

CENTRAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT

by
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FADE IN:

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

CLAIRE DAVIS, 20, stands at the podium delivering an impassioned speech over a moving INTERLUDE.

CLAIRE

...because when we band together
nothing can stop us. Not the
professors. Not the
administration. Not even the
government. Together, we will
build a student body experience
this University has never seen
before! Who's with me!

Reveal - the room is mostly empty. The walls are plastered with signs that say: "VOTE CLAIRE AND LESLIE FOR CSG PRESIDENT". A handful of seats are filled with most everyone not paying attention on their phones. In the front row sits LESLIE "LES" ALLEN, 20, gay. He's Claire's running mate and roommate.

LESLIE

Woo! Go Claire!

Claire SIGHS.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Claire and Leslie walk down the hallway carrying the signs and balloons from the rally.

LESLIE

I thought the music was a really
nice touch?

CLAIRE

Damn it, Les! The election is four
weeks away. We need to COMPLETELY
FILL OUT that auditorium at next
week's rally if we're going to
have any shot at winning this
thing.

LESLIE

Do you know how Bart's campaign is
going?

CLAIRE

Well, he's stupid and stands for everything that I hate. So it's probably going awesome.

LESLIE

You know, I've been trying for six weeks, but I can't seem to find a way to get in there.

CLAIRE

Leslie - Bart isn't gay.

LESLIE

Oh, he is. He just doesn't know it yet. When I'm done with him Bart Ryan is going to be gayer than Elton John eating a pack of skittles in the middle of San Francisco.

UNKNOWN VOICE (O.S.)

Did somebody say Bart Ryan?

From the shadows, BART RYAN, 21, emerges. He looks like a living version of a GQ magazine cover. He speaks with a low rasp, just a little louder than a whisper.

CLAIRE

Have you been hiding there the whole time?

BART

Hello Claire. Leslie.

LESLIE

I go by Les.

BART

(scoffs)

There's no way in hell I call an openly gay man "Les". That's an attack ad waiting to happen.

CLAIRE

What do you want, Bart?

BART

Oh, I was just in the neighborhood.

(MORE)

BART (CONT'D)

I thought I'd stop by your rally to show some support for the underdog - but there was no one in the audience, so I just assumed you were practicing. Didn't want to interrupt.

CLAIRE

You're an asshole, do you know that?

BART

You know, I was really worried when I found out you were running against me. A woman? And a gay running mate? I can't tell you how hard I'm quivering right now.

CLAIRE

You're damn right you are! Who run the world --?

She points at Leslie to finish the line, but he's too distracted by Bart to see it. Claire rolls her eyes.

BART

(blowing past it)

See, women candidates are actually very dangerous to men. Because they have a certain...magnetism to them.

CLAIRE

What are you talking about?

BART

I'm talking about sex appeal, Claire.

CLAIRE

Oh my god.

BART

But I'm lucky - you? You have no idea how to use it to your advantage.

CLAIRE

You are *disgusting*. We aren't going to debase ourselves in order to win the hearts and minds of the student body. We're going to do it the old fashioned way.

(MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

We're going to kiss babies. We're going to hold rallies. We're going to --

BART

(cutting her off)

Yeah, yeah. Whatever. I don't really care. As far as I can tell, I'm going to win student body president for a third year in a row. Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got a meeting with the university president to figure out what we're going to do about Israel. Bye Leslie.

Bart does a once over of Leslie as he leaves.

LESLIE

Bye.

Bart leaves.

CLAIRE

You weren't going to say anything?!

LESLIE

(after a moment)

He is so hot.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Claire stands in front a table that displays a trifold of the Claire and Leslie platform. Leslie sits behind the table, smiling at his phone. Claire tries to hand out quarter sheet flyers to students that pass by. A male student walks by.

CLAIRE

Claire and Leslie rally! 6PM tonight!

The student passes, ignoring them. Another male student passes.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Claire and Leslie rally! Let's disestablish the man together! 6PM!

The student takes the flier from Claire and uses it to spit out his gum, which he promptly throws in the trash can.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Ugh!

(calling out)

You couldn't have waited until you turned the corner?

Claire shrinks back behind the table.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Nothing is working! We only have like, ten people coming tonight.

LESLIE

(real surprise)

It's almost like no one cares about student government.

CLAIRE

(with solemn intensity)

No. I'm going to make them care. I know what I have to do.

Another MALE STUDENT walks by.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

(calling out)

Hey you! Sex...boy!

The male student looks over, then groans in disgust.

MALE STUDENT

Get a real job!

He skirts away.

LESLIE

Woah. I don't condone this kind of behavior, but if you're going to do this, you've gotta do it right. You're embarrassing me.

CLAIRE

And what makes you the expert on attracting men?

LESLIE

Claire, I have been successfully
ensnaring men since I was six
years old. You see those three
boys walking over right now?

Leslie points to three MALE STUDENTS walking slowly
towards their table.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

When they walk by, I want you to
take this pencil and drop it. Then
slowly come back up. They'll eat
it up.

CLAIRE

No way. If you don't have to be a
trope, then I don't have to be one
either!

LESLIE

It's only a trope because it
works.

Claire and Leslie stare at each other for a moment, then
Claire gives in.

CLAIRE

Ugh, give me that.

As the three students walk by, Claire drops her pencil
and bends over. She pulls up slowly, but in a way that's
awkward and stilted. Still, it works. When she gets up,
the three students are awestruck, just staring at her.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Hi.

The students say nothing. One student's jaw opens ever so
slightly.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Well, if you want to see more - or
less - of that, you should come to
Claire and Leslie's rally tonight.
6PM!

She hands out three flyers.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

It's gonna be lit.

She winks. The students scamper away, dazed by her
brilliance.

LESLIE
The wink was a nice touch.

CLAIRE
Are you a god?

INT. AUDITORIUM BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Claire and Leslie peek out from behind the stage onto the auditorium.

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

The auditorium is packed with college-aged boys, all antsy, waiting for the rally to start. Bart stands in the back of the room.

INT. AUDITORIUM BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

CLAIRE
(with a hushed
whisper)
Wow, it's packed!

LESLIE
Again, for the record, I think how
we got here is reprehensible.
But...this *is* pretty awesome.

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Leslie steps out from backstage to behind the podium.

LESLIE
And now - the moment you've all
been waiting for - I give you,
your next student body president -
Claire Davis!

The audience breaks out into cheers. "Cla-ire! Cla-ire!
Cla-ire! Cla-ire!"

INT. AUDITORIUM BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Claire takes a deep breath in.

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Claire steps out from backstage, waving to the crowd. The crowd immediately stops cheering. Some "ohs" from the audience.

CLAIRE

Uh - oh. Okay. That was weird.
(beat)
How is everyone doing tonight?

Crickets.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Are we ready to take this school
by storm!?

A handful of MALE STUDENTS call out from the crowd.

MALE STUDENT

When are you stripping?

A few other students nod and grunt in the affirmative.

CLAIRE

I'm sorry - what? Stripping?

MALE STUDENT #2

Yes uh - I too was notified that
this would be an, erm, stripping
show? I was told it would be an
experience I wouldn't want to
miss!

CLAIRE

Who told you that?!

MALE STUDENT #3

You did! At your table earlier!
You said it would be "lit"!

CLAIRE

Yeah! Being involved in school
politics *is* lit!

The audience BOOS.

MALE STUDENT #2

I skipped an exam for this!

Some students get up to leave. Bart's got a smile on his face that says: "I told you so"

CLAIRE

Wait! I can still make it worth
your while!

Claire starts to do an awkward dance on stage. It's almost interpretive in style.

MALE STUDENT

That isn't sexy!

Claire stops, and steps up to the podium.

CLAIRE

You know what? You all make me
sick! Sit down!

Claire commands attention, and everyone sits down. The room is hushed.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Do any of you even know what
student government is supposed to
do?

One student raises their hand.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Put your hand down! You don't!

He shirks his hand back.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Student government is supposed to
be about helping people. It's
supposed to look out for the every
day student. You know that kid in
your math class that could use
some deodorant? We give him that
deodorant. Your a cappella group
is feuding with another a cappella
group on campus? Yeah, we resolve
that discord. But what does
student government do today?
Nothing! And that's all thanks to
your current president, Bart Ryan.

Claire points to Bart in the back of the room. Bart looks around nervously.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Bart Ryan believes that only
business majors deserve a 4.4 for
an A+.

(MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

He thinks we should just expel the students who are on academic probation instead of providing them a path to recourse. And just yesterday - he called a group of transfer students "rapists" and "murderers" because of how well they did on an exam!

A few murmurs from the crowd. Clearly, it's not sticking.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

You know what? Screw you guys. You could vote for a stupid fart, see what I care.

Claire storms backstage.

MALE STUDENT #2

Ha. Fart. You know what sounds like fart? Bart.

MALE STUDENT #3

Yeah. Hah. Bart's a fart.

MALE STUDENT #2

Bart's a fart!

The crowd starts cheering: "Bart's a fart! Bart's a fart!" Bart looks around, disgusted by the audience.

BART

I'm not a fart! You're the fart!
You're all farts!

Bart rushes out of the auditorium. Claire pokes her head out from backstage to see what all the commotion is about.

CLAIRE

What is going on?

MALE STUDENT #2

Bart's a fart! What a great slogan you just came up with!

CLAIRE

(figuring it out)
Yeah... Bart *is* a fart! So don't forget to vote for Claire and Leslie on December 3rd!

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Claire and Leslie are walking down the hallway again, carrying their signage. Bart appears at the other end.

LESLIE

Oh. Hi Bart.

Leslie drops his signs and leans against a wall.

CLAIRE

Looks like the game is afoot.

BART

I will say, I'm impressed. You managed to find the only other thing that men can rally around besides their attraction to women. Potty humor. I guess this won't be an easy race after all.

CLAIRE

Well, I got plenty more where that came from. Dick...butt.

BART

That's not a joke. That's barely even an insult.

CLAIRE

Whatever, dickbutt! C'mon Les, let's go.

LESLIE

Actually, Bart and I have dinner plans.

CLAIRE

Are you serious?!
(to Bart)
You're gay now?

BART

Sexuality is a spectrum, Claire.

Bart and Leslie walk off in the hallway together.

CLAIRE

Yeah. He's a god.

FADE OUT.