

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Leslie and Jackson walk down the hall at a quick pace.

JACKSON

So is this one of those trendy iceberg schools that's mostly underground, and that's why it looks so small?

LESLIE

Nope.

JACKSON

Do you guys have some sort of thriving online component that allows the mass majority of your students to work from home?

LESLIE

Oh, today is going to be *such* an adventure for you.

They walk by the office of CHANCELLOR BELL (middle aged, trying to grow a beard) as he makes morning announcements.

CHANCELLOR BELL

Good morning Hawksdale! I've got an exciting announcement for our first day... After the school-wide vote, I'm pleased to announce that our new mascot will be a hawk! Several bad eggs' attempts to undermine the election process by writing in "banana slugs" as their candidate have failed thanks to the miracle of democracy. So next week let's all flap hello to Hawky the Hawksdale Hawk and put this matter behind us forever.

He hangs up the phone and shoves a box labelled MASCOT BALLOTS into the hands of his mousy underling, another sixth grader.

CHANCELLOR BELL (CONT'D)

(darkly)

Burn these.

Leslie pushes the office door open and leads Jackson inside.

LESLIE

Principal Bell! Meet our new potential inmate!

CHANCELLOR BELL

It's Chancellor Bell. I didn't attend the Spriggham Institute For Chancellory to be called Principal Bell all my life.
(to Jackson) That's in England. I mean, I got certified online, but the campus is in England. I've seen it. On Google Earth.

Jackson looks down at the things on Bell's desk. He reads the plaque.

JACKSON

Why does it say "Chancell Bell?"

Bell swipes the plaque away.

CHANCELLOR BELL

That's the official abbreviation for Chancellor.

LESLIE

Are you sure you didn't just run out of room on the plaque?

CHANCELLOR BELL

Yes, I'm sure.

LESLIE

That just seems awfully convenient.

JACKSON

It *does* seem a little convenient.

CHANCELLOR BELL

Convenient things happen all the time. Wheat Thins being the same exact size as tiny cheese squares. That's practically a miracle. Run along now.

LESLIE

(to Jackson)

You heard the Chancell!

She pushes him back into the hall and speaks over her shoulder to the Chancellor as she leaves.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

Go Banana Slugs, am I right?

Bell watches them leave, then picks up the phone.

CHANCELLOR BELL

Look, you need to redo this plaque. No, I told them the abbreviation thing, the students aren't buying it. No, they're not. Look, I want it redone. I don't care how much it costs. It costs how much? Never mind. Don't call me again.

Beat.

CHANCELLOR BELL (CONT'D)

No, I *know* that I called this time, I'm just saying, in the future- you know what, I don't have time for this.

He hangs up.

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

Alexis, Danni, Max, and Gary are lying around an empty classroom, draped over various furnitures. MR. BRONSON (balding, defeated) sticks his head in the door.

MR. BRONSON

Aren't you supposed to be somewhere right n-

ALL

Free Period.

MR. BRONSON

Whatever.

He leaves.

DANNI

Did you hear about the mascot? I'm calling conspiracy. Everyone I talked to voted slug. Someone should fight this all the way to the school board.

GARY

We're private here. Is there even a school board watching this place?

ALEXIS

I always thought Hawksdale had kind of fallen through the cracks legally, like international waters, or that village from The Village.

GARY
 (looking at his phone)
 Which village?

ALEXIS
 The... you know, *The Village*.

MAX
 (ignoring them)
 Yeah, I don't know a *legal* way
 they'd be able to outsource all the
 janitorial work to Mrs. Wiggins'
 sixth graders.

They watch as a scrawny, ginger-haired SIXTH GRADER trudges
 by the door pushing a garbage can twice his size and humming
 "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

DANNI
 Why is no one as mad about the
 banana slug thing as me?

ALEXIS
 My doctor says I'm missing the part
 of my brain that cares about stuff.

DANNI
 I can't just stand around. I'm
 gonna go make a poster.

GARY
 (throwing his fist in the
 air)
 Right on.

The bell rings. Alexis looks at her WATCH.

ALEXIS
 Ugh. Where are we going to now?

MAX
 Is it A week or B week?

ALEXIS
 You *know* I've never known the
 answer to that question.