PARKS AND RECREATION

"<u>The Softball Game</u>"

Written by

Dave De Poto

and

Paul Little

dave.paul@gmail.com

WGAW Registered

COLD OPEN

INT. PIONEER HALLWAY - MORNING - DAY 1

LESLIE walks down the hallway. She stops to fill up her mug at the water cooler.

JOE from the Sewage Department creeps up behind her. He closes his eyes and sniffs in her hair. Leslie is startled/disgusted.

LESLIE

Oh my God! What are you doing?

JOE I'm sorry. There's just something about your scent that invigorates me.

LESLIE

Well, congratulations. That's one of the creepiest things a guy has ever said to me. (beat, embarrassed) At this water cooler.

JOE

(sincerely) Thank you. But even though you send out these vibes that attract me to you like a raccoon in heat, I didn't come here only to seduce you. I came to give your poor Parks Department a fair warning.

LESLIE A fair warning for what?

JOE

Looks like you won the unlucky slot of playing us again at this year's picnic.

LESLIE What !? We're playing you guys !? Again!?

LESLIE TALKING HEAD

LESLIE (CONT'D) Each year city hall holds a "company picnic" of sorts for each department to become more well acquainted with its fellow branches of government. Different departments compete in various activities such as pie-eating, Jell-O tossing, and Jell-O eating. (embarrassed pause) Unfortunately, last year the Parks Department got paired up in a game of softball with the Sewage Department, who used every dirty trick in the book. They made the 1919 World Series look like a... a company picnic...

Off Leslie -- "Wait, what?"

INT. PIONEER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - D1

JOE

That's right, Knope. Parks vs. Sewage: Round Two. Hope you're ready.

LESLIE

Oh, we're ready, Joe. Just keep the punches above the belt this year.

JOE

(starring at her chest) I'll have no problem staying above your belt, Knope. Those are two trash cans I'll take to the dumpster any day.

LESLIE

OK, <u>that's</u> the creepiest thing a
guy has ever said to me.
 (into camera, sadly)
Still at this water cooler, though.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. PARKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE - MORNING - D1

TOM, APRIL, ANDY, JERRY and DONNA sit at their desks as Leslie enters.

LESLIE Alright, gang, listen up. Emergency Parks Department meeting. Drop whatever it is you're doing. Eyes up here.

No one is looking.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

Good. Working hard. Alright, as you all know this weekend is the annual Pawnee Local Government's Inter-Departmental Team Building and Competitive Activities Picnic.

APRIL I'm not making that banner again.

LESLIE Now, I know how bitter and vengeful you all are after last year's picnic.

No one seems to remember last year's picnic.

LESLIE (CONT'D) And I know that we all took a vow that afternoon to never let our department be dragged through the mud by low-balling, creepy, pasty guys who hit on you at the water cooler ever again.

Everyone seems more confused.

LESLIE (CONT'D) (dramatically) And I happen to know for a <u>fact</u> that this department will never let itself be beaten by such cruel, vulgar and uncivilized behavior as it was last year!

TOM Wait, are we playing the Sewage Department in softball again?

LESLIE You bet your butt we are!

TOM/DONNA/APRIL No way, hombre/Oh hell no/I broke my legs, I can't go.

ANGLE ON: April's two working legs.

LESLIE

(disappointed)

Aw, come on, guys. That guy Joe from sewage just came over here to rub it in my face that we're going to lose again.

TOM

How did we even get picked to play them again? I spent the last two months lobbying for a freestyle rap battle at this year's picnic. And they said yes! Jean-Ralphio and I have been writing the dopest freestlyes. Donna, bust me a beat!

Donna glares back at him.

APRIL

You're not supposed to write raps for a freestyle, Tom.

TOM

Oh, really? Why don't you try telling that to the Notorious B.I.G. Oh wait, you can't. Because he's dead. From writing dope freestlyes. About 2Pac.

ANDY

Burn!

LESLIE Listen, gang, we got picked at random to play the Sewage Department in softball again this year... at random...

Leslie realizes something doesn't sound right.

TOM

This whole thing's a set up, Leslie. The Sewage Department probably just wants to play us again because that one guy likes the way your inner-thighs touch when you walk. (shudders)

LESLIE

Gross. You know what, you're probably right, Tom. I wouldn't put it past them to rig the voting for a company picnic. I'm going down there right now to give them whatfor.

TOM/DONNA/APRIL Yeah, represent PD!/You go girl/You should really try walking differently.

Leslie does a double take at April. Considers it, then walks out the door.

INT. PIONEER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - D1

BEN is walking with his head buried in a folder. Leslie, walking with purpose, doesn't see him and they collide. Papers everywhere.

LESLIE Oh my gosh. I'm so sorry, Ben.

BEN

(picking up papers) No, that's my fault. I've been staring at this damn budget all morning wondering how the Pawnee government can justify spending \$800 on Jell-O for a private picnic at the taxpayers expense... and also why? LESLIE

Yeah. (embarrassed) Ridiculous.

BEN Where were you headed?

LESLIE The Sewage Department. To give them what-for. Wanna come?

BEN I love what-for's.

They head down the hall together. Leslie is walking with a slightly wider gate.

BEN (CONT'D) Is that why you're walking like a cowboy?

INT. PARKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE - LATER - D1

April, Andy and Tom remain talking after Leslie had left.

ANDY You didn't tell me you guys played softball, babe.

APRIL

I didn't tell you because this department sucks at softball. We lost 18-6.

ANDY Oh, man. That's pretty bad. (to Tom) I guess that's what happens when you got a bunch of girls on your team. Am I right, Tommy?

TOM (embarrassed) Totally.

APRIL What's that supposed to mean?

ANDY I'm just saying, everybody knows that girls can't play sports. (MORE) ANDY (CONT'D) It's like impossible to watch and I'm pretty sure it's illegal... definitely in Indiana.

Jerry passes by.

JERRY

Actually, Andy, April was our best player last year. She scored four runs for us.

APRIL

God, Jerry.

ANDY

Aw, that's sweet of you, Jerry. But I know April can't play sports. (to April) Remember that time we were playing catch, babe? And I threw the remote and broke your nose? Ha ha! That was hilarious!

APRIL TALKING HEAD

APRIL We weren't playing catch. We were watching TV.

INT. PARKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D1

ANDY

It's OK, honey. I still love you even if you don't know what the infield fly rule is.

TOM Oh man! So true! Infield fly rule all day!

APRIL

(to Andy) You're a jerk.

April gets up and walks out.

ANDY (to camera, clueless) She's so cute when she gets mad.

INT. PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICE - MORNING - D1

ANN, still new to her job, walks in her office with her morning coffee.

She notices a very cute young man, ZACH, sitting at the desk across from her.

ANN (surprised) Oh, hi there. I'm Ann. I'm still kind of new here but, have I seen you before?

ZACH No, today's my first day actually. I'm only temping here for a week. I'm Zach.

ANN (intrigued) Hi, Zach. So, you're only here for a week? Won't be staying for a long term... relationship?

ZACH Nope. I'm in and I'm out. So let me know if there's anything I can do while I'm here.

ANN (flirtatiously) I definitely will.

Ann looks him up and down.

ANN (CONT'D) Actually, about a week ago Leslie came in here with a giant stack of "Idea Binders." They're way too heavy for me to move and they're taking up a lot of space, do you think you can just put them up on that shelf over there?

ZACH

Sure thing.

Zach bends down to pick up the heavy binders.

ANGLE ON: Ann checking him out.

Off Ann -- "It's going to be a good week."

EXT. COURTYARD - LATER - D1

RON walks through the courtyard, newspaper in hand.

CHRIS, in his jogging clothes, sees Ron and takes off his head phones.

CHRIS

Ron Swanson!

RON Hello, Chris.

CHRIS

Ron, as I was on the eighth mile of my mid-morning, pre-lunch jog I got an e-mail saying I have the privilege of umpiring your softball game against the Sewage Department this year. Very exciting.

RON

What? No, you must be mistaken. We played them last year.

CHRIS

A rematch!? This is news to me. My
goodness, what a story line.
 (imagining headline)
"Bitter Rivalry Stays Alive. Parks
vs. Sewage In Softball Showdown." I
should contact ESPN to see if they
have any interest in covering the
game.

RON

(sighs) Perfect.

RON TALKING HEAD

RON (CONT'D)

I believe baseball is an indelible American institution. It is truly one of the only pure forms of entertainment. That is, until they started cracking down on steroid use. As a libertarian, I believe that my body is my property; only I say what goes in and out of it. If I have the opportunity to make my body in any way physically superior to my opponent's, it would be un-American of me to ignore such an opportunity. EXT. COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS - D1

RON (CONT'D) Does Leslie know about this?

CHRIS

It's my understanding that she's down at the Sewage Department right now exchanging lineup cards and, if I know Leslie, wishing them the best of luck.

INT. SEWAGE DEPARTMENT OFFICE - MORNING - D1

The SEWAGE GUYS are huddled over something.

Leslie storms in with Ben in tow. She wastes no time ...

LESLIE

Jig's up, Sewage Boys. It seems you guys haven't skipped a beat. Rigging the competition selection? That's got to be the worst...

Leslie finally notices what's in the middle of the huddle.

LESLIE (CONT'D) Is that a dead moose?

SEWAGE GUY #1

(proudly) Pulled her out of the sewage line below Broad Street this morning.

BEN How did a moose get---

LESLIE (back to business) ---It is completely inconceivable that we got slotted to play you guys again this year. We each cast a vote for which competition we wanted to be in. And when I submitted my vote for the waffleeating contest, I made <u>sure</u> they took notice to it.

JOE How did you make sure?

LESLIE A little trick of my own. JOE So... <u>you</u> rigged the ballot?

LESLIE

No! (embarrassed) I sprayed my vote with perfume.

BEN

Really?

LESLIE

(to Ben) Name one movie where that didn't work!

JOE Knope, if we had rigged the ballot, we'd all be working on our freestyle raps right now.

SEWAGE GUY #2 Yeah, whoever suggested that idea is a genius.

BEN You can't write raps for a freestyle rap battle.

SEWAGE GUY #2 Why, because I'm white?

LESLIE

I can't believe this is happening again. We don't even have enough people in the office to play you. Remember last year? We had to put Jerry's dog in left field.

JOE And as I recall he was one of your best players. (sincere) Made some great catches out there.

Leslie glares at him but has no response; she knows he's right.

JOE (CONT'D) I'll tell you what, Knope. In the interest of keeping things Even-Stevens, you go ahead and fill out your roster with anyone you like. (MORE)

JOE (CONT'D) I doubt it'll make much of a difference. LESLIE Fine. I've got favors I can call in all over this town. JOE Glad to hear you're putting them to good use. And by the way, this year we're not stopping at 18 runs. We're going to score on you so much you won't be able to walk right for a week. Ben, trying to defend Leslie, fumbles the retort. BEN Oh, is that right, Joe? Well you're gonna have trouble walking yourself after you go back to work ... in the sewers... cause it gets mighty ... slippery down there. Leslie gives him a look, "Come on, man." JOE Who's this guy, Knope? Your ball boy? The sewage guys share a LAUGH. LESLIE The only balls you should be worried about are your own, considering how hard they're about to be hit. Leslie looks at Ben, "That's how you do it." Ben is surprised and impressed. JOE Is that a fact? Well since you're so confident, why don't we make this a little more interesting?

> LESLIE Tough talk from a guy who catches dead mooses for a living. (beat) Moosen. Meese? (beat) Wildlife.

Awkward silence...

JOE Vacation days. I bet you all the vacation days in my department that we win this Saturday.

BEN (under his breath) Oh boy.

LESLIE Oh, you are so on. Vacation days? My department doesn't even like... vacations.

Leslie is turning green as she's realizing what she's done.

LESLIE TALKING HEAD

LESLIE (CONT'D) I should stop giving people whatfor's.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. BEN'S CAR - LATER - D1

Leslie and Ben drive back to City Hall. There is a tense silence in the car. Leslie is panicking. Suddenly...

LESLIE

(grabbing steering wheel) Mexico! Step on it, Ben!

BEN

(regaining control) Leslie! Are you crazy!? We're not fleeing the country! Calm down.

LESLIE

I'm doomed.

BEN

Relax. I think your best bet is to
walk in there and be honest. Let
them know what happened, they're
all adults, and we'll just deal
with it from there.
 (beat)
Also, I know Ron keeps a small
revolver in his bottom desk drawer,
in case things get hairy.

LESLIE

Oh God. Ron. He lives for his vacation days. I never told you this, but last year when you cut the budget and took away three of our paid vacation days, I found Ron whittling your likeness into a voodoo doll. I made him throw it out though.

BEN

I knew it! I knew I saw myself in his garbage! I thought he was just playing head games with me.

LESLIE No, Ron is pretty well-practiced in the art of Santeria.

BEN You know, I'm beginning to lose faith in my "go with honesty" plan. LESLIE

No, I think you're right. Honesty is the best policy. That's a saying for a reason. Walk in there and be honest.

INT. PARKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE - LATER - D1

Tom, April, Andy, Jerry and Donna. Ron is in his office.

Leslie enters with Ben.

LESLIE

Alright, gang. Good news and bad news. Bad news is that we are indeed playing the Sewage Department on Saturday, nothing we can do about it. Good news is they've agreed to play honestly and fairly and that is absolutely everything that happened while I was over there. All the details. You just heard.

APRIL

Oh, no. That's too bad. Andy and I are really busy that Saturday.

LESLIE What are you doing?

APRIL (pause, thinking) Scuba... snorkeling.

ANDY No way! Awesome!

LESLIE

Nice try, April.

TOM

This is insame. Last year when I was running to second base one of those guys spit in my eye... with chewing tobacco!

DONNA

Yeah, Leslie. Those sewage boys play dirty. And not the kind of dirty I like.

LESLIE I know, gang. They're dirty. Leslie tries to lighten the mood with a joke.

LESLIE (CONT'D) Some would say they're dirtier than the ladies' room at the Snakehole.

This gets a small LAUGH from the group. Tom tries his hand at it...

TOM They're dirtier than the hotel room Ron and Tammy stayed at last month.

This gets a BIGGER LAUGH. April jumps in...

APRIL They're dirtier than the septic tank at Jerry's house.

The LAUGHTER is LOUD. Everyone loves it. Jerry is sad.

LESLIE Good one, April!

BEN Ha ha! Yeah, they're dirtier than that one accounting department whose budget I had to clean up before I came to Pawnee! (long beat, silence) Lot of illegal write-offs. Decimal misplacements. Things like that.

Leslie to Ben... "Again?"

LESLIE Anyway, come on, guys. It'll be fun. Fresh air and exercise.

TOM If I wanted fresh air and exercise I'd go to the mall.

TOM TALKING HEAD

TOM (CONT'D) They have a new simulator at the mall that recreates physical activities. Last week I ran six miles without moving my legs... in 3-D! INT. PARKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D1

LESLIE Alright. You know what? You all <u>have</u> to play. That's right, you don't have a choice.

DONNA

Of course we do, the picnic isn't mandatory.

LESLIE

No, Donna, you have to play... Because I wagered all of our vacations days on the outcome of the game.

Ron's office door kicks open. Donna bursts out of her seat. Tom is screaming. April stares in disbelief at the camera.

There is commotion. Yelling. Finger pointing.

LESLIE (CONT'D) That's right! That's right! Your precious vacation days! So you all better play and you better play damn well!

RON Where's my revolver?

LESLIE Ben, quick! The door!

Ben shuts the door to Ron's office and timidly stands in front of it.

LESLIE (CONT'D) Why is everyone acting like this!? We get too many vacation days as it is!

TOM Too many vacation days!? Vacation days are what keep me looking as fresh as I do. When do you think I work on my tan? Do you think this color comes naturally? Yes. You do. Because you're a racist. LESLIE

Yeah, well, think about it like this: If we win, we get all of their vacation days. So there's some incentive.

APRIL

Leslie, they played the ninth inning sitting down last year. And Jerry still got thrown out at first base.

JERRY I have a condition that doesn't allow me to move at high speeds.

APRIL

What's the condition, being a fat loser?

LESLIE

Now wait just a second, April. Having a fat loser on the team doesn't always guarantee failure. Look at "Cool Runnings." John Candy was a <u>huge</u> loser, and his bobsled team won the Olympics.

TOM

They didn't win the Olympics. They crashed and almost died.

LESLIE

Well, they still got a movie made about them. (beat) Listen, gang. If your vacation days are so important to you, then show up and play your butts off. I,

personally, don't think vacation days are such a big deal.

LESLIE TALKING HEAD

LESLIE (CONT'D)

I haven't taken a vacation day since 2007 when I was tricked into getting on a plane that I <u>thought</u> was headed for a one day seminar called, "Nancy Pelosi: Bipartisanship and Gavel Etiquette." I ended up in Cabo for two weeks. (rolls eyes) (MORE) LESLIE (CONT'D) Thanks a lot, Ron. Needless to say, I don't care about vacation days. But I certainly don't want the Sewage Department to get all of mine. (beat) I have 128.

INT. PARKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D1

LESLIE You're all playing and that's the end of it! Now enjoy yourselves!

They begin throwing pencils, staplers, and various office supplies at Leslie.

She makes a run for the door.

INT. PIONEER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - D1

Leslie runs into Ann.

LESLIE Ann! Thank God. Someone who doesn't hate me.

ANN What did you do now?

LESLIE

Nothing... if you ask me. (beat) Wagered all the Parks Department's vacation days on a game of softball that we have no chance of winning.

ANN

Oh my God.

LESLIE Yeah, I don't want to talk about it. How's the new job?

ANN

Oh, it's so great. I literally do nothing all day. And when I walked into my office this morning there was a really cute guy there. And he's only going to be here for a week! We're going on a date tomorrow. LESLIE

Yay! I'm so happy for you. What's his name? You should bring him to the picnic on Saturday. Does he like softball? What's his batting average? Does he take steroids? Oh my God, Ann, can he play for us?

ANN (ignoring question, walking away) OK, so I'll see ya at the picnic!

INT. SHOE SHINE STATION - AFTERNOON - D1

Andy is shining KYLE'S shoes. April is eating her lunch. She is still visibly upset. Andy is talking to Kyle.

ANDY

It's not that girls <u>can't</u> play sports. They can, and it's hilarious. Look at Foxy Boxing or Lingerie Football or the WNBA. They're not real sports, they're just there for entertainment. And she totally doesn't get it.

APRIL I'm sitting right here.

ANDY Oh, I know. I saw you sit down before, remember?

April rolls her eyes, Andy continues his conversation.

ANDY (CONT'D) So, apparently Leslie is desperate for people this year so I told her I'll play for the team. I'm pretty pumped about it, too. I heard ESPN might be there.

APRIL What? You're playing on the team now!?

ANDY Yeah, babe. You should be happy. I'll be bringing some brute to your lineup. Try and even out the guys to girl ratio.

APRIL

Ugh!

April storms off, once again. Andy is still clueless.

INT. LESLIE AND TOM'S OFFICE - LATER

JEAN-RALPHIO enters.

JEAN-RALPHIO Tommy Hill-swagger! What it dooooo!!??

TOM Jean-Ralphio! The Pawnee Playa! What's the happs, broseph?

JEAN-RALPHIO Just got back from the dry cleaner's. Had to get my Valentino suit wiz-ashed for my diz-ate toniz-ite.

TOM Wow, who's the lucky lady?

JEAN-RALPHIO Her name's Claudette. Met her at Bingo Night over at the K.O.C.

TOM

Knights of Columbo! One of my top 15 pick-up spots.

JEAN-RALPHIO

You know it!

TOM Listen, J.R. Obviously you have an eye for fashion...

JEAN-RALPHIO

...true.

TOM ...which is why I asked you to stop by today. I'm playing in that stupid softball game again this year.

JEAN-RALPHIO

Lamesville!

TOM Tell me about it. The upshot, though, is that Leslie put me in charge of team uniforms this year.

JEAN-RALPHIO

Ohhh!!! How many times have I said it? You can't spell Tommy Haverford without Tom Ford!

TOM

I don't think you've ever said that, but I love the enthusiasm. We combine your natural fashion sense and disregard for rules...

JEAN-RALPHIO ...hey somebody's gotta break 'em...

TOM ...and my flawless prototype body to come up with the illest uniforms this boring sport has ever seen.

JEAN-RALPHIO T-Money, can I call you Mickey D's? Cause I'm Lovin' It!

INT. RON'S WORKSHOP - LATER - D1

Ron is hunched over a lathe as a piece of wood spins. He is using a square-edged scrapper to hand-carve the wood.

RON If my vacation days are at stake here, I need to make sure the weapons I'm going into battle with are dependable. That's why I'm handcrafting this plank of maple into a finely-tuned hitting machine. Woodturning brings back fond memories for me. The last baseball bat I crafted I used to chase my ex-wife Tammy off of my property. You should have seen her windshield shatter into little pieces. (remembering, smiling) It was a good bat.

INT. PARKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE - LATER - D1

Leslie, Ben, Donna, Jerry. Tom is looking something up on April's computer.

TOM (reading off computer) Infield fly rule. Implemented in 1895. (to the room, confidently) Personally, I would have brought the rule into effect way before 1895. But that's just because I have an extremely high baseball IQ. Am I right, Andy?

Tom looks around the room.

TOM (CONT'D) Andy? Where's Andy.

DONNA He's not here, fool.

TOM (turns toward computer) Not a problem. Control. Copy. And... bookmarked. Thank you, Wikipedia.

Chris enters.

CHRIS

There they are! The Parks Department! Look at you all, so determined, so focused on the game this Saturday! I simply can not be any more excited than I already am.

A piece of sandwich falls from the corner of Jerry's mouth.

LESLIE

You might have your hands full this Saturday, Chris. Last year the Sewage Department played less than honorably.

CHRIS

I must admit, this will be my first venture into the arena of umpiring. But, as through-the-roof excited as I am about it, I will be taking it very seriously. There will be no funny-business on my field.

LESLIE That's good to know, Chris. Thank you. (beat) LESLIE (CONT'D) Because that Sewage Department used more cheats than Tom did trying to pass his SAT's.

LAUGHTER.

TOM Oh! Count it!

DONNA They cheated more than I did when I tried giving up one-night stands for Lent.

More LAUGHTER.

BEN They're such big cheaters they should have their own league, the Cheaters League, but they'd be the champions every year!

Silence again. Leslie is embarrassed for him.

BEN (CONT'D)

Oh, come on!

JERRY If there was a Bad Joke League you'd be the champion every year.

LAUGHTER again.

LESLIE Nice one, Jerry!

TOM Ohhh, Jerry with the redirect!

BEN TALKING HEAD

BEN

Jerry? Really?

INT. SHOE SHINE STATION - LATER - D1

Andy is shining shoes. April is not present.

Ann walks by. Ad-lib hellos.

ANDY I think April's mad at me. Have you seen her around? ANN April? Mad? Weird. No, I haven't seen her around, sorry. ANDY Bummer. Hey, when we dated, did you ever get mad at me for anything? Off Ann -- "You can't be serious." ANN Um, no. No, Andy, can't say that I did. ANDY Yeah. I didn't think so.

ANN (rolling eyes) Andy, go find April.

EXT. BATTING CAGES - AFTERNOON - D1

April is taking her frustrations out on the batting cages. She's crushing the ball.

Joe from Sewage is in the batting cage next to her practicing as well. He takes notice of her swing and walks over.

JOE Hey, you're that girl from the Parks Department, right?

APRIL

Nope.

JOE Yeah, you played in the game last year. You were really good. You playing this Saturday, too?

APRIL No. Girls can't play sports in Indiana. It's against the law.

JOE Well, I don't know what that means, but the way you're swinging that bat, I don't think anyone is gonna be arresting you. You know, we could use someone like you on the roster.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D) My second baseman's been stuck in a drain pipe for the past three days. I don't know if he's going to make it Saturday.

APRIL

Whatever.

JOE Is that a, "Whatever, I'll play for you guys?"

APRIL

Whatever.

JOE

Atta girl.

Off April -- "Shut up."

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. PARKS DEPARTMENT DUGOUT - AFTERNOON - DAY 2

Leslie, Andy, Tom, Donna, Jerry, Ben and Jean-Ralphio are gathered in the dugout putting on their new uniforms.

The uniforms consist of a purple long sleeved shirt with golden cursive writing on the front that reads: "Parks and Sexy." The backs of the jerseys have Roman numerals instead of numbers. The sleeves end in frilly fabric that almost covers the whole hand. The pants are white equestrian riding pants with a gold racing stripe down each side.

LESLIE

Well, Jean-Ralphio, you sure brought a lot of your personality to the design of these uniforms.

JEAN-RALPHIO

No doubt, Miss K. If you ask me, we've already won this game.

DONNA (barely under her breath) Does that mean we get to keep our vacation days.

Ron enters wearing his own vintage Cleveland Indians uniform. The shirt and pants are both a garish, bright tomato red.

> TOM Ron! What the hell is that?

RON This, Tom, is an original 1976 Cleveland Indians Away-team uniform.

TOM You look ridiculous... and you're supposed to wearing this.

Tom holds up his own slightly more ridiculous uniform. Ron gives him a look -- "Not in a million years."

LESLIE Hey, has anyone seen April? Andy, do you know where she is?

ANDY I don't know, she had already left the house by the time I woke up this afternoo... this morning-time. TOM (pointing to Sewage dugout) Oh, don't worry, she's here. April is determinedly taking practice swings while wearing a far more conventional baseball jersey that says "The Sewer Rats" on the front. ANDY Ha Ha! She doesn't even know which dugout to go to! She's so cute! LESLIE Terrific. Way to go Andy. He is still clueless. Leslie looks over at the bleachers and notices Ann and Zach sitting down to watch the game. LESLIE (CONT'D) I'll be right back. EXT. BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS - D2 Leslie approaches Ann and Zach. LESLIE Hey you two! Well, don't you make quite the pair? ANN Hey, Leslie. This is Zach, my new little office helper. ZACH Hi, nice to meet you. I'm actually a temp, but "little office helper" is fine too, I guess. LESLIE (forced laughter, sunniness) Oh my gosh, totally! Hey, you know what would be fun? If you came and played second base for us, wouldn't that be great?

> ANN Oh, Leslie, I really don't know...

LESLIE (to Zach) Yeah, come on it'll be great. I can tell you're just dying to get into one of those super-cool uniforms. (to Ann) Ann, wouldn't Zach look so cute in one of those uniforms.

ZACH Well, I'm not really...

LESLIE Oh, yay! I knew you'd do it, you saved the day! You are such a great guy, I can see why Ann likes you.

ANN

Leslie!

LESLIE Well, what are you waiting for? You need to go stretch and loosen up. Loosey-goosey.

EXT. PARKS DEPARTMENT DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS - D2

Zach seems completely uncomfortable as Leslie drags him into the dugout.

LESLIE Everybody, this is Zach. Zach, everybody.

Confused hello's from the group.

LESLIE (CONT'D) Zach is here to play second base for us. He was an All-American athlete at a very prestigious prep school when he was growing up.

ZACH Actually, I never even really...

LESLIE ... Just think of him as the Mickey Mantle of the Parks Department.

ANDY Oh, man this is perfect. We needed another big bat on the team. (to Zach) (MORE) ANDY (CONT'D) Dude, me and you, bro. You set 'em up and I'll knock 'em down.

Andy gives Zach a chest bump. Unprepared, Zach stumbles backwards and knocks over the bat holder. Bats everywhere.

LESLIE Alright, gang! We'll clean that up later! Let's get out there!

Leslie leads the "charge" onto the field.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER - D2

The Parks team takes the field. Everyone is in position.

Chris settles in behind home plate. He is wearing a soccer referee's uniform, unaware of the difference. However, he has a serious, focused look on his face.

> CHRIS Let's play ball!

MONTAGE OF INNINGS ONE THROUGH EIGHT:

As the Sewage team gets hit after hit, the Parks team is making routine errors. Jean-Ralphio misses a catch as he's talking on his cell phone. Tom is signing atuographs for the disinterested women in the stands. Zach is so unathletic he is tripping over his own two feet.

April hits a screamer to first base. Andy bobbles it and April is safe.

ANDY Whoa, you hit that really hard. That hurt my hand... a lot.

APRIL

I know.

April takes off and steals second base.

The Sewage team is back to their old tricks. They throw spitballs, rub pine tar in their gloves, and cause distractions.

Chris seems to be growing more intense and aggressive as the game goes on, taking his role as umpire a little too seriously. He catches a player on the Sewage team tripping Jerry as he rounds a base. Chris goes ballistic. CHRIS (blowing soccer whistle) Illegal! Foul! Penalty! You're outta here!!! Not on my field, pal! Not on my field!

The Parks team watches in awe.

The scoreboard reads 8-2.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. PARKS DEPARTMENT DUGOUT - LATER- D2

The team looks beat, bruised and exhausted.

RON I think Chris has officially lost it.

ANGLE ON: Chris yelling at a gaggle of geese to "get off his field."

TOM You give a guy a little bit of power...

DONNA

Hey, we're getting killed out there. I can't believe you bet our vacation days on this, Leslie. I was saving mine up to visit my grandmother at her nursing home in Florida.

JERRY

My wife and I were finally going to take that trip to Intercourse, Pennsylvania.

TOM Jerry, if we weren't trying to make Leslie feel bad I would be all over that.

Leslie is beginning to feel terrible.

LESLIE I'm really sorry you guys.

BEN Hey, who said this game was over? Let's have a little confidence here, guys. BEN (CONT'D)

We have one inning left and we're only down by 6 runs. Tom, maybe if you focused a little more on the game and less on signing autographs, we'd be winning. I've literally seen two people use your autograph to pick up after their dog. Seriously. And, Jerry, I'm sure you'll be in... Intercourse... with your wife, as soon as you start running down some fly balls and stop blaming everything on some condition you have. And Zach... Well, you're just not very good. But, maybe now's the time when you turn it around! Now get up to that plate and let's show the Sewage Department that we came to play!

TOM/DONNA/ANDY Let's do it!/I'ma Put the hurtin' on/Let's pound some balls!

There's a new sense of confidence in the dugout. Andy goes to chest bump Zach. Bats everywhere.

LESLIE Thanks, Ben. I was pretty sure that was the end for me.

BEN Yeah, well, consider us even for you making Ron throw out that voodoo doll of me. I still can't believe that.

LESLIE Ron is a man of many trades. (then) Thanks again. Now let's go win this thing.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER - D2

MONTAGE OF THE BOTTOM OF NINTH INNING.

With the Sewage Department scared to cheat in front of Chris and Ben's motivating speech, the Parks team is able to put together a rally.

Ben, Tom, Donna, Leslie all cross home plate.

Andy is now up to bat. There are two runners on base.

STRIKE ONE... STRIKE TWO...

APRIL What happened to you bringing your brute to the lineup, Andy?

ANDY Oh, I'm bringing it, right over that fence back there.

Andy points at the home run fence. The pitch comes in and he swings out of his shoes, so hard the bat flies out of his hands and hits Ron, who is on deck behind him. Andy strikes out and Ron is down for the count. Leslie runs over.

> LESLIE Oh my God! Ron, are you alright!?

RON (dazed) That slow kid hit me with his bat.

ANDY Ron---Mr. Swanson, I am so sorry. I was just trying to hit a really awesome home run.

RON The next time you try to impress your girlfriend at something, make sure you're better at it than her first.

Ben and Leslie carry Ron off the field. April, feeling both satisfied and guilty, smiles coyly to herself.

The scoreboard reads 8-7.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER - D2

Leslie comes back from the dugout. Joe is waiting for her.

JOE This is it, Knope. Two more outs and your vacation days are mine. Ya know, rumor has it that you haven't been on vacation since you and the mustached tomato over there went to Cabo together. ANGLE ON: Ron in the dugout holding an ice pack to his head in his all red Indians jersey.

LESLIE We didn't go together. He just got me drunk at the airport bar and led me down the wrong terminal. It happens to everyone.

Chris comes over to break up the meeting.

CHRIS As team captain, Leslie Knope, it is your responsibility to find a replacement for Ron. You cannot bat out of order. Not on my field.

ANGLE ON: Ron in the dugout cuddling the water cooler as he lays on the bench. He was hit hard in the head.

JOE (laughing) Looks like this game is going to end sooner than I thought.

We HEAR April off screen.

APRIL (O.S.) I'll play for Ron.

JOE

What? Are you crazy? You're on Sewage now, baby. There's no going back.

APRIL Yeah. I'm gonna go over there now. You guys smell weird.

JOE Hey, ump! You gonna allow this!?

Chris blows his whistle. Pulls out scorecard.

CHRIS (yelling, not knowing rules) April Ludgate now batting for Ron Swanson! Let the official record show! Game on!

JOE What!? Hey, she can't just switch teams in the middle of the game!

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CHRIS
Tell it to the stripes, pal!
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JOE That's not even the right uniform! What are you gonna do, give me a red card?

CHRIS Don't tempt me!

Chris and Joe stand toe-to-toe and argue like old-school ball players. They kick dirt on each other as veins pop out of their necks.

Andy walks over to April.

ANDY April, you should have played with us from the start! You were so good out there! I had no idea. This is awesome, my lady rocks at sports. (realizing) Hey, ya know what? They should let women play in their own leagues and stuff. Like, legally. I bet people would watch. I know I would.

APRIL (smiling) Just go get my bat, Andy.

Joe angrily gathers his infield for a meeting behind second base. He barks inaudible orders at his players, then takes back to the mound.

April steps up to the plate. The pitch comes in, high and slow. April tees up and swings for the fences. She hits it hard, but straight in the air.

The shortstop is under it, under it, and at the last second, steps aside and intentionally lets the ball hit the ground. The base runners are confused. He picks up the ball and throws to second, who throws to first. A double play. Everyone is out.

Chris emphatically calls the game over. Leslie comes running out of the dugout.

LESLIE What! What just happened!

CHRIS None of your base runners advanced. They turned a double play. Game over! The Sewage Department begins to celebrate. Then, off screen, we HEAR a man YELLING... getting closer. MAN (O.S.) Wait! Wait! Wait!!! The man enters frame. It's Tom. He is out of breath. TOM (panting) Infield fly rule. It's the infield fly rule. CHRIS I'm sorry, Tom? TOM The infield fly rule. Wait, you don't know what the infield fly rule is? CHRIS As umpire, I demand to be told. TOM (to Andy, O.S.) Hey, Andy! This guy doesn't know what the infield fly rule is! You believe that !? LESLIE Spit it out, Tom! TOM Right, sorry. Infield fly rule, implemented in 1895, states that with two runners on and less than two outs, if a ball is popped up in the infield, whether the infielder catches it or not, the batter, and only the batter, is automatically out. LESLIE Is that right?

TOM Please, Leslie. Are you going to question my baseball knowledge?

CHRIS

Fascinating.

LESLIE So what does this mean!?

TOM It means April is out, but not everyone else. You're up Leslie.

CHRIS What a twist! Game back on! (to himself) ESPN has no idea what they're missing.

Jean-Ralphio runs up and hands Leslie a bat and helmet.

JEAN-RALPHIO Here you go, Special K.

Leslie digs in at home plate. She stares down Joe. In comes the pitch... Leslie swings and hits it HARD. The ball lands SAFELY in the outfield. The two runners score and the game is over.

The Parks team comes running out of the dugout and swarms Leslie. They celebrate on the field as a dejected Sewage team walks off.

EXT. BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS

Chris, drenched in sweat, takes a seat on the bleachers and has some water. It seems his rush has worn off and he is back to his nothing-but-positive self.

> ANN You were pretty intense out there.

> > CHRIS

Ann Perkins! Didn't see you sitting there. Yes, I'm not sure what came over me. I was overtaken by the game. What tremendous power an umpire yields. I have literally never felt anything like it. Truly exhilarating. ANN

Well, you did a great job. Plus, now that Leslie won all those vacation days I'm going to try and convince her to take me to Cabo with her.

CHRIS Won vacation days?

ANN

Oh, you didn't know? Leslie had bet Joe all the vacation days in her department that they would win today.

CHRIS

(laughing) Well, that of course is preposterous. You can't just wager vacation days to other people at your own discretion. There would be all types of legal issues involved in that. I swear, sometimes that Leslie Knope lives in her own world.

LESLIE TALKING HEAD

We INTERCUT Leslie's talking head with:

Her being hoisted on the team's shoulders as she waves like a beauty pageant winner on a parade float.

LESLIE Well, I've never been one with a flare for the dramatic. But I must say, it does feel good to get a little attention.

"We Are The Champions" plays as Leslie points and laughs in the faces of the Sewage Department.

> LESLIE (CONT'D) What will I do with all their vacation days? I think I'll donate them to charity. (imagining headline) "Parks Director Gives Sick Children 400 Vacation Days. Another Walk-Off Win for Knope."

Leslie throws ticker tape on herself.

LESLIE (CONT'D) But I'll tell you, as much fun as it was to beat the Sewage Department at softball, there's still a part of me that wishes I was in the waffle-eating contest right now.

Just as Leslie is finishing her thought, Tom comes running from behind and hits her in the face with a whipped cream pie.

Tom is beaming as he shows the camera his iPhone -- a picture of A.J. Burnett hitting someone with a pie.

TOM (to the camera) A popular celebration for a walkoff win in baseball!

Leslie wipes some off her face and tastes it.

LESLIE (on the verge of tears) It's pure whipped cream. Thank you, guys. Thank you.

END OF ACT THREE

INT. PARKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE - NIGHT - DAY 3

Leslie is heading home for the night. There is no one left in the office except for...

Ben, who is in the conference room furiously writing on the white board. The word "dirty" is circled, crossed out, and written again with exclamation points. The board looks as if Einstein were developing a new theory of relativity. Leslie walks by and is about to shut the lights.

> BEN Wait! Leslie! I got it. OK, ready? That Sewage Department plays so dirty, they should hand out moist <u>beach towels</u> at all their games. You know, instead of towelettes, which are small.

LESLIE (faking) Oh my gosh! Ben, you got it! That was so good!

BEN

Yeah?

LESLIE

Wow, I can't wait to tell the gang tomorrow morning. They're going to love it!

BEN Oh, wow! Awesome. That's such a huge relief. I put a lot of work into that one.

LESLIE

(sincere) Aw, good. I'm happy for you. OK, I'm heading home for the night. Goodnight, Ben.

BEN Goodnight, Leslie.

Ben turns to erase the white board. Leslie looks into the camera. We can read her lips -- "Oh my God!"

END OF SHOW