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)
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.

LESLEI
Bye.

Bart leaves.

CLAIRE
You weren't going to say anything?!

LESLEI
(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.
LESLEI
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!

LESLEI
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.

LESLEI
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.

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

Crickets.

CLAIRED (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.

CLAIRED 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!

CLAIRED Who told you that?!

MALE STUDENT #3 You did! At your table earlier! You said it would be “lit”!

CLAIRED 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 everyday 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+.
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.

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

Claire storms backstage.


Yeah. Hah. Bart’s a fart.

Bart’s a fart!

The crowd starts cheering: “Bart’s a fart! Bart’s a fart!” Bart looks around, disgusted by the audience.

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.

What is going on?

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

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.