

PETER
I'm Peter Goldman from Affiliate Relations, we didn't really get a chance to meet in the chaos Friday night.

JOE
And I'm Joe Reardon from Sales.

PETER
We got a very nervous call from a man named Vernon Williams who's the owner of WTHH, our affiliate in Terre Haute.

JACK
Vernon Williams had to call on his cell phone because his station lines are jammed.

PETER
He won't carry *Studio 60* Friday night unless he's guaranteed that the sketch "Crazy Christians" is dropped.

JORDAN
I don't tell the guys what to put on the show.

JACK
Yeah you do, you're their boss.

JORDAN
And in fact in this case I specifically gave them permission to do it. I kinda made 'em a promise.

JACK
Break it.

JORDAN
Over the Terre Haute market? What are they, 229th out of 230 affiliates?

JACK
They're 151st, but that's not the point.

JORDAN
And how did the Editor-in-Chief of *Total Nut Bar Magazine* get mobilized this fast?

JACK
That's the point.

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JORDAN
She and I have been on the job for the exact same amount of time and I don't even know how to work my phone yet!

JACK
Dial "9" professor.

JORDAN
Where's she at?

PETER
Well clearly--

JORDAN
What's her name?

JACK
Constance Gower.

JORDAN
I hate that name. Where's she at?

PETER
I was gonna say clearly she's got AFV working the banks. She put up a newsflash on their website. That's like flashing the Bat Signal for her members.

JORDAN
How many members?

PETER
500,000 on the mailing list, 100 full time employees plus the lawyers.

JACK
Screw the lawyers.

JORDAN
I'm a lawyer. Let's wargame this. It's Monday, what happens now? Shelly, Peter, you be them, I'll be us. I have three options, I can ignore you, I can meet with you to discuss this or I can cut the sketch.

SHELLY
Meeting with me emboldens me, either cut the sketch or expect our wrath.

JORDAN
What's your wrath?

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SHELLY

Phone lines will be flooded within the hour--at Studio 60, 22 different red state affiliates and here at your network headquarters and I'd forget about your fax machines for the next couple of days too. I should also tell you the e-mail addresses of you, Jack and Wilson White will be listed on our Web site as well. And God help you there are any Girls Gone Wild photos of you out there from your college days 'cause we'll find 'em.

JORDAN

I'm not scared yet.

SHELLY

'Cause I'm not done yet. Starting tomorrow, we'll have our most eloquent figureheads--Ralph Reed, Donald Wildmon, the whole starting team--they'll be everywhere on TV and then when your sponsors start dropping out, along with a hell of a lot more affiliates than Terre Haute.

JORDAN

I'm bullet-proof on Friday nights.

SHELLY

How?

JORDAN

Because movies open on Friday and half my sponsors are studios, including the one owned by the parent company of this network, who want their trailers associated with what's hip and cool and know ninety-seven five for a 30 second spot's a good deal.

PETER

You're assuming they're gonna stop with this show?

JORDAN

Do you have objections to our other programming.



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PETER

I have an objection to NBS if it airs a sketch that's offensive to me and millions of other people, so the snacks, the soap, the cereal, the cell phones, we'll boycott 'em all and the stores that sell them.

STOP

SHELLY

You don't think our army's big enough to beat you, we'll let the big guys do the fighting for us.

JORDAN

I don't believe they will.

PETER

Why?

JORDAN

Because even though network share's been reduced dramatically by cable, we're still the best game in town when it comes to delivering eyeballs to advertisers.

Finally JOE speaks up--

JOE

There won't be any eyeballs without the affiliates.

JORDAN

We lost one.

JOE

In five hours.

JORDAN

Terre-Haute. What's next, Little Rock-Pine Bluff? Have any of these people ever watched the show and if they don't like it, can someone go over to their houses and teach 'em how to change the channel?

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JACK

That sounds like exactly what my next job will be.

JORDAN

Jack--

S/S