

TURN IT ON, TUNE IT IN

by Jerry Rabushka

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A Comedy Monologue

by Jerry Rabushka

SYNOPSIS: It's homecoming day, and the football team is losing big. What could be worse? How about the on-air commentary by Jarod Carrant, the class reporter who is broadcasting live on station WXHS. After skewering the players, the marching band, and the homecoming queen, his list of friends is dropping precipitously fast. Who's next... could it really be the superintendent of schools? Oh yes? Oh, no! Funny lines and a great acting opportunity!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 male)

JAROD (m)..... Slightly arrogant and full of himself.

SETTING: A high school football stadium, Jarod is broadcasting on the school radio station. It's on-site, in the stands.

COSTUME: He "dresses for success."

PROPS: Microphone if desired, or headphones, whatever tools a broadcaster would need.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Keep this lively, as you don't want your radio audience to change the station! Radio personalities often speak with a different inflection than folks do in real life, so the actor could spend time listening to DJs, talk show hosts, and especially sports announcers on the radio for some ideas. Also, be aware of some rapid dialogue exchanges, it's important for the actor to make sure the audience can keep track of who is speaking. Many of these character types – the coach, the players, etc. can have exaggerated characterizations to help quickly delineate their personalities. Check out "Radio Days at Xyborg High," another on-air monologue featuring this same character.

JAROD: It's halftime here at Xyborg High Homecoming, and you are listening to WXHS, the voice and the power of Xyborg! Turn it on, tune it in, as better yet, you're listening to the voice and the power of Jarod Carrant, a voice loyal listeners know well, a voice some might say they know too well. As usual, Xyborg has chosen to play a team that has yet to score a point all year, because who wants to lose homecoming day, rain on the homecoming parade, and snow on the all-too-short the reign of the homecoming queen and king?

We've just had a coronation here at Xyborg High as our homecoming royalty was crowned at halftime. The queen, by a margin of exactly three most likely fraudulent votes, is everyone's favorite Ellabeth Martin. The king? A handsome musclebound jerk jock who won in a walk through a campaign of threats and intimidation – everyone's favorite Xavey Xander. And here he is now. *(To Xavey, bowing low.)* So Your Most Favorite Majesty Mr. Xander, just can't wait to be king, can ya?

(As Xavey, being "tough".) I don't like the way you say "everyone's favorite," bro. As if it's not true.

(Getting in his digs.) It's not true, Your Excellency. It's not true for either of you. But here comes Queen Ellabeth the First to lobby for her own popularity.

(As Ellabeth.) It is true, Mr. Jarod Carrant. Even if it's only by a margin of three, I am the queen. Did you know that John Quincy Adams was elected president and he lost the popular vote? So there's historical precedent that I win whether people vote for me or not. It's been a foregone conclusion since freshman year.

I hope everyone realizes that I live most of my life on the air because I need someone else to hear this stuff. Back to you, Xander.

(As Xavey.) I hope you realize that after homecoming, the king's going to have you executed, Mr. Jarod Carrant-Boleyn. It's only a matter of if it's by sword or by fire. Now if you'll excuse me, I have a kingdom to maintain.

(Shouting.) Right after homecoming, your crown goes to the prom queen, Xander! *(Jetting right into his next topic.)* So, before we start the third quarter, there's the matter of the marching band, whose director seems to think no one has composed any music since 1976. We've played the theme from Rocky for at least 40 consecutive years, we've played "Stars and Stripes Forever," forever, and "Alexander's Ragtime Band" has "come on along" every year since 1912, although we are not, and have never been, a ragtime band. Here to comment on this static state of affairs is our principal tuba player, Flouty Blattner. What's your take on the state of music at Xyborg High?

(As Flouty.) I only have four notes in any given song. *(Start high and go low as you can go.)* Bumm, bumm, bumm, bumm, repeat. Beethoven, Brahms, or Beyoncé, it's all the same to me. My instrument has a range of two and a half octaves, and three on a good day. At home I play concertos, sonatas, and this very strange thing for a tuba called...melody. Here I'm just an oom and a pah. A sis, a boom, and a bah. So don't talk to me about music until you know what it is.

Thank you Flouty for joining us on WXHS, the voice of Xyborg.

(As Flouty.) You know what would be really nice, Currant, is if someone shot you out of a cannon.

(Re-sets himself.) As I said, thank you Flouty, but I'll save my thanks for the oboe section. *(To the listeners.)* So you're probably wondering, are we ever going to talk about that athletic yet concussive oval-balled enterprise known as football? Not to mention the seemingly insurmountable lead that we need to... uh... overcome... from a team we thought we would tap dance over like a cat on a hot tin roof, but instead we're running a gauntlet on a pirate ship!

The funny thing is that our football coach is also a geography teacher, but if there's one place on the map he can't seem to find, it's the end zone. Coach Harrington, what's the problem? We want answers, and we want them now. You're live on WXHS with our very troubled listening audience.

(As Coach.) Well Jarod, the problem seems to be...

(Aggressive.) We don't want to know what the problem seems to be, Coach, we want to know what the problem is!

(As Coach.) You are the problem Jarod. You're nothing but invective masquerading as journalism, inventing problems to boost your saggy baggy ratings.

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