

The West Wing

Metamorphosis
v.02

by
X. Dean Lim

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

Superimposed over screen:

9:30PM

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE - TOBY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

TOBY is rummaging through the bottom drawer of his desk. There is a very large CUT ALONG HIS LIP. He pulls out a fat, FROSTED BOTTLE of clear alcohol. Asian characters are written on the outside. He smiles but then grimaces when it hurts.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT THE WHITE HOUSE - THE OVAL OFFICE - EARLIER EVENING

BARTLET is very bothered. There's a knock on the door.

BARTLET

Yes!

Toby enters.

TOBY

Mr. President...

BARTLET

Goddamnit Toby!

TOBY

...Sir.

BARTLET

Toby, I am used to being maneuvered by the Republicans! I am used to being maneuvered by my constituents! Congress! The Justice Department! My own party! Hell, even my own wife!

TOBY

Sir...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET

But Damn it, Toby, not my senior staff.
It's like the last bastion of people I
can actually bully!

SMASH CUT TO:

**INT - THE WHITE HOUSE - TOBY'S OFFICE - NIGHT (INTERCUT BACK
AND FORTH BETWEEN THE OVAL OFFICE).**

Toby drops ice into a martini shaker. He pours a deep shot,
takes a moment then pours a double.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT THE WHITE HOUSE - THE OVAL OFFICE - EARLIER EVENING

BARTLET

... These weren't issues I had to worry
about; totally off the radar. Except you -
not Congress, not the Senate, not even
the damned Supreme Court - made it into
something I had to worry about!

TOBY

I think if this administration...

BARTLET

Toby, I think it's abundantly clear that
I really don't give a rat's ass what you
think of this administration.

DISSOLVE BACK TO:

INT - THE WHITE HOUSE - TOBY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Toby is bottoms-up in one gulp.

DISSOLVE BACK CUT TO:

INT THE WHITE HOUSE - THE OVAL OFFICE - EARLIER EVENING

BARTLET

My god Toby, you really are the problem
child. Why can't you be more like Sam,
Josh, and CJ, - the good kids in the
family.

TOBY

If this administration didn't have it's
head up it's ass!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET

Are you saying you think that this administration has it's head up it's ass or I, the President of these United States, has his head up his ass? Because there is very little distinction in what you're saying here Toby!

DISSOLVE BACK TO:

INT - THE WHITE HOUSE - TOBY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Toby pours another.

DISSOLVE CUT TO:

INT THE WHITE HOUSE - THE OVAL OFFICE - EARLIER EVENING

Bartlet and Toby are nose to nose.

BARTLET

-- you picked a hell of a time to become reactionary Toby!

TOBY

-- it beats the bleachers!

BARTLET

You know I have half a mind right now to knock you on your whining, self-absorbed ass.

DISSOLVE BACK TO:

INT - THE WHITE HOUSE - TOBY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

As Toby shakes the Martini tin, SAM bursts in.

SAM

What the hell were you thinking?!

TOBY

Come on in Sam, the door's open. (then)
You just missed Josh. You two could've given your condolences at the same time.

SAM

That was so damn...
(sees Toby's lip)
Yikes! Does that hurt?

Toby eyes him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM (CONT'D)

I can't believe he did that.

TOBY

Yup.

(holds up the bottle)

Want one?

SAM

Toby, what the hell...?

TOBY

Sam! Do you want one?

SAM

What is it?

TOBY

Japanese Rice Vodka. It's really nice stuff.

SAM

Are you serious?

TOBY

It's kinda' like Sake, but with a lot more punch. Kicks the crap out of bourbon.

SAM

You don't think I'll have one, do you?

TOBY

Sam, I really don't --

SAM

-- Sure. Yeah. I'll have one. Why not? It's not everyday you get to drink to a friend's self-destruction.

Toby pours another with a wry smile. He shakes the martini tin then puts it against his split lip.

TOBY

Yeah.

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Superimposed over screen:

7:30AM

INT - ENTRANCE TO THE WEST WING -DAY

It's the top of the morning. TOBY briskly enters with CHUN (official looking, Asian, late 30's to early 40's). They merge with DONNA.

DONNA

Hey Toby.

TOBY

Hey. Donna, this is the incomparable Chun.

DONNA

"The Incomparable?" Wow.

CHUN

'Morning Donna.

TOBY

Chun's our newly appointed liaison with Justice. He's the man. The head-dude. Our *Go-To* guy.

CHUN

It helps if the White House Communications Director signs your permission slip.

DONNA

I guess so.

Donna gives Toby a quick look-over.

TOBY

What?

DONNA

You're in a good mood. Actually, it's more than that. You're in a great mood.

TOBY

Donna, it's first thing in the morning. Why wouldn't I be in a great mood?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DONNA
Seriously, what gives?

TOBY
The Knicks won in over-time last night...

DONNA
I saw that. And that's why?

TOBY
McEnroe's still undefeated on the Seniors
tour.

DONNA
It's good to see he's undefeated
somewhere. And?

CHUN
Snap-G.

DONNA
Snap-G? The rapper who's suing a
parental advisory group because of a
label warning?

TOBY
Yup.

DONNA
So?

TOBY
So Chun here tells me he's about to win.

DONNA
Wow. You listen to Snap-G?

TOBY
Not even a little bit. But I like that
he's about to win a major freedom of
speech case. It reminds me of when I was
young.

DONNA
You were young Toby?

CHUN
He was young and he would've protested
things like record warning labels,
believe me.

TOBY
Chun here went to PS 201, in Brooklyn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHUN

Toby went to PS 132, our biggest rival.

TOBY

The rival that pased you four years in a row on homecoming.

CHUN

We used to hear stories about Toby. He graduated a legend.

DONNA

A legend? Wow.

CHUN

He held a war rally and locked the teachers in the teachers lounge. Made the stuff at Columbia University seem like a campfire girl rally.

TOBY

They were light-weights at Columbia.

CHUN

You would've loved record labels Toby.
(smiles and heads off)
Nice meeting you Donna.

DONNA

Nice meeting you.

TOBY

That whole case just gives me a tingle.

DONNA

A tingle? Wow, this kinda' makes me wish there was a major first amendment case every morning.

TOBY

Doesn't it though?

DONNA

I wonder how long this great mood is going to last.

ABBY approaches from behind.

ABBY

Toby Zachariah Zeigler!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DONNA

(looks at her watch)

Wow. Three whole minutes.

(shares a look with Toby, then)

Good Morning Mrs. Bartlet; Toby's a legend.

ABBY

His parents must be proud.

Donna knows to move off.

TOBY

Good morning Mrs. Bartlet.

ABBY

Toby, a Senator Strickland has hit up my office with something called the Sorrenson Bill.

TOBY

Yeah, that would be the nationally mandated school uniforms thing.

ABBY

Very good Toby. Now I can see why you're such a legend. He said you haven't returned any of his calls. Toby, are you ignoring a United States Senator?

TOBY

Strickland's a third-termmer with very few friends and only three weeks left before he has to vacate the seat. He's a senator, but not for long. And the Sorrenson Bill is a joke.

ABBY

Of course it's a joke. That's not the point. He's actually bothering the First Lady because he thinks that's how you get to the White House Communications Director. Am I the only one who finds that backwards?

TOBY

He's just trying to make some noise on his way out the door.

Toby heads for the nearest coffee and pauses.

ABBY

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

TOBY

(RE: COFFEE POT)

In three years I've never gotten to the fresh pot. I always get the bottom. This stuff smells nice. You know, I'm really having a good day.

ABBY

-- Toby --

TOBY

Oh, I'm going to keep on ignoring him because I should. So should you. I wouldn't even wipe with the Sorrenson Bill. We should also keep ignoring him because, well, it's fun.

Beat. Toby sips his coffee awaiting her reaction, then...

ABBY

Fine.

CUT TO:

INT - WHITE HOUSE - BULLPEN - SAME TIME

CJ trots in to find SAM and JOSH casually leaning up against the coolers.

JOSH AND SAM

Hey.

CJ

Hey... What?

SAM

Nothing.

CJ

Fine.

Beat.

JOSH

Hey Sam, did you know that CJ got another one of those mystery letters again?

CJ

Oh gawd...

SAM

Really? Isn't that, like, the ninth one?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH
Why, I believe so.

CJ
Drop it you morons!

CJ moves on, the guys follow-

SAM
"Morons?" Is that an appropriate way for a senior white house staff member to address her fellow senior white house staff members?

CJ
No, it's an appropriate way for a senior white house staff member to address you two morons.

SAM
(re: A LETTER in Josh's hand)
Josh, isn't that one of those letters right there?

CJ turns back. Josh and Sam examine the letter.

JOSH
I believe so. It was delivered to my office by accident.

CJ
Hey! Give me that thing!

SAM
Finders, keepers.

CJ
What are you in third grade?

JOSH
I especially like the colors on the outside. It looks official but not quite.

SAM
Yeah, this sucker's definitely personal.

JOSH
And you can tell there's a hint of, dare I say it, "festivity" to it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CJ

(growl)

Josh Lyman if you don't give me back that letter immediately, I will eviscerate you in such a painful and evil way that the Devil will be envious of my ingenuity and God himself will find it too gruesome to forgive!

Beat. Genuinely afraid for his life, Josh sheepishly hands her the letter.

CJ (CONT'D)

Thank you.

CJ enters her office and slams the door closed.

SAM

"Eviscerate?"

JOSH

(silently)

Wow.

SAM (O.S.)

What was with those letters?

SMASH CUT TO:

INT TOBY'S OFFICE - NIGHT (9:00PM)

It's the same time as the cold open. Toby pensively looks out his window.

TOBY

What?

SAM

Those letters.

TOBY

What letters?

SAM

You know, those letters that CJ has been getting. A whole bunch of them. They've been coming through our security checks for the past three weeks. They look real personal too. And festive.

TOBY

I don't give a damn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM

Ok.

Beat.

TOBY

I was having a good day, you know.

Toby looks out his window again.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT TOBY'S OFFICE - DAY (9:00AM)

Toby is seated at his desk smelling his coffee. LYDIA MINELLI (45, confident, smart, and always comfortable) is at his door.

LYDIA

Knock, knock.

TOBY

Hey. What are you doing here?

LYDIA

Got a moment?

TOBY

That depends on what for.

LYDIA

What, one friend in Washington just can't stop in, unannounced, right at the beginning of the day to say, "Hello. Good morning. How are you doing?" to another friend in Washington?

TOBY

No.

LYDIA

Toby...

TOBY

You're not going to give me a thing are you?

LYDIA

"A thing?"

TOBY

Yeah, because I'm kinda' in a good mood this morning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lydia smiles and plops herself down on Toby's couch.

LYDIA

Then you're gonna' love this one Toby.
And you know why, because you have a
sense of humor.

TOBY

I'm famed for it in the Oval Office.

LYDIA

Oh I bet you are.

TOBY

Why are you here?

LYDIA

Guess.

TOBY

You're here to tell me how happy you are
the Knicks won in over time last night.

LYDIA

I am not, however I am happy they did.
Any other guesses?

TOBY

The chief political operative of the head
of the Senate Majority Whip drops by my
office, unannounced. Gee, could it be
that perhaps she's got a thing from the
head of the Senate Majority Whip?

LYDIA

Sort of. Remember that sense of humor
thing...?

TOBY

Lydia!

LYDIA

Senator Strickland, Toby.

Beat.

TOBY

Are you kidding me?

LYDIA

I sincerely wish I were.

Toby sighs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LYDIA (CONT'D)

Toby, Strictland has worked with my boss...

TOBY

That would be the leader of the Senate Majority Whip again.

LYDIA

Yeah, that guy. Anyway, they've been working together for three terms now. They're chums. They're buddies. One might even call them cohorts. But unfortunately one of them is about to leave the island. Some technicality about being voted out of office, or something like that.

TOBY

Yeah. I hate it when that happens.

LYDIA

'Totally with you on that. In any event, Strictland has never had legislature come out exclusively from his office. He's always been a team player. He's always attached himself. And now he wants his chance up at the plate.

TOBY

The Sorrenson Bill.

LYDIA

Yup.

TOBY

Your boss can't seriously care about the Sorrenson Bill.

LYDIA

Between you and me, I don't really think he does. But your boss...

TOBY

...Who would be the President of the United States.

LYDIA

...Yeah, that guy. He put school uniforms in his State of the Union last year, which gave Strictland something to nibble on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TOBY

I can never get my boss to keep his mouth shut.

LYDIA

Yup. So now my boss wants your boss to consider the Sorrenson Bill because it's Strickland's baby and he's headed out to graze in a few weeks.

TOBY

And your boss wants us to hold his hand out to the pasture.

LYDIA

That's politics Toby.

TOBY

The Sorrenson Bill is a joke.

LYDIA

And you won't hear any arguments on that from me.

Beat.

TOBY

When you woke up this morning, did you think this was how you were going to start your work day?

LYDIA

(laughs)

No. I didn't. But I just did. And now, I'm going to get myself a cup of coffee.

(Re: Toby's Coffee)

That smells great.

(gets up to head out)

Just let him bat for a bit Toby. He won't even get on base.

TOBY

Yeah.

FADE OUT:

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE - BULLPEN - DAY

CAROL passes CJ. She has several LETTERS in her hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAROL
(re: Letters)
'Morning CJ. These arrived.

CJ
Oh geez. Ok Carol, we need to discuss
you discussing my mail with other people.

CAROL
What, I'm not allowed to discuss your
personal, private mail with other people?

CJ
Well at least not with Sam and Josh -
Huey and Luey of the West Wing.

CAROL
I didn't discuss your mail with Huey and
Luey. They were just in the room.

CJ
In the room with who?

CAROL
The President.

CJ
The President?! The President was
discussing my mail?

CAROL
One of *The Letters* found its way to the
Oval Office.

CJ
You're kidding me.

CAROL
No. Ya' know, I think it was those crazy
guys in Mail Security. I think they're
getting tired of screening them.

CJ
They can't get tired, they're Security.

CAROL
Are the letters a threat?

CJ
No. You were in the room when I called
them and told them they were personal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CAROL
And you told them to...

CJ
...Keep sending them through. Which is exactly what they're doing, isn't it?

CAROL
Yeah.

CJ
Ok, call down to those *crazy guys* in White House Mail Security and tell them to chose someone as a sacrificial lamb, immediately. Otherwise I'll just randomly get to one of them when they least expect it.

CAROL
Gotcha.

Carol moves off. LEO approaches.

CJ
Hey Leo.

Leo hands her a LETTER.

LEO
This was very decorative. What did it say again, from the "TJFHSA Board?"

CJ
The "BJFHSA Board." It's a long story.

LEO
Are these letters a threat?

CJ
No, they're personal.

LEO
But they're roaming around the West Wing like gerbils?

CJ
Well, I'm gonna' call down to security but... yeah, gerbils sounds about right.

LEO
Ok.

CJ moves off. Toby passes by.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LEO (CONT'D)

Toby, you had a visitor this morning?

TOBY

Yeah. Lydia Minelli from...

LEO

The Senate Majority Whip.

TOBY

Yup. She was delivering a request for
Strictland.

LEO

That Sorrenson thing?

TOBY

Yup.

LEO

What do you think?

TOBY

That it's a joke and she and her boss
know it. I think they're just trying to
show a little effort.

LEO

And maybe her boss is a little sore that
his big playmate is being asked to leave
the sandbox.

TOBY

Yeah that too.

LEO

You know we don't have to give Strictland
any love here. Push comes to shove, the
Majority Whip ain't gonna' count nurse-
maiding a pouty Senator as a favor later
on.

TOBY

I know.

LEO

So what do you want to do?

TOBY

Keep ignoring him.

LEO

Good, but do it in a loud sort of way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

TOBY

The loud sort of way is the most fun.

LEO

Then don't ever tell me I don't give you the good stuff.

TOBY

Yup.

MARGARET approaches.

MARGARET

Leo.

LEO

What's up?

Off her stern look WE

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE - LEO'S OFFICE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Sam enters. Leo, CJ, Toby and Josh are already there.

SAM

I just got your call.

LEO

Josh, contact Justice to make sure we're up to date on this one. CJ's gonna brief in a few minutes.

TOBY

I got a friend from Justice here today. Chun. He's good.

LEO

Your new appointee?

TOBY

Yup.

LEO

Good.

(to CJ)

Tell the press that the White House will not be issuing a statement until we've had a complete report from local authorities. An official statement from the President ain't gonna happen until the FBI report comes back in either.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CJ nods.

SAM

What's going on?

LEO

Twenty-five minutes ago a junior at Westlake Academy in Maryland entered the school quad and shot off an entire clip of a 9mm Baretta.

SAM

How many bullets is that?

TOBY

Seventeen, plus one in the chamber.

SAM

Jesus. Any casualties?

JOSH

We don't know yet.

SAM

Admiral Fitzwallace's kids go there.

JOSH

Are you kidding, half the Cabinet's kids go there; not to mention the Senate and Congress.

LEO

(to Sam)

Put the President's position on handguns on deck. Bring out the speeches you wrote for him in Chicago last year.

JOSH

Are you sure it's a good time to bring this back up? It might look like we're trying to use this as a way to bring guns back on the table --

TOBY

-- something we always should be trying to put back on the table --

LEO

-- No, I'm not sure it's a good idea. But yes, I want it on deck just in case it becomes a good idea. Like you said, half the Cabinet's kids go there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM
I'll bring out the speeches.

LEO
Good idea. Get going.

The team heads out.

TOBY
(to himself)
It seemed like it was going to be such a
good day too.

DISSOLVE TO:

END ACT ONE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Superimposed over screen:

10:45 AM

CUT TO:

INT THE WHITE HOUSE - BULLPEN - DAYThe staff is watching the TELEVISION SCREENS.

TELEVISION REPORTER

...Behind me you can see where this Westlake Academy junior shot-up the building foundation. As of yet it's unclear what her motivations were...

JOSH

Wow, it was a girl.

DONNA

What, only boys own the market in teenaged angst and despair?

JOSH

No, it's just I always thought that teenaged girls took off with their forty-year-old boyfriends when they wanted to rebel.

DONNA

Well we are the land of equal opportunity.

CJ enters with Chun.

CJ

Yeah, well this may not be as bad as we think.

DONNA

Seriously?

CJ

According to Chun here no one was killed. In fact no one was hit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

Wow.

CJ

Apparently this young woman was not only a bad seed, she was a bad shot too. Actually, witnesses said she really didn't aim the gun at anyone. She just blasted up a few walls and a statue. She didn't hit a single person.

SAM

I don't know about you but that sounds like she's an exceptionally good shot.

CJ

The only injuries are from people ducking. One person fell through a glass window. Another person broke their leg and arm jumping behind a wall. Aside from that there was mostly just a lot of bumps and bruises. She surrendered herself peacefully.

JOSH

So this was just...?

CJ

A protest.

TOBY

A what?

CJ

What would you want to call it? Authorities are speculating that she was making a statement about Westlake dropping her favorite art teacher. Apparently they're having budgetary problems and something had to go.

SAM

Wow the private school dollar just ain't what it used to be?

CJ

Yup. However, they just added forty percent to the football budget for a team that was 0 and 11 last year.

JOSH

0 and 11?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CJ

Yup. Dead last in their division. (THEN)
OK, I just talked to Leo. So far this
doesn't look like a big deal so we
shouldn't make it into a big deal.

SAM

Maybe we can put guns back on the table
with this.

CJ

Gee that's a new game plan.

SAM

Why not? Random situation of gun
violence that no one was killed by. It's
perfect.

JOSH

But putting guns on the table with this
means we make one, lone student's protest
a national event.

TOBY

Which means we could get copycats.

CJ

Which sort of goes against that whole "we
shouldn't make this a big deal" sort of
thing that Leo mentioned.

JOSH

Yup.

SAM

(disappointed)
Ok.

CJ

Really?

SAM

Yeah, Ok.

CJ

Ok.

The team breaks off.

TOBY

Chun, can you hang around still, make
sure there aren't any surprises?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHUN

You mean get out of going in to work today because some place called The White House asked me not to?

TOBY

Yeah.

CHUN

Sure, I can do that. (then) Protests are not what they used to be, are they Toby?

TOBY

No, they're not.

Toby moves off.

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE CORRIDORS - DAY

Donna, Sam, and Josh are moving together.

SAM

God, high school must suck these days.

JOSH

High school is supposed to suck. It's like hazing for life. That doesn't mean you go shoot people over it.

DONNA

The word, according to Josh Lyman.

JOSH

Yeah.

DONNA

I liked school. In fact, I loved it.

SAM

Yeah, you would.

DONNA

You know what I really loved?

JOSH

Oh god, you're going to tell us, right?

DONNA

"Wedgies."

Beat. Sam and Josh share a look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

Wedgies? No one enjoyed getting a wedgie, unless they were...

SAM

A pervert.

DONNA

I don't mean getting wedgies, I meant giving them.

SAM

You gave wedgies?!

JOSH

God, you think you know someone.

DONNA

Sure. They're just harmless fun. I was a bit of a tomboy...

JOSH

You don't say. You know how painful those are?

DONNA

Are you speaking from experience?

SAM

There is no shame in being a wedgie survivor and being able to talk about it.

JOSH

Amen my brother.

DONNA

Come on, they were just things that kids do.

JOSH

Or you did.

SAM

Because they're such good, harmless fun.

DONNA

Exactly.

Josh and Sam share a look, then spin Donna around and give her a WEDGIE. She screams. Sam and Josh high-five one another as they move off, leaving Donna mortified.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CUT TO:

EXT./EST THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Superimposed over screen:

12:30PM

CUT TO:

INT TOBY'S OFFICE - DAY

Toby is seated at his desk. SENATOR STRICTLAND (late 60's early 70's, pleasant and very fatherly looking) comes to knock on his door. Toby is shocked.

STRICTLAND

You really should make a habit out of closing your door Toby.

TOBY

Senator Strictland!

STRICTLAND

I always have my door closed during the work day. Do you know why?

TOBY

Sir...?

STRICTLAND

So that any old schmoe like a three term US Senator - some schmoe like me actually - couldn't just walk in and corner you in your own office. It's tougher to duck people with an open door Toby.

TOBY

I'm sorry Senator, I wasn't ducking you.

STRICTLAND

Yes you were. And you were doing a lousy job of it too. I once had some idiot Representative from my district lobby my office to have hotdog rolls and hotdogs packaged in the same number. He wanted it to be law.

TOBY

Sir...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STRICTLAND

I had my office tell him that I was in a meeting with meat packers and that he should stop on by. And you know what?

TOBY

It wasn't a meeting with meat packers.

STRICTLAND

Nope. And I wasn't there either. But he went anyway, to a meeting about *Obsessive Compulsive Disorder*. You see Toby, that's not only "with style," it's poetic too.

TOBY

(smiles)

Yes sir.

STRICTLAND

Now, my Sorrenson Bill. You think it's a joke.

TOBY

No sir, I...

STRICTLAND

Do you know how much of the Duke student population goes to their basketball games? Almost ninety percent. Those kids just love it down there. And most of them aren't even from the south, something the south is not too keen on mind you. How many do you think go to a Brown basketball game?

TOBY

Not ninety percent, however it probably would help if the Brown basketball team didn't suck.

STRICTLAND

True. But Duke students are fanatic about their team. And do you know why? Pride. They have pride in there identity there.

TOBY

So, I'm sorry, uniforms are gonna' help kids become better students because of pride? Do you honestly think if you take away some kid's Addidas you'll eliminate the drive-by shootings at his school?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STRICTLAND

Toby...

TOBY

Senator with all do respect, kids out there will roast you for this. Their parents will roast you for this. And no one will blame them. I don't even think you would blame them.

Beat. Strictland sighs and shakes his head.

STRICTLAND

Toby, how do you define a "Team Player?" Now wait before you answer, because a Team Player sounds so romantic, like you consistently put the health of the group over your own. But what really happens is you're not a player at all, you're a follower and a backer.

TOBY

Sir?

STRICTLAND

Toby, I've been a follower and a backer for three terms. When I first got elected, the office scared the crap out of me. So it was easy at first to follow other people's leads. Next thing I know I was used to it. Oh I still made up my own mind but it was for other people's legislature. Before I knew it all I had to show for my office were a whole bunch of "yeas" and "nays." Do I have something stronger than school uniforms? Of course I do. But you know what, in the end when I have nothing more than the smile on my face as I walk out the door, my own Team sweeps me aside. School uniforms was the only thing they would let me go to the hill on, probably because it sits low on everyone's radar. Do you know what a team player means Toby? It means no one let's you know you're obsolete before it's too late.

Toby stares silently back at Strictland.

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE BULLPEN - SAME TIME

Donna is typing up a storm. CJ approaches.

CJ

So did you have to go to the bathroom,
undo your pants and re-adjust yourself?

DONNA

I don't want to talk about it.

CJ

Hey, I'm not the one who told Sam and
Josh that wedgies were good clean fun.

Suddenly Donna produces a LETTER.

DONNA

Well this looks fun.

CJ

(takes letter)

I don't suppose you would listen to me if
I said drop it, would you?

DONNA

Did you see how it looks like someone
took time to draw and color in balloons
on this one?

CJ

Michelangelo would be proud.

A report from a TELEVISION draws CJ and Donna's attention.

TELEVISION REPORTER #2

...Shots were fired as the suspect moved
through admissions, the auditorium, and
the cafeteria. Reports are now coming of
multiple gunshot wounds...

DONNA

I thought they said she only shot up the
quad.

CJ

So did I.

TELEVISION REPORTER #2

...The shooter has yet to be identified,
however it has been confirmed that he had
as many as three firearms with him for
this rampage...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DONNA

Him?

CJ

Oh my god. This is a different thing.

TELEVISION REPORTER #2

...It has been confirmed that the principal and the assistant principal were both shot...

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE - JOSH'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Josh is glued to his TV.

TELEVISION REPORTER #3

...One of the most horrid examples of school shootings. The suspects were shot down by local authorities who had responded to over three thousand cellular nine-one-one phone calls. Most of which came from students.

Josh jumps up and enters the bullpen. CJ, CHARLIE, and Donna are all watching televisions. Chun is on the phone.

JOSH

Guys! You seeing this?

CJ

Yeah.

JOSH

They said the cops shot them down.

CJ

"Them?" You mean there were more of them?

DONNA

This station said there was just a him.

Sam heads in.

SAM

"Him?" I thought it was just a her.

JOSH

(gets on a phone)
My TV says it was a "them."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

So it might not be over.

SAM

What might not be over?

DONNA

There was another shooting.

SAM

Really?

CHARLIE

There might be other shooters lurking around in the school if it's more than one.

DONNA

Wait, this station only says there was a him.

JOSH

Wait a minute, I'm hearing now that it was four guys and a girl.

CJ

What?!

SAM

What, they took an entire army to school?

JOSH

They were shot down by Indiana Police.

CJ

What the hell are Indian police doing in Brooklyn?

JOSH

What? I'm talking about Indiana.

CJ

Josh, this is going on in Brooklyn!

DONNA

(re: reports)

It's going on in both! It's going on in both!

CJ

What?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHUN

(off of phone call)

Confirmed. A shooting has occurred in Indiana with multiple shooters and multiple gun shot victims. Fifteen minutes later another occurred in Brooklyn. Specifics aren't in yet.

BARTLET (O.S.)

Three?! There were three school shootings in one day?!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE - THE OVAL OFFICE - LATER

Bartlet is hearing reports from Leo, CJ, Josh, Sam, and Tobey.

SAM

FBI says that the shootings in...

CJ

...Wallace High in Gary, Indiana.

SAM

...Had the most casualties.

BARTLET

How many?

JOSH

At least five dead and twenty-five wounded, Mr. President. Including the Principal and the Assistant Principal. The assistant's in critical condition.

BARTLET

What the hell is going on?

CJ

Sir, NSA is reporting that the kids in Indiana left a threatening message yesterday on the school message board. They said something about a time for reckoning - the kids who think they own the school will find out they don't.

BARTLET

What about the one in Brooklyn

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

Brooklyn Mayor's office reported that it was a lone shooter, Mr. President. Armed with at least three firearms. He moved through the entire front end of the school before Police arrived. After a confrontation, he was gunned down by officers on scene.

BARTLET

Where? Where in Brooklyn? Which school?

JOSH

(reads from a paper)

Ah... Harry S. Truman High.

TOBY

(startled)

What?

BARTLET

Are there anymore shooters?

SAM

They don't think so in Brooklyn Mr. President. But they're not sure in Indiana. They downed at least three teenaged males who they think are students of that school.

JOSH

They think it was just the one in Brooklyn sir. The suspect was a senior about to go to Columbia next year. He approached the school last month about the lack of security that provide students on campus.

SAM

Apparently his younger brother was gunned down recently when some fight started at a football game.

BARTLET

This kid was trying to be ironic?

LEO

I thought reports said something about a girl too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CJ

Initial reports grouped together the girl who shot up her school earlier with the two that just happened.

BARTLET

And why not? It was fair to assume that America's youth would want to do this only once a day.

Bartlet gives Leo a look.

LEO

Ok, go back to our posture from earlier.
(to CJ)
The White House will not be issuing a statement until we've had complete reports from local authorities.

CJ

An official statement from the President ain't gonna happen until the FBI report comes back in either?

LEO

That's right. Toby, is our Justice Liason still around to play go-between?

Toby doesn't answer.

LEO (CONT'D)

Toby?

TOBY

(lost)
Yeah.

LEO

Is Chun still around?

TOBY

Yeah.

LEO

Good. Tell him he's working for the West Wing today. (Then) Be careful with this one people. We don't want this happening a lot.

CJ, SAM, and JOSH all nod. The ad-lib "Thank you Mr. President" and exit. Toby's feet won't move.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BARTLET
Toby?

TOBY
Sir?

BARTLET
What is it?

TOBY
Nothing sir. Thank you Mr. President.

Toby abruptly exits. Bartlet and Leo share a look.

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE CORRIDORS - DAY

Toby and Chun move along.

TOBY
What do you know?

CHUN
Brian Brown. A senior. Extremely bright
and very well liked.

TOBY
Did he shoot anybody?

CHUN
Yes, but only when they tried to take the
guns away from him. Witnesses said he
wanted to prove a point but security may
have over-reacted and started shooting.

TOBY
He wanted to prove you could bring a
whole bunch of guns into school.

CHUN
Yup. After a fire fight, he ended up
shooting one security guard and a
teacher, both with superficial wounds.
He was shot dead by uniforms right after.

TOBY
Damn!

CHUN
He was right too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBY

What?

CHUN

It was easy to sneak guns into school.
It was easy when I went there, it's easy
now.

TOBY

You ok?

CHUN

Yeah. But when it comes to the annals of
student protests, I don't think yours
will be the biggest one in Brooklyn
anymore. Imagine if you had a gun back
then.

TOBY

Guns wouldn't have been my style.

CHUN

Yeah, well things change.

Chun's words freeze Toby.

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT/EST WHITE HOUSE - DAY

SUPER IMPOSE OVER SCREEN

2:00pm

INT WHITE HOUSE PRESSROOM - DAY

CJ briefs the PRESS CORPS.

CJ

NSA and FBI officials have both confirmed that all three of the suspected shooters in Indiana were downed by uniformed officers. Eyewitnesses have reported that they only saw three shooters. Two suffered superficial gunshot wounds, one of them has been confirmed killed. Brian?

BRIAN (PRESS CORP #1)

Were they able to identify the shooters?

CJ

Officials have said that the shooters were indeed students from that school.

BRIAN (PRESS CORP #1)

Did school officials have any warning?

CJ

There have been reports that at least one student left a threatening note on the school's online message board.

BRIAN (PRESS CORP #1)

The school didn't do anything about it?

CJ

It was the fifth such threat the school has received this week and it's only Wednesday. Last year they received almost five hundred of what could be considered "threatening messages." I don't know about you guys but my math says that's about two a day. Makes you wonder why they keep the message board open at all. Mary?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARY (PRESS CORP #2)

CJ, is there any idea where they may have gotten the guns?

CJ

Mary, I sincerely wish I could tell you. I would love to say that our gun laws have become more restrictive and therefore more effective, however Indiana, Massachusetts, and New York all have different guns laws and yet major firearms found their way into the hands of five minors. Kevin?

KEVIN (PRESS CORP #3)

Does this mean that the President will want to put guns back on the table?

CJ

They were off the table?

KEVIN (PRESS CORP #3)

CJ...

CJ

I think that this administration has made it abundantly clear that saying the President wants to have guns on the table is like saying he wanted a milk-shake when he was in an ice cream shop. Kevin, never at any time did the President want to stop ordering milk-shakes it's just that congress, every now and then, stops serving them. With that said, I think we're going to be picking up some pieces first before we order another Banana Smoothie. That's all that I have for you at this time, people.

BRIAN (PRESS CORP #1)

CJ, quick follow-up!

CJ

Yes Brian.

BRIAN (PRESS CORP #1)

The New York Times has obtained the names off all five shooters and is considering publishing their names, all of them minors. Does the White House have an official comment?

Beat. CJ quickly looks to Carol.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CJ

Yes, the President considers his Sunday incomplete until he reads his New York Times Magazine.

BRIAN (PRESS CORP #1)

CJ, this could be a major policy shift in American media.

CJ

I think what you're saying is that this could be a major policy switch for the New York Times.

BRIAN (PRESS CORP #1)

Ok...

CJ

And I'm saying it's really damn hard to read through all of the New York Times Sunday Edition in one day. In fact, I've never known someone who actually has. Thank you people.

CJ makes a quick exit with Carol in tow.

INT WHITE HOUSE - CORRIDORS AND HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

CJ and Carol are on the move.

CJ

Damnit!

CAROL

This could be problem?

Brian exits the press room to catch up.

CJ

Maybe.

BRIAN (PRESS CORP #1)

CJ...

CJ

I don't like it when people used my press room to make a statements, Brian.

BRIAN (PRESS CORP #1)

CJ, this is big and you know it. You don't like it when media passes judgement on the things you do as an educated, informed adult.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Imagine what it would be like to have them on you when you're a misguided kid. They may not be the best kids, but they're still kids. I don't want to be part of a media that will crucify them. Do you?

Beat. CJ doesn't have an answer.

CJ (O.S.)

Brian has a point.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT LEO'S OFFICE - SOME TIME LATER

Leo, Sam, Toby are talking with CJ.

CJ

...This thing with the New York Times publishing their names could mean a major policy switch in American media.

LEO

Why?

CJ

The Times avoids publishing the names of minors when at all possible. They might eventually, but when the story breaks they don't.

SAM

Sometimes they have egg on their face. The Saskatchewan Journal might publish these kids names but not the big, bad, super-informed New York Times.

CJ

It means these kids hopefully won't get tried in the press.

SAM

No matter how you look at it, the Times sets the standard for the national press.

LEO

And if the Times falls then it's open season.

CJ

Yup.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

So what do you want to do?

CJ

Not publish their names.

LEO

They're gonna' get published eventually.

CJ

But not by us.

SAM

Do you think the Times will follow suit?

CJ

That's pretty much what Brian was hoping. These are just kids. Yes, kids with guns but this is how they're heard.

TOBY

What?

CJ

This is their way now. They may not do it right and they may not really have anything to protest, but this how it's done now.

Beat. All of them consider her words.

LEO

Sam?

SAM

I don't know.

LEO

Toby?

Toby is off in another world.

LEO (CONT'D)

Toby?

Toby comes back to shake his head.

LEO (CONT'D)

Go figure it out. Let me know, soon.

All three of them nod and exit. Toby takes a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LEO (CONT'D)
You alright Toby?

TOBY
Yeah.

Toby exits.

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE BULLPEN - MINUTES LATER

Sam, Josh, Charlie, and Donna are looking up at reports from television monitors.

DONNA
(to Josh)
You know, that was mean.

JOSH
Welcome to the big, bad real world.

DONNA
I want to sue.

SAM
Did you not say -- just prior to receiving said wedgie in question that -- they were in your mind in fact good, harmless fun?

DONNA
Yes.

SAM
Then you can't sue.

CJ approaches.

CJ
Leo's wants an update. Where are we at?

JOSH
The legal ramifications of a wedgie.

CJ
Great.

SAM
When I was fifteen I took my parents car out and crashed it when I didn't have a license. I wasn't able to get one until I was eighteen, and you know what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

Your parents made you work three summers in a row to pay off the cracked grill of their Mercedes?

SAM

I haven't been in an accident since. A perfect driving record. It would suck if someone held me accountable for the things I did when I was fifteen.

CHARLIE

Was anyone killed when you crashed your parents... BMW?

SAM

Well... Bently actually. And no, there wasn't.

CJ

Ok, next person who would like to share.

JOSH

Why don't you want to publish their names?

CJ

Because people get over that tough time in their life. Sure, some of these kids are messed up, but they get over it. Take that girl this morning: would you want to lump her together with the three in Indiana?

DONNA

No.

CJ

Exactly. But the press will. They'll call it a national epidemic. This poor girl is screwed and she was just making a statement.

SAM

With a gun.

CJ

Fine, with a gun. But she can get over it. She can still grow up. And if not her, than at least all the other misguided kids who might be caught in something like this in the future.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CJ (CONT'D)

I still hope they get to be the kid that can crash their parents car and still be able to drive in a few years.

CHARLIE

By the way, this was dropped off...

Charlie hands CJ another LETTER. CJ snatches it.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

It's very...

CJ

Drop it Sparky!

CHARLIE

It's dropped.

SAM

The evening news is soon. We have to figure this out.

Toby approaches.

TOBY

What's going on?

SAM

We don't know yet. But we're leaning towards sympathy.

JOSH

What do you think?

TOBY

I think we should bury them.

SAM

Excuse me?

CJ

Toby!

DONNA

You, the liberal protest legend thinks we should bury them?

TOBY

Legends are meant to die.

(to Sam)

Can I borrow you a sec?

CJ

Toby?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

 TOBY
 (to Sam)
 Come on.

Toby moves off. Sam looks to the others before following.

INT WHITE HOUSE CORRIDORS -CONTINUOUS

Sam catches up to Toby.

 TOBY
 Does Strickland have any other
 legislature on youth accountability

 SAM
 He coauthored a bunch of reactionary law
 making that the Whip thought was too much
 to bring to the hill. But that's about
 it. Nothing you'd be interested in.

 TOBY
 Does it concern kids and holding them
 responsible for their actions?

 SAM
 Well... yeah.

 TOBY
 Then I'm interested.

 SAM
 He wanted to implement a nationally
 mandated version of the Willie Boskin
 Law.

 TOBY
 Refresh my memory.

 SAM
 The Boskin law called for trying minors
 as adults for a adult crimes. Up until
 now it has been left up to each state's
 supreme court to decide, but to be honest
 the decisions very rarely get out of
 local grand jury. It's mostly a policy
 initiative.

 TOBY
 We'd be saying as a government this is
 what we want, which is essentially what
 happens any way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM

Yes. Is this your version of saying we should bury them, only louder?

TOBY

Can you get me a copy?

SAM

Sure.

TOBY

Good. Do it.

SAM

Toby, is it possible that you've become so liberal that you've somehow snapped all the way around and become conservative?

Toby gives Sam a look before moving off.

CJ (O.S.)

Wow, that's quite the shot.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT TOBY'S OFFICE - NIGHT TIME (9:30PM)

CJ inspecting Toby's lip. Sam, Josh, and Toby are all drinking.

TOBY

Yeah. Do you want a drink?

CJ

What is that?

JOSH

Rice Vodka.

TOBY

It was buried in my desk. I figured since I'll be cleaning it out soon, I might as well drink it now.

CJ shrugs and sits on his couch with a sigh.

CJ

Sure.

(to Sam and Josh)

So you two gave Donna Moss a wedgie?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM
Well... yeah.

JOSH
Are you mortified?

CJ
No. In fact hearing about it was the
highlight of my day.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT./EST WHITE HOUSE - DAY

SUPER IMPOSE OVER SCREEN

4:15 PM

INT WHITE HOUSE CORRIDORS - DAY

CJ is on her way to her office.

CAROL
CJ, a representative from Mail Room
called...

CJ
Did they figure out who dies?

CAROL
Sort of --

INT CJ'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

CJ enters to find Mail Security Supervisor WYATT STONE, (39)
standing in her office.

WYATT
Wyatt Stone, Ma'am. White House Mail --

CJ
-- Do I have a big kick me sign on my
back Wyatt?

WYATT
No Ma'am.

CJ
Then why the hell is Mail Security using
their government issued size tens on my
ass?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WYATT

Ma'am, you haven't done anything about these...

CJ

Wyatt, I'm sorry, but me being the White House Press Secretary takes up my day when I'm not in here playing on-line Scrabble.

WYATT

Yes Ma'am. But you're accumulating these letters and we have to keep checking them. If they're something you could just respond to, then you'll be freeing up valuable White House Security time.

CJ

Whatever. Fine. Just drop them all off to me, like I've been telling you. I have better things I can be doing than worrying about this.

CJ moves behind her DESK and ignores Wyatt. He takes a moment to consider her words then produces a MAIL SATCHEL. He opens it and pours out several dozen letters onto her desktop.

CJ (CONT'D)

What?! What the hell is this?!

WYATT

We have better things we could be doing with our time too.

CJ

Get out! Get the hell out you son of a bitch! Get OUT!!!

Wyatt leaves as CJ chases him. She looks out to see she's disturb several people in the hallway. She also looks like she's about to cry. Looking at people, she slowly closes her door.

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE - THE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Bartlet and Leo are talking as Toby enters.

BARTLET

...This is not how we did things when I was in school, Leo.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET (CONT'D)

Is it possible that you and I have gotten so old that we forgot what it's like to be a kid?

LEO

God I hope not.

BARTLET

What about you Toby?

TOBY

We don't have to be spectators, sir.

BARTLET

Oh? What have ya' got?

TOBY

Senator Strictland sir.

BARTLET

School uniforms Toby?

TOBY

No sir. He's also written the Sallinger Act, which essentially calls for trying kids who have committed adult crimes as adults.

BARTLET

Doesn't that essentially happen anyway?

TOBY

It's up to the local court actually. But this would make it a national policy.

LEO

You brought this into the Oval Office Toby?

BARTLET

Strictland's a pouty blow-hard, Toby. An old fart who's blaming everyone but himself for not speaking his own mind.

TOBY

With all due respect Mr. President, this Bill could come from Ted Kazinski and I'd still consider it.

LEO

What do Sam, CJ, and Josh think? Because this would essentially answer their question about publishing those kids names, by way of overkill.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

 TOBY
I didn't ask them.

Bartlet and Leo exchange looks, then --

 BARTLET
No Toby.

 TOBY
Mr. President...

 BARTLET
No Toby. I am not going to create a
defacto policy and I'm not going to force
the hand of kids who already feel their
hands are forced. And quite frankly
Toby, I'm amazed that you of all people
who be up in here with this.

 TOBY
 (getting mad)
Mr. President!

 LEO
That's enough Toby. Please go wait in my
office.

Toby stares the two down.

 LEO (CONT'D)
Toby!

Reluctantly, Toby exits to Leo's office.

 BARTLET
What's going on?

 LEO
Damned if I know.

INT WHITE HOUSE - LEO'S OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

Leo enters to find Toby waiting.

 LEO
Don't ever go in there again with your
own stuff. We don't play maverick around
here and you know it. If Sam or Josh or
CJ did that you'd be the first to bark
them down.

 TOBY
Leo...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

That's all. You're dismissed.

TOBY

Leo. Whatever these kids think they're doing, it's not working. And it's gonna' keep on happening.

LEO

Maybe. But this administration ain't gonna' take away their right to be kids, no matter how bad it seems. I don't know what's going on with you today Toby, and right now I don't care. The answer is no.

Beat. Toby furiously eyes Leo. Moments later he leaves. Leo looks back up with concern as he goes.

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE BULLPEN - DAY

CJ approaches Josh and Sam. Donna and Charlie are hovering.

CJ

Ok, Huey and Luey, what's it gonna' be?

JOSH

Hey, I heard about that thing that happened with Mail Security. You ok?

CJ

There wasn't a thing. Now, what's it gonna be?

SAM

Wouldn't we just be delaying the inevitable?

CJ

Maybe. Probably. Is that what you're saying?

SAM

No. I'm saying maybe we'd be living in a fantasy world.

CJ

That's hardly a revelation, Sam.

Beat, then...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

I don't want to publish these kids.

SAM

Neither do I. You?

CJ

Not especially?

CHARLIE

So that's it? We're going to protect criminals - killers?

SAM

No, we're going to protect our kids.

CHARLIE

Protecting them means other kids can die.

SAM

Protecting freedom means people can die.

The weight of Sam's words hold over everyone.

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE - TOBY'S OFFICEToby is brooding at his desk, flipping between gruesome news reports on his television. Chun taps on his door.

CHUN

Toby, do you need me any more because I'm about to brief the Justice Department for our statement.

TOBY

No. Thanks.

Chun turns to leave but...

TOBY (CONT'D)

Hey!

CHUN

Yeah.

TOBY

Do you have the names of all the shooters?

CHUN

Well, yeah. Of course.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBY

I just want to make sure you do, so you get everything right.

CHUN

I wasn't aware that there would be a need to get all the names right.

Beat. Toby just looks at him.

TOBY

Well, now you are.

CHUN

Really Toby?

TOBY

It's how we do laterals around here.

Chun takes off. Toby picks up his phone and dials.

TOBY (CONT'D)

(into his phone)

Senator Strictland please. Tell him it's Toby Ziegler.

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE BULLPEN - SOME TIME LATER

Leo approaches CJ, Josh, and Sam.

LEO

So what's happening?

CJ

We're not giving out the names.

JOSH

Yeah, hopefully the Times will get the message.

LEO

We'll make sure they do.

DONNA

(rushes in)

We may not get to.

Donna grabs a remote and turns up a TV. An image of Justice Department Spokeswoman LORNE ADAMS (48) appears on screen. Chun is in the background.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LORNE

(from television)

..Colleen Murphy was a junior at Taft High School in Sunnyvale, Massachusetts, while David Emory, Darryl Jones, and Bobby Stockwin were all seniors at Wallace High School in Gary, Indiana...

SAM

She just gave out the kids' names.

CJ

What the hell is going on?

JOSH

Did anyone authorize this?

Leo looks long at the screen. Charlie enters.

CHARLIE

Leo! Senator Strickland's holding a conference. He's going to use all the shooters names then introduce a bill calling for those kids to be tried as adults.

CJ

My god, Justice cleared the way for him.

SAM

How did he know they'd use the names?

JOSH

Someone must've told him.

CJ picks up another remote and turns another set on. Strickland appears at a outside the senate.

STRICTLAND

(from television)

...it is time that the Colleen Murphys, the Bobby Stockwins, and the Dylan Joneses of this country found some real accountability to prevent these tragedies from happening again!

LEO

Where the hell is Toby?

FADE OUT:

END ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT/EST WHITE HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

SUPERIMPOSED OVER SCREEN

6:45pm

INT WHITE HOUSE - THE OVAL OFFICE - EARLY EVENING

Bartlet is looking very kinetic and very bothered. There's a knock on the door.

BARTLET

Yes!

Toby enters.

TOBY

Mr. President.

BARTLET

Goddamnit Toby!

TOBY

...Sir.

BARTLET

Toby, I am used to being maneuvered by the Republicans, I am used to being maneuvered by my constituents! Congress! The Justice Department! My own party! Hell, even my own wife!

TOBY

Sir...

BARTLET

But Damnit, Toby! I am not used to being maneuvered by my own senior staff. I mean Damnit Toby! Damnit!!!

TOBY

Sir, Strickland got to take an initiative of accountability. You, yourself said to me that you didn't want to have any defacto policy making. This isn't. It's his.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTLET

You're not that naive Toby. These weren't issues I had to worry about, totally off the radar. Except you - not Congress, not the Senate, not even the damned Supreme Court - made it into something I had to suddenly worry about!

TOBY

I think if this administration...

BARTLET

Toby, I think I've made it abundantly clear that I really don't give a rats ass what you think! My god Toby, you really are the problem child. Why can't you be more like Sam, Josh, and CJ - the good kids in the family.

TOBY

Well, if this administration didn't have it's head up it's ass!

BARTLET

This administration!? Are you saying you think that this administration has it's head up it's ass or I, the President of these United States, has his head up his ass? Because there is very little distinction in what you're saying here Toby! (Then) You picked a hell of a time to become reactionary!

TOBY

It beats the bleachers, Mr. President!

Leo enters. Bartlet and Toby are nose to nose.

BARTLET

Toby, I have half a mind right now to knock you on your whining, self-absorbed ass.

TOBY

Well then yes, sir, I think you, specifically, have your head up your ass, Mr. President!!!

LEO

Toby! What the hell are you doing?

Leo grabs Toby and whirls him away from Bartlet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Bartlet grabs onto Leo.

BARTLET
Leo, calm down!

LEO
I just got off the phone doing cleaning
up with Justice. Someone's head has to
roll there and it's probably going to be
your buddy Chun's.

TOBY
Someone had to protest --

BARTLET
Toby, didn't you just hear what he said?
They're gonna' hang Chun for this.

Beat.

LEO
Just get the hell out of here Toby!

Toby collects himself and leaves.

BARTLET
(to himself)
Damn.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT TOBY'S OFFICE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Toby wearily enters. A moment later he realizes Chun is
standing there waiting for him.

CHUN
That was a lateral Toby?

TOBY
They're not gonna' hang you out to dry.

CHUN
How the hell would you know?

TOBY
People are just pissed.

Suddenly Chun turns and punches Toby in the jaw, knocking him
on his ass. Josh catches it as he was passing by.

JOSH
Hey!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHUN
I'm pissed too.

JOSH
What the hell are you doing?

Chun leaves without answering.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Toby, you alright man? Toby?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT TOBY'S OFFICE - LATER (9:30PM)

Sam, Josh, and CJ are still hanging out with Toby. The vodka bottle is almost empty.

SAM
Those kids deserve better Toby.

CJ
Sam...

SAM
No, wait. Those kids did a lot to destroy their future today and you helped seal their coffins.

JOSH
He's right.

TOBY
They had no style.

SAM
What?

TOBY
They were just being loud Sam. They had no style. They wanted to say something but all they got out were big noises. They didn't accomplish anything.

There's a knock at the door, moments later Bartlet opens it. Everyone stiffens and rises. They all ad-lib "Good evening Mr. Presidents."

BARTLET
Can I have a moment alone with Toby please?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sam, Josh, and CJ all get up and leave. Bartlet closes the door behind them. He sits on Toby's couch.

TOBY
Mr. President...

BARTLET
(re: bottle)
Ichiro Vodka. That's good stuff.

TOBY
Yes sir. Mr. President...

BARTLET
Have a seat. (they sit, then) Toby before we get to all the "I'm terribly sorry" and the "I deeply apologies", I want to hear one thing: why? I consider you a rational, extremely intelligent individual and -- believe it or not when I don't want to kill you -- a good friend. So maybe now would be a good time to get your head out of your ass.

Beat. Bartlet is waiting.

TOBY
Those kids shooting today... they're me. I'm the granddaddy of student protestors. Pissed off little punk kids with no idea, that's what I was. But yelling loud doesn't do anything anymore. Now kids just do loud things.

BARTLET
Toby, you had nothing to do with those kids...

TOBY
My father once said to me that I'd understand when I got older, when I can see the consequences of my actions. And I told him to go to hell. Nevermind that he could've been right. I mean I was a self-righteous prick, remember? But maybe he was once as self-righteous too. Maybe he wanted people to play whatever music they liked, have sex with whatever person they wanted and say whatever they wished. But he didn't have the luxury of an opinion because he had a family to feed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARTLET

I bet you told him to go to hell more times than you can count.

TOBY

Mr. President, my father is not a great man or for that matter even a good man. But because of his actions his kids went to school and now do good things. What do I have to show for my actions: Kids bring big guns to school.

Beat. Bartlet smirks.

BARTLET

I'm probably the last protest you've got, Toby. Looks like you've still got your stuff.

(then)

Toby, I'm not your father...

(deliberately)

...but, if I were, I can tell you now *I'd be proud.*

Beat. An epiphany. Toby doesn't know what to say.

BARTLET (CONT'D)

Toby, you're a valued member of my staff. To lose you would suck. Laterals come from the quarterback around here, got it?

TOBY

Yes sir.

BARTLET

Good, because if you ever pull a stunt like this again I'll be the one who personally knocks you on your ass. We'd miss you Toby but we'd move on.

Bartlet gets up.

BARTLET (CONT'D)

As for Strictland, he'll be more work. You maneuvered us into a national debate. I get three of those before breakfast every day, you know? But you'll be dealing with this one, all by yourself.

TOBY

I understand sir.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BARTLET

Oh and one more thing...

(wry smile)

You're about to have kids so I'll spare you the details except to say you'd be surprised what us fathers know.

Bartlet opens the door to reveal Leo in the empty Bullpen.

BARTLET (CONT'D)

(to Leo)

There's peace.

LEO

(re: Toby's lip)

Chun do that?

TOBY

Yeah.

LEO

You have a glass jaw.

TOBY

He hits like a girl.

LEO

Yeah, whatever Mikie Spinks. (Then) I'll make sure he doesn't hang.

Toby nods.

BARTLET

I'm going to get a carrot juice.

LEO

Me too. You coming Toby?

TOBY

(hesitates)

Yeah.

BARTLET

Oh, did Sam Seaborne and Josh Lyman give Donna Moss a wedgie?

LEO

I believe so Mr. President.

BARTLET

Damn, that's funny.

CUT TO:

INT WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT TIME

CJ is slowly moving through the halls on her way out. She merges with Donna, Sam and Josh.

CJ

Hey.

SAM AND JOSH

Hey.

DONNA

We were just thinking about those kids.

CJ

The shooters?

JOSH

The shooters, their classmates, the kids watching on TV... all of them really.

DONNA

How are they gonna get over being kids?

CJ

You'd be surprised.

CJ pulls out one of the letters.

CJ (CONT'D)

"BJFHSA Board" stands for the Benjamin J. Franklin High School Alumni Board.
 (reads) "Dear Claudia Jean, this is Sue-
 Ellen Marshal. Remember me? We graduated
 high school together way back when and I,
 along with many others, would like to
 congratulate you on all your
 accomplishments within the Bartlet
 Administration. Who knew that Claudia
 Craig from chemistry class and the year
 book would go so far? I wanted to visit
 with you when you were our celebrity
 speaker at reunion last year, but
 unfortunately things didn't work out when
 you got called to leave. So the Alumni
 Committee would like to extend an
 invitation to you for our homecoming this
 fall, celebrating our year. Please come,
 it would mean a great deal to a lot of
 people and it would be great to finally
 catch up to such a dear, old friend."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

You and good old Sue-Ellen Marshal weren't such dear friends, were you?

CJ

Nope. She once had a party my junior year and specifically told everyone to not invite me.

DONNA

Why?

CJ

Because I broke all the bell curves in chemistry class. I have several dozen letters from the Sue-Ellens and the Sandra Owens and Dana Murphys back in my office.

CJ stops as they get to the front exit. It's raining outside.

CJ (CONT'D)

Do you know how I know these kids will get over this? Because we have to.

CJ words seem punctuated by the rain. Sam, Josh, and Donna silently look back at her. They almost believe her.

JOSH

Yeah.

CJ looks up. The rain is getting worse. She doesn't have an umbrella. She looks to the other three, closes up her jacket, and walks off.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW