

ANCHORMAN

ACTION NEWS! WITH RON BURGUNDY

by
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2/26/2003
Revisions

OPEN ON: BLACK SCREEN WITH FLASHING TV NEWS SHOWS ON A TV
SCREEN MOVING TOWARDS US

Dozens of news shows flash on the screen. ABC, NBC, CNN,
FOX, MSNBC, CBS, The Weather Channel, ESPN, etc. etc. All
fronted by dozens of anchors: Jennings, Brokaw, Aaron Brown,
Rather, Chung etc. etc.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

(powerful and assured)

Television news. There are hundreds
of 24 hours channels, local and
network news shows bombarding us
every waking second. And with each
show an endless list of news anchors
trying to convince you that they,
and only they, speak the truth. And
what do these voices of the truth
tell us? Be afraid. Be very afraid.

The shows multiply across the screen forming a cacophony of
anchors.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

But there was a time in our not too
distant past when the world as we
know it was a much simpler place.

We dissolve to WISPY CLOUDS and a BLUE SKY.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

This was a less cynical time. A time
when people believed everything they
heard on TV... a time before cable...
Three channels were all there was
and viewers were happy. You heard me
right, three channels.

MUSIC: a sparkling gliss

We emerge from the clouds to find ourselves over Center City
Portland 1973.

MUSIC: the initial pulsing bass lines of "Cherry, Cherry" by
Neil Diamond

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

It was 1973 and in a city like
Portland the news was clear... and
if it wasn't you turned on the TV
and the man told you what it was.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Yes, in this strange time, men were men and real men were anchormen....and in Portland one anchorman was the balls: Ron Burgundy. And brother let me tell you: he knew how to wear a friggin' suit.

MUSIC KICKS IN HARD. Smash cut to RON BURGUNDY, 38, walking through the heart of Portland with a clear blue sky overhead. He has a commanding presence with an affable smile and perfectly parted hair. He's a cross between Chuck Woolery and Chuck's brother Sean Woolery. As he strolls down the street all of Portland seems to embrace him.

TITLE: ACTION NEWS! WITH RON BURGUNDY

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS sitting on a girder wave to Ron.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER

Hey Ron Burgundy! You're the best!

RON

Looking good Portland!

Continuing his walk, he takes a hot dog offered to him by a VENDER from a lunch truck.

VENDER

Hey Ron Burgundy! Do a story on me!

RON

(chuckling)

You are a riot Louie!

Ron takes one bite of the hot dog and then drops it on the ground without a thought. He then moves past an open air bar and a BUSINESS MAN, 38, sans jacket hands him a scotch rocks.

BUSINESS MAN

Hey Ron! Bottoms up! We love ya!!

RON

Well hello, booze!

He downs the scotch in one sip and puts the empty on the tray of a passing waitress. Next Ron passes an ATTRACTIVE BLONDE woman bending over sipping from a water fountain. He gives her butt a pinch.

RON (CONT'D)

I like that fanny!

BLOND WOMAN

(playfully)

Oh, Mr. Burgundy!

CONTINUED:

He passes a giant billboard showing a smiling picture of himself with the slogan "CHANNEL 4 NEWS! IF RON BURGUNDY SAYS IT, IT'S THE TRUTH!"

RON

Who's that handsome devil?!

Slowly, the bass line of the Neil Diamond song blends into a dynamic casio driven action news theme. Ron's march down the street has turned into the opening of the six o'clock action news. And it is powerful ma friend, powerful!

SIMPLE 70'S GRAPHIC: CHANNEL 4 ACTION NEWS

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(with building excitement)

You're watching the Portland Metropolitan area's number one rated newscast! Channel four Action News with five-time local Emmy award-winning anchor Ron Burgundy!

One by one, members of the Action News team start to join Ron.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Champ Kind, sports!!

Champ Kind wearing his signature cowboy hat is playing stick ball with some kids. He hits a home run and then joins the march next to Ron.

ANNOUNCER VO

Brick Tamland, weather!

BRICK TAMLAND finishes getting a haircut, gives the camera a wink and then joins Ron.

ANNOUNCER VO (CONT'D)

And your reporter in the field, Brian Fantana!!!

BRIAN FANTANA is singing doo-wop with some teens around an ash can with sunglasses on. He removes the sunglasses and catches up with the Team.

The Action News team with focused looks on their faces walk towards camera.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS SET -- OPENING CONTINUED

Action News team are sitting in the control room with their backs to camera and all turn simultaneously with a "serious journalist" stare.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
(now almost yelling)
It's Action News at six o'clock!!!!

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS STUDIO --- 5:59PM

Ron and the whole Action news team are seated behind the minimalist 70's news set. They are all smoking and drinking.
STAGE MANAGER, 42, hurriedly walks in.

STAGE MANAGER
We're on in ten, guys.

BRIAN FANTANA
(exhaling smoke)
So Champ, did you get lucky last night?

CHAMP KIND
Nah, pretty standard Tuesday night.
Got drunk, pissed in my car, woke up in a supermarket bathroom.

BRICK TAMLAND
(showing them some copy)
Hey guys, what's this word?

BRIAN FANTANA
"Because."

An attractive ASSISTANT, 24 walks by wheeling a drink cart.

ASSISTANT
Can I freshen any of you gentlemen up?

RON
Thank you Karen. I'll have a Beefeater and tonic. Hold the tonic.

NEWS TEAM
(hearty laugh)
HA, HA, HA, HA!!!!!!

The stage manager starts his silent five count.

CONTINUED:

RON

Stay sharp fellas. It's go time!

And...bam! The red camera light is on. Ron lights up with a baritone confidence.

RON (CONT'D)

Good evening. I'm Ron Burgundy. And here's what going on in your world...

EXT. PORTLAND--- CONTINUOUS

Shots of the empty city streets as we hear Ron's powerful yet assuring voice.

RON

A Washington State man clings to life at University Hospital after being viciously attacked by a pack of wild dogs in an abandoned pool.

1)An African American Mother with a baby crying. At the sound of Burgundy's voice the baby quiets.

RON (CONT'D)

...France, China, Brazil, and Uganda round out the group...

2)Forty elderly people in the T.V. room of a nursing home sit transfixed by Ron. The volume is incredibly loud.

RON (CONT'D)

...the radical group known as the Alarm Clock continues to evade frustrated authorities...

3) A gay biker bar watches transfixed.

CHAMP KIND

....annnd Whammy! Willie McCovey takes Darrell Knowles deep!

4) A Doctor in surgery watching on a little TV, pumps his fist.

BRIAN FANTANA

....Tonight I conclude my five part series on the evils of breast feeding...

5)The teleprompter dissolves to the end of the broadcast. We catch Ron putting down a drink out of the camera cut.

CONTINUED:

RON

...officials at the zoo say the baby giraffe will be named "Freedom." Looks like the Trailblazers might have themselves a new center.

(light chuckle)

For all of us here at the Action News Center, have a pleasant evening. I'm Ron Burgundy...

8) Shots of all kinds of people saying Ron's sign off line in unison with him.

RON (CONT'D)

...you stay classy Portland.

CUT TO:

A TV SET AGAINST A BLACK BACKGROUND BEING TURNED OFF

CUT TO:

INT. MAKE UP ROOM MIRROR

The team each sits in their chairs while assistants clean off their pancake make up. They all drink cocktails and smoke.

ALL

Nice work... that felt good...I'm hard... pass the limes...

ED HARKEN, 50 the managing producer enters flanked by GARTH HOLIDAY, 52, the associate producer.

ED HARKEN

Listen up! The ratings just came in for last month.

(pulls out a piece of paper)

We're number one. We just grabbed every key demographic. Congratu-god damn-lations.

RON

(pumping his fist)

That a-way gang! Super-duper! I mean it everyone that is neat stuff! Neat-o!

BRIAN FANTANA

Keep this up Ron and we're going to be losing you to network.

CONTINUED:

RON

Do you think so? Do you really think
so?! Network... ahhhh... ooohhh...
mmmm... eee.

CHAMP KIND

Ron! Deacon Charley, the weather man
at channel two, is having a pool
party! Every anchor in town's going
to be there!

A cute red head who is kind of heavy with a crooked nose.
HELEN, 32, the drink girl from earlier is sitting on Champ's
lap.

HELEN

Come on Ron! Let's party-hearty!

RON

You know what? I think it's time to
show all the fine gals of this city
what a number one rated news team
looks like.

They all tighten their tie knots in perfect sync with each
other.

ALL

News Team!!

CUT TO:

MONTAGE OF SLOW MOTION AND REAL TIME SHOTS OF THE NEWS TEAM
JUMPING IN THE AIR WITH HUGE SMILES AGAINST A CITY SKYLINE
BACKGROUND. THEIR EXPRESSIONS ARE OF RAW, UNADULTERATED
ELATION.

MUSIC: FRIENDS OF DISTINCTION "Grazing in the Grass"

CUT TO:

EXT. PORTLAND ART MUSEUM --- SAME TIME

We see a van marked "The Pet Emporium" parked by the dark
and closed museum.

MUSIC: INTRIGUE JAZZ PIANO

INT. MUSEUM --- CONTINUOUS

Dark museum with works of art everywhere. A guard strolls
through whistling. He hears a sound, turns around only to
be swatted in the head by a man's foot.

CONTINUED:

Shadowy figures move towards a Van Gogh self portrait. We hear a spray paint can being shaken up and then sprayed.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME --- NIGHT

CU of Ron

RON

Hey everyone, I have a very important breaking news story...Cannonball!!!

Pull back to see it is a drunken pool party of anchors and women. Ron, in his underwear does a cannon ball into the pool. A dozen other people including the News Team jump in as well.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Yes, these fellas were a real news team. Burgundy, of course, was the foundation, the rock.

"Use Me Up" by Bill Withers plays. As the team rising from the pool in slow motion we see their hair is miraculously completely dry and perfect.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

But each member brought their own special something to the equation.

SUPER FAST PUSH IN TO: Brian Fantana who is laughing, drinking and playing around with a .38 while talking to an attractive lady in a green silk dress. Freeze Frame

BRIAN FANTANA (V.O.)

People call me the Bri Man. I'm very stylish and have what the French call Jenny Say Kwane. I use a hand full of talcum powder on my genitals every morning and own over three thousand different colognes. Ladies dig my stuff.

SUPER FAST PUSH IN AND FREEZE: Champ is doing shots of tequila with some baseball players and a newscaster from a rival station.

CHAMP KIND (V.O.)

Champ here. I'm all about havin' fun, you know, get a few drinks in me, maybe start a fire in someone's kitchen. Anyway, I've kind of become famous for my signature catch phrase "Whammy". As in:

CONTINUED:

Quick cut to Champ announcing some highlights.

CHAMP

Steve Garvey at the plate
annnd...Whammy!!!

CHAMP KIND

Everywhere I go people let me know
how much they love my Whammies.

Cut to: 1) Champ having sex with a woman in a bridal gown in a closet. They yell "Whammy!" when they orgasm. We hear a knock on the door and a man's voice "Honey, where are you? They're ready to cut the cake!" 2) Champ at a funeral with tears streaming down his cheeks. A priest approaches him.

PRIEST

Your Father was a good man. And by
the way, Whammy.

SUPER FAST PUSH IN: Brick Tamland is trying to get something out of the toaster with a fork.

BRICK TAMLAND (V.O.)

I'm Brick Tamland. People seem to
like me because I'm polite and rarely
late. I like to eat ice cream and I
really enjoy a nice pair of slacks.
Years later a doctor will tell me
that I have an IQ of 48 and am what
some people call "mentally retarded."

MUSIC UP: GREEN EYED LADY

Party continues to rage. 1) Brian is making out with Helen from the office. 2) Champ is dancing with karate moves. 3) For some reason Brick has a shovel and is digging a hole in the lawn. 4) Ron is singing to the music while sashaying through the party with a big drink in his hand. Every woman he passes gives him a flirty hello.

BRIAN FANTANA

(slaps Ron's butt)

Hey Ron, I got this girl I want you
to meet. She's an ex-cheerleader who
runs a tanning salon in town. Sherri?
Meet Ron Burgundy.

In steps a SHERRI, a HOT BLONDE, 24, in a corduroy pant suit.

HOT BLONDE

Hello Ron Burgundy. This just in:
I'm not wearing any panties.

CONTINUED:

RON
Boy oh boy, I love this "sexuality
revolution."

Ron is distracted by a STRIKING WOMAN walking by in the background. Everything fades away for a second as they lock eyes.

MUSIC: ETHEREAL

RON (CONT'D)
(to himself)
By the beard of Zeus!

HOT BLONDE
Mr. Burgundy...

RON
Excuse me...I have to go do other...
things.

Ron pushes his way through the crowd looking for the striking woman. He sees a glance of her, then loses her only to find himself in a room with a bunch of anchormen throwing knives at a wall. Two other drunk anchormen corner him.

DRUNK ANCHOR
Hey Ron Burgundy! You should join
us! We're going to take a dump in
the fish tank!

RON
Sorry fellas, I can't. But thanks
for thinking of me!

Ron pushes past them looks everywhere.

RON (CONT'D)
I've lost her...

He turns around defeated only to find the STRIKING WOMAN, 28 sitting alone at a table. She is sexy in a confident way and has an "all about business" demeanor.

RON (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Got to approach this just right..

Ron approaches her.

CONTINUED:

RON (CONT'D)

Why hello pretty lady. I have never said this to a woman before but you are electric.

STRIKING WOMAN

Well thank you. But I'm actually leaving.

RON

You've got a nice little hiney on you. The second I saw your hiney, I thought "boy, that is a heck of a rear!"

STRIKING WOMAN

Well you certainly know how to compliment a woman. If you'll excuse me--

RON

Do you know who I am?

STRIKING WOMAN

I can't say that I do.

RON

I don't know how to put this, but I'm impressive, I'm a big deal.

STRIKING WOMAN

(laughs) Oh really? I'm very happy for you.

RON

I'm a fascinating guy. I have a van. Ah! That sounds stupid!

STRIKING WOMAN

Well I should really be going-

RON

Wait! I'm going to say something right now and it's just going to be out there and we're both just going to have to deal with it. (takes a deep breath) I have man urges towards you...ahhh! That didn't come out right!

Ron looks up and she's gone.

RON (CONT'D)

Magnificent.

Meanwhile Champ Kind has climbed on top of a garden shed and stands shirtless in front of the entire party.

CONTINUED:

CHAMP KIND
Hey everyone....Orgy!!!!

Party instantly goes silent.

CHAMP KIND (CONT'D)
Sorry. I misread the vibe.

Just go back to what you were doing.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME --- SUNRISE

Some cars are pulling away from the party house as some other drunk anchors straggle into cabs.

MUSIC: PLEASE COME TO BOSTON by Dave Loggins

CUT TO:

INT. RON'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Ron has just entered his apartment which features paintings of ships, a driftwood coffee table, a sectional couch and a pachinko machine. Ron is greeted by his beloved terrier BAXTER who is a very old dog.

RON
Whoa Baxter, papa's home!

BAXTER
Woof!

RON
Well if you hold on I'll tell you.
As a matter of fact I did meet
someone. I met a lady, a very special
lady. And before I knew it she was
gone.

BAXTER
Woof!

RON
Good question Baxter, is love by its
very nature fleeting? I believe it
was Billy Shakespeare who said, "Love
doth fly like yonder bird unto
yonder."

BAXTER
Woof!

RON
That is too Shakespeare!

CONTINUED:

BAXTER

Woof!

RON

What?! How did you poop in the
refridgerator?

BAXTER

Woof!

RON

Ha, ha, ha, ha!!! You are a clever
one! I can't believe you're only
twenty two. Alright, I forgive you.
Now let's get you in your pj's and
ready for bed.

INT. RON'S BEDROOM -- AN HOUR LATER

Ron and Baxter are both snoring in bed with matching Action
News pajamas on. Both also have orthodontics head gear on.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS OFFICE- CONFERENCE ROOM -- THE NEXT DAY

News Team, writers and editors sit around conference table
as they wait for morning briefing to begin. The guys are
incredibly hung over.

CHAMP KIND

Ooooh, that was one crazy party. My
piss was blue this morning.

BRIAN FANTANA

I think I got married at some point...
Did I marry anyone in here last night?

A pudgy looking EDITOR, 25, raises her hand.

BRIAN FANTANA (CONT'D)

Charla, right?

EDITOR

Michelle.

BRICK TAMLAND

I ate a big, red candle.

Harken enters dieing out a cigarette.

CONTINUED:

ED HARKEN

Morning everyone. Here's the stories we're chasing for the day: there's a train derailment in Eugene, and that group The Alarm Clock got into the Portland Museum of Art and defaced a bunch of masterpieces with political slogans.

QUICK CUTS: The museum. Pan past police officers, detectives and reporters in front of paintings. Monet's water lillies with "Wake Up!" spray painted across it. A Suerat with "Stop the bullshit!" A Van Gogh self portrait with breasts and "Kiss" make-up added.

HELEN

Since when did the Portland Museum of Art get Van Goghs and Picassos?

GARTH HOLLIDAY

It's a really underrated museum.

ED HARKEN

This story's gaining steam and the network might be looking for some coverage from us. So stay on it.

RON

(waking up from a light
sleep)

Huh!? Whaa..?! The network's here?!
Please take me!!

ED HARKEN

Relax Ron, they're not here, I just mentioned them.

QUICK CUT AWAY: A taxi pulls up in front of the news station

ED HARKEN (CONT'D)

And now I'm sure a lot of you have been hearing how the affiliates have been bitching about more diversity in the news team.

QUICK CUT AWAY: One sexy stockinged leg followed by the second steps out of the taxi.

MUSIC: SHINING STAR by Earth Wind and Fire

CHAMP KIND

What the hell's "diversity" mean?

CONTINUED:

BRICK TAMLAND

Isn't "diversity" a kind of mustard?

QUICK CUT: We see a hint of blonde hair, a curve of the hip, ruby red lips, a Virginia Slim cigarette in hand as "she" makes her way into the station.

ED HARKEN

Diversity means the times are changing. So with that in mind I'd like to introduce to you the newest addition to KYW news team, straight from WRJK in Asheville, North Carolina: Ms. Alicia Corningstone.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE, 28, walks through the door. She's the striking woman from the party. The room is shocked.

BRIAN FANTANA

What the frig...?

CHAMP KIND

That's a lady!

Ron is speechless. He stands up in a daze.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Mr. Burgundy. I'm sorry we got off on the wrong foot last night.

RON

I haven't stopped wanting you since we met.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Oh Ron!!!

She runs and jumps on him.

MUSIC: "YOU MAKE ME SO VERY HAPPY" by Blood, Sweat and Tears.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE (CONT'D)

Take me! Take me right now on this conference table!

RON

I am engorged!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

We are doing this right now with no shame!

CONTINUED:

RON
Let's make a baby!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Get nasty on me! Break the law!

RON
It's jazz baby! Jazz!!

They fall back and smash through the conference table while everyone applauds.

SMASH CUT BACK TO:

Back to reality from Ron's fantasy.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
(very professional)
I just want you all to know that I look forward to contributing to this news station's already sterling reputation.

RON
Hello Ms. Corningstone. I believe we've already met.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Yes we have Mr. Burgundy. I hear you're one of the finest regional anchors in the business.

RON
So you knew who I-

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Yes, I knew.

ED HARKEN
Alicia's going to be doing features on women's stories: fashion, cooking, gossip, that kind of thing.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
For the time being.

ED HARKEN
For awhile. Now go make some news people. And remember, let's do our best to make Ms. Corningstone feel welcome!

INT. ED HARKEN'S OFFICE

The team is in Ed's office chain smoking. Brian is livid.
Ron stares out the window.

BRIAN FANTANA

This is bullcrap Ed! Don't get me
wrong, I love the ladies but...

(suddenly screaming)

Women do not belong in the
newsroom!!!!

CHAMP KIND

It's anchorman, not anchorlady! And
that's a scientific fact!

BRICK TAMLAND

I can yell too!

ED HARKEN

Everyone relax. She's not gonna take
anyone's air time.

BRICK TAMLAND

I read somewhere that their periods
attract bears.

BRIAN FANTANA

See that Ed? Bears. Now you're putting
the whole station in jeopardy.

CHAMP KIND

I'll say one thing for her. She
does have a nice big ol' bee-hind.
I'd like to put some barbeque sauce
on that butt and just Awooo!!!! Munch-
munch-munch-munch-munch!!!

Everyone is laughing at Champ. Alicia enters. The room falls
into an awkward silence.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Excuse me Mr. Harken, I was wondering
if you knew when my office would be
ready.

ED HARKEN

It should be ready this afternoon.
They're just changing the carpet.

RON

You can use my office! (too loud)
Then maybe we could get lunch!!!

CONTINUED:

ED HARKEN
Lower your voice Ron.

RON
Sorry.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Thank you Mr. Harken. Goodbye
gentlemen.

She closes the door.

CHAMP KIND
Oh she is a saucy Mama! I'm a gonna
bite that rumpy rump!!!
(howling like a wolf)
Awoooooooooooo!!!

We see Alicia outside clearly hearing everything as she walks
away.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE (V.O.)
Don't feel sorry for me. I'm used to
this kind of situation. My real
name is Rita Ganken but Alicia
Corningstone hit the ear a little
better. My first on air job was at
a little station outside of Houston
and they were a hell of a lot worse
than these guys.

QUICK CUT TO:

ALICIA STANDING IN AN OFFICE TALKING TO A STATION MANAGER,
55, WITH A BIG COMB OVER AND PICTURES OF HIS WIFE AND KIDS
ALL OVER HIS DESK.

STATION MANAGER
(polite drawl)
We're like a family round here. You
got a problem then you come to Buck.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Do you have a chair?

STATION MANAGER
Hell, why don't you come on over
here and sit on my lap. Come on sweet
thing.
(pointing to his crotch)
The Buck stops here.

CUT BACK TO:

She continues walking down the hallway.

CONTINUED:

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Women always ask me how I put up with it. Well, I have a little secret, I'm a damn good journalist. I live on a diet of cigarettes, Tab and ambition. And I am here to do one thing: excell.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS OF PORTLAND -- HALF HOUR LATER

The News Team is walking through the center of town underneath a blue sky eating corn dogs. A policeman on horseback rides by.

POLICE OFFICER

Hey! The Action News Team!

RON

Thumbs up men in blue!

BRICK TAMLAND

Hi Mr.Horse!

Ron throws his half eaten corn dog on the ground.

BRIAN FANTANA

So I figure the best way to keep Corningstone in line is to bed her quick.

CHAMP KIND

I wanna put that ass in a deep frier with a side of slaw and some gravy and just munch-munch-munch!

RON

Come on fellas, give it a rest!

BRIAN FANTANA

Oh my God look at Burgundy! You've gone all soft on us, like some school boy bitch!

They all laugh.

RON

Hey! Ron Burgundy has not gone soft! I will grab that woman, throw her down, caress her, give her a back rub! We will go to a Cat Stevens' concert together and hold hands!

CONTINUED:

CHAMP KIND

Listen to yourself Burgundy! You sound like a gay.

RON

Come on fellas! It's me: Papa Burgundy! As far as I'm concerned Corningstone is fair game. Let the games begin! Hey-oo!

ALL

There's the old Ron!... He's back!

They walk past a large building where five men in suits are smoking. It is lead anchor FRANK VITCHARD, 47 and his Eyewitness News Team from rival station channel ten.

FRANK VITCHARD

Well, well, if it isn't Ron Burgundy and the Action News Team.

RON

Hello Frank. Hello Eyewitness News Team.

FRANK VITCHARD

Nice clothes gentlemen. I didn't know the Salvation Army had a sale going on.

EYEWITNESS TEAM

(snickering)

He, heh, he, heh.

BRICK TAMLAND

Hey. Where did you guys get your suits? At the toilet?

Half Beat.

FRANK VITCHARD

What are you doing on our station's turf!? You're about to get a serious beat down!

CHAMP KIND

Make a move Vitchard! I will bust up that rot hole you call a mouth!

BRIAN FANTANA

At least we have a helicopter at our station!

FRANK VITCHARD

Yeah, well we've have a weather center!

CONTINUED:

RON

You put up a map and siren! That's not a weather center!

FRANK VITCHARD

Actually, that is pretty much what a weather center is.

BRIAN FANTANA

We should get one of those.

RON

Focus guys!

FRANK VITCHARD

Why don't you clowns go buy some more Old Spice!

CHAMP KIND

Bite my weiner Vitchard!

RON

Easy Team. I'm sure Frank is just upset over finishing second in the ratings again.

The Eyewitness News Team deflates.

FRANK VITCHARD

That's was uncalled for. You know those ratings systems are flawed.

RON

I'm sure that's what it is Frank. Have a good day Eyewitness News Team!

The Action News Team moves on.

NEWS TEAM

Nice one Ron...way to handle em...

RON

It certainly is good to be number one.

BRIAN FANTANA

Sure beats the hell out of number two!

Everyone laughs heartily.

RON

We are laughing...and we are very good friends!...Good buddies who are sharing special times.

CONTINUED:

BRIAN FANTANA

You don't have to say it Ron. Just
let it happen.

RON

Laughing and enjoying our friendship!
Someday we'll look back on this moment
with great fondness!!

CUT TO:

INT. ALARM CLOCK COMPOUND--- THAT NIGHT

MUSIC: MC-5

We see the Alarm Clock, a group of serious faced radicals,
seated around a large table. PAUL, 28, the leader sits in a
large chair with SANDRA, 23, a sexy Mama on his lap. He is
surrounded by OLIVER, 32, a wirey genius with glasses, a
tall imposing Mexican man, MARK, 28, a sexy African American
woman, DEEDRA X, 26, and a MUSCULAR GUY, 25.

ALL

Stop the corruption! End the lies!
Ring the Alarm!!!

PAUL DANOVER

So here's what's gonna go down. We
chain ourselves to the White House
gates and refuse to move til our
message is heard.

MARCOS

And then the alarm clock will start
a 'ringing'!

PAUL DANOVER

So, how're we doing on transportation?

DEEDRA X

Portland-Washington round trip tickets
are three hundred.

PAUL DANOVER

For all of us?

DEEDRA X

Per person.

MARCOS

So let's take a bus.

HOT WHITE CHICK

That is for a bus.

CONTINUED:

PAUL DANOVER

Dammit! We'll think of something else. Now's the time, folks! It's time to wake everyone UP!

SANDRA

What're we waking people up to again?

PAUL DANOVER

It is clearly stated in the manifesto.

MARCOS

Where's the manifesto?

PAUL DANOVER

I am writing the manifesto and when the time is right the information will be disseminated. The point is that to get our message out there we need money. Until we get money we're not the Alarm Clock gang. We're the Clock gang. There's no alarm. Just a clock that's not even wound up.

OLIVER

Maybe we should rob a bank.

PAUL DANOVER

Yes. It's all stolen money anyway. Marcos, get some masks and some transportation, Oliver, pick a bank with easy exits and low traffic. Now I'm going to go lay in a hammock. You ladies wanna join me, talk about the revolution, give some backrubs?

DEEDRA X/SANDRA

Cool...Sure Paul.

CUT TO:

SUNRISE OVER PORTLAND

MUSIC: JONATHON EDWARDS "SUNSHINE"

INT. NEWS OFFICES ---DAY

The news offices are buzzing with activity. Harken is talking on the phone.

CONTINUED:

ED HARKEN

Right...well my son is just going through a phase...no, I don't know how he would have gotten ahold of Argentinian porn...yes I agree, an act like that is not love...no, I don't know what a tapir is...alright, I'll stop by the school later.

Garth knocks on the open door.

GARTH HOLLIDAY

You free Ed? It's Ms. Corningstone. She refuses to do the story you assigned her.

ED HARKEN

Send her in.

Alicia enters.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Mr. Harken I will not have my first story be about a cat fashion show. I've interviewed Ted Kennedy. There is hard news happening in Portland and I want to be a part of it!

ED HARKEN

You will do this story Ms. Corningstone. And you will do it well. I wanna know what kind of little hats they wear! If they cut holes in the pants for the tails!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Mister this is baloney!

ED HARKEN

It is not baloney!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

It is grade A Baloney!

ED HARKEN

Not baloney! Do your job missy!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Baloney!

CUT TO:

RON STROLLING DOWN THE HALLWAY. HE PASSES CHAMP

CHAMP KIND

Hey Burgundy, I'm about to take a run at the new girl! Let the games begin!

RON

(clearly not cool with it)
That's right! Let the games begin!

Alicia exits Harken's office, clearly pissed off.

MUSIC: THE WHITE STRIPES "HELLO OPERATOR"

A series of quick shots showing Champ finding ways to touch Alicia's breasts. He bumps into her in the hallway.

CHAMP

Oh sorry about that lil' darling.

INT. OTHER SIDE OF THE OFFICE--MINUTES LATER

He reaches across her to grab a coffee cup.

CHAMP KIND

Ooops, boy I'm clumsy.

INT. CENTER DESKS IN NEWS ROOM -- MINUTES LATER

He grabs a pencil while she's on the phone.

CHAMP KIND

Let me just grab this. Whammy!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Excuse me are you trying to touch my chest?

CHAMP KIND

What can I say? I like the way you're put together. You wanna go get a filet of sole later?

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I don't think so. Wait let me get this over here.

She punches him in the dick.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE (CONT'D)

Sorry.

CONTINUED:

Newsteam laughs at Champ as he throws up in a waste basket.
Brian walks by him.

BRIAN FANTANA

Nice work Doctor Homo. Now watch and
learn.

Music kicks back in.

INT. BRIAN FANTANA'S OFFICE

Brian is looking through a shelf filled with literally
hundreds of cologne bottles while Ron watches on.

RON

Which cologne you going with: Night
Dragon or Lodon Gentleman?

BRIAN FANTANA

No, she gets a special cologne.

He opens a cabinet full of cologne bottles, in the middle we
see a polished mahogany box. He opens it and inside, sitting
on some grass is a large black bottle with a panther head.

BRIAN FANTANA (CONT'D)

It's called Sex Panther by Prince
Machivelli. And it's illegal in nine
countries.

SFX: PANTHER GROWL

INT. NEWS ROOM

Brian walks up to Alicia who is with a copy writer and a
producer.

BRIAN FANTANA

Hey sweetheart, I just wanted to
extend an invite your way-

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Oh my God, what is that smell?

BRIAN FANTANA

That's the smell of desire M'lady.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

My eyes are watering. It smells like
a piece of old ham wrapped in a used
diaper!

CONTINUED:

Alicia runs off. People all over the office begin sniffing the air and responding to his very present cologne.

BLACK MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Damn that is rank!

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

It smells like an animal carcass
full of rotten shrimp!

SMALL CHILD'S VOICE (O.S.)

Mommy I'm scared!

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND KYW STUDIO

Brian is being hosed down in his suit by two janitors in haz-mat suits.

INT. STUDIO---TWENTY MINUTES LATER

Alicia is talking to a CAMERA MAN as Brick approaches.

BRICK TAMLAND

Excuse me Alicia?

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

What is it Brick? I'm working.

BRICK TAMLAND

I thought maybe we could get together
later and touch each other in the
bathing suit area.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

No.

BRICK TAMLAND

Okay.

He turns and runs away full speed.

INT. NEWSROOM - COFFEE STATION

Cup of coffee being filled, pull back to see that it is Ron surrounded by the defeated News Team. Brian is still soaked.

CHAMP KIND

...so she must be a lesbo. It all
adds up!

BRIAN FANTANA

No, she's a ball buster.

CONTINUED:

RON

I think we're all wrong. I think she's a classy lady. And they can be the worst.

CHAMP KIND

We're classy guys. You want a sip of rum?

He offers Ron a thermos.

RON

No thank you. It's one in the afternoon. I just had some tequila.

BRIAN FANTANA

Man, what're we gonna do?

RON

I quote my mentor the great lead anchor Jess Moondragon who used to say, "Sometimes you gotta let it all hang out."

Ron strides off purposefully.

Music: Kicks back in.

CHAMP KIND

Hey Ron! Take a nice big bite of that bee-hind for me and save some in a doggy bag! We can have sandwiches tomorrow! Whammy!!!

INT. ALICIA'S OFFICE

Alicia is watching a research tape of different kinds of cats. Helen knocks.

HELEN

Alicia? Ron wants to see you in his office.

INT. RON'S OFFICE

Alicia enters Ron's office, he is seated backwards on a chair, shirtless, curling handweights. It's an obviously posed situation.

RON

Oh Alicia I'm sorry I didn't know you were coming by. Just doing my workout. Tuesday is arms and back.

CONTINUED:

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

You asked me to come by.

RON

Oh did I? Well, I'm just making sure the guns stay pumped. Let me just get a glass of water over here.

Ron reaches across Alicia for the water in such a way as to flex.

RON (CONT'D)

Just getting this glass of water.
Pardon my guns.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

This has to be the feeblest pick up attempt I have ever encountered. You should be ashamed of yourself Mr. Burgundy.

RON

(putting on his shirt)
"Pick up attempt?!" I am offended!
I have very little time to get to the gym so I have to sculpt my guns at the office.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Stop calling your arms guns!

RON

I was only going to suggest that I show you around the town as one professional helping another professional.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Really?

RON

Yes. But now, I am hurt and shocked!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Strictly as a professional?

RON

That was the idea, yes. But we're way past that! I am so hurt and wounded that-

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I could do that.

RON

Really?

CONTINUED:

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Yes. As a journalist I should get to know the city I'm covering. But this is not a date.

RON

Of course. Strickly professional.

Ron stands up and clearly has a huge hard on.

RON (CONT'D)

It's the... pleats.

INT. HALLWAY -- SECONDS LATER

MUSIC CUE: "Groovey Situation" by Gene Chandler

Ron now with shirt on walk dances down the hallway.

RON

I got a date! There we go! Hey-oo!

Suddenly, without warning he slams his head into an open file cabinet, WHAM!

RON (CONT'D)

Ron Burgundy is down and it is bad!
Ohhhh it is very serious! I'm going to say right off the bat, call for a paramedic! Ohhhhhhhh my God it is as serious as anything on record! I'm fully expecting a portion of my brain to be exposed.

Ron stands up and feels his head, there's barely a red bump there.

RON (CONT'D)

Okay, false alarm gang! Let's get back to work everyone, we've got a news program to put on!

The news team walks up.

CHAMP KIND

What happened?

RON

She said yes. We're having a romantic evening together tonight.

CONTINUED:

NEWS TEAM
(panting and barking)
Alright Ron!...You
Dog!...Whammy!...Woof! Woof!

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Yes, Burgundy was smitten. Ron didn't
have much experience with real
relationships so it was a new feeling
for him.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS STUDIO --- THAT NIGHT

RON
Good evening Portland. I'm Ron
Burgundy. Tonight's top story: A
robbery in the downtown area today
as four unidentified individuals
made off with with only four masks
from a prominent Portland costume
shop.

Brian Fantana who's hair is still wet reports from in front
of the store.

BRIAN FANTANA
And for now the Police can only hope
they get some leads in this strange
case. Back to you Ron.

A passerby in the background stops.

PASSERBY
What is that stench? It smells like
a plumbers ass full of rancid salmon!

And then we time lapse dissolve to Ron's sign off line.

RON
Which proves yet again that even a
blind man and his pet falcon can
find happiness in this world we live
in. Good stuff. For your Action News
Team, I'm Ron Burgundy?

INT. CONTROL ROOM

ED HARKEN
Dammit who typed a question mark on
the teleprompter? For the last time,
whatever you put into the prompter
Burgundy will read it. Are we clear?

CONTINUED:

Ron finishes his sign off. Quick cuts of different people in Portland saying it with him.

RON
You stay classy Portland.

Credits roll as Ron bolts off the set.

INT. NEWS BUILDING LOBBY- NIGHT

Alicia is waiting by the front doors.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
(to herself)
This is such a mistake Alicia.
Remember it's strictly professional...

Ron comes walk dancing out of the elevator.

RON
(singing)
"...ALEECIA...ALEEEECIA...MY ANGEL...MY
DYNAMITE LADY." I'm full of it
tonight.

INT. RON'S VAN - FIVE MINUTES LATER

Ron and Alicia drive through the bright lights of Portland.

RON
So I thought we'd start by getting a
bird's eye view of the greatest city
on earth: Portland Oregon.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Excellent.

Ron pops a tape in to the dash.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE (CONT'D)
What's that?

RON
Oh it's just a little tune I heard,
made me think of a spicial lady that
I happen to be driving with right
now.

Ron pushes play.

MUSIC: "I WANNA MAKE IT WITH YOU" BY BREAD

Ron turns and just stares at Alicia with a suggestive, sly
look for a long time without making any attempt to look at
the road.

CONTINUED:

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

It makes me nervous that you're not looking at the road.

RON

Don't worry I know these city streets like the back of my hand.

Ron just keeps staring at her.

RON (CONT'D)

Well?

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I don't know what to say.

RON

Don't say anything. Just...be.

Ron keeps staring at her. He turns the van, stops at a red light, honks the horn.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Ron please look at the road.

RON

Shhh, trust me.

The song continues to play and Ron continues to look directly at Alicia. He makes way for an ambulance, puts on his turn signal, merges into fast moving traffic all while continuing to stare deeply at Alicia.

RON (CONT'D)

You have captivating eyes, like a unicorn or a Princess. Has anyone ever told you that?

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

No...thank you.

RON

And we're here. Just let me parallel park.

Quick motions with his hands on the wheel as he parrallel parks without looking.

RON (CONT'D)

And there you have it. The grand lady that is Portland Oregon.

CONTINUED:

We see that he has parked perfectly on a steep bluff overlooking a stunning night view of the city.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Well. That is quite a view
Mr. Burgundy.

RON

Drink it in. Mmmmmmm...Portland. She
always goes down smooth.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

It's truly nice to see an anchor so
fond of the city he covers.

RON

Portland's my beautiful lady. And as
of yesterday, she just got a little
prettier.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

That's very... nice of you.

RON

And now we go to a place essential
to any TV reporter in Portland.

CUT TO:

INT. MAHOGANY BAR

Cocktails being mixed and beer being poured. A jazz trio is
playing. The place is packed with news anchors smoking and
drinking.

RON

Every news anchor in town comes to
Tino's. This is the place.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

It's very exciting.

A waiter passes by.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE (CONT'D)

Oh excuse me! May I have another
Manhattan?

WAITER

Anything for Mr. Burgundy's guest!

RON

Wow you drank the first one fast.

CONTINUED:

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Well, when in Rome...

RON
Yes... please go on.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Do as the Romans do? It's an old expression.

RON
Oh I've never heard of it. That's wonderful. Alicia you know what's wrong with you? (singing) ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, LA, LA, LA! Let's introduce you to the gang!

We see a series of news anchors being introduced to Alicia.

ANCHOR #1
Heyyyyy. Mike Nazareth, channel 2 sports. You got a nice shape honey. Don't be afraid to show it off.

ANCHOR #2
Chip Mantooth, weather. Remember honey, more cleavage equals more ratings.

ANCHOR #3
Deacon Charley here, weather. Any idea who took a dump in my fish tank? Because those fish are not doing well.

ANCHOR #4
(drunk with snot running out of his nose)
Hey....mphhh...mpffmmmm...heygglll..
I..have...prblems.

Ron and Alicia seated at a table. Ron signs an autograph for a KOREAN MOTHER, 45 and her daughter.

KOREAN MOTHER
Mr.Burgundy, Because of a story you did last year about delinquent landlords we had heat for Christmas.

RON
I remember that story. October eleventh. A tuesday night. I was wearing a red tie with white speckles. You must be Paula Tran.

CONTINUED:

KOREAN MOTHER

You are a national treasure
Mr. Burgundy.

They take the autograph and exit.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Boy I have to say I'm impressed,
this city really seems to love you.

RON

It's a big responsibility. It's like
I have one million children.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Well you handle it well.

TINO, 40, walks over.

TINO

Mr. Burgundy?

RON

Tino. How are you? Tino is the
greatest club owner in the city.

TINO

Mr. Burgundy we would be honored if
you would play jazz flute for us.

RON

Oh no. I couldn't.

TINO

(to the crowd)

Would everyone love to hear Ron
Burgundy play some jazz flute?

ANCHORS

Yeah! Fantastic! Woo! Stay classy!

RON

Well...I guess I can play a quick
diddy.

Ron walks up on stage and reaches under the back of his jacket
where there is a flute case.

RON (CONT'D)

Alright gentlemen, "East Broadway
Rundown" in E-flat; keep the cymbals
splashy and take that base line for
a walk.

RON (CONT'D)
 Alright gentlemen, "East Broadway
 Rundown" in E-flat, keep the cymbals
 splashy and take that base line for
 a walk.

Ron plays an elaborate lead-in to the song. The band kicks in behind him. Ron is amazing, scampering about the stage like a nimble jazz goat, playing incredible solos. Alicia watches in awe. The crowd of anchors goes nuts. Ron walks on top of the cocktail tables as he plays, stepping on people's drinks and food. He takes a break to scat.

RON (CONT'D)
 SC EE DA BO DA DEE...NEWS, NEWS,
 BREAKING NEWS, BA DOP DEE...THIS
 JUST IN-IN-DE-IN DIN DIN!!!

He finishes the song with an amazing run of scales on the flute. Then he breaks for a beat going into Jethro Tull's Aqualung.

RON (CONT'D)
 Ah! AQUALUNG!

Then back to the jazz finish. The crowd explodes with cheers.

INT. TINO'S -- MUCH LATER

Ron and Alicia are now seated in a cozy candle lit corner. The place is empty as wait staff clean up.

ALICIA/RON
 Ha, ha, ha, ha...

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
 You were amazing, where did you learn
 how to play like that?

RON
 Jazz flute has always been a small
 passion of mine. And please, if we
 could keep this between the two of
 us I wouldn't want the Team to find
 out about my flute playing.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
 Absolutely. So what other "passions"
 do you have Mr. Burgundy?

CONTINUED:

They laugh a little too hard at this joke.

RON (CONT'D)

So what about you Alicia? What are your hopes and dreams?

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Well believe it or not we share the same dream. I too, want to become a network anchor.

RON

Ha, ha, and after that you can be King of Australia! Seriously-

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I'm very serious Mr. Burgundy. I've wanted to be an anchor since I was a little girl.

As Alicia tells the story it is depicted in a series of lightening-quick photo images.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE (CONT'D)

I've always been cursed with a talent for pursuits usually dominated by men. As a little girl instead of playing house I would play "drill sergeant" or "butcher." Then in high school I learned how to dunk and could hit the three from ABA range, but the coach wouldn't let me play with the boys. So I tried to get a job as a lumber jack. But they laughed at me. Then one day I read the P.A. announcements at school and was hooked. I knew I would be a news anchor. And yes, it's been lonely...and difficult...and lonely.

There is a tear streaming down Alicia's face.

RON

Are you crying?

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I don't think so. Um, we should probably get going, I swore I would never get involved with a co-worker...

Alicia starts to leave, but Ron grabs her by the arm.

CONTINUED:

RON
Wait. What if just for tonight we
weren't co-workers? What if we were
just... co-people.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
I don't-

RON
Shhhh. You be a woman...I'll be a
man...that's all.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
You continue to surprise me
Mr.Burgundy...

A tentative moment turns into a passionate kiss.

MUSIC: "You've Made Me So Very happy", by Blood, Sweat and
Tears comes on full blast.

They kiss feverishly. As they do this they are on a spinning
platform.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RON'S BEDROOM

They are in a half-state of undress, rubbing and kissing
each other. Baxter is next to them more passed out than
asleep.

RON
Oooohhh!!! You're my Spanish lady!!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Yeah!! Take me my viking lover!

RON
Oh yeahhh!!! I'm storming your castle
on my steed M'lady!!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Ahhh!!! Take me to Ecstasyville!

RON
Oh we're going there!

They kiss and then fall back into the bed.

HAZY DISSOLVE:

ANIMATED SEQUENCE- GIANT ANIMATED GATES "ECSTASYVILLE"

Ron and Alicia are live in an animated world. They fly into frame, smiles on their faces, holding hands, pushing their way through the gates of "Ecstasyville". It is a land not unlike the one the Smurfs live in. Full of rainbows, sunshine and magic.

RON AND ALICIA-RIDING FLYING UNICORNS

RON

I friggin love you!!!!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I friggin love you back!!!!

Exploding lolipops burst into hearts.

RON

Look! The most glorious rainbow ever!!

RON AND ALICIA SLIDING DOWN A RAINBOW

RON AND ALICIA

Weeeeeee!!!!

They land in the arms of giant panda bear who starts to hug them but then notices Alicia. They in turn begin to make-out, Ron is not amused.

RON

Back off Love Panda!

Alicia and the panda realize what they're doing and stop. The panda resumes hugging them while hearts explode all around them. Then the Panda puts his hand on Ron's thigh and tries to kiss him.

RON (CONT'D)

Hey! Ron Burgundy does not go that way Love Panda!!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RON'S BEDROOM

They are laying in each others arms as the sun comes up.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Well done sir.

CONTINUED:

RON

You are not so bad yourself. I didn't care for the Love Panda, though.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I have very strong feelings towards you Mr. Burgundy. But it's very important to me that I be viewed as a professional.

RON

Right. When in Rome.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

That expression doesn't really apply to what I'm talking about. I just thought if we're going to keep seeing each other we should keep it relatively quiet around the station.

RON

Absolutely my crazy wildflower. Tasteful discretion is the name of the game.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS ROOM

We see across the bustling news room an open door to Ron's office.

RON (O.S.)

Alicia Corningstone and I had wild, nasty sex last night and now we are in love!!!

Everyone in the news room looks up.

INT. RON'S OFFICE

The whole newsteam is in Ron's office. They're all smoking, Brian is pouring a drink at Ron's wetbar while Brick is looking at a candle.

RON

Did I just say that loud?

BRIAN FANTANA

You pretty much yelled it.

RON

I can't help it. It is wonderful! It's just fantastic!

Brian gets up and closes the door.

CONTINUED:

BRIAN FANTANA

Ron so tell us, what's it like?

RON

What, the sex? Outta sight my man!

Ron pumps his fist.

BRIAN FANTANA

No the other thing. Love.

BRICK TAMLAND

Yeah, what is that?

CHAMP KIND

I think I was in love once.

RON

Well who was she?

CHAMP KIND

I don't remember her name.

RON

That's not a good start, but go on.

CHAMP KIND

She was a dental assistant, we spent three days in Barbados together...And she could touch her shoulders with her feet.

RON

That's not love.

CHAMP KIND

Dammit!

BRIAN FANTANA

Is it like how you feel when you salute the flag... only you've got a boner?

RON

No...

BRICK TAMLAND

I love glue.

RON

You guys really wanna know what love is?

ALL

Yes...tell us...etc.

CONTINUED:

Ron takes a moment.

RON

This morning when I woke up and saw Alicia next to me, I just laid in bed.....I didn't even think about getting up to style and blow dry my hair.

Beat as the team is visibly moved.

CHAMP KIND

Wow.

BRIAN FANTANA

Ron, please tell me you did not walk out the door without blow drying your hair.

RON

I'm in love, not insane! Believe me it got done.

CHAMP KIND

Where is she now?

RON

She's doing her first story at the feline fashion show as we speak. I hope she can handle it. This is the big time.

CUT TO:

INT. GIANT PET STORE

MUSIC: "I Like Bread and Butter" is being piped in over the store P.A. A little runway has been constructed in the center of the store: Pet Emporium.

We see various shots of oblivious cats in little outfits being lead down a runway. 1) A cat in a cardigan 2) a cat in a woman's bikini 3) a cat in a leather jacket with sunglasses.

M.C.

That was Jinxy in an outfit we like to call "Rebel without a Paws", and paws is spelled p-a-w-s. Come on everyone!

We see 15-20 cat lovers enjoying the show way too much.

EAGER CAMERMAN

I'm getting some great stuff Alicia!

CONTINUED:

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

(pissed)

Let's just do my sign-off and get out of here. This is a jackass convention.

As the camera man frames up the shot Alicia sees a clerk, PAUL DANOVER, the leader of the Alarm Clock, in the tropical fish section staring at her. He approaches her nervously.

PAUL DANOVER

Hey. I'm Paul. Wanna get an Orange Julius?

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Excuse me, we're about to go live in twenty seconds.

EAGER CAMERMAN

Okay I'm ready.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Sir, we're going to need you to move.

PAUL DANOVER

Right on. You know what I always say: no time like the present. Cause you never know when the clock'll strike twelve and your carriage'll turn into a pumpkin.

As Alicia begins the broadcast Paul walks off screen. He scoops a fish from a tank with a net. Alicia glances at him for a second before going live.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

(instantly brightening for the camera)

So all in all it was fun day for cats, their owners and the spectators here at the mall. And just for today fashion curiosity did not kill the cat... it made him look purrrr-fect. From the Pet Emporium in Harkston. I'm Alicia Corningstone for Action News.

PULL OUT TO REVEAL:

This story has been playing on a monitor during the broadcast. Ron is behind the desk.

RON

That of course our newest reporter Alicia Corningstone. She's really great.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

RON (CONT'D)

And I might also share with you that we are currently dating. And she is quite a creative partner in the bedroom. Okay. That'll do it for us here at six o'clock. For the entire Action News team, I'm Ron Burgundy. You stay classy Portland.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT --- LATER THAT NIGHT

Ron and Alicia are eating fondue in a restaurant.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

You idiot!! I can't believe you said we were dating on the air!

RON

I thought you'd like it!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I want to be an anchor Ron. And there's no way that's going to happen if everyone thinks I'm your your bimbo gal pal.

RON

I'm sure no one even heard it! I said it pretty fast...

A SKEEVY GUY, 55 leans in from the table next to them and gives them the thumbs up.

SKEEVY GUY

Hey you two. Congrats on gettin it on.

RON

Thank you. It's really fantastic.
(and then back to Alicia)
I'm sorry Alicia. I truly am. I report the news and well, today the biggest news story in Ron Burgundy's world... was that he fell in love with Alicia Corningstone.

MUSIC: SWEET

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

(touched)

Oh Ron...I think I love you as well.

The skeevy guy leans in.

SKEEVY GUY

Are you two about to get it on?

CONTINUED:

RON

No. Maybe later though. We'll have to see.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Stop answering him!

EXT. PORTLAND CITY STREET--- THAT NIGHT

The News Team minus Ron is in a big red Impala cruising around with the song CHEROKEE NATION blaring. They all have cigarettes in their mouths.

BRIAN FANTANA

I like your new tie Brick.

BRICK TAMLAND

Thank you. It's yellow.

Beat of bored silence. They don't know what to do without Ron.

CHAMP KIND

Hey, I've got an idea. Let's turf the Eyewitness News Team's lawn! Whammy!

EXT. FRONT OF CHANNEL 10 NEWS BUILDING--- TWO MINUTES LATER

The red Impala is spinning it's tires and kicking up turf on the lawn in front of the channel 10 news building. The team looks unmoved by the experience.

BRIAN FANTANA

It just isn't the same without Ron.

CHAMP KIND

(sadly)

It's four thirty in the morning. Maybe we should call it an early night.

CUT TO:

EXT. PORTLAND ---MORNING

Street cleaners with brooms push through the street as the sun rises.

MUSIC: YUMMY YUMMY I'VE GOT LOVE IN MY TUMMY

INT. LOBBY --- THE NEXT DAY

The news team are all getting their shoes shined while smoking and drinking.

CONTINUED:

BRIAN FANTANA

So we're having the Team pancake breakfast tomorrow morning at nine instead of eight.

CHAMP KIND

Sounds good. I'll bring the syrup and gin.

RON

Oh I almost forgot. I can't make it. Alicia and I are trying this new fad called "jogging."

CHAMP KIND

Ron, this is our Pancake Breakfast. We do this every month.

RON

Well you know what they say, when in Rome.

BRIAN FANTANA

What do you mean?

RON

You know... when a lady downs her drink fast?

BRIAN FANTANA

I think you're thinking of "Do as the Romans do."

RON

I don't think so...

BRIAN FANTANA

The bottom line is you've been spending a lot of time with this lady Ron. And it's hurting the team! There! I said it!

RON

How dare you! I love this team like my own son!

CHAMP KIND

Easy Papa. Brian's just trying say that we're worried about you. This chick could be setting you up for a big fall.

RON

Believe me I'll be fine. If there's one thing Ron Burgundy knows it's women.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

RON (CONT'D)

And Alicia Corningstone is dying to quit her job so she can take care of me and have babies.

INT. GRAND HOME --- RON'S FANTASY

Ron enters his slightly oversized living room. He is greeted by his three kids, all boys with perfect hair in suits. Alicia is in high heels and an apron and that's all.

MUSIC: IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE A MAN AROUND THE HOUSE by Dinah Shore

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Hello honey! I spent all day cleaning your Emmies and preparing dinner! I love my life!

RON

Let's make whoopie and then I'm going out drinking with the news team!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Yes!

They kiss in a really sexual way while the kids run a lint brush over Ron's coat.

BACK TO REALITY

CHAMP KIND

I don't know Ron...

RON

She's my lady and we're going to ride horses and get married on a mountain top! So quit trying to break us up!

Ron walks off.

CHAMP KIND

(said with a "what's his deal" inflection)

Wham-mee.

BRIAN FANTANA

This lady has really crawled into Ron's head. It's just like that Chinese lady who broke up The Beatles.

BRICK TAMLAND

Mr. Bruce Lee. I never forgave him.

INT. HARKEN'S OFFICE

Ed Harken is in his office on the phone.

ED HARKEN

Well, I understand Mr. Dawson...he is my son so I would prefer it if you wouldn't refer to him as a filthy animal.

Alicia walks in, he gives her the quiet motion to sit down.

ED HARKEN (CONT'D)

...well I really feel like Chris is very close to turning everything around. What's that? You don't. Well, fair enough, you have a good day, sir.

Harken hangs up the phone.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Should I come back later Mr.Harken?

ED HARKEN

No, no, it's parent stuff. Apparently our youngest, Chris, was caught joy riding with a sheet of acid and a spear gun. You know how kids are. Anyway what can I do you for?

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I want to do more challenging stories.

ED HARKEN

(hands her a piece of paper)
Ask and you shall receive. There's a 103 year old woman out in Nederville who claims to have the recipe for the world's best meatloaf.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I want to investigate that group, the Alarm Clock, that vandalized the museum.

HARKEN

Just take a run at the meat loaf story honey and we'll see how it goes.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

There is a group of radicals robbing and threatening to wake us all up. Don't you think we should find out what it is they want to wake us up to?

CONTINUED:

HARKEN

Here's what you're gonna wake everyone up to: the best meatloaf recipe in the state.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

What if I refuse?

HARKEN

Then you're fired sweetie.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Then I'll sue you for sexual harassment.

HARKEN

What the hell is sexual harassment?

Freeze frame on Alicia looking exasperated.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

It was very hard for Alicia, make no mistake about it. But she was a pro. And so after a couple weeks of stories on cooking and fashion, she finally got her big break. It all happened because Burgundy was taking his beloved dog Baxter to get his little doggie teeth whitened...

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET --- DAY

Ron is driving down the street and munching on an apple in his conversion van with Baxter.

RON

(singing)

BAXTER'S GONNA GET MONKEY LUNGS THEN
HE'LL BE GOOD AS NEW!!! BAXTER!!!!
MY LITTLE GENTLEMAN!!

Ron whips his half eaten apple out the window. It hits a MOTORCYCLIST, 28, who wipes out horribly.

RON (CONT'D)

Anthony and Cleopatra!

Ron stops his van and gets out. The motorcyclists pants are shredded and he is irate.

MOTORCYCLIST

What the hell man!? My bike's thrashed!!

CONTINUED:

RON

I'm terribly sorry. I'm taking my terrier to get a lung transplant and my mind was elsewhere.

MOTORCYCLIST

Hey, aren't you that guy from TV?

RON

Why yes, I'm four time local emmy award winning anchor Ron Burgundy. In fact, what if I gave you an autograph?

Starts writing out an autograph.

RON (CONT'D)

There, this should make it right.

MOTORCYCLIST

Well that takes care of everything. I'm glad I wrecked my bike now. Thank you so much!

Guy marches over to the van.

RON

Excuse me sir, what are you doing?

Motorcyclist grabs Baxter and drop kicks him off the bridge and into the river.

RON (CONT'D)

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

MOTORCYCLIST

Put that on your stupid news show.

The guy picks up his bike and speeds off.

RON

He was only twenty twoooooooooo!!!!!!

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS STUDIO --- TWO HOURS LATER

Ed is pacing around and while Garth looks at his watch.

ED HARKEN

Where is he!?

GARTH HOLLIDAY

He'll be here.

CONTINUED:

Alicia walks in.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Mr. Harken. I just want you to know
I'm ready to go on.

ED HARKEN

Ms. Corningstone, don't you feel
that in light of your relationship
with Ron-

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Don't use my personal life as an
excuse to hold me back! The fact
that half the crime stories we do
are about your son hasn't hurt your
career any! I'm very worried about
Ron but I'm also a pro and expect to
be treated as one!

She storms off.

ED HARKEN

Jesus...I am actually afraid of her.

GARTH HOLLIDAY

I saw her practicing on the prompter.
She's not bad.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION.

Ron is fumbling with a pay phone. Brian Fantana answers the
phone.

RON

(absolutely sobbing)
Ahhherghhhhhh!!!

BRIAN FANTANA

Oh my God, it's Ron! Where are you!?

RON

The man punted Baxter!!!!
Aaaerrrrraggggahhhhhhhhhhh!!!!

BRIAN FANTANA

What happened? Did someone shoot
you? Were you raped?

RON

(trying to gain control)
Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh....argfghtghh!!!
He's gone!!!

CONTINUED:

BRIAN FANTANA

Oh man. Wasn't Baxter like twenty?

RON

He was a gentleman...

BRIAN FANTANA

Hey you better get down here. We go on the air in ten minutes.

RON

I can't go on..

Ron has dropped the phone and is crying/yelling to the heavens.

BRIAN FANTANA

You've got to go on. Ed's thinking of putting Corningstone on. Ron?
Ron?

INT. NEWS ROOM -- MINUTES LATER

Brian busts into Harken's office where the rest of the team is already assembled.

BRIAN FANTANA

We're gonna have to cancel the news.

ED HARKEN

We are not canceling the news! I've decided to let Alicia Corningstone take lead anchor. And that's that.

CHAMP KIND

(Yells out into the crowded news room.)

Listen up everyone! Early night tonight! We're canceling the news!!!

ED HARKEN

(also yelling out the door)

Everyone disregard what he just said!

Brian is on the phone.

BRIAN FANTANA

Yeah, we're not doing the news. So just run an old movie or-

Harken grabs the phone and slams it down.

CONTINUED:

ED HARKEN

We're doing the news! The news happens
every day! That's why it's the news!

INT. NEWS SET --- MINUTES LATER

Alicia is behind the desk with the make-up woman touching
her up. The Action News Team will not look at her.

STAGE MANAGER

We're live in ten!!!

Alicia is repeating something over and over again to herself.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

...excellence...excellence...
excellence..

Champ leans in to Alicia.

CHAMP KIND

Oh, hey little lady. No preasure,
but one little slip and you're gone.
Whammy.

Alicia doesn't have time to react as we hear the theme for
the opening and the red light goes on.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Good evening. Ron Burgundy is off
tonight. I'm Alicia Corningstone.
Tonight's top story, the group known
as the Alarm Clock has sent letters
to all of Portland's major newspapers
in an attempt to publisize their
radical message. The papers have
turned the letters over to the FBI
who are now investigating..

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Harken is visibly impressed.

DIRECTOR

Hey Ed, she's the goods.

INT. POLICE STATION --- TEN MINUTES LATER

Crowded police station. A POLICE OFFICER, 48, is showing Ron
a map of Portland.

CONTINUED:

POLICE OFFICER

So even if your dog survived the initial fall, he would have been chopped up by the sewage treatment turbines, or eaten by river eels or hacked up by recreational boat propellers.

RON

So there's hope. Thank God.

Some cops across the station call out.

COP#1

Hey Rick! Check out the hot little number on the news! She's actually good!

Ron stands up and walks over towards the screen where he sees Alicia competently doing the news in his chair.

SUPER FAST RACK FOCUS SCORED BY SLIDING GUITAR TO CU OF RON'S FACE AS THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION HITS HIM

RON

By the rings of Saturn!
She's...in...my...chair!!!

EXT. CITY STREET ---TEN SECONDS LATER

Ron is running like a sprinter down the street. He grabs a smoke from a passerby and takes a couple of drags.

PEDESTRIAN

Go Ron Burgundy! Go!

Ron gets clipped by a van. Takes a beat and then continues sprinting down the street.

INT. NEWS SET --- CONTINUOUS

Alicia is winding up the news cast.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

...and the winner of the frog leaping contest was Hoppy. And no, the frog did not turn into a Prince when kissed.

She gives a pleasant smile.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE (CONT'D)

Well, that'll do it for us at six o'clock.

CONTINUED:

As Alicia is finishing we see various shots of Portland watching: baby in crib, biker bar, old age home. They approve.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE (CONT'D)

For all of us here at Action News,
I'm Alicia Corningstone...and thanks
for stopping by Portland.

Light goes off. The crew and some staff members led by Helen burst into applause.

ED HARKEN

Not bad Ms.Corningstone. Not bad at
all. And I like that sign off line.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Thank you Mr.Harken. Has anyone heard
from Ron?

Ron bursts into the studio out of breath, covered in sweat
and with a cut on his head.

RON

(incredibly out of breath)
I'm here!! Let's do the news!!!

ED HARKEN

We just did, uh Ron. Alicia filled
in for you.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Ron! I'm so sorry about Baxter!

RON

Whaaa?!! You did my news? Alicia,
please tell me this is some terrible,
twisted nightmare.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Ron please don't be upset. I wanted
you to be proud of me... as a peer
and as my gentleman lover.

ED HARKEN

(clapping his hands)
Alright everyone let's clear the
room!

People start clearing out.

RON

You read my news! That was my news!

CONTINUED:

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Don't do this...don't. I love you!

RON
Then how could you do this to me!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
I told you I wanted to be an
anchor...I told you!

RON
I thought you were kidding!!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
(tearing up)
I can't believe I thought you loved
me. You selfish...ass!

RON
You used me. You just slept with me
so you could get ahead!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
I slept with you because I actually
cared for you!

RON
God I feel so cheap!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Aarghh!! I did this for us!! Can't
you understand that!!?

RON
Just go! Get away from me!!! We're
through! Through!!

Alicia runs away sobbing leaving Ron completely alone in the
studio. He goes and sits in his chair on the news set.

RON (CONT'D)
My chair.

MUSIC CUE: "SPINNING WHEEL" - BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS

MONTAGE

NARRATOR (V.O.)
From there on out things just got
worse for Ron Burgundy. Corningstone
was a star and everything started to
move awfully fast after her big break.

CONTINUED:

- 1) Harken on the other end nodding with Garth listening in.
- 2) Harken holding a meeting.

ED HARKEN

I just got a call from the network.
It looks like last night's broadcast
received a two point ratings boost.
The decision has been passed down to
make Alicia our co-anchor.

We see the News Team simmering as everyone else congratulates Alicia.

3) Cover of Newsweek: in the upper corner: photo of Alicia with "Meet the Nation's first female anchor!"

4) NEWS PAPERS FLYING INTO FRAME OVER IMAGES OF ALICIA ANCHORING AND REPORTING IN THE FIELD.

- a) Portland Gazette, "Alicia Corningstone uncovers drug ring";
- c) Portland Times, "Alicia Corningstone breaks up child slavery ring".
- d) Portland Weekly "Ron Burgundy finishes second in hot dog eating contest!"

MUSIC: OUT

5) Ron and Alicia at the anchor desk during a commercial break. They won't look at each other. We hear just the sound of an occasional throat clear and cough.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS LUNCHROOM - NEXT DAY

Action News Team are huddled around a lunch table. They are all eating hot lunches and beers. The scene plays out in tight close-ups of their mouths, eyes and hands.

RON

She's gotta be stopped.

BRIAN FANTANA

This has gone too far.

CHAMP KIND

She's finding her own stories.

RON

I will not be a co-anchor. Ron Burgundy is a lead anchor!

CONTINUED:

BRIAN FANTANA

Not to mention what she's doing to
your chances of going network.

RON

Aarghhh!!!!

CHAMP KIND

It's good to have you back Ron. I
know that female messed with your
head big time.

RON

Yes...I was a fool for the soft touch
of a woman. It's a story as old as
the Empire State Building.

BRICK TAMLAND

How was the funeral for Baxter?

RON

Since the body was never recovered
it was more of a memorial service.
But we had it in San Francisco and
it was lovely. Baxter always loved
the city by the bay.

LIGHTENING QUICK PHOTO-MONTAGE

MUSIC: IF A PICTURE PAINTS A THOUSAND WORDS

- 1) Ron on a train wearing a scarf staring out the window.
- 2) Ron at lavish funeral attended by him and a bunch of dogs.
- 3) Ron sitting on some rocks looking up at the sky.

INT. LUNCH ROOM.

RON

Part of me still knows he's alive.
(heavy breath)
So what do we do about the
Corningstone problem? We've got to
take her down, fast.

CHAMP KIND

Do you fellas remember that limp
wristed fairy who was going to do
the financial reports?

BRIAN FANTANA

Yeah we were fifty one percent sure
he was gay.

CONTINUED:

CHAMP KIND

No, he was gay alright. I made out with him at the Christmas party.

RON

What?

CHAMP KIND

Nothing. I say we run Corningstone out the way we did that girlie boy.

BRIAN FANTANA

I'm in.

RON

So it's settled. We declare war on Corningstone. By the way, Brick what are you eating?

BRICK TAMLAND

It's one of those delicious falafel hotdogs with cinnamon and bacon on top.

BRIAN FANTANA

What do you mean "one of those". Those don't exist. That's a used coffee filter with cigarette butts on it.

BRICK TAMLAND

Well I got it out of the food basket at the end of the lunch line.

BRIAN FANTANA

That's the garbage can.

CHAMP KIND

Although with the cooking here there's not much difference!

They all laugh loudly.

RON

We are laughing very hard! Ha, ha, ha, And it is extra special because we are united as a team once again! It is a magical moment!!

BRIAN FANTANA

Come on Ron.

CONTINUED:

RON

And now the laughter is dying
down...but we will never forget this
time...and the laughter is done.

BRIAN FANTANA

You really wreck moments when you do
that.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS STATION

Series of short scenes showing the news team trying to mess
with Alicia Corningstone.

1) It's during the news cast and as Alicia reads her copy we
see the prompter move faster and faster. Brian is next to it
screwing with the speed. Alicia doesn't miss a word and
somehow makes it seem natural.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

(faster and faster)

A North Oregon man has come forward
with an antique sword he found in
his basement. It turns out the sword
was used by Christopher Columbus
himself and may be worth more than
two hundred thousand dollars.
The man says he
will keep this job as a car wash attendant.

2) ANOTHER BROADCAST.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE (CONT'D)

...and now here's Champ Kind with
sports.

CHAMP KIND

Boy you seem weird tonight honey.
Must be that time of the month!
Whammy!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I'm just curious Champ. Do you even
know what the expression "that time
of the month" means?

Champ gets nervous

CHAMP KIND

Sure I do. It's when... the bones...
in a lady's boobs... get sore...
cause of their vaginalistic...cells.
Whammy...? Hey, help me guys!

CONTINUED:

Everyone looks away.

3) We see Ron and Brian giving the announcer a wad of money before the broadcast. For the intro of the news we hear:

ANCR (V.O.)

With your co-anchors: Ron Burgundy
and Tits McGee!

The news team stifles laughs but Alicia is nonplussed.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Good evening Portland, I'm Alicia
Corningstone, Tits McGee is on
vacation.

The crew laughs as Alicia rolls effortlessly into the first story.

INT. HALLWAY OF NEWS OFFICES-THE NEXT DAY

The Action News Team is striding down the hallway.

RON

This is not working.

Helen passes them in the hallway.

BRIAN FANTANA

Helen! Where's the party?

(she ignores him)

Hey! You're supposed to say "in my
pants."

HELEN

Get lost creeps.

RON

Son of a bee sting! She's turning
the whole office against us.

BRIAN FANTANA

This is grim. Real grim.

CHAMP KIND

What are we going to do?

RON

There's only one thing a man can do
when he's in a spiritual and
existential funk....

CHAMP KIND

Drink til you wet your pants?

CONTINUED:

RON
No. Better.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. GIANT MEN'S SUIT STORE

Ron, credit card in hand and the team burst through the front doors of a giant suit store.

RON
New suits for everyone!!!!

Everyone cheers

MUSIC: IMPRESSIVE AND MAGICAL

1) A tailor drawing measurement lines on slacks. One of lines goes from cuff to hip where we find Ron giving us a number one sign.

2) Brick and Brian leap through frame. It is becoming a suit buying ballet.

3) The team, seen through a wall of mirrors does leaps and splits across frame.

4) Ron bathing naked in a luxurious pile of colorful ties. The OWNER, 58, stands horrified over him.

OWNER
You realize no one will ever buy
those ties now.

MUSIC: FADES

EXT. CITY STREET ---MINUTES LATER

The team is proudly marching down the street in their new suits which are barely discernible from what they were wearing before. They are beaming.

CHAMP KIND
Ahhh! I feel like friggin' Superman!

RON
The ability to buy suits is what
seperates us from the lower animals!

Ron finishes a candy bar and tosses the wrapper on the ground without a thought.

INT. HALLWAY OF NEWS OFFICES -- THE NEXT DAY

The Action News Team is striding down the hallway.

RON

This is not working.

Helen passes them in the hallway. She's dressed more business like.

BRIAN FANTANA

Helen! Where's the party?
(she ignores him)

BRIAN FANTANA (CONT'D)

Hey! You're supposed to say "in my pants."

HELEN

Get lost creeps.

RON

Son of a bee sting! She's turning the whole office against us.

BRIAN FANTANA

This is grim. Real grim.

CHAMP KIND

What are we going to do?

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There's only one thing a man can do when he's in a spiritual and existential funk....

CHAMP KIND

Drink til you wet your pants?

RON

No. Better.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. GIANT MEN'S SUIT STORE

Ron, credit card in hand and the team burst through the front doors of a giant suit store.

RON

New suits for everyone!!!!

MUSIC: IMPRESSIVE AND MAGICAL

CONTINUED:

MUSIC: More bongos and flute sting.

Champ starts wrapping his belt around his fist. Brian reveals a gun with the handle taped white. Brick reveals a handgrenade.

RON (CONT'D)

Cops!

FRANK VITCHARD

This is your lucky day!

Everyone scatters. The Action News team runs like ten yards before getting winded and stopping to light up cigarettes. We see a crossing guard helping kids cross a street.

CHAMP KIND

Hey, do crossing guards count as cops?

RON

I'm pretty sure.

BRIAN FANTANA

Where the hell did you get a hand grenade Brick?!

BRICK TAMLAND

I have no idea.

CHAMP KIND

Dammit! This Corningstone thing is really hurting our rep.

RON

Every newsman in this city is laughing at us and I..don't..like..it! I'm Ron Burgundy!
And...I...don't...like...it!

Ron takes a paper cup and crushes it.

CUT TO:

INT. WINDOWLESS VAN - DAY

Muscular guy, Deedra X, Oliver, Paul Danover, Marcos and Sandra.

PAUL DANOVER

This is going to be a quick job.
In and out. What're we doing?

SANDRA

In and out.

CONTINUED:

DEEDRA X

In and out.

Paul, the hot white chick, the Deedra X and the Marcos all put on masks.

EXT. STREET

They walk in slo-mo towards the bank.

Paul has a Ghandi mask on; Sandra's wearing a Nixon mask; Marcos's wearing a werewolf mask, and Deedra X is wearing an old man mask.

INT. BANK

They step into the bank.

PAUL DANOVER

Everyone get down! This is a robbery!

Everyone gets down on the ground.

CUSTOMERS

Don't kill me/Help me Jesus/Why does this always happen to me?

PAUL DANOVER

Everyone just be cool and you won't get hurt. We are the Alarm Clock and it has just struck twelve and you squares have all turned into pumpkins! We've got guns! Now fill this sack with cash.

TELLER

What do your masks mean?

PAUL DANOVER

Just fill the sack with cash asshole!

TELLER

What point are you trying to make?
I mean, do you not like Ghandi?

PAUL DANOVER

Of course we like Ghandi.

TELLER

So that means you like Nixon and werewolves?

PAUL DANOVER

What?

CONTINUED:

TELLER

Nixon's pretty sketchy but I guess some people like him. But werewolves? I think that's a difficult stance to take. Werewolves are bloodthirsty killers.

MARCOS

We don't like werewolves man! I hate werewolves!

TELLER

So then, you don't like Ghandi and you don't like old people.

PAUL DANOVER

No, no, no! You've got it all wrong!!

SANDRA

Told ya we should have just worn stockings.

SFX: Sirens.

PAUL DANOVER

We gotta get out of here.

EXT. BANK

The four of them exit the bank without masks, holding their masks. As the police approach Paul instantly pretends to be a frightened customer.

PAUL DANOVER

It was horrible in there! They should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law!

COP

You folks seek cover. These people are armed and dangerous.

Paul and the group run to the car.

MARCOS

Now how do we get our message out?

Paul sees news vans pulling up.

PAUL DANOVER

Maybe we don't need the money...

CONTINUED:

CUT TO:

INT. HARKEN'S OFFICE

Widen to reveal that this is security camera footage. Alicia, Ed Harken, Garth Holliday and a couple other producers watch in Ed's office.

ED HARKEN

Turn it off. How new is this?

GARTH HOLLIDAY

Forget it. Frank Vitchard and channel ten has already aired it as an exclusive.

ED HARKEN

Ah! Man nipple!

GARTH HOLLIDAY

Is that a curse word.

ED HARKEN

I'm pretty sure.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

"It's just struck twelve and you squares have all turned into pumpkins" God that sounds familiar.

INT. TAPE LIBRARY

Alicia talks to DONNA, 56, the tape girl.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Donna can I get the unedited tape from that cat fashion show I did a while back?

DONNA

Sure Ms.Corningstone.

INT. ACTION NEWS OFFICES -- MINUTES LATER

Ron Burgundy is standing next to a FRUMPY WOMAN, 52, who holds a note pad and pencil. They are watching a tape of a recent newscast.

RON

Alright fast forward through this part. This looks fine.

Garth Holiday is in the back of the room where Alicia walks up to him.

CONTINUED:

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Garth, I need to look at these tapes for research.

GARTH HOLLIDAY

Well Ron's using the machine to give his make-up woman notes.

RON

Wait, freeze it! Right there! Let's get some extra foundation to cover that glare on my forehead.

MAKE-UP WOMAN

Yes Mr. Burgundy.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Well this is a potentially huge lead on the bank robbery.

GARTH HOLLIDAY

Believe me Alicia, you do not want to interrupt Ron right now.

Ron has paused another section.

RON

Remember Beverly, I have combination skin. You have to start working with it not against it....

Suddenly the screen goes blank. Alicia has pushed stop and is putting her tape in.

RON (CONT'D)

What are you doing Ms. Corningstone? I am using this machine.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

This is for a story.

RON

Well this is for my face!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I am a professional! And would like to be allowed to do my job!

They are in each other's faces.

RON

I am very professional!

CONTINUED:

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
I was born professional!

RON
I am way more professional than you!!!

Ron farts. Some staff members stifle laughs.

RON (CONT'D)
Oh grow up everyone! It's a bodily
function! Get over it!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Mr. Burgundy you are acting like a
baby!

RON
That is out of line!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
You're out of line!

RON
I am in line!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
You're a joke.

RON
You're smelly!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
You have bad hair!

RON
What did you say?

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Your hair looks stupid.

CU of Ron's eyes. Fire blazes in them.

RON
Aarghfghhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Bring it on puppet man.

Ron charges at Alicia tackling her across a desk. She reaches
for a coffee mug and hits Ron's head with it.

RON
Ah!

CONTINUED:

People try to step in to stop the fight but the Action News Team holds them back.

CHAMP KIND

Let 'em work it out!

Ron recoils back and she slaps him across the face twice. He grabs her arm and flings her across the room. They begin a viscous fight, which is also a little sexy.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Ohh!

She tries to lift up a coat wrack to use it as a spear when Ron runs at her. She moves but he grabs her leg and pulls her down. They lock into a knotted wrestling hold. Alicia reaches up to a Mr. Coffee machine on the counter pulling the pot down and scalding both of them.

ALICIA/RON

Arrrrrr....soooo hot!!!!!!

Ron gathers strength and starts pushing himself up despite Alicia clinging to him.

RON

I...am...man...strong!!!

He shivers Alicia off of him and immediately she scrambles for her purse. As Ron comes at her she produces pepper spray and fitzes him in the eyes. He begins punching the air and yelling while she hits him all over with a curtain rod.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Where I'm at? Over here? Huh? Maybe I'm here?

RON

Ow! Ow! Aarghh!!!!

Ed pushes his way through the crowd.

ED HARKEN

Hey! Enough! This is the last of it! It is over! I will not have my newsroom divided! Ron, I want you downstairs. Now!

Ed storms off. Alicia gives Ron one more whack with the curtain rod.

RON

Sweet beans and rice that smarts!

INT. NEWS OFFICE FIVE MINUTES LATER

Alicia is watching the tape from her cat story. She finds a part where the camera is on but only partially framed up and hear's the tropical fish guy talking to her.

CLERK

...you never know when the clock'll
strike twelve and your carriage'll
turn into a pumpkin.

She freeze frames on him.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Gotcha!

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET-----TEN MINUTES LATER

Ed and Ron, with his eyes red and swollen walk down the street.

ED HARKEN

Ron, I know this has been hard for
you.

RON

It's been a real bear Ed.

ED HARKEN

This girl is good Ron. Real good.
She's a dynamic anchor and she's a
hell of a journalist in the field.

RON

Ed, I think it's time I get out on
the streets and did some hard hitting
journalism. I've been thinking about
this and I know I'll be a hell of a
reporter.

ED HARKEN

Boy I think that's a bad idea Ron.
You know you don't do well without a
teleprompter.

RON

That's just a rumor. Look Ed, I need
this chance to prove what I can do.
Let me put together a little weekly
feature where I rip the lid off some
hot story.

A primed duster roars by them with Motorhead blaring. A
middle finger pops out the window.

CONTINUED:

VOICE FROM CAR

Hey Harken! Suck it!

The car burns rubber and takes off.

RON

What was that about?

ED HARKEN

That's my son. Now listen Ron I'll put you in the field if you want. But you have to do this right. Track down leads, confirm sources. I'm talking real journalism.

RON

Right. Now what exactly is a lead?

ED HARKEN

It's when you find information that indicates a larger story. Just watch Alicia. She's always on the phones or watching tape. Her desk is full of juicy leads.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS OFFICES - NEXT MORNING

Alicia sipping coffee checks her desk, finds one of the drawers is open. Helen passes by.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Helen?! Was someone in my office? I'm missing some important papers for a story I was working on.

HELEN

Yes Ron came by and said there were some naked pictures of him that he wanted to get back from you.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

That prick!

She quickly whips a coffee mug at the wall which shatters.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE (CONT'D)

Sorry.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS VAN

Ron is holding papers in the passengwer seat, Champ is driving while Brian and Brick check the camera and sound in the back.

RON

Alright team, I've got a hot lead.

BRIAN FANTANA

Really? You got a lead Ron? What is it?

RON

Hold on, let me check. "Paul Danover a tropical fish clerk at Pet Emporium is the head of the radical political group the Alarm Clock." And here's his home address and everything. Oh my God!

CHAMP KIND

Wow! That's a huge! You could win a Wurlitzer!

RON

Then let's do this! Because I'm Ron Burgundy. And I'm about to rip the lid off it!

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET---TEN MINUTES LATER

Music: jazzy cop show-esque

The News Van comes tearing into frame and screeches to a stop. Burgundy in trench coat pops out.

ANCR (V.O.)

Rip the Lid Off It! With Ron Burgundy!

GRAPHIC: "RIP THE LID OFF IT with Ron Burgundy."

Ron talks to camera while he moves towards the front door. Occasionally Brick with the boom mic walks into frame.

RON

I'm Ron Burgundy reporting from the mean streets of Portland. And guess what citizens? A political radical who has been eluding authorities for months is living among us. Well now I'm gonna Rip the Lid Off It!

CONTINUED:

GRAPHIC

ANCR (V.O.)
Rip the Lid Off It with Ron Burgundy!

EXT. UPPER MIDDLE CLASS HOME --- HALF HOUR LATER

We see Ron's hand knocking on a door. A MAN IN A BATHROBE, 82, eating a muffin opens the door to find Ron there with a camera pointed in his face.

RON
Hello Mr. Danover. I'm glad to see
scumbags enjoy muffins too.

MAN IN BATHROBE
What?

RON
Don't be coy with me creepo! You
know full well you and your dirtbag
friends have been terrorizing this
city!

MAN IN BATHROBE
I think you have the wrong house.
There's a Danover who live across
the street. My name is Anthony
Caltran. I'm a retired florist.

RON
Quit lying to me you piece of filth.
You should be in prison where every
murderer can turn you into their
love bitch.

MAN IN BATHROBE
What? Why are you saying such horrible
things?

CHAMP KIND
Hey, Ron, he's right. The mailbox
says Caltran. We got the wrong house.

RON
I am terribly sorry sir. Have a
pleasant day.

He quickly autographs an 8X10 and they dash off.

INT. LIVING ROOM --- AN HOUR LATER

Ron is seated across from the fish store clerk from earlier
PAUL DANOVER, 28. The interview is shot hand held, Mike
Wallace '60 Minutes' style.

CONTINUED:

RON (V.O.)

After some investigatory leg work we cornered Paul Danover at his home.

RON (CONT'D)

Thank you for meeting with us on such short notice.

We see he is edgy, smoking and wearing a shirt that says "Wake up!"

PAUL DANOVER

I don't know why you want to talk to me. I just sell tropical fish.

RON

Are you the leader of the radical group known as The Alarm Clock?

PAUL DANOVER

No.

RON

I am very sorry to have troubled you. Come on fellas, let's get these cables out of here.

Ron starts to get up. Brian clears his throat and slides some photos to Ron.

RON (CONT'D)

Oh. Then how do you respond to these security photos of you outside the bank five minutes before it was robbed by five members of the group?

While Paul responds there are too many cut aways of Ron nodding his head. He is saying "Yes" and "Go on" way too much. On one of the cut aways he is smoking a pipe and on another he takes a bite of a hot dog.

PAUL DANOVER

Well, that happens to be my bank. Just because I go there doesn't mean I'm some dangerous radical. By that logic you could arrest anyone who's ever been to a bank. Like I said, I just work at a pet store. I not much for politics. I mean heck, I didn't even vote.

RON

Once again I apologize. Bring the van around and call-

CONTINUED:

Brian coughs again and pushes some papers forward.

RON

Stop coughing Brian! We are shooting here! What? Oh yes. How do you explain these documents that show a clear voice match between you and the man in the security cam footage from the bank?

He looks at Alicia's papers and is caught.

PAUL DANOVER

Um...maybe he's my brother...or..The Alarm Clock is ringing! Wake up Portland!

He bolts out of the room and runs to the SATELLITE NEWSVAN, gets inside and drives away.

CHAMP KIND

He just took the van.

RON

Oh my God. He is a member of The Alarm Clock. Hey, this is fun!

ANCR (V.O.)

This has been Rip the Lid Off It with Ron Burgundy!

INT. NEWS SET

Alicia, looking furious and Ron are at the desk after the piece has played.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

And since this report was filed Paul Danover has disapeared. Unfortunaately police were days away from arresting him and now must start from scratch. That was quite a story Ron.

RON

Well it's my job, I'm a journalist, just like you...maybe I'm a little better than you...but I don't know, we're all part of the same team! Coming up after this commercial break it's weather with Brick Tamland.

We hear Brick's voice off camera.

CONTINUED:

BRICK TAMLAND (O.S.)
We've got some storm clouds coming
in from the north! And Tuesday-

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Not yet Brick. We'll be right back.

The light goes off. The News Team applauds Ron.

NEWS TEAM
Heck of a job Ron!...nice work!!...way
to be a real reporter...Whammy!

RON
I couldn't have done it without my
team at my side! Thank you Brian,
Champ, Brick, Ed, Garth, Hal on camera
over there, Chet with sound!

He looks at Alicia who is staring bullets through him.

RON (CONT'D)
Can I help you?

CUT TO:

INT. MEXICAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Alicia, Donna, Helen and a bunch of other women from work
are having margaritas. We pick up snippets of their
conversations.

RECEPTIONIST
I'm going to night school now for my
law degree...

SECRETARY
I'm going to start my own temp
company.

DONNA
I had sex with the drummer from
Foreigner.

The women laugh and drink and take pictures.

HELEN
It's so nice you came out Alicia.
You've been an inspiration to all of
us.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE
Well thank you for inviting me. I
don't have many women friends.

CONTINUED:

HELEN

I just can't believe what Ron did to you. It's so awful.

(takes a sip of her drink)

Did you ever think of fighting fire with fire?

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

What do you mean?

HELEN

(leaning in)

Well here's some information that you can choose to use or not use. Ron Burgundy will read anything that's put on that teleprompter. And I mean anything.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

No I couldn't do that Helen.

HELEN

Hey I'm just giving you information. Like I said: use it or don't. It's up to you.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS SET - NEXT NIGHT

Ron and Alicia are just wrapping up the news.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

After the Photomat booth was destroyed the bear scampered back into the woods.

RON

Apparently he wasn't too happy with his color prints.

They chuckle lightly.

RON (CONT'D)

For the entire Action News team...

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I'm Alicia Corningstone.

RON

And I'm Ron Burgundy.

We see a quick cut of the prompter scrolling

CONTINUED:

RON (CONT'D)
Go fuck yourself Portland.

SMASH CUT TO:

VARIOUS SHOTS OF VIEWERS REACTING IN THEIR HOMES

1) A man spitting out his drink 2) A couple gasping 3) A family eating dinner, the Father rushes to turn off the TV.

CUT TO:

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Ed Harken looking shocked.

ED HARKEN
Oh my God.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO

Everyone is staring at Ron, jaws open. He is oblivious shuffling his papers.

RON
Nice work everybody.

Gets up walks through the studio, everyone he passes just stares at him in disbelief. The studio is completely quiet. Ed Harken walks up to him.

RON (CONT'D)
La, di, da, doo doo. Hello Edward.

ED HARKEN
Ron I gotta fire you.

RON
(chuckling)
You're fired too Ed.

ED HARKEN
Do you even know what you just said?

INT. ED'S OFFICE

Ron watches the broadcast on tape.

RON
Holy ham and cheese! Ed, it was Alicia, she put that in the teleprompter!

CONTINUED:

ED HARKEN

You're probably right. But my hands
are tied. I gotta fire you Ron.

RON

Don't do this to me!

ED HARKEN

Ron I've got no choice! Maybe you
can anchor in Maine or Hawaii. Just
pray the story doesn't go national.

Garth enters.

GARTH HOLLIDAY

Ed the story just went national!
There's also about three hundred
very angry Portlandians out in front
of the station.

ED HARKEN

We better get you out of here before
that crowd decides to tear you apart.

A couple of security guards hustle Ron out the front door
and through the angry crowd.

CROWD

BUR-GUN-DY SUCKS! BUR-GUN-DY SUCKS!

Alicia runs after him pushing through the furious mob.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Ron! I never wanted it to happen
like this!

RON

You've won Alicia! Are you finally
happy?!

SECURITY GUARD

Come on! Let's move!

The guards usher Ron through the now frenzied crowd and out
into the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTER CITY PORTLAND --- NIGHT

Ron glumly walks down the main street, it's slightly
reminiscent of his opening triumphant walk. A business man
from a window yells at him.

CONTINUED:

BUSINESS MAN

Hey! Ron Burgundy! F you, not me!

He looks up at his billboard "If Ron Burgundy says it. Then its the truth." A guy with a beard is spray painting over "the truth" with "bullshit."

RON

Not you too Portland...

A bunch of kids run by and hit him with wiffle ball bats.

KIDS

Ron Burgundy's a go-nad!...Burgundy sucks!...etc.

Ron hangs his head and walks off down the night street.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I've always said "A man can't expect much in this world. But he can expect a woman, a job and a good dog." Ron Burgundy, had lost all three.

MUSIC: SEVENTEEN BY JANICE IAN

1) An unshaven Ron is sitting on his messy, trash strewn bed eating spare ribs and drinking a forty ounce malt liquor. While he eats, he watches Alicia on the news.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

It's your Action News team with lead-anchor Alicia Corningstone!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

The Alarm Clock, now equiped with the Action News van has struck again...

2) Burgundy, now with a full beard is seated at a the news bar where he had played flute before, the waiter comes over with his meal.

TINO

Here you are Mr. Burgundy, the chef made this special for you.

It is a plate garbage.

TINO (CONT'D)

You eat that for the way you talk about my city!

CONTINUED:

RON
I will not eat garbage!

TINO
You eat it that garbage!

RON
No! I will not!

3) The phone rings in Ron Apartment and he picks it up.

RON (CONT'D)
Hello? Hello?

We see Alicia on the other line but she can't bring herself to speak.

4) Ron is walking down the street in a tank top drinking milk from a carton when he passes the news team.

RON (CONT'D)
Hey guys! It's me!

They keep walking. Brian talks out of the side of his mouth.

BRIAN FANTANA
The station won't let us be seen with you Ron. I'm sorry.

5) The phone rings again in the apartment. Ron picks it up.

RON
Who is this?! Stop calling!

We see it is the animated Love Panda on the other line. He hangs up sadly.

6) Burgundy alone in the shower, still in his suit, sobbing and clutching a stuffed Pink Panther doll.

The phone rings and we pan to the living room and see a giant, over-sized answering machine. We hear it pick up.

RON (CONT'D)
I give up. I can't figure out how to leave a message on this blasted machine! I should just-(beeeep)

JESS MOONDRAGON (V.O.)
Ron, this is your mentor, Jess Moondragon. I heard you were going through a hard time and, well, I thought maybe you'd like to come on out to the house and see if we can make some damn sense of this.

CONTINUED:

Ron's hand comes frantically into frame and picks up the phone.

RON
Jess?!..... Help.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAVISH HOUSE IN THE POCONOS --- DAY

We see a country home nestled in the hills with Ron's van parked in front.

EXT. BACK PORCH

Ron and JESS MOONDRAGON, 72, a silver haired retired anchor (Bill Curtis) stand on the back porch looking at the beautiful valley below.

RON
You've done well for yourself Jess.

JESS MOONDRAGON
I dreaded retirement forever but
then I found this piece of land.
It's God's country.

RON
Magnificent...

JESS MOONDRAGON
Mother Nature sure woke up on the
right side of the bed today.

RON
She's a giving lady. Mother Nature
she is.

JESS MOONDRAGON
She didn't even bother to put on
make-up this morning!

They chuckle lightly

JESS MOONDRAGON (CONT'D)
I wish deeply that I could take her.
Make love to her.

CONTINUED:

RON

She's an elusive goddess, Mother Nature.

JESS MOONDRAGON

Still, just to hold her succulent breasts in my hands. Take a nice bite out of her ripe ass...while I fumble to undo my belt. You catch my drift friend.

RON

Mm-huh, I do. But there in lies the rub. For Mother Nature turns away all suitors.

JESS MOONDRAGON

I wanna lick her privates.

RON

Alright! I'm gonna have to stop you right there. You're making me uncomfortable.

JESS MOONDRAGON

I'm sorry Ron Burgundy. Mother Nature does that to me.

RON

So I guess you heard what happened to me.

JESS MOONDRAGON

I did old friend. And I wanted to tell to stay strong. You'll be back.

RON

Jess, everyone hates me. I can't work anywhere. My dream of going network is all but dead.

JESS MOONDRAGON

The world always needs a good anchor! And Ron Burgundy is a damn fine one! So... hang in there!

Beat.

RON

Is that your advice: hang in there?

JESS MOONDRAGON

Look, I never knew why you looked up to me in the first place. I'm not such a great guy.

CONTINUED:

RON
I'd better go.
(sees something in the
distance)
What is that smoke on the horizon?
Is there a fire!

We see what looks like a mountain compound.

JESS MOONDRAGON
Oh that's where a bunch of these
strange young people live. I always
hear clocks ringing. But they never
complain about my naked nature walks.

RON
You take naked nature walks?

JESS MOONDRAGON
Every day. Wanna join me for one?

He starts taking off his clothes.

RON
No, I'm good.

Ron stares at the compound in the distance.

CUT TO:

INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT -- THAT NIGHT

Alicia opens the door to her stylish all white apartment. As she enters two radicals grab her and Paul Danover steps out in an Alarm Clock shirt.

PAUL DANOVER
Hello Ms. Corningstone. Are you ready
to read the real news?

CUT TO:

INT. HARKEN'S OFFICE

Harken is sitting on his desk with his slouched down teenage son, CHRIS HARKEN. Chris wears a Deep Purple shirt and sports a poney tail.

ED HARKEN
Chris how many times have we had
this conversation?

CONTINUED:

CHRIS HARKEN
About a million times.

ED HARKEN
I guess I'm going to have to say it
again. You can't print your own money.
Period. End of discussion.

CHRIS HARKEN
Sorry dad.

Beat

CHRIS HARKEN (CONT'D)
Is it cool if I smoke a joint?

ED HARKEN
What do you think?

He starts lighting it up. Ed slaps it out of his hand.

ED HARKEN (CONT'D)
Put that out!

Garth enters.

GARTH HOLLIDAY
Ed? I am sorry to interrupt but
Alicia's MIA. And the police found
this in her apartment.

He holds up an alarm clock.

ED HARKEN
Oh my God. Those maniacs kidnapped
her.

CHRIS HARKEN
See Dad, I told you that wasn't me!!

ED HARKEN
Looks like I owe you Mother ten
dollars.

CUT TO:

INT. SEEDY BAR - DAY

Ron sits at one end of the bar nursing a drink with a full
beard with bits of food in it. The bartender serves him
another drink.

BARTENDER
Hey buddy, you're starting to stink.

CONTINUED:

RON

Are you hiring any news anchors?

BARTENDER

You take care of that stink or you're gone, you hear me?

A soap opera playing on the tv is interrupted by a special news bulletin. We then see Brian Fantana reporting in front of cops, cars and crowds.

BRIAN FANTANA

This is Brian Fantana reporting live from the apartment of news anchor Alicia Corningstone where last night police believe she was kidnapped by a radical group led by this man...

A picture of Paul Danover holding a bag of goldfish comes up full frame.

BRIAN FANTANA (CONT'D)

...Paul Danover. Police have no idea where their hidden compound is but theorize it may be in the dense woods of the Cascades.

RON

They've got Alicia! Ahhh...if I hadn't broken that story before the police arrested that creep then she'd be safe.

BARTENDER

The Cascades. That's dense forrest. They'll never find those loonies up there.

RON

I was just up there the other day to visit my mentor. Wait a minute...there was some kind of compound I saw...Sweet sevens and elevens! I know where they are!

BARTENDER

There's a phone over there if you wanna call the cops.

RON

No. If they go up there with sirens blaring those crazies could panic. I did this. And now I've gotta make it right.

CONTINUED:

Ron gets up disappears into the men's bathroom. Comes back, right away, clean shaven and in an immaculate suit.

RON (CONT'D)

Good evening, I'm Ron Burgundy.

MUSIC: KICK ASS

EXT. CITY STREET---CONT.

Ron steps onto the street.

RON

If I'm going to do this I'll need a little help.

He yells with cupped hands a mighty battle cry.

RON (CONT'D)

ACTION NEWS TEAM ASSEMBLE!!!

He then produces a conch shell which blows sending out an echoing tone.

FLASH TO: STOCK FOOTAGE; a marlin taking a hook and leaping in the air. It is Brian, Champ and Brick on a boat in suits with three stewardesses in uniform.

MUSIC: The Ventures

CHAMP KIND

Whoah! I got a big one! And I aint talking about the fish!

STEWARDESS

You guys are fun!

They all laugh heartily and then the conch can be heard. They go quiet.

BRICK TAMLAND

That's Ron. He needs us.

BRIAN FANTANA

We can't. We could lose our jobs.

Beat.

BRIAN FANTANA (CONT'D)

Screw it. There's always radio.

Brian powers the boat off.

INT. NEWS VAN --- TEN MINUTES LATER

The News Team members are all assembled in the new news van.

RON
I knew you'd come.

CHAMP KIND
Wouldn't have missed it for the world
Papa.

ALL
News Team!!

The van tears off towards the mountains.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN COMPOUND -- SAME TIME

We see the radical group's mountain compound with the old Action News van out front with the microwave broadcasting sender up and cables running out the back into the compound.

INT. COMPOUND -- CONTINUOUS

Inside the compound Paul Danover sits in a big chair with Sandra in his lap holding a machine gun. We see Alicia bound to a cot across the room, near a camera and a flat with an alarm clock logo on it. Alicia is tied to a chair.

PAUL DANOVER
The link is almost ready. Then we
can break into the network broadcast
whenever we want.

DEEDRA X
Oh man, the pigs are gonna piss their
pants when this goes down.

Alicia looks scared.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEAR DENSE FORREST--- HALF AN HOUR LATER

The News Team pulls up in their van to where a completely naked Jess Moondragon waits for them.

JESS MOONDRAGON
Hello gentlemen! Everything's ready
for you.

CONTINUED:

RON

Thank you Jess Moondragon. Maybe you should put some pants on.

JESS MOONDRAGON

I'm good. Now remember, this is dangerous terrain. Be smart and be brave Ron Burgundy.

CHAMP KIND

How the hell are we gonna get up there?

JESS MOONDRAGON

I've taken care of that.

We see four ATVs near the dirt road. Somehow the ATVs have their names on their license plates and are color-coordinated to match the suits of the Action Team.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE--FIVE MINUTES LATER

The News Team is driving off on their ATVs in full suits and perfect hair while Jess Moondragon waves goodbye.

JESS MOONDRAGON

May God be with you Action News Team!

MUSIC: ACTION ADVENTURE

WE SEE A MONTAGE OF THEIR JOURNEY

- 1) They rock climb up a steep cliff
- 2) They fly across a cravass holding onto hand grips attached to a wire.
- 3) They battle white water rapids in an inflatable raft.
- 4) They fight off a bear with torches
- 5) They emerge from thick brush. Brick is now wearing a bear skin over his back and the group has gnarled walking sticks. They are back at the van.

RON

By the ghost of Eli Whitney!

BRIAN FANTANA

We went in a big circle!

Jess Moondragon is their sun tanning.

CONTINUED:

JESS MOONDRAGON
I was going to say something. The
compound is just over the hill there.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN COMPOUND --TEN MINUTES LATER

RON
Alright fellas. This is just like in
Nam back in 64'. I'm taking the point.
Don't make a move til I give the go
ahead.

SERIES OF SHOTS: Showing the team mobilizing.

- 1) Ron giving hand signals, whistles and hoots.
- 2) Champ crawling on the ground with a knife in his mouth.
- 3) Brian running across the ground quietly and doing a forward roll into a crouching position behind a car. Immediately combs his hair.
- 4) Brick scales the back wall of the compound like a ninja.
- 5) Ron runs and bursts through the front door.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND - CONTINUOUS

Ron bursts through the door landing in perfect Kung Fu attack position.

RON
When in Rome!

A gun cocks next to his head. It's Deedra X.

DEEDRA X
If it isn't whitey Mc-whitey-ington.

Paul Danover is drinking from a boda bag with Sandra hanging all over him.

PAUL DANOVER
Hello Ron Burgundy. Your tie is off center.

RON
Oh, that is embarrassing-

CONTINUED:

Ron checks his tie and a foot smacks him in the face knocking him out.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- TEN MINUTES LATER

Ron is now bound to the bunk next to Alicia while the group sets up the camera link. Ron wakes up mumbling.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Ron, what are you doing here?

RON

I came for you Alicia... my little chinchila.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Ron, there's something you have to know. That dirty trick with the teleprompter. That wasn't-

RON

Oh my God. Alicia, You didn't do it! It was The Alarm Clock wasn't it? I should have known you would never do such a thing.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

No Ron. I did it. But it wasn't me. It was a different Alicia. An ugly and ambitious person who I didn't like very much. I want you to know if we get out of here I'm resigning.

RON

The hell you are!...The only reason you did what you did was because I stole your story and messed everything up. I was a prideful jackass.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Listen Ron. I ran background checks on the whole group before they kidnapped me and they're a wannabe radicals. Which means they're more dangerous because they've got something to prove. The CIA's been tracking them for months.

RON

(taking a deep breath)
My God...look how impressive you are.

CONTINUED:

RON (CONT'D)

Doing background checks, checking with the CIA. How did you think of all that?

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I just made some calls and did some research. That's what journalists do.

RON

(a revelation)

So that's what journalists do!

Paul walks toward them with the Muscular Guy and the Deedra X weilding guns.

PAUL DANOVER

It's show time! Here's what's going to happen Ms. Corningstone. We're going to interupt the regular news and then the most trusted anchor in town is going to read our manifesto to the world.

He tosses some copy onto Alicia.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

The hell I will!

PAUL DANOVER

Then we kill you.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Go ahead. I'm a news anchor. I'd rather die than lose my credibility..

RON

I'll do it!

CUT TO:

INT. CONTROL ROOM - SAME TIME

Ed Harken and Garth Holiday are in the control during the six o'clock broadcast.

ED HARKEN

Any word from the police?

GARTH HOLLIDAY

Nothing. They're scouring the whole mountainside.

ED HARKEN

They better find em soon. These weekend anchors are awful.

INT. NEWS SET -- CONTINUOUS

The weekend team is anchoring the news. VINCE MASTERS, 71, is a scraggily anchor past his prime who is openly smoking on the air and PABLO SCHMIDT, 52, is an odd looking guy with strange eyes.

VINCE MASTERS

So, uh, anyone with information on the missing Action News Team should call... Where's the friggin phone number?

PABLO SCHMIDT

They can call me. I get very lonely.

VINCE MASTERS

Dammit, where's the number? I'm sick of this shit?!

INT. CONTROL ROOM -- CONT

ED HARKEN

Get em off the air!

GARTH HOLLIDAY

Who are we gonna go with?

ED HARKEN

I don't care. Grab some interns!

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND --- SAME TIME

Burgundy is reading through the manifesto under guard of The Muscular Guy while Oliver sets up the camera link.

PAUL DANOVER

How soon til we broadcast?

OLIVER

Any minute now.

RON

May I ask a question? I'm reading through this copy and I'm not exactly sure what it is you folks are against.

PAUL DANOVER

We wanna stop the bullshit.

CONTINUED:

RON

And what "bullshit" specifically are you refering to?

DEEDRA X

I've been meaning to ask you that too Paul.

PAUL DANOVER

Uhhh, you know, bullshit. The Man. Squares. The Government.

RON

What kind of government do you want?

PAUL DANOVER

Uh, you know. One run by the people or officials chosen by the people.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

That's a democracy. That's what we have!

SANDRA

Come on Paul! I dropped out of massage school to join you! What are we trying to do?!

ALL

Yeah!...Come on!...Read It!!

PAUL DANOVER

You want the manifesto?! Fine here it is. Here's the way The Alarm Clock will change the world forever...

(he takes out some notes)

Um...you know how when we drink beer or soda and then we just throw out the bottles and cans? Well what if everyone started saving those bottles and cans so we could, you know, reuse them?

Beat

RON

You are a madman.

DEEDRA X

Ten months of living in the woods and that's all you came up with?! You've been wastin our time turkey!

CONTINUED:

MARCOS

Yeah, you'd have to have a whole
nother garbage can for the bottles!
People'll never do that!

RON

Wait, you didn't let me get to the
part about electric cars so we don't
have to be dependent on foreign oil!

OLIVER

Electric cars? Are you high?!

ALARM CLOCK MEMBERS

I can't believe this!...I was gonna
get my Masters before I joined
you!...Savin cans! That's like science
fiction!?

As they bicker Ron gives an attack signal.

RON

Now Action News Team! Now!

MUSIC: ACTIONIFIED VERSION OF THE ACTION NEWS THEME

1) Suddenly two legs from above drop down around the Muscular
Guy's neck and twist. It is Brick hanging from the ceiling.
2) Brian pops out of the fireplace and lays viscious karate
kicks to Deedra X's face. 4) Ron leg sweeps Paul Danover
ending with a blow to the chest knocking the wind out of
him. 5) Champ comes bursting through a window and forward
rolls into a punch that takes out Oliver.

CHAMP KIND

Gar-bonzo!

Everyone stops and looks at Champ.

CHAMP KIND (CONT'D)

It's a new phrase I'm working on,
instead of Whammy.

NEWS TEAM/ALICIA

Stick with Whammy...yeah I like Whammy
better...etc.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS SET-- CONT

We see RASHARD HARRIS, 24, a handsome and stylish African American man and NANCY LEE, 23, a beautiful Asian woman are now anchoring the news. They are unbelievably sharp and competent.

RASHARD HARRIS

...we understand the authorities believe the group is planning to in some way disrupt television broadcasts in the state of Oregon.

NANCY LEE

Rashard, this is typical of these fringe radical groups. According to Dr. Jason Hartley of UCLA medical school they are motivated by mania and a need for large scale public approval.

ANGLE ON HARKIN AND GARTH

HARKEN

(impressed)

Maybe we should make them paid interns.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- SAME TIME

Ron is untying Alicia.

RON

We've got to notify the authorities.

(to Sandra)

Don't worry little girl, we'll get you home to your parents.

HOT GIRL

My parents are dicks! You tricked us with your witchy anchor speak Ron Burgundy! The revolution will be televised!

She turns on the camera just as Brian throws a knife that pins her shirt to the wall.

RON

Good work team!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Ron! That camera's on! We've got dead air!

CONTINUED:

RON

If there's one thing I hate it's
dead air.

He turns toward the camera.

BRIAN FANTANA

Be careful Ron! There's no
teleprompter!

RON

I don't need a teleprompter to speak
from my heart.

FLASH TO: SHOTS OF ALL OF PORTLAND LOOKING AT A BLANK SET ON
THE TV. A BARTENDER CHANGES THE CHANNELS.

BARTENDER

It's on all four channels!

Ed Harken and Garth are in the control room.

DIRECTOR

Ed, there's nothing I can do. They
broke into the microwave transmission.

Ron slides into the chair and addresses camera.

ED HARKEN

Sweet Jesus. He's got no script.

INT. COMPOUND -- CONTINUOUS

RON

Uh...um...hi...

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Ron you can do it. It's jazz baby.
Jazz.

The scoring goes from tense into jazz flute.

RON

(to himself)

It's jazz...It's jazz!

(feelin the anchor groove)

I'm terribly sorry Portland, for the
interruption. These misguided youths
have attempted to take over the
airwaves. But if there's one thing
Ron Burgundy knows it's that that is
not how we do things in the ol' US
of A. You see gang. I'm a dreamer.
And not just because I sleep eleven
hours a night.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

RON (CONT'D)

I happen to believe that back in 1876 when George Washington came over on the Mayflower he had a dream. And we all take part in that dream not by doing what we want, but through the process of voting. As an anchor I'm not allowed to vote, or to be more precise, I don't know how to vote. But I do know that freedom is free.

Quick flash to different viewers riveted to the TV.

RON (CONT'D)

These crazies wanted us to wake up. Well I'm awake now. I'm awake to the fact that I love this nutty little land we call America and I love you Ms. Alicia Corningstone.

Alicia comes on camera.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Ron, there are literally thousands of men I should be with instead, but I love you too.

They kiss. Quick cuts of everyone in Portland watching on TV and applauding. Then the kiss starts getting a little more passionate and then kind of sexual. Everyone gets uncomfortable. We see the Skeevey Guy alone in his apartment.

SKEEVEY GUY

Oh yeah...

Then a groggy Paul Danover wakes up, wiping the blood from his mouth. He raises his arm and points a GUN at Alicia.

PAUL DANOVER

The clock... has struck.. twelve!

He fires the gun at Alicia. And Ron moving with surprising speed leans in and takes the bullet in the shoulder.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Ron!

RON

Spider Man's balls this hurts!

Champ subdues Paul.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

You...took a bullet for me.

CONTINUED:

RON

I would not do that again!! I care
for you deeply but it was not worth
it!! This hurts like a bitchy bitch!!!

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL -- AN HOUR LATER

The ambulance pulls up to the hospital which is crowded with
police, reporters, Harken, Holiday, the Eyewitness News Team
everyone. The back opens and the news team gets out followed
by Alicia who helps Ron out with a bandage on his shoulder.
The crowd erupts in cheering.

MUSIC: TRIUMPHANT

CROWD

(chanting)

Bur-gun-dy! Bur-gun-dy!

Reporters and cameras press in on Ron. NETWORK REPORTER,
42, puts a mic in Ron's face.

NETWORK REPORTER

Mr. Burgundy, Terry Teagle, I'm with
the network. We're doing a "when the
newsman becomes the news" angle.
How'd you like to report your own
story?

He hands Ron the microphone.

RON

The network huh? Well why should I
do it when you have the best damn
reporter in the country right here.

Burgundy hands the mic to Alicia.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Ron you should do this. It's your
dream.

RON

No. You're the better journalist.
Now get to it.

He gives her a swat on the butt. Alicia takes her moment and
seizes it. She is instantly commanding and articulate.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I'm Alicia Corningstone reporting
for channel six, Action News.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE (CONT'D)

Today could have been a very dark day if not for the quick thinking of one brave man....

Fireworks expode in the dusky sky. Frank Vitchard approaches Ron.

FRANK VITCHARD

Ron Burgundy...I don't like you. But dammit. I respect you.

They clasp hands like gladiators.

FRANK VITCHARD (CONT'D)

So how bout an interview Ron?

RON

Sorry Frank. No comment.

Ron strolls off as a dog runs up to Ron and jumps into his arms.

RON (CONT'D)

Baxter! I knew you were still alive!

It's clearly not Baxter. It's a doberman or a collie.

GARTH HOLLIDAY

Hey Ron! That's not-

ED HARKEN

Shhh. Let him have it.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Yeah, Burgundy had rolled with the punches of change pretty good. He had finally become more than a haircut and a voice. He was truly an anchor-man. Alicia of course went straight to network. And Ron and Alicia kept up an amazing long distance relationship: six days of work and one day of love making at the hotel by the airport. But after awhile Ron just grew restless anchoring the news. He was no longer satisfied to report on life. He wanted to live it.

EXT. NEWS BUILDING- FOGGY DAY

We see a bearded Ron in a navy P-coat giving a firm embrace to each Action news team member.

MUSIC: GORDON LIGHTFOOT "SUNDOWN"

CONTINUED:

NARRATOR(V.O.)

So Ron quit the business and took to the road like some kind of wandering gypsy poet. He let America flow over him like hot butter over a fresh boiled lobster. Groovin and digging on the heart beat of existence.

MUSIC: TANGLED UP IN BLUE

A Montage of Burgundy's travels and adventures through this great land of ours:

-Ron's hitchhiking by a highway.

-Someone is getting an elaborate tatoo of a wizard on their back. Pan up to reveal Ron is the tatoo artist now with a beard.

-Ron is skate boarding with a bunch of skaters in an empty pool.

-We pan down from Alf on the set of Alf to find it is Ron's hand inside.

-Ron naked and running with stallions in slow motion. We pull back to see Jess Moondragon is also with him giving him the thumbs up.

NARRATOR

He became more myth than man. And all the while Alicia's star continued to rise...

SIXTY-MINUTES OPENING

ED BRADLEY

I'm Ed Bradley.

MORLEY SAFER

I'm Morley Safer.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

I'm Alicia Corningstone.

EXT. NYC BROWNSTONE --- PRESENT DAY

Alicia gets out of a cab and says good bye to Diane Sawyer.

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

Good night Diane.

DIANE SAWYER

Good night Alicia.

CONTINUED:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And then after ten years of wandering,
Ron finally found his mission in
life. The one thing he was really
good at...loving Alicia.

Alicia enters the house and is greeted by three dogs and
three children ages 5-12. Ron is at the counter between the
kitchen and living room mixing a giant elaborate salad. They
rush to each other and hug and kiss.

RON

Hello sweet heart!! How was work?!

ALICIA CORNINGSTONE

It was great honey...I got the
interview with Arafat. They're flying
me to Israel tomorrow.

RON

Well hey! Gangbusters sweetie! I had
a big day myself. I finally got the
Tivo to work and I paid the gas bill!!

Their seven year old son runs up and tugs on Alicia's coat.

SEVEN YEAR OLD SON

(in a deep rich voice)

Mom, Dad wouldn't let me drink
cologne!

Ron scoops up his other son who was playing with a fire poker
and cleans up a puddle from one of the dogs all in one motion.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Ron became a great House Husband.
But when he wasn't busy doing laundry
or picking up the kids from voice
lessons he found time to finally
realize his dream of going national.
And he chose the biggest network of
them all.

INT. RECORDING STUDIO

We see Ron is a voice over booth.

TECHNICIAN

And we're rolling Mr.Burgundy...

RON

Alrighty, here we go...
(He clears his throat)

CONTINUED:

RON (CONT'D)

The number you have reached has been disconnected. No further information is available.

The second he's done he pumps his fist in triumph.

RON (CONT'D)

Yes!! I nailed it!! I'm on fire
baby!!! What's that basketball
player's name? Michael Gordon! I'm
like him!!

He goes on celebrating while we see Alicia with the children making their way into the studio, giving Ron a thumbs up.

ROLL CREDITS

MUSIC: "THE BALLAD OF RON BURGUNDY"

Performed by Tenacious D, Ron Burgundy and Alicia as a viking rocker babe on a craggy summit with images from the movie flashing in the lightning over head.

SONG

HOW DO YOU TAME A LION THAT'S UNTAMEBLE?
WHAT CAN YOU REALLY SAY TO A LOVER THAT'S DEAF?
WHEN IS A HERO A COWARD AND A COWARD A HERO?
THIS IS THE STORY OF RON BURGUNDY
A TALE THAT WILL BE TOLD FOR CENTURIES TO COME
GATHER ROUND YE CHILDREN, BEND IN EAR MY
WAY. QUIT MESSIN AROUND AND
LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY
I'LL TELL YOU BOUT AN ANCHORMAN
WHO FINALLY FOUND HIS WAY
WHO LEARNED TO BE A REAL MAN
AND HOW HE ROSE AND FELL AND ROSE AGAIN AND THEN
HIS DOG GOT PUNTED INTO A RIVER.

THIS IS THE LEGEND OF RON BURGUNDY
THIS SONG IS AVAILABLE ON CAPITAL RECORDS
COMPACT DISC OR CASSETTE
AND THIS SONG IS NOT TO BE USED WITHOUT WRITTEN
PERMISSION OR LICENSING FEES
FOR IF YOU DO USE THIS SONG WITHOUT CONSENT,
WE HAVE A TEAM OF LAWYERS THAT WILL DESCEND ON
YOU...
LIKE HAWKS...FROM HELL
THEY'LL TAKE AWAY EVERYTHING YOU HOLD DEAR,
SO DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT

CONTINUED:

SONG (CONT'D)

CAUSE YOU'LL BE SHOVELING SHIT IN BUMFUG INDIANA
WITH YOUR THUMB UP YOUR ASS
THINKING WHY DID I MESS WITH THE LEGAL TEAM AT
CAPITAL RECORDS, THOSE GUYS GOT ME GOOD
THE LEGEND, THE LEGEND, THE LEGEND!
OF RON BURGUNDY!!!

THE END.