

JUST THE TEN OF US

"The News Wars"

written by

James Larry Sanders Jr.

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CAST

GRAHAM LUBBOCK.....BILL KIRCHENBAUER
ELIZABETH LUBBOCK.....DEBORAH HARMON
MARIE LUBBOCK.....HEATHER LANGENKAMP
CINDY LUBBOCK.....JAMIE LUNER
WENDY LUBBOCK.....BROOKE THEISS
CONNIE LUBBOCK.....JO ANN WILLETTE
J.R. LUBBOCK.....MATT SHAKMAN
SHERRY LUBBOCK.....HEIDI ZEIGLER

GUEST CAST

MAYOR LOMBARDO.....PETER BOYLE
DOOSLER.....EVAN ARNOLD
JASON.....JASON BATEMAN
BILLY GRIM.....THOM SHARP
JACK.....
JIM.....
JOHN.....BILL ERWIN
KENT SHOCKNEK.....HIMSELF
SISTER ETHEL.....MAXINE ELLIOTT
DANNY.....JOHNNY DARK

COLD OPEN

EXT. DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

THE FAMILY EXITS THE ICE CREAM PARLOR, ALL WITH DOUBLE DIP ICE CREAM CONES IN THEIR HANDS.

ELIZABETH

Graham, was it really a good idea to spend your bonus from Father Hargis in ice cream cones?

GRAHAM

If you can think of a better way to spend it, I'd love to hear it.

ELIZABETH

Well, for starters...

CONNIE

Ugggh!

ELIZABETH

Oh, Connie, what's wrong?

SHERRY

Hey, you're the one who picked plain vanilla, don't take it out on us.

CONNIE

I just remembered I have to finish my story for the school paper by tomorrow.

CINDY

What's it about?

WENDY

It's probably about something lame,
like Sister Ethel's knitting.

A PREGNANT PAUSE FOLLOWS.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Oh god, you're not really writing
about that, are you?

CONNIE
(frustrated)

If you can think of a better story,
I'd love to hear it!

MARIE

I'm personally looking forward to
finding out how she puts those cute
little angel wings on her sweaters.

CONNIE

Those are horns, Marie.

MARIE

What?! Like the devil?!

CONNIE

Exactly, they just come out looking
like wings.

J.R.

Hey, can we go? I have to shave.

GRAHAM

Yeah, we better go.

CONNIE

I think I'll stay here a bit longer.

ELIZABETH

Okay, honey, but don't be too long.

It's a school night.

THE FAMILY LEAVES CONNIE, AS SHE WALKS SULLENLY IN THE OTHER DIRECTION.

CONNIE (V.O.)

Rats! Another week, another meaningless story. I've said it once, and I'll say it again: I'll never write anything meaningful. I'll be spending the rest of my life writing pointless stories about cats getting stuck in trees, school bake sales, and the Golden Globe Awards. Just once, I'd like a big...no, really big story to just appear in front of my eyes.

CONNIE STOPS TO SEE MAYOR LOMBARDO CONVERSING WITH A SHADY MAN IN A TRENCHCOAT. CONNIE HIDES BEHIND A BENCH.

CONNIE (V.O.)

Mayor Lombardo?! That was too easy.

SHADY MAN

You got the permits?

MAYOR LOMBARDO

Sure! You got the money?

SHADY MAN

I'm a man of my word. Ten Gs.

CONNIE (V.O.)

Ten thousand dollars?! This is the biggest scoop Eureka's seen in years...wait, I can't just jump to conclusions.

SHADY MAN

These permits will let me drill oil under Sequoia Park?

MAYOR LOMBARDO

That's what they say, in writing, with my signature.

CONNIE (O.S.)

I have him dead to rights. But who would ever believe me? It's my word against his. I could never prove this to anybody.

JUST THEN, A MAN WITH A CAMCORDER WALKS BY.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Hey, you! Can I borrow your camcorder?! I need it for something really, really important.

MAN

Here, keep it! I need to get rid of the evidence.

CONNIE

Evidence?

THE MAN RUNS OFF BEFORE HE CAN ANSWER.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

CONNIE STARTS FILMING THE MAYOR.

SHADY MAN (O.S.)

I got an extra five grand. Think I
could get you to stop paving Redwood
Highway for a little while?

MAYOR LOMBARDO (O.S.)

How else is your tire shop going to
stay in business?

CONNIE (V.O.)

Now, I have him dead to rights. Take
that, Mike Wallace.

ROLL OPEN

ACT I

INT. ST. AUGIE'S HERALD-GAZETTE - DAY

CONNIE EXCITEDLY ENTERS A CLASSROOM FILLED WITH TYPEWRITERS AND THE ONLY TV/VCR CART IN THE SCHOOL. THE BLACKBOARD READS "REMEMBER: DON'T ROCK THE BOAT. TRUTH IS JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR BIAS." DOOSLER IS STARING OFF INTO SPACE AS CONNIE ENTERS.

CONNIE

Gavin! Gavin! You won't believe it!

DOOSLER

You finally find me attractive?!

CONNIE

No!

DOOSLER

(forlorn)

Oh, then what's got you so excited?

CONNIE

I just got the biggest scoop this town has seen in years. Rank corruption happening in plain sight!

DOOSLER

Oh, Connie, no. Not another expose.

Remember what happened when you tried to take down Father Hargis?

CONNIE

This is nothing like that, look!

CONNIE TAKES OUT A VIDEOTAPE.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

I have evidence!

DOOSLER

But why do you want to take down
Father Hargis so bad?

CONNIE

Father Hargis? Who cares about him?
This time, I caught the mayor in the
act!

DOOSLER

Mayor Lombardo?! That is a scoop.

JASON WALKS IN.

JASON

Doosler, I just finished that story on
Father Bud's commitment to celibacy.

DOOSLER

You did? How'd it go?

JASON

I think I need therapy.

CONNIE TURNS AROUND AND RUNS TO JASON.

CONNIE

Jason!

JASON

Connie!

CONNIE LEAPS INTO JASON'S ARMS.

CONNIE

Just the person I wanted to see! Do
you want to see me make history?!

DOOSLER

Hey, how come you never leap into my
arms?

CONNIE

Get over it, Doosler; you always do.

JASON PLACES CONNIE'S FEET BACK ON THE GROUND.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Come on. The VCR's right here!

CONNIE RUNS TO PUT THE TAPE IN THE MACHINE. DOOSLER AND JASON
FOLLOW. CONNIE GRABS THE REMOTE CONTROL AND PRESSES PLAY. THE
THREE SUDDENLY LOOK CONFUSED.

JASON

That's Mayor Lombardo?

DOOSLER

He's a lot blonder and leggier than I
remember.

CONNIE

Ugh, this must be what that guy
recorded before I borrowed his camera.

CONNIE FAST-FORWARDS THE TAPE.

JASON

I take it he didn't tape that to
admire her plumbing fixtures.

CONNIE STOPS THE TAPE.

CONNIE

Here, look.

SHADY MAN (O.S.)

You know, it's been rumored that there's a small oil deposit in Humboldt Bay. Maybe you could help me grease some palms down in Sacramento?

MAYOR LOMBARDO (O.S.)

How can you grease palms without some light crude? Heh heh heh.

DOOSLER

That's not true. My mom usually just uses Vaseline.

CONNIE AND JASON LOOK AT DOOSLER WITH SUSPICION, BEFORE RESETTING THEIR FOCUS ON THE VIDEO.

JASON

Connie, you're going to be famous!

CONNIE

Yes! Take that, Morley Safer!...I mean, this is fine day for the craft of journalism.

JASON PATS CONNIE ON THE BACK. SHE SMILES. DOOSLER PATS CONNIE ON THE BACK, HARD. SHE GRIMACES AND FROWNS.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - TWILIGHT

GRAHAM AND ELIZABETH ARE WATCHING TV. CONNIE RUNS IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.

CONNIE

Mom! Dad! You won't believe it!

GRAHAM

It was butter the whole time?! I knew
it!

CONNIE

No! A story of mine is going to be on
the news!

GRAHAM

Really?!

ELIZABETH

Connie, that's wonderful! I guess
Sister Ethel's knitting is a lot more
interesting than you thought.

CONNIE

Oh, it's not about Sister Ethel. It's
about Mayor Lombardo.

ELIZABETH

Mayor Lombardo? Connie, you're not
engaging in gross speculation again,
are you?

GRAHAM

Because the last time J.R. did that,
we had to get a note from Wendy's
doctor before she could go back to
school.

ELIZABETH

No, Graham; I'm talking about the time Connie nearly drove Father Hargis out of town based on false pretenses.

CONNIE

No false pretenses this time, Mom! I have video evidence.

ELIZABETH

Can we see this video evidence?

CONNIE

I'd rather you didn't...Besides, I gave the tape to the TV station.

GRAHAM

Wow. Our Connie is becoming a regular Billy Grim!

CONNIE

What?! Billy Grim is a hack!

ELIZABETH

Connie, he may be a bit unorthodox, but that's no reason to call him names.

CONNIE

But he is! He's never broken an important story in his life. He just coasts by on trite and irrelevant puff pieces about senior citizens.

CONNIE POINTS TO THE TV.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

See! He's doing it now!

BILLY (O.S.)

Welcome back.

INT. INTERVIEW STUDIO - ON TV

BILLY

We'll have the latest on the civil war in Africa later, but now it's time once again for...Billy's People. Today, I'll be speaking with Jim, Jack, John; the three surviving Pruitt quintuplets. Gentlemen, welcome...

JIM

Hello.

JACK

Hi.

JOHN

Howdy.

BILLY

Well, the three of you have been pillars of the Eureka community for decades; as were your brothers Joe and Ralph before their...tragic demise. Tell me, why are you proud to call Eureka home?

JIM

The low tax on bourbon.

JOHN

Yeah, and whenever I burn trash, the frequent sea breezes blow the smoke away from my house.

BILLY

Is that why there's a higher rate of emphysema downwind of your property?

JOHN

How did you know that?!

BILLY

I saw it one night on Hard Copy.

JOHN

Oh, yeah.

BILLY

If you don't mind me asking, why couldn't you let the garbageman pick your trash up?

JOHN

Because the municipal authority doesn't pick up old car batteries.

BILLY

Well, it's nice to know some people still care about following the rules. It's clear you all love Eureka.

BILLY PRESSES ON HIS EARPIECE.

BILLY (CONT'D)

We have to cut this interview short,
fellas. We have a late-breaking story
coming from our satellite reporter,
Kent...oh, I can't pronounce that,
just take the feed.

INT. LIVING ROOM

CONNIE

Mom, Dad, my story's coming on!

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

A REPORTER IS STANDING IN FRONT OF A COURTHOUSE.

KENT

This is Kent Shocknek, reporting live
from the federal courthouse where Ed
Lombardo, the mayor of the small town
of Eureka, California, has just been
indicted on numerous counts of bribery
and racketeering.

MAYOR LOMBARDO WALKS UP THE STEPS OF THE COURTHOUSE, WITH TWO
COPS FLANKING HIM ON BOTH SIDES.

MAYOR LOMBARDO

Hey, you can't do this! I know Gary
Hart! I know Oliver North! You're all
going to fry!

KENT

This story is made all the more remarkable by the fact that the story was broken wide open by a young reporter at a small school newspaper: sixteen-year-old Constance S. Lubbock.

INT. LIVING ROOM

ELIZBETH STARTS HUGGING CONNIE.

ELIZABETH

Oh my god, I don't believe it!

GRAHAM STARTS HUGGING CONNIE UNNECESSARILY TIGHT.

GRAHAM

My little muffin is a news breaker!

KENT (O.S.)

Back to you, Billy.

INT. INTERVIEW STUDIO

BILLY SITS IN HIS CHAIR, WINCING AS HE TRIES TO SUPPRESS A SUDDEN FIT OF RAGE.

BILLY

Sixteen? I was scooped by
a...sixteen?!

JIM

Billy?

JIM SNAPS HIS FINGERS.

JIM (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

JACK

I haven't seen anybody this mad since
that mom of the boy with the six toes.

AFTER A BRIEF PAUSE, BILLY BREAKS INTO A FALSETTO.

BILLY

We'll be right back.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - TWILIGHT

CONNIE AND JASON ARE SITTING ON THE COUCH READING A ROAD
ATLAS, WITH CINDY AND WENDY STANDING ABOVE THEM, WHILE MARIE
READS SOMETHING ELSE.

JASON

See here, this is where my folks have
their summer home.

CINDY

Bird-In-Hand?

JASON

Yeah, of course we spend most of the
year here in Brodheadsville. Oh, and
my grandma? She lives here in Beaver.

MARIE

What are you two talking about?!

CONNIE

Jason is showing me a map of where
he's from.

JASON

And this is where my uncle used to own
a coal mine.

WENDY

Rough and Ready?

JASON

And my other uncle has a general store in Virginville; he's originally from Blue Ball, right here. He's a very lonely man. We haven't seen him even once at our annual family reunion.

CONNIE

You have a family reunion?

JASON

Yeah, over here in Intercourse.

MARIE YELPS.

MARIE

What kind of sick and twisted den of sin is this?!

CONNIE

(deadpan)

Pennsylvania.

WENDY

Yeah, Jason has family all over the state!

JASON

Commonwealth, Wendy.

MARIE

Well, I don't want to hear any more of this "Pennsylvania". I need to cleanse my soul!

MARIE GRABS THE REMOTE.

MARIE (CONT'D)

I'm watching the news!

CONNIE

Oh, Marie, no.

BILLY (O.S.)

Welcome back, it's time for another
edition of Billy's People.

INT. INTERVIEW STUDIO - ON TV

BILLY

Our guest today is Sister Ethel, uh...

BILLY CHECKS HIS NOTES FOR ETHEL'S LAST NAME.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Sister Ethel.

SISTER ETHEL

You're so cute when you look at your
notes, Billy.

BILLY
(flattered)

Oh, thank you. So why don't you show
us you're knitting?

INT. LIVING ROOM

WENDY

Sister Ethel?

CONNIE

Knitting?

SISTER ETHEL (O.S.)

Here you go.

INT. INTERVIEW STUDIO

BILLY UNFURLS ONE OF SISTER ETHEL'S WOOL BLANKETS.

BILLY

Wow. Look at the stitching on this.

And, of course, you've got some angel wings here in the middle.

SISTER ETHEL

(coy)

Yeah...angel wings.

INT. LIVING ROOM

CINDY

Weren't you writing something for the school paper about Sister Ethel's knitting?

CONNIE

He stole my story!

MARIE

Connie, it's okay.

WENDY

Besides, I thought that kind of story was beneath you.

CONNIE

You're the one to talk, Wendy! You're beneath everyone!

JASON

Connie, Connie, calm down. Okay? You never wanted to do that story, anyway.

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

You just broke the biggest story this town's seen in years. You're still the real journalist, here.

CONNIE

Yeah, you're probably right...

CONNIE SUDDENLY GETS A SHARP PANG OF PANIC.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Oh no.

CINDY

What's wrong?

CONNIE

The only way Billy Grim could have known I was going to do a story on Sister Ethel is if...he was looking through my files.

WENDY

Oh, please, Connie. The only files you have are the ones you use on your corns.

CONNIE

He knows about that, too?!?!?!?

JASON LOOKS AT CONNIE.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

I mean...shut up! Come on, Jason!

Let's get out of here!

CONNIE GETS UP AND PULLS JASON WITH HER TOWARDS THE DOOR.

JASON

Hey, you know, my uncle has an
ownership stake in Doctor Scholl's.
Maybe he can get something to help you
with your...

CONNIE GIVE JASON A DIRTY LOOK.

JASON (CONT'D)

...I'll be quiet.

CONNIE PULLS JASON OUT OF THE HOUSE, AND SLAMS THE DOOR
BEHIND HER.

MARIE

Don't you think Connie's being a
little paranoid?

CINDY

Hey, you're the one who prays the
rosary every time you eat too much of
Mom's baked beans.

MARIE

Better safe than sorry.

GRAHAM WALKS IN FROM THE KITCHEN.

GRAHAM

Hey, girls. Have you seen your mother?

WENDY

No, why?

GRAHAM

Well, I found one of these TV
microphone thingies in the backyard.

GRAHAM PULLS OUT A MIC FLAG WITH THE NUMBER '37' ON IT.

WENDY

Thirty-seven?

GRAHAM

Yeah, Elizabeth worked there for a spell, I figured it was hers.

MARIE

Isn't that the station Billy Grim works for?

CINDY

He must've been in the backyard. Connie was right!

WENDY

Oh, geez. Cindy, while I'm proud of you for using your deduction skills...

GRAHAM

(interrupting)

Wait! Billy Grim is here?!

WENDY

Dad, Connie thinks he's following her around...

GRAHAM

(interrupting, again)

Wow! I got to get his autograph!

GRAHAM RUNS BACK INTO THE KITCHEN. THE OTHER THREE LOOK AT EACH OTHER INCREDULOUSLY.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

EXT. OLD JOHNSON ROAD - NIGHT

CONNIE AND JASON ARE AMOROUSLY ADMIRING EACH OTHER, KISSING AND SUCH, BENEATH THE BRIGHTLY LIT FULL MOON.

JASON

You're a really good kisser, Connie.

CONNIE

Wow, really?

JASON

You must have had a lot of practice...wait, didn't you say I was your first real boyfriend?

CONNIE

Beginner's luck, I guess.

CONNIE AND JASON GET BACK TO KISSING, UNTIL THEY START HEARING RUSTLING NEARBY.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

What was that?!

JASON

Oh, don't ruin the mood.

CONNIE

Jason, that could be anything.

JASON

Come on, Connie, you don't still believe in things that go bump in the night?

CONNIE

We're in the middle of nowhere! It could be a cougar, a bear, my dad!

JASON

Your dad? Now, I am scared.

CONNIE

Oh, but what if it's Billy Grim?! What if he tracked us down?!

JASON

Geez, your sister is right, you are a bit paranoid.

CONNIE

Jason!

JASON

Connie, listen, do you honestly believe that of all of the people that could follow us here, it would be a local anchorman?

CONNIE

I guess you're right.

MORE RUSTLING IS HEARD. JASON LOOKS UP AT AN ADJACENT TREE.

JASON

See, it's coming from the tree.

JASON GETS A STARTLED LOOK ON HIS FACE AS CONNIE TURNS AROUND.

CONNIE

The tree? Oh.

CONNIE PUTS HER HAND ON HEART IN RELIEF AS SHE LOOKS UP.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

It's probably just a squirrel or
som...aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhh!!!!

CONNIE SCREAMS AS SHE SEES BILLY GRIM SITTING IN THE TREE
ABOVE THEM, HOLDING A REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK.

BILLY

Oh, hi there, Billy Grim, Thirty-Seven
News, how are ya?

CONNIE

What are you doing up there?!?!?!?!?

BILLY

Oh, me? Just doing some research for a
series on juvenile delinquency. You
know, since I got scooped on the mayor
story, now I've got to get some good
sweeps pieces ready. Hey, I just
realized; you're the ones kissing, and
I'm the one in the tree.

CONNIE

Jason, can you believe this?!

JASON

No, I always expected my first peeping
Tom to have a bit more hair.

BILLY

Hey, first question; do your parents
know you're out here? Second, how many
dates did it take for you two to get
to first base?

CONNIE

I have a question for you. Just how confident are you that I won't grab an axe and start cutting limbs?!

BILLY

Oh, if you cut this limb, I'll just climb over to the next one.

CONNIE

I wasn't talking about the tree's limbs!

JASON

Connie, I think we should go.

CONNIE

No! Why should I have to deprive myself of a tender moment?! Wendy never had to cut her kissing short because Garrick Utley was watching her!

BILLY

Oh, Garrick, nice guy. I used to go golfing with him and Roger Mudd.

CONNIE

I'm gonna throw you in the mud!

JASON

Come on, Connie. Maybe we can find a secluded spot behind the Burger Barn.

JASON LEADS CONNIE AWAY.

BILLY

Hey, before you go, could you show me any illicit substances you might have in your pockets. My story could use a bit more zip.

CONNIE (O.S.)

Go to hell!

BILLY

Ooh, light swearing, even better.

BILLY STARTS TAKING DOWN NOTES.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

ELIZABETH IS ON THE COUCH FOLDING LAUNDRY, WHEN CONNIE COMES BURSTING THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.

CONNIE

Uggggh!

ELIZABETH

Oh, honey, what's wrong?

CONNIE

Everything! We didn't go to a single class all day!

ELIZABETH

What? Why? Sister Ethel didn't pull the fire alarm thinking it was the light switch, again?

CONNIE

No. We spent the whole day at an assembly.

ELIZABETH

An assembly? Was it something important?

CONNIE

Not unless you consider stories of drunken nights in New Orleans with Lesley Stahl to be important.

ELIZABETH

Father Hargis went to New Orleans with Lesley Stahl?!

CONNIE

Not Father Hargis, Billy Grim! He had an audience with the whole student body! We didn't even break for lunch.

ELIZABETH

Why were you all at an assembly with Billy Grim?

CONNIE

I don't know! Though that wad of cash I saw Father Bud thumbing through may have been a hint.

ELIZABETH

Well, Father Bud does sneak off to the track sometimes. Maybe he finally hit a Pick Six.

CONNIE

Mom, never in a million years did I think I'd be getting bullied by an anchorman.

ELIZABETH

Connie, I don't think Billy Grim is trying to bully you.

CONNIE

Then why did he steal my Sister Ethel story?

ELIZABETH

I thought you didn't want to do that story.

CONNIE

And why did he try to ruin my date with son that one time.

ELIZABETH

Well...

CONNIE

And why did he try to ruin my date with Jason by watching us kiss...I mean, watching us commiserate on topics of great import.

ELIZABETH

Connie, you're a worse liar than Wendy.

CONNIE

But I'm not lying! Not about Billy.

ELIZABETH

Listen, sometimes people do things that hurt, but it doesn't mean they're trying to hurt you. Maybe, they're just a little off kilter...Hey, aren't you and your sisters performing at Danny's, tonight?

CONNIE

Yeah.

ELIZABETH

Well, I think that's a perfect opportunity to just let all this go, and focus on bigger and better things.

CONNIE

Really?

ELIZABETH

And you know what, I still have Billy's number from when I worked at Channel Thirty-Seven. I'll talk to him and see if I can figure out what's really going on. I'm sure this is just a big misunderstanding. Okay, sweetie?

CONNIE

Okay, Mom.

CONNIE HUGS ELIZABETH AND HEADS UPSTAIRS.

FADE TO:

EXT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA - NIGHT

THE MARQUEE READS: "THE LUBBOCK BABES: 129TH SMASH WEEK".

CINDY/CONNIE/MARIE/WENDY
(O.S.)
(whispering)

Kick 'em when they're up
Kick 'em when they're down
Kick 'em when they're stiff
Kick 'em all around

INT. DANNY'S PIZZERIA

THE LUBBOCK BABES ARE ON STAGE PERFORMING, ALL LOOKING PARTICULARLY HAPPY, ESPECIALLY CONNIE.

CINDY

Dirty little secrets
Dirty little lies
We got our dirty little fingers in
everybody's pie
We love to cut you down to size
We love dirty laundry

CONNIE

We can do the innuendo
We can dance and sing
When it's said and done
We haven't told you a thing
We all know that crap is king
Give us dirty laundry

THE MUSIC FADES OUT AND THE GIRLS TAKE A BOW TO A GRATEFUL CROWD. CONNIE, STILL BEAMING, DECIDES TO SAY A FEW A WORDS.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Thank you. Thank you. I usually let my sisters do all the talking when we're on stage, but I wanted to give a special thanks to all of you who congratulated me on my big scoop about the mayor. Believe it or not, I had a really rough several days since then; and hearing all of this applause was, in a word, therapeutic.

A CONFUSED CINDY TAPS CONNIE ON THE SHOULDER. CONNIE RESPONDS.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

It means something that eases pain.

CINDY NODS AND STEPS BACK. JUST THEN, DANNY WALKS ON STAGE.

DANNY

Hey, hey, hey. How about those Lubbock Babes?! Now, I hear you ladies are having a good night; but what if I told you tonight was going to get even better?! Because tonight, we have a very special guest...

MARIE

Bob Costas got my letters?!?! I knew he'd come!!!

DANNY

Oh ho ho, let's not go crazy; though
our special guest is a TV personality.

WENDY
(excited)

A TV personality?!

CONNIE
(concerned)

What???

DANNY

Please welcome the dean of Eureka
anchormen, Mister Billy Grim!!!

BILLY GRIM WALKS OUT ON STAGE, WITH A GUITAR AROUND HIS
SHOULDER. THE GIRLS SHOW VARYING DEGREES OF DISAPPROVAL,
EXCEPT CINDY, WHO'S JUST HAPPY TO SEE A "CELEBRITY".

BILLY

Oh, hi, Billy Grim, Thirty-Seven News,
how ya' all doin' tonight?

CONNIE APPROACHES BILLY, LAUGHING GENTLY OUT OF PURE
INCREULITY.

CONNIE

Uh, Mister Billy...sir...what the hell
do you think you're doing?

BILLY

Oh, this? I got a call from your mom,
Liz...

CONNIE

Elizabeth.

BILLY

Right. She said I may have stepped on your toes a bit this past week, so I thought I'd make it up to you by joining in on your little band here. My outfit might not be as form-fitting as what you and your sisters have on, but it's probably for the best.

WENDY

Well, with all due respect Mister Grim, our act is kind of built for a quartet...preferably under the age of forty-five.

BILLY RETRIEVES SOME PAPERS FROM INSIDE HIS JACKET.

BILLY

Oh, no problem. I brought some songs here of my own. My own compositions.

CINDY

Can we sing with you?

BILLY

Eh, my act is kind of a solo act...preferably for a performer who graduated high school, or an equivalency exam.

MARIE

But we're only halfway through our set!

BILLY

You could wait 'til I'm finished. I've
only got...

BILLY CHECKS HIS NOTES.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Twenty-two songs, here. I should be
done by...oh, say, midnight.

CONNIE
(incensed)

You're a dead man, Grim!

CONNIE LUNGES TOWARDS BILLY, BUT CINDY AND MARIE HOLD HER
BACK.

BILLY

Hey, don't worry. I got a rerun set up
for the eleven. It's the broadcast
where I go to China...it's the one at
Epcot, but that still counts, right?
And a one, and a two...

THE MUSIC STARTS PLAYING, BILLY STARTS STRUMMING HIS GUITAR.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Yeah, the Newsman Blues!
Can't get the script done in time
Can't get it done in time!

The satellite's broken
And the wire's on the fritz
My sources aren't callin'
And my hairspray won't spritz

(MORE)

BILLY (CONT'D)

There's earwax in my earpiece

There's no camera on the set

The weatherman is drunk

Hey, is this as good as it can get?!

BILLY CONTINUES SINGING, AS MOST OF THE BABES ACCEPT DEFEAT.

WENDY

I know when we've been beat. Come on,
girls.

CINDY AND MARIE FOLLOW WENDY, WHILE CONNIE INDIGNANTLY JUMPS AROUND.

CONNIE

What, you're just going to let him
steal our show?! Whose side are you on
anyway?! Come back here, right now!

CONNIE GIVES ONE MORE DAGGERED STARE AT BILLY, BEFORE SHE RUNS OFF TO CONFRONT HER SISTERS.

BILLY (O.S.)

Yeah, the Newsman Blues!

There's no coffee in my mug

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II