

MATT's pitch meeting is underway...

Start →
Lucy? RICKY

LUCY

"The Democracy Act". Bush announces his new bill called The Democracy Act, making it illegal to vote.

MATT doesn't like it.

MATT
(a little tentatively)
I don't know.

RICKY
It's a play on how these guys always name things the opposite of what they are. The Patriot Act, The Clean Water Act--

LUCY

Defense of Marriage--

MATT
I understand.

RON
During the speech he could wear a crown and hold a scepter.

MATT
Yeah, that doesn't make it better.

RICKY
Denny?

DENNY

"Bush's New Drug Czar". Bush appoints a new Drug Czar, but because of his poor vetting process it turns out he's hired a drug kingpin instead.

MATT points to the next writer--

RICKY
Mitch?

MITCH

"The President's Daily Briefing". White House staffers put on a puppet show to explain--

WRITERS
please read
all circled
lines.

Studio 60

MATT

I need to start with the opening. I need
to start with the opening. When I have
the opening I can--

ELLIOT

We've got "The Bush Speech Writers"--

RON

Which can be used for the cold open.

DEB

Or "Family Feud". The Clinton's versus
The Bush's.

LOUIS

--and the vetters--

ELLIOT

"The Bush Vettes"---

RICKY

One at a time.

ELLIOT

He said "nookuler" again this week.

HAL

And gave another speech with a bumper-
sticker backdrop, how can we--

ELLIOT

How can we not do any Bush--

MATT

I didn't say we're not gonna--

FRED

"The Bush Vettes" is a little like "The
Drug Czar" isn't it?

MATT

Stop.

(beat)

Just stop.

(pause)

What are you all wearing?

It's a strange question that takes them by surprise and they
don't quite understand...

2/5

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. WRITERS' ROOM - NIGHT

The WRITERS, led by RICKY and RON, are seated around the conference table--though a couple are sitting on the floor and leaning against the wall from fatigue.

RICKY

90 seconds. That's what he's asked for. 90 seconds of material from the writers room. Was the request patronizing and a veiled insult? I think so.

RON

I don't think the insult was that veiled.

RICKY

Me neither. But not being able to contribute 90 seconds to a 90 minute telecast is a good way to demonstrate that we're people who should be insulted.

RON

Yeah.

RICKY

What.

RON

It is.

RICKY lifts the end of the table up and bangs it down, getting everyone's attention.

Start →

RICKY

We have to produce something!

DEB

May I ask if I can re--

RICKY

No.

DEB

If I can re-pitch--

RICKY

No.

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(CONTINUED)

DEB

A sketch about McDeere.

RICKY

No.

RON

I agree.

LUCY

The DUI, the Christian Right, the joke about cocaine, the book, the marriage, the sex clubs--

DEB

To say nothing of hiring back Matt and Danny--

LUCY

Everybody is doing it and we look ridiculous if we don't.

FRED

Jay, Conan, Dave, SNL did it 24 hours after we did nothing.

RICKY

If we're gonna do a sketch calling the president of this network a drunken sex addict, I'm not gonna be the one to write it. What else?

LUCY

It's self-deprecating.

RON

Self-deprecating would be if we were drunken sex addicts.

RICKY

What else?

HAH

I've got something.

RICKY

What?

HAH

I think I've got something.

4/5

HAL, a young writer on the staff, has been typing at his laptop until now.

RICKY

Hal, do you feel like this is the right time to pitch me something that blows?

HAL

No.

RICKY

So you're willing to take that chance?

RON

Lemme see it.

HAL sends his laptop down to RICKY and RON.

HAL

It's for Simon. Either as a sketch or he can do it as an editorial in News 60.

RICKY

(reading)

"At schools today all the kids are diagnosed with stuff like dyslexia, hyperlexia, ADD, ADHD... In my day you were just stupid. "What's wrong with my son?" "Oh, him? He's stupid. Next!"

The room laughs a little...RICKY smiles...

RICKY (CONT'D)

(pause)

"America's the most overweight nation in the world. We've got so much food here, we drop it on people along with bombs. If you really want to mess with somebody's head, drop a cruise missile and a couple a tons of Hot Pockets on their ass."

(to the room)

This is it, let's everybody get to work on this.

CUT TO:

INT. THEATRE BALCONY - NIGHT

MATT's sitting in a seat with a legal pad and his feet up on the rail. He's staring at the empty stage below.

5/5

(CONTINUED)