH (O.C.)

Ray! Now!

He runs down the bleachers to the track below.

Mike notices Ron, Rhonda, Clint and Edward slipping under the bleachers from the back.

MIKE

(to Jack)

Since when did those guys start hanging
out together?

He peers through a crack in the bleachers.

ANGLE ON RON AND RHONDA

Ron is lighting up a joint. He takes a puff and passes it to Rhonda.

ANGLE ON MIKE

JACK

Who?

MIKE

Fogerty and Rhonda.

JACK

I think they're going steady.

MIKE

No, way.

(still watching them)

Oh, man! He's got her hooked on pot.
That stupid burnout.

JACK

I didn't think you liked her.

MIKE

I don't. But I'd hate to see her throw
her life away on a loser like that.

(stops looking)

At least she's stopped bugging me.

JACK

(peaking through crack in
bleachers)

You know, she looks a lot like Pat
Benatar.

EXT. PARKVIEW HIGH SIDE DOOR - NIGHT

Mike, Ray and Jack are standing outside. Ray has the key in the door and unlocks it. He hesitates to open the door.

RAY

Now!

He flings the door open and they dash inside.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They sprint down the hall at full speed.

RAY
Go, go, go, go!

The slide around the corner.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

They run up to Hedgecock's office door and Ray fumbles with the key and can't seem to get it into the lock.

MIKE
(looking at his watch)
We have a minute and a half.

RAY
(nervous)
Shut up.

He gets the key in the lock and opens the door. They run to the closet and try to open it--but it's locked.

Ray tries to use the key.

RAY
(panicked)
The master key doesn't work!

MIKE
Maybe there's a key in the desk.

RAY
Let's abort!

MIKE
(looking at watch)
We have over a minute!

He goes behind the desk.

ANGLE ON DESK

Mike tries the drawer and that's locked too.

MIKE
Damn it!

RAY
Fuck!

JACK

What do we do now!?

Ray slams his fist against the closet door. A key falls from the ledge above and makes a "ping" sound at his feet. Jack sees it hit the floor but Ray doesn't notice it. Jack scrambles to the floor for the key.

RAY

We are so screwed!

Ray goes over to the desk to help Mike get the drawer open.

Jack stands up and puts the key in the lock.

JACK

(unlocking door)

I found the key!

Mike jumps over the desk and Ray opens the door. Mike goes over to the keypad. He takes out a rubber glove and puts it on his right hand then punches in the number. Nothing happens. He takes a piece of paper from his pocket and reads it.

RAY

Come on!

MIKE

(showing Ray the paper)

Is that a seven or a one?

RAY

How should I know, it's your writing!

He punches in the number again and a red light on the panel turns green.

MIKE

(looks at watch)

Seventeen seconds to spare.

They pause as if to listen for the alarm and then let out a sigh of relief.

RAY

(patting Jack on the back)

Good job, Jack!

JACK

(surprised at himself)

It was, wasn't it?

MIKE

(to Ray)

So now what?

RAY

Why do I always have to come up with stuff to do? Why don't you guys think of something?

MIKE

Okay, we will.

He looks at Jack and they ponder it a moment.

JACK

We could put itching powder in the coach's gym shorts!

RAY

Do you have itching powder?

JACK

No.

RAY

Do you know where to get itching powder at midnight?

JACK

No.

RAY

Do you know where to get itching powder during the day?

JACK

No.

MIKE

I got it!

EXT. CEMETERY - LATER

Mike, Ray and Jack are covered in dirt as they are struggling Van Antwerp's headstone into the back of the van. They are using the van's tire jack to lift it.

RAY

My god, this heavy!

They manage to get it up into the van and slide it in.

MIKE

(looking around)

The sun's coming up in an hour.

They run around and get into the front of the van.

ANGLE ON FRONT OF VAN

RAY
 (starting the engine)
 We'll do it later tonight. Now that the
 alarm is off we have all weekend.

MIKE
 This is going to be so cool!

JACK
 We're going to burn in hell for this.

MIKE
 Shut up. It's not like we killed
 somebody.

They drive off.

EXT. SCHOOL- NEXT NIGHT

Jack, Mike and Ray are wheeling the headstone up to a side
 door of the school.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ray is having trouble with the wheelbarrow. Jack and Mike are
 looking down the hall with stunned looks on their faces.

ANGLE ON HALLWAY

The hallway is trashed. There are eggs smashed on the walls,
 broken beer bottles and garbage dumped everywhere.

JACK
 Who would do something like this!

Ray takes out a flashlight and shines it on the wall. There
 is the word "FANTOM" spray painted in beg red letters.

RAY
 They really made a mess of the place.

MIKE
 Everyone is going to think we did this.
 I mean the Phantom.

RAY
 We should have reset the alarm. That
 would have given those assholes a big
 surprise.

JACK
This is our fault.

RAY
No it's not.

MIKE
Jack's right. If we hadn't made up the Phantom....

RAY
What do we care? So some jerks trash a school, it happens all the time.

MIKE
I bet it was Foster and his gang.

RAY
Probably. And come Monday he'll be bragging to all the cheerleaders that he's the Phantom.

MIKE
Damn right.
(thinking)
Hey. You know what would be really cool? We could undo all this.

RAY
What? Clean up somebody else's mess?

MIKE
Yeah. Don't you see. They'll come in Monday all like, "Hey look at what we did," only it's like nothing happened at all.

JACK
He'll pee his pants! Do we have time to clean all this?

RAY
We've got tonight and tomorrow night.

MIKE
Jackie, you go find that big plastic bin they use to clean the lockers out at the end of the year.

JACK
Right.

RAY
I'll go find a mop and cleaning stuff in the janitor's closet.

MIKE

I think there's some chemicals in the photo lab that will take that paint off.

Ray holds his fist straight out.

RAY

Phantom power!

The other two stick their fists out and touch his.

MIKE

Phantom power!

JACK

Phantom power!

MIKE

Let's go! Break!

They run off in different directions.

EXT. SCHOOL STEPS - MORNING

Greco is standing on the front steps with Gwen.

GRECO

So what? You're breaking up with me?

GWEN

It's not like we were going steady or anything. I just, you know, think we're too young to be so serious.

GRECO

(trying to play it cool)
You are so full of yourself, Gwen. You don't think I've got better things to do than hang out with a sophomore?

GWEN

I was just trying to let you down easy.

She storms into the school

GRECO

Don't do me any favors!

Foster and Van Dam, come up to him laughing.

GRECO

What's with you guys?

FOSTER

Man, you got to see what we did Friday night.

GRECO

What?

FOSTER

Let's just say I think they might be canceling school today.

GRECO

What did you do, man?

VAN DAM

We trashed the place. It was great!

GRECO

That's not cool, man. What's wrong with you?

The three of them head inside.

INT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

FOSTER

You're just mad that...
 (notices the carnage is gone.)
 ...What the hell?

VAN DAM

Man, they must have cleaned it up this morning.

FOSTER

There is no way they could have cleaned it up in couple of hours.

VAN DAM

(to Greco)
 We trashed this place. I don't get it.

GRECO

Were you drunk at the time?

FOSTER

Yeah, but not that drunk. This is some weird shit, I'm tellin' you.

GRECO

(Talking like Boris Karloff)
 Maybe the Phantom cleaned it up. And now he's out to get youuuu.

FOSTER
 (scared)
 Shut up!

They make their way down the hall and around the corner.

ANGLE ON FOSTER'S LOCKER

A crowd has gathered around his locker and is blocking the view. Foster pushes his way through and sees the headstone up against his locker. On the locker red paint proclaims "You're Next."

GRECO
 (pushing his way through
 crowd)
 What is it...man!
 (noticing stone)
 That is freaky.

FOSTER
 I'm going to kill whoever did this!

FRESHMAN
 You can't, he's already dead.

ANGLE ON RAY, MIKE AND JACK

They are observing from the edge of the crowd.

RAY
 (to Mike)
 Phantom one, Foster Zero.

EXT. FOSTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

In a large affluent house at the end of cul-de-sac, there is a party in full swing. Cars are parked in the driveway, street and yard. Loud music is blaring and we can see a packed crowd of kids through the windows.

ANGLE ON STREET

Ron's van pulls up, pops the curb and parks on the front lawn. The door slides open and the nerds, Clint, Edward and Raoul pile out, along with a cloud of thick pot smoke. Ron and Rhonda exit from the front, obviously stoned.

CLINT
 Are you sure we should be here?

EDWARD

Foster invited us himself, didn't he?
 (quietly to Clint)
 I tell you, hanging out with this
 burnout is the best thing we ever did.
 He's our ticket to all the best
 parties.

CLINT

I guess, but we've got to stop smoking
 pot. I got another B minus today!

EDWARD

Lighten up, we're here to par-tay!

RON

(catching up with them)
 Par-Tay!!!!!!

They rush up the walk and walk in through the front door.

INT. FOSTER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The living room is so crowded they can barely move.

RON

(shouting over music)
 This is great!

RHONDA

Yeah!

EXT. FOSTER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mike, Ray and Jack pull up on their bikes and ditch them in
 the bushes.

MIKE

(nervous)
 Are you sure about this?

RAY

If we don't show up it will look
 suspicious. They'll know who the
 Phantom is by the process of
 elimination.

JACK

If Foster doesn't beat you up for
 crashing his party, Greco will for
 making a move on his girlfriend.

RAY

That's the plan.

MIKE

You are so weird.

RAY

If Gwen see him pummel me, she'll see what an asshole he is.

MIKE

And you'll lose your teeth.

RAY

The things we do for love. Come on.

Ray barges in and the other two reluctantly follow.

INT. FOSTER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

They wade into the crowd.

JACK

It's so loud!

RAY

I'm going to find some beer.

MIKE

(notices Stacey across the room)

Get me one too.

Mike heads over to Stacey and Ray makes his way to the kitchen, leaving Jack stranded in the crowd.

INT. FOSTER'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Foster enters with Dawn in tow. The room is decked out with football trophies, and KISS concert posters.

DAWN

So this is your room. It's nice.

FOSTER

Yeah.

She admires his trophies.

DAWN

Wow, you have a lot of trophies.

FOSTER

Yeah. I made the varsity team this year and already have college scouts after me.

He approaches her and leans in for a kiss.

DAWN
(backing away)
Um, I'm not sure about this. I have a
boyfriend. He goes to Michigan Tech.

FOSTER
Come on it's just a kiss. It's not like
you're married to him.

He goes for it again and this time she lets him. He pulls her
down on the bed and they continue to kiss. He puts his hand
up her sweater.

DAWN
(grabbing his hand)
Don't.

He pulls his hand out a moment then tries it again.

DAWN
(angry)
I said quit it!

She sits up and pushes him away.

DAWN
I only go to first base.

FOSTER
(angry)
Don't give me that! You double fuck a
couple of nerds and you won't let me go
to second? You are such a tease!

He grabs her roughly by the shoulders.

INT. FOSTER'S HOUSE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Just outside Foster's bedroom door, Greco is talking with
Gwen who is laughing. They hear Dawn scream.

DAWN (O.C.)
Help!

Greco tries the door knob but the door is locked. She screams
again and Greco bust the door down.

INT. FOSTER'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Greco rushes in to find Foster on top of Dawn with her
sweater over her head. Greco pulls Foster off of her.

GRECO
 (angry)
 What are you doing, man!

FOSTER
 What? The little bitch was asking for
 it. Help me hold her down and you can
 get a turn next.

Greco shoves him hard and he falls against his dresser
 knocking over trophies. Greco helps Dawn up. Gwen rushed to
 her and helps her up off the bed.

DAWN
 (crying)
 He was trying to rape me!

A crowd has gathered at the door to see what's going on.

FOSTER
 She's lying! She was all over me.

INT. FOSTER'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mike is talking with Stacey. Ray is making his way toward
 them with two beers.

MIKE
 (shouting)
 Great party!

STACEY
 Yeah!

Ray makes it over to Mike and hands him his beer. They notice
 a crowd of people surrounding Dawn, Gwen and Greco coming
 down the stairs.

RAY
 (to Mike)
 Time to talk to Gwen.

Ray makes his way over to Gwen, but she is preoccupied with
 helping Dawn.

RAY
 (to Gwen)
 Hey, Gwen.

GWEN
 Not now, Ray.

GRECO
 (to Gwen)
 I'll get my car and meet you out front.

Greco exits out the front door.

RAY
(irritated)
Where are you going with Greco?

GWEN
We have to take Dawn home.

Ray finally notices Dawn is crying.

RAY
What's wrong.

GWEN
That bastard, Foster attacked her.

DAWN
(crying)
Shut up. Don't tell anybody!

GWEN
We have to go.

Ray watches them leave. Mike and Stacey make their way over to him.

MIKE
What's going on?

RAY
Foster tried to rape Dawn.

STACEY
I don't believe it! I'm going to find him.

MIKE
Wait.

But it's too late. She pushes her way through the crowd and up the stairs.

MIKE
(horrified)
This is our fault!

RAY
Shut up, it is not!

MIKE
If we hadn't spread that rumor!

RAY
Shut up! That doesn't give him any right to force her to do stuff.

MIKE

Let's get out of here.

RAY

Okay. Let's find Jack. I'll check down here and you check upstairs.

They push through the crowd in opposite directions.

INT. FOSTER'S HOUSE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ray enters the crowded kitchen where Clint, Edward, Raoul and OTHER TEENAGERS are pumping up the keg. Clint takes the tap and starts to pour some beer, when suddenly the hose gets away from him and starts to whip around, spraying beer all over. People scatter. Ray ducks out to not get sprayed. The tap finally crashes thorough a glass cabinet and stops.

INT. FOSTER'S HOUSE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Mike makes his way upstairs which is now less crowded. As he goes by the bathroom he hears someone puking.

MIKE

Jackie, you in there?

He hears moaning and opens the door cautiously. Ron is passed out in the bathtub and Rhonda is over the toilet throwing up. She looks up at him.

RHONDA

Oh, god I feel terrible.

MIKE

Are you okay?

RHONDA

I don't think so. Ron gave me a blue pill and now the room won't stop spinning.

Mike takes a hand towel wets it and bends down to her and puts the towel on the back of her neck.

MIKE

My mom does this when I'm sick.

RHONDA

Oh, that feels so good.

Looks at Ron in the tub.

MIKE

What are you hanging out with a loser like Fogerty for?

RHONDA

I never had anyone like me before.

MIKE

You can do better than him. Look at how he's dragged you down to his level. Now you're driving the porcelain bus.

RHONDA

(laughs)

Porcelain bus.

There's a knocking at the door.

KID (O.C.)

Come on, open up there's a line out here!

RHONDA

(embarrassed)

I don't want people to see me this way.

MIKE

Do you want me to walk you home?

She nods "yes."

RHONDA

(looking into tub)

What do we do about him?

Mike slides the shower curtain closed and helps her to her feet.

MIKE

He'll be okay.

RHONDA

Actually, I'm feeling better now that I've thrown up.

EXT. FOSTER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

A police car pulls up and a pair of cops get out and head for the door as Mike and Rhonda exit.

COP

(to Mike and Rhonda)

Hey, you come here.

They freeze, Mike considers making a break for it, but Rhonda is in no condition to run. Ray comes out and assesses the situation.

RAY
(to cops)
Hey, there's a kid over-dosing in here!
Call an ambulance!

He dashes away in the other direction. A cop starts to give chase.

COP 2
Let him go. Let's see what's going on
in the house.

The cops stop and the two of them go up the walk.

INT. FOSTER'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A dazed Ron comes down the stairs.

RON
Rhonda!

Ted is near the door and hears a loud knocking. He opens it and the cops step in.

RON
(yelling at Ted)
You freaking narc, I'll kill you!

TED
(confused)
What?

Ron tackles him and the cops jump in to break it up.

INT. FOSTER'S HOUSE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Clint, Edward and Raoul are in line trying to sneak out the back door with a bunch of OTHER PARTY GOERS. Frank pushes his way toward them.

FRANK
(to nerds)
You!

CLINT
What?

Frank punches Clint and falls against Edward.

FRANK

I'm going to get you for those filthy lies you told about Dawn!

CLINT

What? I don't even know her.

EDWARD

(quietly to Clint)
Careful, I hear he's a psycho.

Frank tackles him as one of the cops comes into the kitchen.

CLINT

Help! Get this crazed bed-wetter off me!

EXT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Stacey is talking with Mike and Jack.

STACEY

...And then they took him away in hand cuffs.

MIKE

You don't think Dawn called the cops on him?

STACEY

I don't think so. They were taking him away because of the keg and some coke in his room. They took down everybody's name and called our parents. I'm in such trouble.

JACK

Wow, I'm glad I left early. I could be in jail now.

STACEY

And Rick wasn't in school today.

JACK

You think he's in the slammer?

STACEY

I don't know. I'm going home sick and call him.

MIKE

What? Why would you want anything to do with him?

STACEY

We're only hearing Dawn's side of the story.

(quietly)

I hear she is really quite the slut. I wouldn't be surprised if she made the whole thing up just to get attention.

MIKE

I don't think she did that. I believe her.

STACEY

You don't know him like I do. Is it fair he's going to get expelled and lose his scholarship, just because of an accusation?

MIKE

You don't know him. You dated him in eighth grade! He hasn't said two words to you since. He's been nothing but mean to everyone at this school!

STACEY

That's not true. He's a good friend of mine and I think I should give him the benefit of doubt!

MIKE

Fine! Date a drugged out rapist, see if I care.

STACEY

You are such a baby. I can't believe I felt sorry for you.

She storms off.

MIKE

Sorry for me? Ha!

RAY (O.C.)

You too?

A startled Mike turns and seek Ray who has snuck up on him.

MIKE

I think we broke up. Not that we were ever really going together.

RAY

Gwen is back with Greco. Seems his playing the hero at Foster's party scored him a whole lot of points.

MIKE

This sucks. The Phantom is supposed to help us, not hurt us.

JACK

I've decided I'm leaving the gang.

RAY

Gang? We're not a gang.

JACK

I don't want to be the Phantom any more.

RAY

Keep your voice down. What are you talking about? We need him more than ever.

MIKE

I'm with Jack, this thing has gotten way out of hand. Besides half the school thinks Greco's the Phantom now.

RAY

Suit yourselves. I have at least one more trick up my sleeve.

He walks away.

MIKE

What are you going to do?

RAY

Oh, you'll see. And it will be the greatest prank yet. I don't need you two losers to pull it off.

EXT. SCHOOL TRACK- DAY

Ray crosses the finish line at a track meet and wins the race as the CROWD cheers. Mike and Jack are sitting in the bleachers with Gwen and Stacey.

INT. SCHOOL DARKROOM - DAY

Mike and Rhonda are laughing as they develop pictures. Mike hangs up a picture and Rhonda kisses him on the cheek.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM (GUYS & DOLLS PLAY) - NIGHT

Jack is on stage as Nicely Nicely Johnson in "GUYS AND DOLLS" singing the title song with the chorus. He's out front in the spot light.

JACK
 (singing)
 ...Call It funny, but it's better than
 even-money, that the guy's only doing
 it for some doll, some doll, some
 dollllll!

The crowd erupts in applause.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA (SCHOOL DANCE) - NIGHT

The theme of the dance is "Happy Daze" and the KIDS are dressed in '50s style clothes as songs from the "Grease" sound-track blast out of big speakers. A DISC JOCKEY in a shiny gold coat is manning the sound board. On the stage is a large black & white photo of Van Antwerp. A banner across the picture reads: "In memory of our favorite ghost."

ANGLE ON MIKE AND RHONDA

They sit at a table.

MIKE
 (to Rhonda)
 I'll go get us some punch.

RHONDA
 Okay.

EXT. SCHOOL CENTER COURTYARD - NIGHT

Ray is dressed in black. He has ladder up against the wall leading to the roof, where he has attached a block and tackle with a rope and large hook. A large barrel drum with handles sits next to ladder. Jack wanders into the courtyard.

JACK
 Hey, Ray. What are you doing?

Ray hooks the sealed barrel by the handle.

RAY
 (hoisting the barrel up)
 Nothing. Go away.

JACK
 What's in the barrel

RAY
Twenty-Five gallons of pigs blood.

JACK
Where'd you get that? Never mind, I don't want to know. What are you going to do with it?

RAY
That's for me and the Phantom to know, and you to find out. Did you see the movie "Carrie?" No, you probably didn't.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA (SCHOOL DANCE) - MOMENTS LATER

Jack rushes in past Greco's table toward Mike and Rhonda.

GRECO
Fatso!

JACK
(stops)
Hey, I can lose the weight, but you'll always be ugly.

Everyone at Greco's table laughs.

Jack resumes his rush to Mike's table.

JACK
Mike! You gotta come, quick. I think...the Phantom is going to do something really bad.

MIKE
Like what?

JACK
He said something about the movie "Carrie."

MIKE
Oh, shit.

RHONDA
What is it?

MIKE
I'll be right back. We just need to check on something.

He gets up and he and Jack rush out.

EXT. SCHOOL ROOF - MOMENTS LATER

Ray is wheeling the barrel on a dolly over to a skylight.

ANGLE ON LADDER

Mike comes up the ladder and onto the roof.

RAY

Oh, now he shows up. After all the hard work is done. Okay you can help me pour it.

MIKE

Don't do this, Ray. You'll just ruin everyone's night.

RAY

It's worth it. This is going to be great. Everyone will be screaming and running around....

MIKE

It's stupid! The Phantom is way better than this.

RAY

It's only stupid because you didn't think of it. I can't wait to see Greco and Gwen dripping with blood.

MIKE

I won't let you do it. And if you do I'll tell.

RAY

You think you can stop me?

He faces him and stands tough.

RAY

Take your best shot...nerd.

MIKE

I'm not a nerd, I'm a ghost, remember?

He tackles Ray and the two roll around on the ground.

ANGLE ON LADDER

Jack comes up the ladder, looks down and gets scared. He closes his eyes then regains his courage and opens them to see the other two fighting. Jack reluctantly climbs up onto the roof. He is unaware that he has knocked the ladder down.

JACK

Stop it, guys!

They ignore him. Ray rolls up and on Mike and pins him. He goes to punch him in the face, but stops and punches him in the shoulder instead.

MIKE

Ow!

Ray gets up and heads back over to the barrel.

MIKE

(to Jack)

Don't just stand there, stop him.

Jack tackles him and they roll a moment, but Jack gets on top and pins him. Mike rushes over and sits on his legs.

RAY

Let me up!

MIKE

No! You can't do this. You're a bigger bully than Foster or Greco ever were! The Phantom goes away here and now!

RAY

I can't believe you're protecting those losers! They spit on you, ignore you, take away your girlfriends...you were nothing until I came along.

JACK

We weren't nothing! We aren't ghosts anymore. So shut up!

Mike is impressed at Jack's sudden feistiness.

MIKE

Yeah, what he said. Besides you'll be gone next year. We have to survive three years here.

RAY

No, I'm not. My dad left and my mom and me are staying in this hell hole of a town.

(calmly)

Get off me. I won't do anything.

They get off and he sits up.

RAY

In three years none of this is going to matter anyway.

(MORE)

RAY (cont'd)
(notices the ladder is
missing)
Hey, where's the ladder!

He jumps up and rushes over to the edge and looks down.

RAY
Damn it!

Mike goes over to the other side of the roof.

MIKE
Maybe there's a way off over...

He notices something when he looks down.

RAY (O.C.)
Wait, we can climb down the rope.

ANGLE ON GROUND IN FRONT OF SCHOOL

A drunk Foster is pouring gasoline on the school sign and along the wall. He is laughing

ANGLE ON ROOF

MIKE
(whispering)
Guys, get over here.

ANGLE ON GROUND IN FRONT OF SCHOOL

Foster opens a second can of gas and splashes it up and down the wall. He takes out a book of matches.

ANGLE ON STEPS OF SCHOOL

A BOY and GIRL come out the side door holding hands. They see Foster.

BOY
What are you doing?!

FOSTER
(slurring speech)
Teaching all you losers a lesson!

He lights a match.

FOSTER
It's going to be a hot dance!

Suddenly twenty-five gallons of blood pours out of the sky dousing the match and Foster. A stunned Foster just stands there as he is showered.

The Girl and Boy let out blood curdling screams and rush back inside.

RAY (O.C.)
(in a spooky voice)
This is the Phantom! Repent, or die!

FOSTER
Ahhhhhh!

He goes quiet, then looks at his blood soaked hands and screams again.

FOSTER
Ahhhhh!

ANGLE ON STEPS SCHOOL

Teachers and students come pouring out to see what's going on.

FOSTER
Ahhhhh!

EXT. SCHOOL CENTER COURTYARD - LATER

Ray, Jack and Mike are standing by the window where they had first broken into the school. Ray is finishing digging a hole with a stick. He stands and takes the master key from the shoelace around his neck.

RAY
This is it.

MIKE
Maybe we should keep it.

RAY
It will be here if we need it. But let's face it, with the alarm we aren't going in again. They'll change the code.

He drops it in the hole.

JACK
We'll miss you Phantom.

The three of them push dirt into the hole with their feet and stare at the ground a moment. Rhonda comes into the courtyard.

RHONDA

What are you guys doing back here?

RAY

Nothing.

(looking into the dark
study hall)

We thought we saw the Phantom moving around in there.

RHONDA

Really?

She cups her hands against the window and looks in.

RHONDA

I don't see anything.

(pulling back)

He must have moved on.

(she winks at him)

MIKE

(smiling)

Yeah, I guess so.

RHONDA

Belinda's having a makeout party in her parent's basement. You guys want to go?

RAY

Can you get dates for my friends?

RHONDA

Shouldn't be a problem. So far it's all girls.

MIKE

Let's go!

They start to walk off.

JACK

Can I stop at my house and get an extra inhaler? I want to be prepared for kissing this time.

MIKE

(sighs)

Yeah, it's on the way.

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Steve Hopstaken
(952) 994-1683
Email: hopstaken@gmail.com