

Dennis
Annie
Johnny

JOHNNY

Three hundred and eighty dollars.

DENNIS

And how much of that is your own money?

JOHNNY

No comment.

DENNIS

Johnny, I hate to state the obvious, but I don't think the donation jar is cutting it. We're all fixed income here. And anyone who has anything left will usually blow it at bingo.

JOHNNY

We don't play for money.

DENNIS

Not down here. But Jack Paparone has got a game going in his room. It's like Atlantic City up there.

Annie enters.

JOHNNY

Paparone? Remind me.

DENNIS

He's got that walker with the tennis balls stuck on the bottom?

JOHNNY

Yeah, like *that* narrows it down. You ever seen a walker without tennis balls on the bottom?

DENNIS

No, come to think of it. I thought they came that way.

JOHNNY

There ain't a court within ten miles, but our convenience store sells four different brands of tennis balls.

DENNIS

Annie! A tour this morning?

Start

ANNIE

There was. I didn't like her. Had an accent like the Queen mother and she's from Schenectady.

DENNIS

How'd she do on the SCARE form?

JOHNNY

Scare? Remind me.

DENNIS

S.C.A.R.E....

ANNIE

(holding up her clipboard)

Social Consciousness and Awareness Review and Evaluation. Placid Pines has always been, to the best of my ability, a Bigot Free Zone.

DENNIS

So who was today's contestant?

ANNIE

(consulting her clipboard)

OK, here we are. July 12th, 2003. Kathleen McDarren, from Schenectady, like I said. Her husband is deputy mayor there, which she mentioned twice in fifteen minutes. Considering Placid Pines for her mother-in-law, Charlotte.

DENNIS

How did she do?

ANNIE

Scored seventy-three. So passing, but not with flying colors. Lost a lot of points with Asians and Hispanics.

Annie flips to the next page on form.

First, she had no reaction when I said our garden area was designed by, quote: "Orientals."

DENNIS

Ouch.

ANNIE

Then, when I said our kitchen staff was, quote: "probably a bunch of illegals" unquote. Her reply was "most likely."

DENNIS

Our kitchen is a bunch of illegals.

ANNIE

That's not the point.

JOHNNY

— and they run circles around that old team of lunch ladies we used to have. What's that thing they do, with the breaded fish in a taco shell?

DENNIS

That would be the fish taco.

JOHNNY

That's it — with the fresh cabbage, cilantro and the lime? I tell ya, if my wife could've cooked like that I wouldn't have killed her.

ANNIE

I hate that joke, Johnny. You didn't kill Rosie.

JOHNNY

Sure, I did. It just took me forty-eight years. Damn, now I want a fish taco. I been in a couple of these places... the food can make or break the joint. Just one of the reasons I busted out of Waterview.

DENNIS

Oh, no.

ANNIE

The great "Waterview" breakout.

JOHNNY, DENNIS AND ANNIE
(speaking together)

They lied!

JOHNNY

Yes! They lied. They called the place Waterview. Pictures of lakes and babbling brooks all over the brochure. Then you get there, and your room looks out on some lame ass fountain stuck between an Olive Garden and a Petco.

ANNIE

I love The Olive Garden.

DENNIS

Remember when our Petco brought over those "therapy dogs?"

JOHNNY

Yeah. Who the hell started that, anyway? That's a cure for boredom? Dogs?

DENNIS

What do you want Johnny, hookers and coke?

JOHNNY

Couple of guys, a deck of cards, and we play Texas Hold 'em for a few hours. Do they send that? No. What do we get? Two Cocker Spaniels and a three-legged Yorkie dressed like a Pirate.

ANNIE

But they look so cute!

JOHNNY

It's not cute. It's humiliating. Look in their eyes, man. Ain't a dog on the planet likes wearing a goddamn hat.

DENNIS

I always wondered... when they dress them up like that, with the hats and the sweaters, are they trying to make us think they're people? Like we're so old we'll forget they're dogs?

JOHNNY

Well, if you forget, that visible butt hole will jog your memory.

CHUCK, a maintenance man, enters and begins to dust mop the area.

End