

ERIC stands in front of a classroom; his constituents (BEBE, CHUCK, and SANDY) all sit at desks.

ERIC

Thank you all for coming to the first meeting regarding my campaign.

TINA

I'm only here cause I heard someone was running against Tina. I live for conflict.

ERIC

Well whatever brought you here, I'm glad-

CHUCK

Is it true that this campaign is one of spite?

ERIC

Huh?

CHUCK

Chuck Barnum, the McCarthy times-

ERIC

You're with the newspaper?

CHUCK

Mr. Winslow, are you avoiding the question?

ERIC

What was the question?

CHUCK

Tina Donnelly is your biggest opposition and was your best friend-

ERIC

Is.

CHUCK

What was that, Mr. Winslow?

ERIC

You, uh, you can call me Eric. And Tina IS my best friend. You said was.

CHUCK

Is it or is it not the case, Eric, that you were meant to be Ms. Donnelly's running mate in this election?

ERIC

Well, it is, but we had a difference of opinion-

CHUCK

You had a difference of opinion, so you launched a campaign in direct of opposition Ms. Donnelly. Eric, why should the students of McCarthy middle school think of you as anything except a candidate who runs spiteful campaigns in the interest of self-servitude?

ERIC

Because I'm gonna get an ice cream machine put in the cafeteria.

Silence.

CHUCK

No further questions.

ERIC

Anyone else have some interrogating to do?

SANDY

How are you gonna get an ice cream machine put in?

ERIC

They'll have to do what I say.

SANDY

They will?

ERIC

Why wouldn't they?

SANDY

Because we're kids and they're adults.

ERIC

Yeah, but think about it. If I win, I'll be president. That's way higher than principal. Do you think Mr. Buttman would tell Obama he couldn't have an ice cream machine?

BEBE

Obama doesn't need an ice cream machine, he has a bowling alley.

SANDY

Do you like bowling alleys, Bebe?

BEBE

Duh.

SANDY

I have a bowling alley at my house!

BEBE

It doesn't count if you're talking about Wii bowling.

SANDY

Why not?

BEBE

Cause it's not bowling.

SANDY

Oh.

ERIC

Guys, we're getting off track.

BEBE

I don't think we were ever on track.

ERIC

Okay, if anyone here isn't dedicated to this campaign, please leave now.

CHUCK stands. BEBE stands. SANDY stands. All
turn to leave.

ERIC

No! Please, stay. I need constituents!

CHUCK

You only need constituents if you have a shot at winning.

ERIC

I do have a shot!

CHUCK

What makes you say that?

ERIC

Look, I love Tina, but her ideas are terrible! Have you heard what she's said?

BEBE

No.

SANDY

Me neither.

CHUCK

I doubt it could be anything so bad that I'd want to support you.

ERIC

Saturday school.

CHUCK, BEBE, and SANDY stop.

CHUCK

Go on.

ERIC

It's something about productivity or something. Apparently taking lunch ruins the momentum of learning, so she wants to get rid of lunch. She's going to make the day end at one every day instead of three. They'll shorten classes to adjust, but that means that every Saturday we have to have classes to make up for the lost time.

BEBE

That's evil.

CHUCK

This cannot come to pass... I have Yu-Gi-Oh tournaments on Saturdays.

ERIC

So you'll help me?

CHUCK

There is no worse tyranny than to force a man to pay for what he does not want merely because you think it would be good for him.

ERIC

That's a yes?

CHUCK

Yes.

ERIC

Bebe? Sandy?

BEBE

I'll stay. I'd love to see Tina ground to dust.

SANDY

I'm in too!

ERIC

That's what I'm talking about! We're gonna win this election, I can feel it!

SANDY

You can't win an election without campaign posters!

ERIC

Yes, Sandy, that's the spirit! Okay, what do you think would make someone vote for me?

SANDY

Well, we could say "vote for Eric, he's not the cold-hearted shrew that Tina is".

ERIC

We're not doing a smear campaign.

SANDY

A what?

BEBE

It's when one campaign says something mean about the other to get votes.

SANDY

Oh. Does it work?

BEBE

Yes.

ERIC

Bebe!

BEBE

I don't know what to tell you, dude. It totally works. And she'd deserve it.

ERIC

I don't care, we're not doing it. Tina's my friend.

BEBE

She's also your rival.

CHUCK

She's a tyrant!

ERIC

Okay, you disagree with her ideas, but that doesn't mean-

SANDY

Burn the witch!

ERIC

Oh, whatever. If you guys wanna play dirty politics, you can leave. I'd rather have nobody in my corner than people who want to hurt my friend. I'll win, and I'll do it without making anyone look bad, because I care about the welfare of McCarthy middle school more than making myself look good.

BEBE begins clapping slowly. She is joined by the others, who all applaud.

CHUCK

Ya know, Eric, in this corrupt world, you're a beacon of light and hope for those who want to make an honest living.

ERIC

Uh-

CHUCK

You're a maverick.

ERIC

That's a pogo stick.

BEBE

It's also a term for someone who's really good at politics.

ERIC

Really?

CHUCK

Yes.

ERIC

Well... Then I guess I am a maverick, huh?

SANDY pulls a notebook and marker out of her bag. She begins drawing.

BEBE

Alright, maverick Eric, what's our first move?

ERIC

It would be good for people to know who I am before we get political, I think. Let them know there's more to me than a pretty face with a killer platform.

BEBE

Oh, I know!

ERIC

Yes, Bebe?

BEBE

We could talk about you at lunch. Like, we all go a different table, talk you up, then you make an appearance, like "woah what a coincidence".

ERIC

I like it!

BEBE

Then you could give them candy to vote for you.

CHUCK

That's bribery.

BEBE

Is bribery against the rules? Or just frowned upon?

ERIC

Either way it goes against what we stand for.

BEBE

Dang.

ERIC

Chuck? Whatcha got for me?

CHUCK

Unfortunately, all of my student-body prowess comes from my position at the McCarthy times. I can't endorse any political candidate under penalty of an ethics breach. I apologize.

ERIC

That's fine, Chuck. We'll find something else you can do! Maybe you wanna hang posters?

CHUCK

Do I have to buy glue?

BEBE

Chuck, you aren't going to use glue to hang the posters, are you?

CHUCK

Why wouldn't I?

BEBE

You're supposed to use tape.

CHUCK

Hmm. That would make more sense. Do I have to buy the tape?

ERIC

No, they should give us some.

CHUCK

Excellent.

ERIC

Sandy?

SANDY

Huh? Oh, sorry, I, uh, here.

SANDY displays what she was working on. It's a drawing of ERIC on a pogo stick with the slogan "Eric Winslow is po-going to make a difference" written under it.

BEBE

Eric Winslow is po-going to make a difference. Cute.

ERIC laughs.

SANDY

Yeah, I mean, cause you're a maverick? And this is a maverick too? I'm sorry, it's stupid-

ERIC

Are you kidding me? That's awesome, Sandy! I love it, thank you.

SANDY

Oh, yay.

BEBE

I like it too.

SANDY

Really?!

BEBE

Yeah, it's cool, in a lame pun way.

SANDY

Wait, so is it cool? Or is it lame?

BEBE

Yes.

SANDY

Uhh-

CHUCK

I think she means it's so lame that it's cool.

BEBE

That's not what I mean at all.

ERIC

Sandy, it's great. We're gonna use it.

SANDY

Oh, well not this one, I hope. It's really small. I can make bigger- better posters, and- and we can hang those up... maybe?

ERIC

Yeah, sure! When do you think you'll have those don-

SANDY

Tomorrow.

ERIC

Perfect! Mr. Munich said that I have to show him the poster idea before we can put it up to make sure there's nothing inappropriate in it. You wanna head over to his office with me?

SANDY

Okay.

CHUCK

Eric, I'm sorry to say it, but my mom is here to pick me up.

ERIC

Oh, yeah, of course. Don't stay on my account.

BEBE

I'm probably gonna walk home then.

ERIC

That's cool. Crew, I'm thrilled to say that I've got a great feeling about this campaign. I'll see you all tomorrow for the lunch meetings and the poster hang ups!

ERIC and SANDY exit. CHUCK packs his things.

BEBE

Chuck.

CHUCK

Huh?

BEBE

What do you think?

CHUCK

...About what?

BEBE

About making an ad about Tina.

CHUCK

We're supporting Eric though.

BEBE

Yeah, a bad ad about Tina.

CHUCK

You heard what Eric said-

BEBE

Yeah, I heard what he said, but did you look into his eyes as he said it?

CHUCK

I can't say I did-

BEBE

Well I looked into his freaking soul, okay? And his soul told me that he wanted us to make a negative ad about Tina.

CHUCK

I don't know, Bebe.

BEBE

The people deserve to know who they're voting for. Us showing the school who Tina is would be a public service!

CHUCK

Eric said no, that's that. What do you have against Tina, anyway?

BEBE

She's always walking around like she owns the place! And have you seen how she coordinated her hairbands with her shoes? It's disgusting. She needs to be taken down a few pegs. Come on, Chuck.

Silence.

I gotta go, my mom really is here.

CHUCK grabs his things.

BEBE

You'll come around. When you do, let me know.

CHUCK exits. Blackout.