

BOB ROBERTS

Written by

Tim Robbins

INT. CONCERT HALL — SCRANTON — NIGHT

We hear rhythmic applause. Clap clap clap clap. An audience is restless.

BOB ROBERTS, in silhouette, holds a guitar and walks confidently, calmly from his dressing room flanked by three ASSOCIATES (CLARK ANDERSON, FRANKLIN DOCKETT and BART MACKLEROONEY) dressed very Ralph Lauren.

We hear the ASSOCIATES speaking.

ANDERSON

Cobra Two, Cobra One, this is  
Whitey One, it's showtime.

DOCKETT

West quadrant secure, Whitey Two  
moving into East quadrant.

ANDERSON

Here we go.

TITLE CARD: OCTOBER 1990

TITLE CARD: PENNSYLVANIA, USA

A vibration of energy, excitement as BOB and his ASSOCIATES come to the lip of the wings and stop.

TITLE CARD: BOB ROBERTS

TITLE CARD: A DOCUMENTARY BY TERRY MANCHESTER

"Bob Bob Bob" chant continues loudly. The audience is almost out of control. Bob takes the stage and... Pandemonium.

Song: COMPLAIN.

BOB

(Sings)

Some people will work, some simply  
will not But they'll complain and  
complain and complain and complain  
and complain  
Some people must have, some never  
will but they'll complain and  
complain and complain and complain  
and complain

The song continues as we dissolve into:

EXT. HOTEL PARKING LOT — MORNING

On a leafy hillside covered in dew and a rising sun, a strange, surreal duel is taking place. BOB ROBERTS and CLARK ANDERSON, both dressed in white, fence furiously with foils. Over this we hear a montage of voices:

MAN

Bob Roberts is a stalwart American.

MAN (CONT'D)

Bob's a championship swordsman.

MAN (CONT'D)

Bob is a tireless worker.

WOMAN

So full of life and energy.

MAN

Bob is a man of vision.

Bob jumps off the hill towards camera.

MAN (CONT'D)

He's a dynamic personality.

MAN (CONT'D)

Bob is a people person.

MAN (CONT'D)

A unique individual.

MAN (CONT'D)

He's one of a kind.

WOMAN

He's a people person.

MAN

Bob is prime cut, first-rate, Grade A.

WOMAN

He's a genius. He's an inspiration.

MAN

He's a man of the people.

WOMAN

I love Bob Roberts.

MAN

Bob is a paragon of virtue.

MAN (CONT'D)

He's a people person.

MAN (CONT'D)

He's a mover and a shaker.

WOMAN

He's the leader of a generation.

MACGREGOR (O.S.)

Mr. Hart and I are finishing up on our T-bones when all of a sudden a young man with a guitar starts singing a song, right in the middle of the restaurant...

The source of the last voice, CHET MACGREGOR, Bob's Campaign Manager, stands in front of "The Pride", Bob's tour bus. Standing next to him is LUKAS HART III, Bob's Campaign Chairman. We can hear BOB and ANDERSON fencing in the background.

MACGREGOR (CONT'D)

This is happening in Brophy's, now, and this sort of thing just doesn't happen...

HART

Here was a man that not only had a brilliant mind, and a wonderful wit, but could also sing.

MACGREGOR

And he finishes the song, and tremendous applause and then boom, out the door, he's gone. And I look at Mr. Hart and I say, What was that? and he says, in his own inimitable way, "That, my friend, was a gold mine!"

We cut back to the fencers, furiously going at it.

TERRY (V.O.)

And then?

MACGREGOR

And then it happened.

Bob wins the match, rips off his mask and gives a victorious yell.

TERRY (V.O.)  
He became a star.

MACGREGOR  
That is correct.

TERRY (V.O.)  
Overnight.

MACGREGOR  
That is correct.

HART  
He's a tremendous talent.

MacGregor starts for the bus, BOB pulls out on a motorcycle.

HART (CONT'D)  
An artist in the true sense of the  
word.

MACGREGOR  
And the next Senator from the great  
state of Pennsylvania.

As Bob rides off, we hear his voice, muffled by the helmet.

BOB  
Seize the day!

EXT. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY — MORNING

The bus glides through the last breath of the morning led by BOB ROBERTS, our hero, dressed in white fencing gear riding a customized Harley Davidson Chopper.

"COMPLAIN" continues:

BOB  
(Sings)  
... I spend all my time drunk in a  
bar I want to be rich, I don't have  
a brain so give me a handout while  
I complain.

EXT. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY — DAY

Bob, on his motorcycle, and "The Pride" drive down the highway. The camera follows the bus as it passes, then finds TERRY MANCHESTER standing in front of a log cabin. He holds a microphone and speaks directly into the camera.

TERRY  
Bob Roberts, fencing enthusiast,  
poet, folksinger, businessman,  
Senatorial candidate...

INT. TERRY'S VAN — DAY

Through the windshield of Terry Manchester's van, we see the back of Bob's bus and the words "Vote Bob." TERRY speaks in the foreground.

TERRY, our host for the documentary, is an English journalist-documentarian in his early forties, all business and few smiles, good at his craft. He does not have the 'glitz' of a television journalist, there is no pretense of show business in him. His clothes look as if they've been slept in and his grooming is, for want of a better description, lax.

TERRY  
The controversial, yet  
extraordinarily popular entertainer  
first appeared on the music scene  
three years ago with his debut  
album, *The Freewheelin' Bob  
Roberts*.

INSERT: ALBUM COVER *THE FREEWHEELIN' BOB ROBERTS*

Despite being assailed by the music critics as a corrupt, unfair diatribe against the sixties, the album, remarkably, soared to number 23 on the Billboard Charts.

INSERT: Billboard headline "Roberts Selling Brisk in Key Markets"

EXT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — SCRANTON — DAY

"The Pride" pulls up at the entrance of the Scranton Children's Hospital. We catch Bob Roberts exiting the bus preceded in rapid formation by his trusted associates. They are all impeccably dressed, groomed and coiffed; serious young professionals, shrewd and relentless, rising stars in the corporation that is Bob Roberts.

They are:

**CHARLES 'CHET' MacGregor**, the eldest, a trusted genius with Kennedy charm. He is the direct liaison between **BOB** and **LUKAS HART III**, and Bob's Chief Advisor and Campaign Manager. The master of the "Spin".

**CLARK ANDERSON**, a tall red-headed man with dangerous eyes and impetuous physicality. An associate of Bob's, he is his closest friend, fencing partner and stunt coordinator.

**DELORES PERRIGREW**, beautiful, a conservative woman with lots of brainpower and savvy. She writes Bob's speeches.

**FRANKLIN DOCKETT**, a whitish black man. He is also a bodyguard, as well as Bob's personal trainer.

**BART MACKLEROONEY**, bodyguard, business whiz, zealot.

BOB and his ASSOCIATES are greeted by the HOSPITAL STAFF. Most of them are fans and embarrassingly familiar. TERRY stands in the foreground.

TERRY

Backed by a team of novices,  
without the support of a major  
record label, relying on word of  
mouth and his own team of  
businessmen and associates who seem  
better suited to a townhouse than a  
tour bus, Roberts creates a niche  
for himself in a business that at  
first had contemptuously rejected  
him.

INSERT: ALBUM COVER *TIMES ARE CHANGIN' BACK*

TERRY (CONT'D)

His follow-up album, *Times are  
Changin' Back*, peaks at number 3.  
Quite an achievement for a  
journeyman folksinger that Spin  
Magazine once called a crypto-  
fascist clown.

INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - DAY

"Just Say No"-style banners hang in prominence along with campaign posters and banners which read: "Bob For Senate" and "Vote Bob".

BOB and HART, followed closely by the ASSOCIATES, are greeting people. SECURITY GUARDS are screening the press with uni-code scanners as they enter. We move closer in to reveal a man arguing with a SECURITY GUARD. We cannot hear him at first.

Then we see (and hear) BUGS RAPLIN, a nervous man in his thirties (who we will get to know well in this documentary), who is still young enough to believe anything and will stop at nothing to find the truth.

BUGS

This is a press conference.

GUARD

Yes, that's true, but you have the wrong pass.

BUGS

I don't see the problem here.

GUARD

The problem is you need to go to the police department and get the proper pass.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR — DAY

The camera tracks backwards as we watch a crowd of press people and hospital officials and staff follow the candidate and his entourage.

Bob is flanked by DR.. CALEB MENCK and LUKAS HART III. A quietly intense man, LUKAS HART III walks with Bob Roberts, photographers seizing the opportunity to photograph the two of them together.

HART is the brains behind the operation. Despite his smooth appearance, he is a shrewd shark of a man, a clever manipulator of the media and a ruthless businessman.

TERRY (V.O.)

On July the 4th of this year, Bob Roberts announced his candidacy for the US Senate seat in Pennsylvania. This documentary chronicles the man and his quest for election.

Everyone stops for a photo op.

BOB

Eight years ago, I had had enough.  
I had...

INT. LARGE DINING HALL — CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — DAY

"Just Say No" banner. "Roberts For Senate" posters. Bob speaks to the children and administrators as Lukas Hart stands next to him.

BOB

...seen the dreams of a generation  
squashed by an evil menace. An evil  
menace called drugs. I made up my  
mind there and then to dedicate my  
life to seeing that this problem  
end in our lifetime.

The audience applauds.

I contacted my friend, Lukas Hart, and I enlisted his help. And it is because of Lukas Hart's diligence and efforts that eight years ago Broken Dove was born.

INT. HOSPITAL — CHILDREN'S WING — DAY

During the last part of Bob's speech, we see Bob sitting, guitar in hand, informally singing to a room of pajama-clad children who smile as they sing along. The song is an upbeat, cheery tune: "Skip to Malou."

BOB (O.S.)

Broken Dove is hard at work  
fighting the war on drugs but it  
will take time. We must start the  
war early, ladies and gentlemen. We  
must start the war with our  
children, at home and in our  
classrooms!

We see one of Bob's SECURITY MEN at work.

LITTLE GIRL (O.S.)

Hey, mister, can I see your gun?

She approaches Dockett.

LITTLE GIRL (CONT'D)

Can I see your gun?

DOCKETT

What makes you think I have a gun?

The music continues as:

INT. HOSPITAL - CHILDREN'S WING - DAY

Bob plays "Cops and Robbers" with a group of sickly children playing, cajoling, running.

The children laugh. They love Bob.

In another corner of the Children's Wing, we see Lukas Hart, Chet MacGregor, Terry and DR.. CALEB MENCK speaking privately. We cannot hear them, but Terry's camera moves in close.

HART motions towards the camera.

HART  
(To camera)  
That's enough.

MACGREGOR  
(To camera)  
Come on over this way. There's some great shots with the kids.

He leads the camera to BOB and the children.

The camera pans back to BOB and the children. Bob has fallen. He is shot.

BOB  
You got me. Good work kids. I'm dead.

BOB nods and Talks towards the camera. MacGregor makes introductions.

An attractive, well-dressed woman greets Bob with a kiss. This is POLLY ROBERTS, his wife.

MACGREGOR  
Here's Mrs.. Roberts. Mrs.. Roberts, Polly.

POLLY kisses BOB.

MACGREGOR (CONT'D)  
Polly and Bob, why don't you guys take a picture with the kids?

They sit down for a picture with the children, turn towards the camera and wave, smiling broadly. The happy couple.

MENCK (O.S.)  
Bob is a tireless worker, unbridled energy. As his doctor, I know.  
(MORE)

MENCK (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
I tell him to slow down but he  
won't listen...

We cut to DR. MENCK. He speaks directly into the camera.

MENCK (CONT'D)  
.... without his organization  
Broken Dove, this clinic, would not  
exist. (Back to BOB, POLLY and the  
children. They are posing for the  
cameras.)

MACGREGOR (O.S.)  
And now, I want you all to say,  
"Vote Bob."

ALL  
Vote Bob!

CUT TO:

INT. LARGE. DINING HALL.. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL -DAY

"Just Say No" banners. "Roberts For Senate" posters. Bob and  
his BAND play on the stage here we just saw him speak.

Song: WHAT DID THE TEACHER TELL YOU.

BOB  
(Sings)  
What did the teacher tell you in  
school today, in school today? What  
did the teacher tell you in school  
today, my child? Said, "It's a  
crime to say a little prayer" Said,  
"God is no longer wanted here"  
That's what the silly teacher told  
you in school

We see the audience in the hospital, mostly consisting of non-  
comprehending children.

As the song continues we...

CUT TO:

INT. PHILADELPHIA APARTMENT - DAY

TERRY  
Robert Roberts Jr was born January  
3rd, 1955...

INSERT: BLACK-AND-WHITE BABY PHOTO OF BOB.

TERRY (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
... in St Vincent's Hospital,  
Philadelphia... (On screen) In his  
early years, Bob lives on a commune  
in rural Pennsylvania.

INT. PHILADELPHIA APARTMENT — DAY

A woman in her late fifties, dressed simply with no make-up.  
CONSTANCE is honest, direct and smiling through her real  
belief.

CONSTANCE  
It was an idealistic attempt...

INSERT: BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTOGRAPH OF BOB AS CHILD WITH  
COMMUNE DWELLERS.

CONSTANCE (CONT'D)  
...This was the late fifties, pre-  
hippie. We tried to establish a  
community based on the idea of  
collective responsibility.

INT. ROBERT ROBERTS' HOME — DAY

BOB SR.  
It was a crazy idea, nuts. It was  
an unrealistic environment for a  
child to grow up in.

INT. PHILADELPHIA APARTMENT — DAY

CONSTANCE  
We moved to Philadelphia when Bobby  
was three.

INSERT: FILM OF BOB'S CHILDHOOD HOUSE.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO NEWS SET — PHILADELPHIA — DAY

A LOCAL NEWS ANCHOR glamorously reports the news:

ANCHOR  
It'll be cold today, chilly,  
chilly, chilly, as the leaves of  
Autumn make way for the chill wind  
of winter.

(MORE)

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

Early snow was reported in some mountain regions, but don't dust off the skis yet folks, here in Philly it's a brisk 43. And that's the news at the top of the hour. And now, our own Kelly Noble interviews Senatorial candidate Bob Roberts.

Simultaneously, we hear a verse from "What Did the Teacher Tell You"

BOB (V.O.)

... If you don't agree You've no right to object, we all must be politically correct...

INT. TELEVISION STATION - DAY

A comfortable "Live at Five" atmosphere. This is the "Good Morning Philly" television show.

LONG SHOT:

BOB is being miked by a technician.

A STAGE HAND adjusts a microphone on KELLY NOBLE, a black female reporter. She readies herself. In the foreground there are monitors with close-ups of Bob and Kelly.

KELLY

Personally, I must say up front before we go on the air that I am not a fan of your music. I find it offensive, and, I'm sorry, I wouldn't vote for you if my life depended on it...

The DIRECTOR of the television interview show gives the high sign to KELLY and she begins the interview.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Good morning, Philadelphia. Our guest today is Bob Roberts, Pennsylvania Senatorial candidate and folksinger. Our viewers are curious about where it all began. Where did it start for you?

Bob is immediately guarded, almost antagonistic.

BOB  
Where did what start?

KELLY  
Well, was it a small colonial home  
with a mom in a yellow starched  
dress and a dad in a seersucker  
suit?

BOB  
You're speaking of my upbringing?

KELLY  
Yes, your upbringing.

BOB  
Well, Kelly, I came here to talk  
about the issues, but I will  
happily indulge your personality  
search.

INSERT: THE STATION MANAGER, MACGREGOR AND HART WATCH THE  
INTERVIEW FROM THE SIDE.

BOB (CONT'D)  
I was born and raised lower middle  
class right outside the City of  
Brotherly Love, Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania. My father was a fry-  
cook, my mother, a peacenik. I had  
no brothers or sisters. Make your  
judgements if you must.

INT. PHILADELPHIA CLASSROOM — DAY

TEACHER  
He was a model student.

INSERT: PHOTOGRAPHS OF BOB IN GRADE SCHOOL, A BROODING,  
SERIOUS KID.

TEACHER (CONT'D)  
So full of life and energy. Some of  
the other kids didn't like him very  
much. Oh, but I did. Very much.

INT. PHILADELPHIA APARTMENT — DAY

TERRY

Increasing restlessness and trouble  
with authority figures and  
classmates create problems for Bob  
in high school and by his senior  
year his grades have fallen.

INSERT: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE "TEENAGER MISSING, FEARED DEAD...  
PARENTS' PLEA: 'BOB COME HOME.'"

Pull back to reveal picture of teenage BOB.

INT. CONCERT HALL — PHILADELPHIA — NIGHT

We see Bob on the stage. He is rapping to the audience,  
tuning his guitar:

BOB

I know what it's like to be without  
a home. I was homeless when I was  
seventeen. Get this straight, Jack,  
I didn't ramble I didn't roam.  
Nosiree, no boxcars or park  
benches...

We pan across a sea of faces as they listen intently to their  
hero, BOB ROBERTS.

BOB (CONT'D)

...no panhandling for me. I went  
straight to work. Earned enough  
money out on my own to enroll  
myself in a school of my choice, a  
school I wanted.

INT. CONSTANCE ROBERTS' APARTMENT — DAY

CONSTANCE

That's not quite true. Bobby  
enrolled himself in military  
college by forging my signature on  
a check of mine.

INT. ROBERT ROBERTS SR'S HOME — DAY

INSERT: PHOTOGRAPH OF BOB IN MILITARY SCHOOL UNIFORM.

ROBERT SR (O.S.)  
He was happy there. He said it was  
because he needed discipline, more  
structure in his life. He felt we  
offered too much freedom.

INSERT: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: "TEENAGER REAPPEARS." PULL IN ON  
QUOTE: "PARENTS ARE POTHEADS CLAIM WAYWARD SON."

ROBERT SR (CONT'D)  
And do you know what? He was right.

INT. PHILADELPHIA APARTMENT — DAY

CONSTANCE  
I was trying to instill different  
values in him than the ones he has  
now. Let's just leave it at that.

We get the feeling she wants to say more, but doesn't.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO — DAY

The interview continues: during the following me cut between  
different views of the interview, viewing much of it through  
monitors in the studio, in the foreground and background.

BOB  
The sixties are, let's face it, a  
dark stain on American history. At  
no other time has lawlessness and  
immorality been so widespread.

KELLY  
You are speaking of Watergate and  
our invasion of Cambodia.

BOB  
No, no, I'm not. I see, I'm  
speaking of you, I'm speaking of  
lawlessness and immorality with  
regard to drug use and sexual  
practice.

KELLY  
Excuse me?

BOB  
Disregard in the press for the  
sacred institutions that have made  
this country what it is today.

KELLY  
Is social protest disregard for our  
laws and institutions?

BOB  
Certainly it is.

KELLY  
And yet it is a guaranteed right in  
our Constitution.

BOB  
So is burning the flag. Need I say  
more?

KELLY  
Yes, you need say more. Or are we  
to believe that what Bob Roberts  
wants to see in America is a  
compliant...

We see the STATION MANAGER, HART and MacGregor discussing the  
direction the interview has taken.

KELLY (CONT'D)  
...and silent public which respects  
the wishes and actions of its  
presidents, no matter how immoral  
or illegal?

BOB  
Are you a Communist?

KELLY  
Excuse me?

INT. CONCERT HALL — PHILADELPHIA — NIGHT

Bob's rap continues.

BOB  
Self determination. The choice to  
be what you want to be. And I  
wanted to be... rich.

The AUDIENCE laughs, and applauds, BOB starts playing a song.

TERRY

Roberts graduates from Westmoreland Military Academy with honors in 1977, and is selected as a candidate for a masters degree in business at Yale University. In 1980, Roberts graduates from Yale and begins his phenomenal rise on Wall Street.

Song: THIS LAND WAS MADE FOR ME.

BOB

(Sings)

Grandma felt guilty 'bout bein so rich  
And it bothered her until the day she died  
But I will take my inheritance  
And invest it with pride  
Yes invest it with pride

After the first verse, the song continues under:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO — DAY

The interview continues. Nearby, Hart and MacGregor are talking to the Station Manager. The Stage Manager is frantically cueing Kelly to wrap it up.

BOB

You have just said that our chief executives are immoral criminals.

Hart leads the Station Manager Off.

BOB (CONT'D)

I take offense at that. Deeply. I am an American that believes intensely in morality. And I believe in the sanctity of the office of the presidency. I trust that the American public do not share your cynical anti-American views and will cast their votes accordingly, with pride and conviction.

The theme music is cued and the monitors cut to the ANCHOR.

ANCHOR

Thank you Kelly and Bob Roberts for that thought-provoking dialogue. 'Good Morning Philadelphia' will be back.

The camera pans back to Bob and Kelly, now off the air. Kelly continues the conversation as they get up and move away from the set.

KELLY

I certainly hope not, because it seems you would like Americans to cast their vote based on hatred and ignorance.

The camera pulls back to follow as Bob and Kelly move off the set towards the waiting entourage.

BOB

What is that? You are taking sides ma'am. You are abusing your responsibility as a journalist.

KELLY

I am offended by you, sir. If I ignore my feelings, I'm taking your side.

BOB

Yet, isn't your job one of objectivity?

KELLY

You're not talking about objectivity. You're talking about ignorance.

Kelly sees Dockett.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Is he yours? (To Dockett) Hey, brother, does getting in on the ground floor mean checking your skin at the door?

DOCKETT

Wait a minute, can't black people have more than one opinion?

KELLY

Oh, you're still black?

DOCKETT

Yeah, I'd like to think so. I guess we all have to adhere to the same militant black party line.

As KELLY walks down the studio hallway the Station Manager begins to yell at her.

KELLY (O.S.)  
I don't want to hear it.

The camera pans back to Bob and MacGregor, who are speaking with the Anchor.

BOB  
You do such wonderful work on the news.

ANCHOR  
Oh, do you think so?

BOB  
Always watch ya.

MacGregor pins a "Vote Bob" button onto the Anchor's jacket.

MACGREGOR  
You're now a member of our campaign team.

BOB  
There's a Vote Bob button for you.

ANCHOR  
All right. I'm honored. Do you think I could get another one for my son?

MACGREGOR  
Of course, we'll send you several.

BOB  
Take care, Dan.

BOB, MacGregor and the entourage leave.

ANCHOR  
Take care. You're welcome here any time, Bob. Good luck on the campaign trail.

The ANCHOR watches them leave.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)  
Great.

Bob's song continues under the following:

INT. STUDIO DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Kelly in her dressing room, fed up. We see her reflected in her own mirror, with Terry in the background.

KELLY

Bob Roberts is yet another of that faction that lives to destroy whatever good came out of the sixties, to rewrite the history of this important period. A period where the American people actually were informed and aware and realized they had a voice. They demanded that a war end. Bob Roberts is Nixon. Only he is shrewder, more complicated, this Bob Roberts. Now here is a man that has adopted the persona and the mind-set of the free-thinking rebel and turned it on itself. The Rebel-Conservative! That is deviant brilliance! What a Machiavellian poseur!

INT. CONCERT HALL - PHILADELPHIA - NIGHT

Bob's song continues. The AUDIENCE joins in, singing along.

BOB AND AUDIENCE

This land is my land This land is  
our land You gotta be proud to be  
In the land of the free This land  
was made for us This land was made  
for me.

The AUDIENCE erupts again and begins chanting "Bob!"

BOB waves and salutes from the stage.

INT. STAGE DOOR - SCRANTON - NIGHT

Bugs Raplin, the reporter who was denied access at the hospital, paces nervously near the stage door waiting to interview Bob Roberts. Bob exits the hall with his entourage and heads for the tour bus. In the background we hear the crowd still cheering. Bugs attempts to talk to Bob.

BUGS

Mr. Roberts? My name is Bugs  
Raplin. I'm from Troubled Times  
Journal.

(MORE)

BUGS (CONT'D)

I was wondering if it might be possible to arrange an interview.

BOB

Certainly. My pleasure. Chet?

MACGREGOR

Yes, certainly, here's our number, you can contact our campaign headquarters.

The entourage gets on the bus. Bugs looks at the card.

BUGS

Yeah, right.

The camera follows the entourage on to the bus.

INT. TOUR BUS - NIGHT

As we enter, BOB goes into the back room and starts reading the Wall Street Journal.

ANDERSON (O.S.)

OK, let's fire it up!

Macklerooney goes straight to a terminal and places a call to Tokyo. He speaks for a while in Japanese, then puts his hand over the receiver and reports back to Bob, who is reading in the background.

MACKLEROONEY

Nikei is up twenty-four thousand, forty-one, forty-five.

George Bush-Saddam Hussein-troops footage makes way for a report on Bob on the WAPW Scranton Action News. We go in full-screen on the television.

The camera pulls out from the television periodically to reveal the ASSOCIATES in rapt attention to the television screen. The newscasters CHUCK MARLIN and CAROL CRUISE, with reporter ROSE PONDELL, are presenting news about Bob and his opponent for the Senate seat, SENATOR BRICKLEY PAISTE.

CHUCK MARLIN

Thank you, Carol. Senator Brickley Paiste was on the campaign trail yet again yesterday. Paiste sampled homemade goodies while visiting the Local Ladies Auxiliary in Duquesne...

INSERT: VIDEO OF PAISTE EATING BLUEBERRY PIE.

CHUCK MARLIN (CONT'D)

Paiste then presided over the  
dedication of the Steam Torpedo  
Monument in Pittsburgh.

INSERT: VIDEO OF PAISTE DEDICATING A TORPEDO.

PAISTE

I think it highly suitable today,  
as war clouds once again are upon  
the horizon, that we dedicate this  
steam torpedo as a symbol of the  
thirteen million of us that fought  
in World War II.

CHUCK MARLIN

Carol?

CAROL CRUISE

Thanks, Chuck. Senator Paiste's  
opponent Bob Roberts is creating  
quite a sensation in his  
Pennsylvania Election Tour, playing  
to sold-out audiences, from  
Scranton to Pittsburgh. The  
candidate was in town today, paying  
a visit to the local Menck Clinic.  
With the story, Rose Pondell. Rose?

INSERT: ON MONITOR, HOSPITAL MEDIA FOOTAGE OF SCENES WE SAW  
EARLIER.

ROSE PONDELL (O.S.)

This is the Menck Clinic in  
Scranton, a clinic set up with  
money raised by Broken Dove,  
Senatorial candidate Bob Roberts'  
private relief organization.

We see ROSE PONDELL standing in front of the stage at the  
hospital there Bob had played earlier.

ROSE PONDELL (CONT'D)

The Menck Clinic and Broken Dove  
honored Bob Roberts this afternoon  
in a ceremony at the clinic.

INSERT: SHOT OF BOB AND LUKAS HART AT THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

HART  
...honoring you as "Patriot of the Year."

Applause. We see a close-up of Bob smiling and waving with POLLY. On the television we see Dr. Menck.

MENCK  
Bob has a great vision for the future of our country and a great vision for the future of the children of our country. He is the only man to vote for.

On the television we see a group of fans including three young teenage boys, ROGER, CALVIN and BURT, some with fags, in line outside a venue.

ROGER  
(On TV)  
He's amazing. He's a poet, and a genius.

ROSE PONDELL  
It is clear to all present here that drugs are a tough problem and that a tough man is needed to tackle that problem. From all indications, Bob Roberts just might be that man.

We cut to wide shot on the bus, revealing the entourage watching the monitor.

With the Roberts campaign in Scranton, this is Rose Pondell, WAPW Action News.

MACKLEROONEY (O.S.)  
Fabulous package, Bob!

ANDERSON  
Excellent!

PERRIGREW  
Excellent, Bob.

CAROL CRUISE  
Thank you, Rose. Chuck?

CHUCK MARLIN

Thank you, Carol. Recent polls show incumbent Senator Paiste in the lead over Roberts by ten percentage points. But sources in the Roberts campaign say that Roberts will be a strong finisher. I could use a strong finisher myself sometimes, Carol, how about you?

He laughs.

CAROL CRUISE

(Laughs)

More news in a moment.

As the report ends, MacGregor emerges from the back of the bus with a phone in his hand, giving a thumbs up.

MACGREGOR

Mr. Hart loves it!

MACKLEROONEY

What about Bob?

MACGREGOR

Bob loves it, too.

TERRY

What is Lukas Hart's connection with Bob's success?

MACKLEROONEY

No connection.

PERRIGREW

Lukas Hart is helping send Bob Roberts to Washington.

EXT. PARKING LOT — MORNING

BOB and ANDERSON fencing in a parking lot. A steel mill and a barge in the background. The match continues furiously. We intercut between the match and MICKIE, the bus driver.

MICKIE

They do this every morning. This could last for hours. This throws me behind schedule. And it pisses me off. I'm the one that gets the speeding tickets, not him. But I really don't give a shit. I just try. I do the best I can.

EXT. HIGHWAY — DAY

Bob in fencing gear, rides his Harley, which roars down the interstate.

ANCHOR

Good Morning, Philadelphia. Senator  
Brickley...

INSERT: NEWSPAPER PHOTO OF PAISTE WITH A TEENAGE GIRL. PULL  
BACK TO REVEAL HEADLINE "PAISTE IN TEENAGE LIAISON."

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

...Paiste angrily denied  
allegations today regarding a  
report that ran in the Pittsburgh  
Post Times accusing him of an  
extramarital liaison with a  
campaign worker.

PAISTE

(On TV)

The girl in question is a friend of  
my granddaughter and had the entire  
photograph been shown, you would  
have seen my granddaughter sitting  
in the back seat of the car. I  
deeply resent this slander and you  
can be sure that I'm going to find  
out who's behind it.

ANCHOR

Overnight polls show that Senator  
Paiste's lead has slipped  
considerably and is now ahead of  
Roberts by only a narrow margin.

EXT. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY — DAY

"The Pride" glides through the leaves of autumn. On the sides  
of the tour bus there is artwork and the words "Vote Bob"  
and "The Pride."

MACGREGOR (O.S.)

We are doing very well in every  
area of the state. The key thing I  
think is that we're doing well in  
the depressed areas. And these  
areas have been hit very hard.  
They're very depressed  
economically. Plants have closed.  
Supporting industries have closed.

INT. THE PRIDE TOUR BUS — DAY

MACGREGOR

People don't have jobs. They can't afford to feed their families. They're foreclosing on their homes. Something has to be done for these people. And Bob's going to do it.

A cacophony of activity. The entourage are all on various telephones, dealing manically. BOB is talking rapidly on a state of the art mobile phone with a headset. After making each order he glances at a computer monitor manned by DOLORES PERRIGREW as the next stock option is called up.

BOB

Clark, check the security coordinates. We're going to be there in a minute.

PERRIGREW

Call, uh, um-

BOB

Henry.

PERRIGREW

Henry at CNN.

BOB

(To Dockett)

Fifty thousand.

A shot of Perrigrew working frenetically on a monitor with a stock option read-out.

PERRIGREW

What's the stop loss on the bean crush?

MACKLEROONEY

Five thousand at six!

DOCKETT

Next!

BOB again, on his mobile phone:

BOB

We want out. There was a fax on that.

MACKLEROONEY

I sent a fax on that.

BOB

Read your faxes, Lavalley, or you'll  
be on a slow boat to Tiananmen  
Square, understand?

Perrigrew laughs. Over the following, we hear Terry in a  
voice over.

TERRY (V.O.)

Bob Roberts is a living tribute to  
the possibilities of the American  
dream. A self-made man at the age  
of thirty-five, he is rumoured to  
have a net worth of something over  
forty million dollars. Today, I'm  
waiting to meet Bob Roberts in the  
sanitary confines of "The Pride":  
his functionally designed, two-room  
trading floor on wheels.

BOB

What's next? Oh, Jimminy, do I have  
to do everything? Do some homework  
for goodness sake. Get some  
information. Keep your nails clean.  
All right, that's it. Right.

MACKLEROONEY

Your fax, Clark.

He gets up and crosses to the front of the bus.

ANDERSON

Thanks, Bart.

CHARLES MacGregor leans out of the back section of the bus, a  
private office. He looks concerned.

MACGREGOR

Bob, Mr. Hart on two.

BOB

I'll call him back.

MACGREGOR

That's a code yellow, Bob.

BOB

Be right there.

Bob turns to Terry, who waits politely.

BOB  
Sorry. Ever since this Iraq  
business talking with your broker  
is like talking to a rambling,  
insecure child.

TERRY  
Oh, really?

ANDERSON  
Who was that?

BOB  
Lavalle.

ANDERSON  
He's gone.

PERRIGREW  
Oops, there goes the pool.

DOCKETT  
There goes the house in the  
country.

They all laugh.

TERRY  
Tell me something, the world  
market's been in a tumultuous state  
for the last three years, ever  
since the Crash of '87. How did you  
do? Did you lose money in the  
Crash?

MACKLEROONEY  
(Sarcastically)  
Yeah, right.

DOCKETT  
What's funny?

BOB  
(To Dockett)  
Back to work.

BOB (CONT'D)  
(To Terry)  
The slow lost money in that crash.  
Smart money got out before the junk  
bond hit the fan if you know what I  
mean.

(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)

Granted, that information was up to the minute gold-plated information, cost me considerable effort and diligence, and if I had been out when those calls came in, I would have been screwed, but I am a smart businessman. A wee and dee, if you will. I know the market importance of paging systems and mobile phones. What's getting everyone nervous nowadays is their lack of control of the political situation overseas. You can't readily obtain that type of information. But you can stay in touch and—I'm not going to say too much. There are things you can do. There are ways you can read the world. And what I read excites me, quite frankly.

INT. ALLEY — DAY

A music video for the song "Wall Street Rap."

An MTV style title reads: "Bob Roberts 'Wall Street Rap' Times are Changin' Back Pride Records."

BOB ROBERTS stands in the alley holding big cards with words(lyrics) printed on them à la Bob Dylan in the "Subterranean Homesick Blues" film.

Dockett and Macklerooney stand off to the side, speaking on mobile phones, in front of a pile of bags of money. Nine DANCERS in business shirts and ties and black skirts dance behind BOB, tho turns cards, revealing words from the song, and tosses them aside one by one.

Song: WALL STREET RAP.

BOB

Michael takes a loan from  
a midwestern S&L  
He puts the money down  
a quick dryin' inkwell  
Takes a loss, gets cross,  
walks to the corner store  
Pulls a knife, calls his wife,  
can't take it anymore  
Look out Joe,  
how far will it go?  
Take away the fire  
and where does the water flow?  
Jerry's in the attic

(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)

messin' with the static  
Junior's on the telephone,  
nothing problematic  
Julie's selling T-bonds,  
her bill is turning over  
John is building walks  
manipulating a takeover  
Look out Joe,  
How far will it go?  
Take away the fire  
and where does the water flow?

Get tough, get right  
try to get some sleep at night  
Try hard, get harder,  
love to win, live to fight  
Own the town, love the best,  
don't share the treasure chest  
If you cheat, get away,  
lead 'em down an alleyway  
Look out Joe, how far will it go?  
Take away the fire  
and where does the water flow?  
Look out Joe,  
how far will it go?  
Take away the fire  
and where does the water flow?

As the DANCERS dance off, Dockett and Mackleroooney each grab a bag of money and follow the DANCERS. The song ends and Bob stands staring into the camera.

INT. BOB ROBERTS' TOUR BUS - DAY

BOB

Now is the time to invest. We  
mustn't be intimidated by Third  
World madmen. We must stay strong  
and market confident. Reluctance  
feeds the aggressor. Or as we say  
on "The Pride", 'If you're afraid  
of an active market...

BOB AND ENTOURAGE

"You're a dead man!"

ANDERSON

Perrigrew, prepare to dock! Let's  
lock and load!

BOB  
There'll be a resolution in the mid-  
East and a bull market before you  
know it, mark my words. Thank you  
for your time.

Bob leaves suddenly, moving towards the door of the bus.

ANDERSON  
Cobra, Whitey one. We're on the  
move.

Anderson, Dockett and Macklerooney exit first, followed by  
Bob and then MacGregor and Perrigrew. The camera follows.

EXT. FREEDOM HALL HARRISBURG — DAY

Bob and the entourage continue towards the backstage door.  
Bob signs some autographs, but is still on the phone.

BOB  
Lukas, we're rocking and rolling on  
the campaign. Rocking and rolling.

ANDERSON  
Everybody to the right, please.

Bob listens as he moves towards the stage door. The camera  
moves, with Bob and the others in the background.

FANS approach and take pictures. Bugs Raplin approaches.

BUGS  
Mr. Roberts. Mr. Roberts. I  
contacted your campaign office and  
they told me I had to be connected  
to a major news network or  
newspaper in order to get an  
interview.

BOB  
Well, that's ridiculous. You talk  
to Chet MacGregor back there and  
he'll take care of it.

Bob and most of the ENTOURAGE start to enter the building.  
MacGregor motions for Macklerooney to take Bugs' name.

MACKLEROONEY  
What is your name?

BUGS  
Bugs.

MACKLEROONEY  
Bugs?

BUGS  
John.

MACKLEROONEY  
John.

BUGS  
John Alijah Raplin.

MACKLEROONEY  
John Raplin. Publication?

BUGS  
Troubled Times.

MACKLEROONEY  
There'll be a pass waiting at the  
door tonight.

He smiles and enters the building quickly.

BUGS  
Yeah, sure.

INT. BACKSTAGE GREENROOM — LATE AFTERNOON

The camera starts on a Robbie Conal vision of Bob, a grotesque image, with "Time is Money" on the top and "Time for Bob" written on the bottom.

The camera pans to reveal Bob, Perrigrew, Dockett and Macklerooney all seated, having finished off a sushi lunch.

MacGregor stands in front of a selection of campaign poster mock-ups. Anderson is at a desk in the background, on the phone. They are laughing at the poster.

MACGREGOR  
It scares the hell out of me.

BOB  
Oh, my goodness. I don't think so,  
Chet.

MACGREGOR  
Of course not, it's a bad idea. You  
wanted to see it through.

PERRIGREW

Mr. Hart thinks we should just stick with the Bob Roberts in the red, white and blue. Simplicity, strength.

MACGREGOR

Well, I tend to agree with Mr. Hart. This one is just too basic, too simple. This one severe, strong. I like it, but it's too strong. And this one's a nightmare. It scares me.

BOB

I know. I tend to agree with Mr. Hart as well. Stick with the current campaign, red, white and blue. Bart?

MACKLEROONEY

Absolutely Bob.

BOB

Dockett?

DOCKETT

Straight up, Bob.

BOB

Terry, what do you think?

TERRY

Me? I think there's no question. That's the one.

BOB

(To camera)

What about you? You.

Bob Smiles.

TERRY

Nigel.

The camera moves up and down in agreement. Everyone laughs.

MACGREGOR

The nodding Nigel. Thank you. All right, next up. Our new television commercial.

BOB

Oh, terrific.

MACGREGOR

All right, guys, get out of the way. Bob, you sit here. Scat, Bart.

MACKLEROONEY

Sorry.

MACGREGOR

It's fifteen seconds. It makes its point strongly. Starts airing tomorrow.

Bob puts on the VCR. The commercial starts.

INSERT: TV COMMERCIAL. ON THE TELEVISION, WE SEE A BLACK SCREEN. MUSIC. A FLOWER GENTLY SWAYING IN THE WIND IN FRONT OF A SUNRISE. THE SLOGAN "FOR A NEW DAY" APPEARS. THEN, ABRUPTLY, WITH A SURGE OF MUSIC: "VOTE BOB" APPEARS IN FRONT OF THE SUNRISE.

BOB

What do you think, Bart?

MACKLEROONEY

I love it, Bob.

BOB

Dockett?

DOCKETT

Chilly most, Bob.

BOB

(To Perrigrew)

What did he say?

PERRIGREW

"Chilly most."

BOB

What the heck is that?

DOCKETT

Cool.

PERRIGREW

It means terrific, Bob.

MACGREGOR

Glad you like it. Now we have two more spots in production. We'll be able to view them at the end of the week.

(MORE)

MACGREGOR (CONT'D)

Now next up, we have the Mayor's wife right outside, lovely lady, wants to see you. And three boys who want to say hello to Bob Roberts.

BOB

Oh, my pleasure.

MACGREGOR

Right this way.

As MacGregor leads Bob and Perrigrew out, Anderson speaks to his security.

ANDERSON

Cobra Two, we're on the move.

As they exit the dressing room, we see MRS. DAVIS, the Mayor of Philly's wife, beaming, as do the three young teenage fans: CALVIN, BURT and ROGER. They are almost speechless in his presence, young Bob disciples. Their uncomfortable shuffling and embarrassed demeanor is quite funny to look at. BOB immediately presses the flesh.

BOB

Hello.

MRS. DAVIS

Hi.

MACGREGOR

Mrs. Davis. This is Bob Roberts.

MRS. DAVIS

We're so happy to have you here. We are so proud to play your music in our home, sometimes I play it when I'm alone but don't tell my husband.

She laughs.

MRS. DAVIS (CONT'D)

Anyway Frank and I both agree that you are an excellent example for the youth of this country. We wish there were more singers like you, and we intend to vote for you.

BOB

Oh, thank you.

MRS. DAVIS

We're so tired of Brickley Paiste and all his philandering. Anyway, this is my son, Roger and his two friends, Burt and Kevin.

CALVIN

Calvin.

The three teenage boys, Roger, Calvin and Burt, shuffle nervously, heads bored, eyes averted in the presence of their hero.

ROGER

Pleased to meet you sir. We got all, both albums. Hi.

CALVIN

Yeah. Hi. Nice to meet you sir.

BURT

Hey. Hi. Ho. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

We see Bob smiling, almost laughing at this nervous adulation.

ROGER

We got a band. We actually, we play some of your songs. We play "Retake America" and "This Land was Made for Me."

BOB

You have a band? What instruments do you play?

ROGER

We all play guitar.

MRS. DAVIS

I must admit that when young Roger first wanted his guitar my husband and I were fit as birds... but my husband trusted his son would take the lessons of the Lord with him no matter what instrument of the devil caressed his hand.

ROGER

You inspire us a lot to do stuff. You're great.

CALVIN

Yeah, you know. We wish that there was, you know, stuff. Like you know like there was, if there was, you know when I heard that, wow, you know.

He is losing it. He's drooling.

BURT

Are there any more stuff? When's the new album?

BOB

Election Day. We're releasing it Election Day.

Mrs. Davis cuts in.

MRS. DAVIS

Mr. Roberts has to be on his way.

BOB and Perrigrew begin to go. Mrs. DAVIS walks with them. The boys follow.

MRS. DAVIS (CONT'D)

What are the songs about?

BOB

Various things. The Congress. Liberals. Iraq.

BURT

Yeah, we heard about that.

CALVIN

What?

BURT

Iraq.

CALVIN

Yeah, we heard about that. I hope we kick their ass.

Pause.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Yeah.

BURT

Yeah.

CALVIN

Yeah.

MRS. DAVIS

So do I. Do you think it will be necessary to use force?

BOB

We must be strong and resolute, whenever democracy is threatened, Ma'am. We want to avoid violence by any means, but I'm afraid it might be necessary. Hussein's a madman. Excuse me.

MacGregor steps in.

MACGREGOR

You'll have to excuse us now, Bob has a show to get ready for, you know.

MRS. DAVIS

Of course. Bob Roberts, it has been a pleasure meeting you. I just wish there was a way I could vote for you a hundred times.

BOB

There is, actually.

MRS. DAVIS

Really?

BOB

Yes.

Pause.

BOB (CONT'D)

Just kidding.

INT. BACKSTAGE CONCERT HALL — HARRISBURG — NIGHT

It's just before the concert. The camera moves backstage and finds Bob's band in prayer. MacGregor's face appears in the camera, and leads it away.

MACGREGOR

Let's not shoot this. Come on, come on over here with me.

INSERT: PHOTO OF BOB AND HART.

BUGS (O.S.)  
In order to under-

EXT. THEATRE — HARRISBURG — NIGHT

Bugs Raplin stands across the street from the theatre.

BUGS  
-stand who Bob Roberts is, you have to understand who Lukas Hart the third is. Lukas Hart is a spook, one of the Langley crowd new guard. Hart has been living in the shadows for years. He was a lieutenant. Vietnam. Special Forces. Worked on the infamous Phoenix Program. Transferred to South American operations. Helped overthrow Allende. Messed around in Central America, probably popped a couple heads — boom boom — set up an organization called Broken Dove which supplied transport planes to US government operations. Got his hands real dirty during Iran-Contra but the Senate washed them clean.

INSERT: LUKAS HART ILL TESTIFYING BEFORE THE IRAN-CONTRA INVESTIGATION. SENATOR BRICKLEY PAISTE, QUESTIONS HIM.

TITLE CARD: IRAN-CONTRA HEARINGS JUNE 1987

HART  
...I can't recall.

PAISTE  
You "can't recall", I see. Did you or your organization Broken Dove have anything at all to do with the transport plane that was downed in Nicaragua on May 23, 1987?

HART  
Sir, the plane was contracted to fly humanitarian supplies into impoverished regions in Southern Honduras. Broken Dove is a private relief corporation.

PAISTE

So you had no knowledge of the guns that were on that plane?

HART

No sir.

PAISTE

But the three men were all close business associates of yours?

HART

Rest their souls, yes. These were patriots acting on their own volition, their own beliefs.

PAISTE

Can you sum up these beliefs for us?

HART

That the US Congress was restricting the growth and safeguard of democracy in Central America. That the actions of these men, although against the Boland Amendment, were nevertheless on the side of goodness and decency.

PAISTE

I have a copy of an FBI report regarding traces of cocaine found on one of the transport planes.

Sound of a gavel being struck.

SENATOR HAYDN

Mr. Chairman. This is sensitive material that will be dealt with in closed session.

CHAIRMAN

We had an agreement about this.

HART

This is not an investigation. This is just another example of the depths to which the US Congress is prepared to sink. This is a travesty.

INT. BACKSTAGE DOOR - THREE MILE ISLAND - NIGHT

TERRY (O.S.)

But the charges against Broken Dove  
were found to be groundless and the  
organization was completely  
exonerated.

In the background we see Roger, Burt and Calvin in a shoving  
match with a PROTESTOR outside the concert hall.

BUGS

The whole investigation was a sham.  
They discovered a secret government  
of liars and drug smugglers, didn't  
do a thing about it. Slapped these  
traitors on the wrist. Big deal.  
The story died in the major press.  
It's idiots like me who keep  
investigating who find out just how  
deep it goes. I am meeting a  
contact later who claims to have  
evidence that connects Broken Dove  
to a failed Savings and Loan. Can  
you believe it? This could be big.  
Gotta go.

SENATOR HAYDN (V.O.)

I cannot believe the lies and  
innuendo that you have been the  
victim of. It is clear that you had  
no involvement with this escapade  
and that we are wasting your time.  
I am sorry.

INSERT: LUKAS HART III AT IRAN-CONTRA HEARINGS.

HART

I appreciate that.

HAYDN

Is there anything that you would  
like to add, Mr. Hart?

HART

These allegations are erroneous at  
best, always have been, always will  
be. How much more of this fiction  
does my family have to suffer. God  
knows, I would have thought that I  
had done enough by now to make my  
position on narcotics perfectly  
clear.

INT. CONCERT HALL — THREE MILE ISLAND — NIGHT

Bob and CLARISSA FLAN, a folk singer, singing. A title identifies Clarissa as Miss Broken Dove 1987.

Song: DRUGS STINK.

BOB

(Sings)

Drugs stink  
they make me sick  
Those that sell em  
and those that do em  
String em up  
from the highest tree  
Without a trace of sympathy

Drugs stink, drugs stink  
Be a clean living man  
with a rope in your hand  
Drugs stink, drugs stink  
Hang em high  
for a clean living land  
Pot headed wierdos, sex deviates  
Dancing fools your day is done  
It's time to leave  
the face of our earth  
Dope smoking morons,  
dirty hippie freaks

Drugs stink, drugs stink  
Be a clean living man  
with a rope in your hand  
Drugs stink, drugs stink  
Hang 'em high  
for a clean living land

EXT. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY — DAY

"The Pride" on the road. We hear a TV news programme theme, then cut to see it on the screen with newscaster CHIP DALEY.

CHIP DALEY

Despite recent economic indications showing a stagnant economy, at least one business is showing an increase in profit: ribbon manufacturers are showing a tremendous increase in demand as Americans everywhere are showing their support of our troops in the Persian Gulf.

INSERT: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE "PAISTE STUNG BY RUMOR" OVER A PICTURE OF PAISTE.

PAISTE

Well, Mr. Bob Roberts has suggested that he...

INSERT: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE "PAISTE WEAK ON DEFENSE, ROBERTS SAYS", THEN PULL BACK TO REVEAL ENTIRE FRONT PAGE OF THE PITTSBURGH POST-TIMES "SADDAM MUST BE STOPPED" "PUBLIC SPLIT ON THE USE OF FORCE."

PAISTE (CONT'D)

...knew which way I was leaning on the question of war in the Middle East and I'm totally opposed to it. Oh, it's the enemy of the month club again.

INT. BRICKLEY PAISTE'S OFFICE - DAY

Terry is interviewing Paiste.

PAISTE

Saddam Hussein, I believe is, what is he, the most evil man, what did the President say, since Adolf Hitler. Before that was Noriega, he was the most evil man since Fu Manchu, and then there was Khadafi, and then there's Castro. And these figures are thrown out to the media and made into great monsters. Why? Because we must justify the military budget. In order to do that, you must have enemies. So we blow up these local thugs into these huge, Hitler-like figures and pretend it's World War II all over again.

INT. BOB ROBERTS' TOUR BUS - DAY

Again, a cacophony of activity. BOB and the entourage are all on various telephones, dealing manically.

MACKLEROONEY

Do not pin your hopes and dreams on transport planes. They're only going to build transport planes if the shooting war is prolonged...

(MORE)

MACKLEROONEY (CONT'D)

Well, something tells me that it is  
not going to be another Vietnam...  
A little bird tells me this.

BOB

Was it Hart, Dockett?

ANDERSON

C'mon, Get it, get it! The North  
side corridor isn't clear....

DOCKETT

...Six thousand and twelve. Next,  
sell 25,000.

MACKLEROONEY

Trust me. Hang on to those puts.  
Hang on ... How can I help you—Vote  
Bob?

EXT. ALTOONA TOWN HALL — DAY

In an establishing shot we see people of all types waiting to  
get in to the town hall.

On a banner we see "Broken Dove presents: Miss Independence,  
PA — Freedom from Drugs."

TITLE CARD: BEAUTY PAGEANT ALTOONA PENNSYLVANIA

EXT. ALTOONA TOWN HALL — STAGE DOOR — DAY

Bob and entourage arrive. Waiting at the stage door are  
Roger, Burt and Calvin, the three boys Bob met backstage the  
previous night. They are giggling nervously.

ROGER

Bob, that was the best.

BURT

That was amazing.

ROGER

Excellent.

BOB

(As he walks by)  
Thanks.

CALVIN

We love you, Bob.

The entourage enters the building.

ROGER

Ah, cheez whiz, Calvin. Don't be a fag.

INT. ALTOONA TOWN HALL - DAY

The manic reporter me met earlier, Bugs Ralpin, meets the entourage as they enter through the stage door. They move away from Bugs, but he follows. The tension is high. The camera stays primarily on Ralpin.

BUGS

You support the political action group, Broken Dove?

BOB

Yes. Proudly. Broken Dove is an organization that works effectively to keep children off drugs.

The entourage have entered a dressing room full of beauty pageant contestants and their mothers.

MOTHER

Wrong room.

ANDERSON

Sorry.

The entourage excuse themselves and continue down the hallway.

BUGS

Before its current incarnation as an anti-drug organization, Broken Dove bought transport planes that were involved with the smuggling of drugs.

BOB

That is completely absurd and subversive, and old news. Broken Dove was already exonerated of these ridiculous charges by the United States Senate. Thank you for your time.

BUGS

Recent evidence, however, suggests that these planes were purchased with money from a low-income housing loan given to your organization by West Pennsylvania Savings and Loan, a now-insolvent thrift.

BOB

What are you saying?

BUGS

You took money meant for housing to buy planes to smuggle drugs.

BOB

That's completely ridiculous. Chet, did you hear that?

MACGREGOR

Yes.

The entourage passes a contestant practicing her flute.

BUGS

Then where is the money from those loans?

BOB

Building houses.

BUGS

Where exactly are these houses?

They are now in the Men's bathroom. They exit and continue on, desperately searching for the right door.

BUGS (CONT'D)

Do you feel any responsibility for the illegal activities carried out by the groups you support?

BOB

I told you already that Broken Dove was exonerated of these charges.

ANDERSON (O.S.)

Left.

BOB

Why would you ask a-Didn't you hear me?

(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)

Why would you ask a question like that? What would motivate that?

BUGS

I am talking about new evidence connecting Broken Dove to the failed S and L.

BOB

What is your question?

BUGS

What?

The entourage have entered a boiler room where a contestant practices the drums as another dressed as Bo Peep does vocal warmups.

BOB

Ask the question. What is the question?

BUGS

A group you support was recently implicated...

BOB

Yes. And?

BUGS

And how do you explain...

Another wrong door.

BOB

And what? What is meant by the word "implicated"?

BUGS

To suggest. To connect.

BOB

To suggest, not to prove, not to indict.

MacGregor comes into frame.

MACGREGOR

Are you making allegations that you are willing to back up in a court of law?

BUGS

Allegations?

MACGREGOR  
Because the camera has just  
documented all of this on film.

BOB looks at the camera. Smiles.

MACGREGOR (CONT'D)  
Haven't they?

BUGS  
I don't think you're being fair.

MACKLEROONEY  
You don't think he's being fair?

BUGS  
No, I don't.

MACGREGOR  
Where is your evidence?

BUGS  
I have here a sworn affidavit-

BOB  
I don't think you are showing even  
the slightest respect, and more  
importantly you are abusing your  
responsibility as a journalist.

ANDERSON  
Shut off the camera, please.

BOB  
No, no. Leave it on. Leave it on.

They have reached another room where there is a Japanese  
candle dancer and five contestants practicing a tap dance.

BUGS  
Is being responsible as a  
journalist to ignore the issues, to  
gloss over the facts, to paint only  
favorable portraits?

BOB  
No. Responsible journalism is  
objective. The interviewer does not  
bring his own opinions into the  
interview. He is objective.

ANDERSON  
Bob, this way.

But it is the wrong way. A mime enters briefly into frame.

BUGS

I feel I am being objective. I've asked you a question and you have evaded it.

BOB

I've evaded nothing. You've asked an incredibly slanted question based on lies and conjecture and I have responded with an answer appropriate to that kind of yellow journalism.

Bob has stopped. They have found their way.

BUGS

And that answer, if I get it correctly, is?

BOB

The answer is I don't talk to liars and I don't talk to gossip mongers. Now, this interview is over. Thank you for your time.

MACGREGOR

OK, turn the camera off now, please.

MACKLEROONEY

OK. Let's go. Hey! The interview is over. C'mon.

BOB

Bart, Bart, would you please escort this gentleman to the door, if you can find it.

MacGregor turns his attention to the camera.

MACGREGOR

(To camera)

OK. That's enough.

The camera sees Terry, who quickly shakes his head. It continues running, shifting down.

BUGS

Mr. Roberts, is it true you referred once to crack as being "the great equalizer." Are you callously suggesting that crack serves to reduce the African-American population and destroy its community. Mr. Roberts!

MacGregor looks at camera.

MACGREGOR

We had an agreement about this. Bob says cut it off, you cut it off?

TERRY

It's off.

MACGREGOR

Underst-Alright, thank you.

BOB

(To Anderson)

What the hell is this

(To MacGregor)

Is that off?

MACGREGOR

Yes it's off-Isn't it off?

TERRY

Yes.

BOB

(To Anderson, furious;  
another side of Bob)

What in the hell is this? This is a meltdown! Where were your men, Clark?

ANDERSON

We took the wrong door.

MACGREGOR

Clark, this can't happen. It can't!

DOCKETT (O.S.)

You were supposed to go where? You were supposed to meet me upstairs. You have to learn to listen to me, man. This is not-We can't do this. We have a campaign we gotta win, understand?

BOB motions for MacGregor to go towards the camera. We go to black.

INT. ALTOONA TOWN HALL — NIGHT

Bob sings, while the CONTESTANTS parade along the runway.

Song: BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

BOB

She's a beautiful girl,  
as pretty as a picture  
She's a day in May,  
as real as today,  
She's got to be a girl

She's a beautiful girl,  
a face full of flowers  
A dynamite dame,  
she's destined for fame  
She's got to be a girl

We see RITA, the obsessed female fan, with her head in a Bob Roberts poster. Perrigrew is in the rings watching.

During the instrumental portion of the song, an ANNOUNCER introduces each of the CONTESTANTS separately and they each wave and smile.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and Gentlemen, the finalists  
are: Miss Crucible. Miss Broken  
Dove. Miss Three-Mile Island. Miss  
Pittsburgh. Miss Road-Kill. Miss  
Philadelphia.

The song continues under...

INT. ALTOONA TOWN HALL — NIGHT

BOB and the entourage exit the maze of hallways.

MACKLEROONEY

Goodbye, Mother.

The camera follows as they reach the stage door. With them is JENNIFER and NICOLE, contestants from the beauty pageant. Just outside, in front of the bus, Bugs Raplin awaits. As the entourage moves through the waiting crowd of fans, and nears him, he steps up.

BUGS

Mr. Roberts, you are a traitor, a  
drug smuggler. And you're gonna  
pay, you're gonna pay!

Bugs is pushed out of the way violently by Anderson as the  
entourage continues, silent. They enter immediately into  
their bus. We turn to see Bugs, still outside the open bus  
door, yelling.

BUGS (CONT'D)

You sold out your country, Mr.  
Roberts, and I'm gonna get you! I'm  
gonna get you!

The camera turns back towards the back of the bus to reveal  
Rita standing in the back of the bus still with the Bob  
Roberts campaign poster around her head.

OBSESSED FAN

You're looking at me, Bob! You're  
looking at me!

As Dockett and Mackler Rooney rush her off the bus, she  
continues calling to Bob.

OBSESSED FAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Bob. I'm sorry!

They throw her off the bus and Bugs is still outside,  
yelling.

BUGS

I'm gonna get you, Bob Roberts! I  
am going to get you!

INT. "THE PRIDE" TOUR BUS - NIGHT

We see a report on the television. Two anchors, CHIP DALEY  
and TAWNA TITAN, are delivering the news, and in the middle  
of a laughing jag they can't help.

CHIP DALEY

A recent report on homelessness by  
the Coalition for the Homeless  
estimates that over-I can't read  
that-Americans live without homes  
and a lot of Americans live below  
the poverty level. At a press  
conference today, Senator Brickley  
Paiste addressed the problem.

PAISTE

I've just been discussing the  
Paiste Amendment, which I shall  
introduce into the Senate the  
following week which will earmark  
two hundred million dollars for the  
homeless throughout the country.  
Where does the money come from?  
Well, it's the famous Peace  
Dividend which I hope very much the  
President will not transform into  
an investment in war.

We reveal the entourage minus Bob matching the monitors. The  
two contestants, Jennifer and Nicole, are with them. The  
following dialogue happens over the following news reports:

ANDERSON

...is that you blow smoke just  
before the election on an issue. He  
knows he can't get this bill  
passed.

DOCKETT

Sure he knows.

ANDERSON

No one can get the bill passed.

MACKLEROONEY

... it comes from the pockets of  
unemployed defence workers.

A news report on BOB ROBERTS at the Beauty Pageant comes on  
to the television.

MACGREGOR

Here it is. Sssh.

TAWNA TITAN

On a lighter note, the Miss  
Independence Beauty Contest was  
held tonight at the Altoona Town  
Hall. Contestants came from  
throughout the state vying for top  
honors and the chance to represent  
Pennsylvania in the national  
finals. Current Senatorial  
candidate Bob Roberts was there  
lending his support for the  
contest. And the winner was Miss  
Crucible.

We see MISS CRUCIBLE. She is African-American.

CHIP DALEY

Bob Roberts' anti-drug  
organization, Broken Dove,  
sponsored the pageant, which has  
donated its proceeds this year to a  
program for drug education in the  
schools. Tawna?

JENNIFER

... you talk a lot about your  
childhood.

MACGREGOR

You do? That's exciting.

NICOLA

She had really great rhythm.

JENNIFER

You know she told me she's never  
even had fried chicken before.

Everyone laughs, Dockett shifts uncomfortably in his seat.

MACKLEROONEY

Well, what do you know?

TAINA TITAN

Recent polls show Bob Roberts  
jumping ahead of Senator  
Brickley Paiste in their race for  
the Senate as Paiste can't seem to  
shake the accusations of sexual  
misconduct that hit his campaign  
last week.

REPORTER (O.S.)

Senator Paiste, have the  
allegations hurt your campaign!

PAISTE

(In hallay)

Of course not, this is America.  
Virtue always prevails.

EXT. HIGHWAY — DAY

"The Pride" roars down the road.

TITLE CARD: PITTSBURGH, PA

INSERT: WE HEAR A SERIOUS INSTRUMENTAL THEME AND SEE THE GRAPHIC: "PENNSYLVANIA SENATE CAMPAIGN DEBATE." AND WE CUT TO:

INT. DEBATE HALL — NIGHT (VIDEO FOOTAGE)

An historic hall set up for a debate. Two podiums flank a table at which a MODERATOR is seated. Bob stands at one podium, at the other incumbent Brickley Paiste, the other candidate for Senator. The debate is already in progress and Paiste is answering questions posed by the moderator.

MODERATOR

Senator Paiste, recent reports suggest that the Roberts campaign has been behind the leak of the story regarding yourself and a teenage campaign worker.

BOB

That is a lie.

MODERATOR

Mr. Roberts.

PAISTE

The whole thing is a lie. I've already explained that the girl in question is a close friend of my granddaughter and I was driving them both home. I am also distressed that a 16-year-old who has done nothing wrong should be so publicly vilified. As for Bob Roberts, I could imply guilt by association, which I think you would like me to do, but I won't. Because I do not believe and I have never believed in negative campaigning.

We cut between the two candidates, highlights of the debate.

BOB

Ladies and gentlemen, why can't you get ahead? Why can't you have the home of your dreams? The fast car? A nice vacation?

PAISTE

Let's tackle the homeless problem. Let's tackle childcare, healthcare.

BOB

Why has your American dream been relegated to the trash heap of history? I'll tell you why, because of the wasteful social programs of Brickly Paiste.

PAISTE

Let's put people back to work. Create jobs, encourage industry. I can see a brighter future but we have to work hard and, dare I say it, sacrifice.

BOB

And I remind the public that Brickly Paiste still has not told us how he will vote on the use of force in the Persian Gulf.

PAISTE

We need a strong America, dedicated to issues that matter. We need to care about people.

BOB

Let's cut taxes! Let's make it possible for the working man to keep the money he earns.

PAISTE

Because that's what politics is really about: reality, not image.

BOB

Vote for me and I will bring the values of the common man to bear in Washington, DC. I will bring youth and experience and passion and belief.

PAISTE

So let us be real together.

BOB

Thank you for your vote.

Applause from the audience, we see Bob and Paiste cross to the centre and shake hands. Then Polly and Lukas Hart III join their man on stage. They all wave confidently.

INT. BRICKLY PAISTE'S OFFICE — DAY

Terry interviews Paiste.

PAISTE

I was quite disturbed during our famous debate, if it could be called that. A series of photo opportunities is perhaps more precise. I get vibrations from Mr. Bob Roberts of a very disturbing sort. I haven't any idea who he is. I haven't any idea what he's like. I don't think I'm supposed to have any idea. I know that he proved to be a master of pushing racist buttons, and sexist buttons, this and that. The politics of emotion. He's very good at that. What's behind it? I don't see anybody at home. But I will say that once or twice, in the course of our debate, I detected a slight whiff of sulphur in the air.

INT. CONCERT HALL — PENN STATE — NIGHT

Bob Roberts sings a duet with Clarissa Flan.

Song: DON'T VOTE.

BOB AND CLARISSA

I'm a bleeding heart  
let's give money away  
To lazy people in the slums  
I'm a bleeding heart  
Let's eliminate our nuclear bombs  
Arabs can be...our friends...Right.

Don't Vote  
if you believe in that  
we'll be fine without you  
It's plain to see  
what you believe  
will lead to anarchy

So if you're hanging to the right  
You can vote for me  
It is your God-given right  
From sea to shining sea

What's right is right  
what's left is wrong

(MORE)

BOB AND CLARISSA (CONT'D)

Who'll dare to sing this song  
C'mon and join this mighty train  
and all the free will live again  
C'mon hop and sing this song  
together we'll be strong  
And vote

Intercut with the song is the following scene:

EXT. CONCERT HALL. PENN STATE — NIGHT

Bugs again. he speaks faster than humanly possible.

BUGS

I've been up all night. I had to meet the deadline. Lead story. 'Bob Roberts and S&L' by Bugs Raplin. And I quote—this based on a source I spoke to last night. October 22, today's: an unidentified source involved in the West Pennsylvania Savings and Loan disaster told this reporter that in 1987 an organization called Broken Dove procured real estate loans under the pretense of building housing for the homeless and proceeded to use the money to buy transport planes for private enterprise. Active board members at the time included businessman Lukas Hart III and senatorial candidate Bob Roberts. Roberts and Hart ripped off Savings and Loans to buy planes. The money meant for low income housing went to buy planes to smuggle drugs.

TERRY

This is an astonishing accusation.

BUGS

This is the smoking gun. He's going down for this one.

BUGS (CONT'D)

If the majors pick up this story, I'll be very surprised. I don't expect that they will. But I have a contact at a TV station in Harrisburg. Maybe he'll run it. This could be big. I gotta go.

He motions to the paper in Terry's hand.

BUGS (CONT'D)  
Hey, you keep that.

INT. CONCERT HALL. PENN STATE — NIGHT

Most of the audience applauds wildly.

BOB  
How about a big hand for Clarissa  
Flan?

The audience applauds and Clarissa leaves the stage joyous.

BOB (CONT'D)  
Thanks, Clarrie. This next little  
ditty is dedicated to ...

VOICE  
Bob stinks!

About five of the audience members, all dressed in white, are  
chanting "Bob Stinks! Bob Stinks!" Bob sees them, looks  
straight at them and says:

BOB  
This next little ditty is dedicated  
to you!

Song: COMPLAIN.

BOB (CONT'D)  
(He sings)  
Some people must have  
some people have not  
and they complain and complain  
and complain and complain and  
complain  
  
Some people will work  
some simply will not  
But they complain and complain and  
complain and complain and  
complain  
  
Like This: It's society's fault  
I don't have a job  
It's society's fault  
that I'm a slob  
I've got potential  
no one can see  
Give me my welfare  
(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)  
and let me be me.

Hey bud you're living in  
the land of the free  
No one's gonna hand you  
opportunity

The live performance begins to intercut with PROTESTORS  
outside.

BOB (CONT'D)  
Some people must have  
some never will  
But they complain and complain  
And complain and complain and  
complain

EXT. CONCERT HALL. PENN STATE — NIGHT

PROTESTORS intercut with the song above.

PROTESTOR 1  
Bob Roberts doesn't represent the  
common man, he represents big  
business.

PROTESTOR 2  
...contemptible yuppie scum...

PROTESTOR 3  
It's all about "me" and his money.  
And that's why I'm out here, it's  
the only natural thing to do.

FEMALE PROTESTOR  
He talks about traditional American  
values as if he defined what they  
were. As if traditional American  
values meant greed, distrust and  
avarice.

PROTESTOR I  
He passes the buck of blame on to  
the silent, who he knows will not  
respond. According to Bob Roberts,  
the disenfranchised are the  
problem, the reason for the mess  
we're in. Kind of like blaming the  
woman for the rape or the dead for  
the murder.

FEMALE PROTESTOR

The way that I learned about  
traditional American values were  
that they had something to do with  
altruism, equality and kindness.

PROTESTOR 3

Forget human rights, forget women's  
rights, forget helping the  
homeless, let me tell you that. All  
that's going to go away. They're  
going to take all the money that  
everybody makes and they're going  
to use it for their own benefit.  
And that's what's going to happen.

PROTESTOR 1

Bob Roberts is not for the people.  
He's for himself and the people who  
have made him powerful.

PROTESTOR 3

I mean, he reminds me of the roast  
beef, you know, at the butcher  
shop, up front, the good piece of  
meat that they bring out for the  
big and the powerful, whoever they  
are. But underneath that beef,  
something smells, let me tell you.

EXT. CONCERT HALL. PENN STATE — NIGHT

An altercation is underway between Bob supporters (including  
the BOYS) and some of the PROTESTORS.

BOB SUPPORTER

You guys are both commie liberals.

PROTESTOR

What are you doing? You're so  
young.

INT. "THE PRIDE" — NIGHT

Clarissa plays a song softly. BOB is working on a laptop  
computer.

CLARISSA

We are marching always forward...  
Never slow to fall behind  
A day of triumph in the mind....  
We are moving towards a great day

The camera pans around to see Macklerooney and Perrigrew sleeping. Dockett is on the phone, speaking German. On the television we see George Bush, then Saddam Hussein. The camera pans back to BOB and Clarissa. A news report comes up on the TV.

TAWNA TITAN

At the top of our news, violence broke out during a Bob Roberts concert at Penn State University tonight. Sources say that between twenty to thirty students began verbally abusing the popular singer-candidate midway into the concert. As they were being removed from the hall the protestors attacked security guards and a melee ensued. Sources close to the candidate say that he is unharmed but quote "upset at the preponderance of radicals on college campuses today. The sixties are over", said Roberts.

CHIP DALEY

I couldn't agree more, Tawna. Polls released today indicate that Brickley Paiste is running neck and neck in his race against the folksinging politician Bob Roberts. Paiste has been hurt recently by rumors of an affair with a teenage campaign worker, Tawna. Although he has denied the allegations, Paiste has not fully recovered in the polls.

We pull back from the TV to Clarissa and Bob, now both singing

CLARISSA AND BOB

We are marching for the children  
We are marching for the poor  
Now we're marching for self-interest  
We will march forever more

We see Dockett put down the phone and rub his eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT — DAWN

Bob and Anderson fencing again.

Insert: television news report.

CAROL CRUISE

A bombshell dropped overnight,  
Chuck, and the morning  
finds us with a story destined to  
prove troubling for the Bob Roberts  
campaign. From our sister station  
in Harrisburg, correspondent Rock  
Bork.

INSERT: TV NEWS REPORT OUTSIDE DEMOLISHED BUILDING.

ROCK

I am standing in front of what once  
was the West Pennsylvania Savings  
and Loan, which, until last year,  
was a viable functioning thrift.  
Only a year ago federal regulators  
closed the bank and began an  
investigation of improprieties  
involving misuse of funds. Tonight  
comes information that Lukas Hart  
III, Bob Roberts' campaign  
chairman, may be subpoenaed to tell  
the regulators what he knows about  
an organization called Broken Dove  
and its involvement with unpaid  
housing loans.

EXT. PARKING LOT — DAWN

Macklerooney and Dockett are scoring the match and speaking  
to Terry. Behind them, reflected in the chrome of the bus, we  
see a reflection of Bob and Anderson fencing.

MACKLEROONEY

Hello, reality check. Broken Dove  
ripping off S&L's? The Broken Dove  
for whom altruism far surpasses net  
worth?

DOCKETT

Broken Dove whose donations to  
hospitals work effectively to keep  
youngsters off drugs?

MACKLEROONEY

Accuse your enemy of your own worst crime.

DOCKETT

A dictum of disinformation.

MACKLEROONEY

Credo hippocretus.

DOCKETT

Pot calling the kettle black.

The match continues. Terry interviews MacGregor in the foreground.

MACGREGOR

You know Terry, most political campaigns would pale in comparison, but this one is a peach.

BOB has lost the match. As everyone rushes about, preparing to leave, MacGregor keeps talking.

MACGREGOR (CONT'D)

It's like a vicious, hard-fought game, you see. Close to the final minutes, then absolute chaos reigns. And then one team explodes, right through the proverbial roof, as it were. The dust settles, the blood is flowing. It's a massacre.

Bob climbs aboard his motorcycle, starts it.

MACGREGOR (CONT'D)

But that one team is jumping up and down with big, silly grins on their faces. 'That's gonna be us, Terry. Fun, that's what it's all about. Fun. There's nothing like the unbridled fun of a hard-fought campaign.

Bob peels out dangerously, the back wheel slides out, he wrestles to compensate but the bike goes out of control and he goes down, the bike skidding into the dirt. Anderson, Mackleroooney and Dockett run to Bob, the camera following. Bob is slow in getting up.

MACKLEROONEY

He's down.

ANDERSON  
Seal the wound! Seal the wound!

DOCKETT  
Call an ambulance!

BOB  
Get your goddamn hands off me, you  
fag...

He gets up. Perrigrew and Macklerooney arrive. Everyone walks  
towards the bus.

BOB (CONT'D)  
Put your guns away...! (To  
Anderson) You get on the goddamn  
bus. Security's falling apart. Bush  
league, pal. Bush league. Get the  
goddamn camera out of here!

ANDERSON  
Everybody on the bus!

MACGREGOR  
Terry, ride behind in the van.  
We'll see you in Bethlehem,

EXT. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY — DAY

"The Pride" in motion through a beautiful backdrop of nature.

INT. BEST CHURCH — DAY

We are in a large congregational hall. A Spiritual Revival is  
in progress. Bob is finishing a duet with Edna, a black born-  
again gospel singer. Behind them on the stage is a choir in  
robes and an organist who is 85 years old. The preacher is  
REVEREND PETE BEST. His sermon is intercut with the song.

Song: TIMES ARE CHANGIN' BACK.

BOB AND EDNA  
We shall not be moved,  
we shall not be moved  
We shall not be moved today  
Our minds are quick and our hearts  
are smooth  
We shall not be moved today  
Times are changin' back,  
Times are changin' back  
Times are changin' back today D  
(MORE)

BOB AND EDNA (CONT'D)  
eep in my heart I do believe  
Times are changin' back today.

REVEREND  
Today children, I'm talking  
hypocrisy... Hypocrisy that winds  
itself down, every day from  
Washington DC... The hypocrisy of  
an organization that calls itself  
the US Congress. The hypocrisy of  
an investigation that seeks to  
implicate patriots, our dearest  
friends, in the constant struggle  
to make this land a pure one once  
again. Lord pave the way for a  
rebel's path to Washington. Make  
the road a smooth one for Bob  
Roberts, a man who can clean up the  
devil's mess in our Capital. Say  
Amen!

CONGREGATION  
Amen!

REVEREND  
Say AMEN!

CONGREGATION  
AMEN!

REVEREND  
AMEN!

CONGREGATION  
AMEN!

We see BOB. He is deep in thought, somewhere else.

INSERT: TELEVISION NEWS REPORT.

CAROL CRUISE  
Despite his efforts to rise above  
what may or may not be the truth,  
trouble seems to be following the  
Roberts campaign. Chuck?

CHUCK MARLIN  
Yes, Carol, it seems more bad news  
has come for Roberts.  
(MORE)

CHUCK MARLIN (CONT'D)

This morning it was announced that Lukas Hart III, Bob Roberts' friend and campaign chairman was subpoenaed today to appear before the Senate Subcommittee investigating the West Pennsylvania Savings and Loan scandal.

On the television, Lukas Hart appears outside a courtroom, briefcase in hand and surrounded by a team of lawyers.

HART

Partisan maneuvering, unsubstantiated innuendo. These allegations are hogwash. The timing is obviously meant to hurt us, but there's not a chance it will, the voters are gonna see straight through this pathetic attempt to derail our campaign. Thank you.

As he walks away from the reporters, Hart shoves violently at the lens of the camera.

CHUCK MARLIN

The subpoena has come as a shock to the campaign and campaign staffers fear a slippage in the polls. Despite Hart's denials, this could spell trouble for the Roberts campaign. Carol?

CAROL CRUISE

More news in a moment.

INSERT: TELEVISION COMMERCIAL. SOUND OF A PHONE RINGING. WE START CLOSE ON THE RECEIVER IN A TRASH CAN, THEN FOLLOW THE CORD UP TO A DESK. ALL THE LINES ON THE PHONE ARE LIT UP, RINGING. THE DESKTOP IS LITTERED WITH PAPER AND A SCRIBBLE ON THE BLOTTER READS "I LOVE TEENS." SOMEONE IS SLEEPING ON THE DESKTOP, HIS HEAD RESTING ON A PORNO MAGAZINE.

MAN (O.S.)

The current Senator of Pennsylvania believes in giving free rides to welfare recipients. The current Senator of Pennsylvania believes in giving unqualified men and women jobs that could be yours. The current Senator of Pennsylvania voted to give himself a pay raise last year. Paiste. As he sleeps, we live his nightmare. Wake up. Vote Bob.

A SUPER READS: PAID FOR BY CITIZENS FOR BOB ROBERTS

INSERT: NEWSPAPER HEADLINES: "INVESTIGATION ROCKS ROBERTS CAMPAIGN" AND "PAISTE RETAKES LEAD"

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO — DAY

We are at a rehearsal of a sketch on the hip urban rustic set of "Cutting Edge, Live."

TECHNICIANS and ACTORS mill about. Three cameras sit idle. Terry, the GUEST HOST, the WRITERS and producer MICHAEL JANES, a hip, mid-forties man dressed in the latest pastel casuals, discuss the show.

TERRY (O.S.)

One week before the election,  
amidst controversy and declining  
polls, the Roberts campaign travels  
from Pennsylvania to New York City.

MAN AND WOMAN ACTOR

Can't touch dees!

GUEST HOST

Immigrants.

TERRY (O.S.)

Bob has been invited to perform on  
the highly rated television show  
"Cutting Edge Live." The top-rated  
show reaches twenty million people  
nationally, one million in  
Pennsylvania alone.

MICHAEL

We hope, we hope.

GUEST HOST

Not-not in a real interesting way.  
More like at the expense of the  
immigrants.

WRITER

No, no-immigrants love the  
Kornhausers.

MICHAEL

I think we have to be at the  
expense of somebody.

While the staff of the show are discussing the sketch which has just been rehearsed, the DIRECTOR notices BOB's presence, greets him and gets the producer's attention.

DIRECTOR  
Excuse me, Michael.

Bob and Polly Roberts are introduced to Michael. by MacGregor. They shake hands. Also present is Carol, the producer's assistant and the self-appointed conscience of the show. They are unaware of the camera's presence.

MICHAEL  
(Shaking hands with BOB)  
Bob, how are you? Oh, it's nice to see you.

BOB  
It's good to see you, too.

MACGREGOR  
This is Polly Roberts, Michael.

POLLY  
A pleasure.

MICHAEL  
Hello, how are you? I'm Michael Janes.

BOB  
It's such a pleasure for us to be here, I can't tell you what big flans, er, fans we are of the show—I'm so nervous, I guess—

DIRECTOR  
Nothing to be nervous about.

BOB  
It's an honor to be here, it really is.

MICHAEL  
It's an honor for me to be here, I guess. This is my assistant, Carol.

BOB  
Hello, Carol, it's a pleasure.

CAROL  
Yeah.

BOB  
My wife, Polly.

MICHAEL  
And our guest host is...

Michael turns to introduce the Guest host to Bob, but the Host has walked away.

DIRECTOR  
Working on his lines—

WRITER  
—Kornhauser—

DIRECTOR  
—Immigrants—

BOR  
I love the Kornhausers, it's my favourite. "Can't Touch Dees!"

ACTOR  
He knows it.

BOB  
Is the Lobster Family going to be on?

DIRECTOR AND WRITERS  
Oh, yeah, absolutely.

BOB  
Polly's favorite is the Lobster Family, Sorry to interrupt, carry on.

Bob, Polly and MacGregor leave. The Guest Host immediately approaches Michael.

GUEST HOST  
Michael, Michael, Michael?

MICHAEL  
Yes?

GUEST HOST  
What's up with Bob Roberts?

DIRECTOR  
Musical guest.

GUEST HOST

You said to me that KRS-1 was going  
to be the musical guest.

MICHAEL

Right, right. And they're sick—

WRITER 1

—in LA—

DIRECTOR

—standards...

MICHAEL

...they're in LA, I think,

DIRECTOR

...standards...

MICHAEL

No, they're sick. They got sick in  
LA, and they couldn't make the  
plane, I think they called before.  
I think it's an ear thing and they  
can't fly because, you know, I  
mean, they might not be able to  
hear, and...

WRITER 1

Pressure ...

DIRECTOR

Standards.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

The Guest Host is taping a promo spot for "Cutting Edge  
Live." BOB stands off to his side, waiting to be introduced,  
Michael Janes stands in the background, watching the monitor,  
and the three WRITERS prompt the HOST.

DIRECTOR

In five, four, three, two.

HOST

Hi, c'mon and join us for "Cutting  
Edge Live" and watch me grovel  
before the video altar, with a  
special guest who I thought was  
going to be KRS-1.

WRITERS

"Can't touch dees!"

HOST

Stop saying that, I'm not going to say that.

MICHAEL

Good. I loved it. How'd we do on time? How'd we do?

DIRECTOR

That was good for time.

MICHAEL

Good for you? You sure?

DIRECTOR

That was good for time, except he didn't say "can't touch dees."

MICHAEL

Oh that's fine, we'll do it later. Bob, if you would just strum a little bit...

BOB

Sure.

Bob introduces himself to the Guest Host, who reluctantly shakes his hand.

MICHAEL

And if you'll say the first part over again, I'd love to do a, you know, a very pulled together one with the two of them. And they have to stand together.

DIRECTOR

All right, here we go. This is promo number two.

BOB

You want me to say "can't touch dees"? Absolutely. It would be my pleasure.

DIRECTOR

Promo, number two in five, four, three, two...

HOST

Hi—I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm leaving. You can come and talk to me, or not. I just got to take some time...

BOB  
"Can't touch dees."

MICHAEL  
I liked it, I thought it was good.

BOB  
That was it? That was, a...

MICHAEL  
I dunno, I liked it. Worked for me.

DIRECTOR  
You liked it?

CUT TO:

INT. BRICKLEY PAISTE'S OFFICE - DAY

The Paiste interview continues.

PAISTE  
Offhand, I would not say that being a professional singer is the best background for a legislator of the United States, but I believe if Mr. Bob Roberts' background, if it is true that he has had some experience with the CIA, then he comes better prepared than most people do to the Senate, with the knowledge of what the real government of the United States is, which is the National Security Council. This was created in 1950 by Harry Truman, and the country is governed by the National Security Council, which is the Defense Department, the CIA in combination with the great makers of weapons around the country. So, he's already had some initiation into true power.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

A rehearsal is in progress. Three Writers and the Director watch. Close-up of Bob watching the rehearsal, expressionless. The weight of the campaign hangs heavy over him.

HOST

In the beginning our great company provided appliances for the neighborhood. We heated your home, refrigerated your food, and improved the quality of your life. We prospered and you loved us. And we grew into a large multinational corporation. In fact, we own this very network.

Meanwhile, MacGregor and Perrigrew are going over details of Bob's performance with Michael Janes and Carol.

MACGRFGOR

"Don't Vote" and a new song.

CAROL

New?

PERRIGREW

Brand new.

CAROL

"Don't Smoke". That's what we agreed on I believe. Yeah, yeah, yeah, "Don't Smoke" and 'Prevailing Tides". Michael?

We cut back to the Host.

HOST

Our chief source of income, however, is the arms industry. Yes, we rely heavily on those fat government contracts to make these useless weapons of mass destruction.

BOB and POLLY watch, unamused.

HOST (CONT'D)

And even though we have been indicted and convicted for fraud several times, you don't hear too much about our bad side because we own our own news division.

MACGREGOR

Bob doesn't care about what we agreed on.

(MORE)

MACGREGOR (CONT'D)

He made it quite clear to me, when last we spoke, that he feels very strongly about the new material, that he feels it should be said right now, and he will not back down.

The camera is tight on a TV monitor. The Host glares into the lens.

HOST

So chances are pretty slim that you'll hear reports of our environmental mishaps or the way we bust those unions. We even have a highly rated Saturday night show that the public buys as entertainment with a leftist slant.

Michael takes control of the situation.

MICHAEL

You know, I'm really sorry, but we actually have a policy on "Cutting Edge" that no new material is ever performed until it is proven to work. You know, this is live television. This is not a party.

We see the Host on stage surrounded by the Writers and Director. Trouble is brewing.

WRITER 2

It doesn't work.

WRITER 3

It's not funny.

DIRECTOR

You can't do that. It's self-hating. It's shooting your paycheck in the foot. It's crazy. It's self-destructive. And it's not funny.

HOST

I think it's funny.

WRITER 3

Yeah, but you don't have to come to work here next week.

WRITER 1

Look, we all wanna change the world, but we want to do it slowly, and keep our jobs, too, if that's OK.

WRITER 2

Can we just rehearse the lobster sketch?

The argument is getting heated.

CAROL

I personally find him repulsive. I fought his appearance on this show from the word go. But the network has new owners and they like Bob Roberts. They like a lot of things we don't like. But they're the boss, right? They can tell us Bob's on the show, but guess again, you've got to be crazy if you think we're going to let that fascist yuppie go on live television and just sing whatever he wants to.

MICHAEL

Carol. Would you please calm down?

MACGREGOR

This conduct is quite unprofessional. Let me assure you of something, Michael.

MICHAEL

Yes?

MACGREGOR

Bob told me personally he will walk off this show if he isn't allowed to express himself freely.

CAROL

Let him walk.

Michael Janes becomes aware of the camera and the gathering interest of the crew.

MICHAEL

I think we're going to go to my office and we're going to talk about this privately.

MACGREGOR

Fine.

MICHAEL

Carol, I want you to call Bonnie immediately and have her place a call to Lukas Hart.

CAROL

How do I find him? What jail is he in?

MACGREGOR

Now that was uncalled for!

CAROL

Oh, yeah? Excusez-moi!

MACGREGOR

That's totally uncalled for! She is a loud, abrasive woman!

CAROL

Oh, shove it.

MACGREGOR

And she's rude!

HOST

It is not funny!!!

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

The Director is speaking to Terry.

DIRECTOR

It's been a real crazy week, full moon and all, I dunno, we're an hour away from air and, uh, I can't find the host. Michael?

MICHAEL

Where is he? Where is he?

DIRECTOR

I dunno.

MICHAEL

Yeah? Well, that's not an answer. Find him, now!

DIRECTOR

Yeah!

MICHAEL

What are you guys watching?

WRITERS

The news.

MICHAEL

What news? Real news? Well, why don't you do something fucking productive, all right?

CAROL

Michael, Michael. It's taken care of.

Perrigrew walks at a brisk pace with an agitated look on her face. She sees MacGregor.

PERRIGREW

I told Bob the network wants a copy of the lyrics. He won't give. And he's ready to walk.

MACGREGOR

Mr. Hart's on his way down, I think we're going to be OK.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - NIGHT

Hand-held camera. The show is in progress. The strains of the final moments of a comedy sketch is heard.

"KORNHAUSERS" (THE ACTORS)

Can't touch dees!!!

Laughter. The "Kornhausers" high-five. Applause. Theme music. BOB jumps up on the stage. The response is mixed. Some polite applause, some jeering.

BOB

I was going to sing a song tonight called "Don't Smoke", but in the spirit of live television, I'd like to sing a song I just wrote, a song about courage and conviction in these troubled times.

BOB starts a reel to reel tape machine. The intro begins. Music starts. Bells. Choir.

Song: RETAKE AMERICA.

As the musical intro begins we see the camera pan off of Bob to find Carol walking out of the studio. The camera follows Carol, who walks furiously towards the control room.

CAROL  
That son of a bitch.

BOB (O.S.)  
(Sings)  
There's a man for all seasons  
There's a man with a plan  
Who's got the courage to take  
An honest stand. Me.

Carol walks down a hallway, the camera following.

BOB (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
America is a work of art  
And I thank the Lord  
For America.

Carol enters the control room where CHARLIE is chief technician.

CAROL  
Cut it off. Go to black. Go to  
commercial, Charlie. What's going  
on, Michael?

Charlie ignores Carol.

MICHAEL  
Calm down, Carol.

He sees the camera.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Get the camera out now.

BOB (O.S.)  
(Sings)  
Retake America for your little ones

CAROL  
What is this? You lied to me,  
Michael.

MICHAEL  
The network wants it on, Carol.

Behind Michael we see Bob in a monitor:

BOB  
(Sings)  
They will look back with pride  
At the things you've done

CAROL  
You can't fuckin' do this.

MICHAEL  
The network reviewed the material  
and they want it on.

BOB  
(Sings on monitor)  
You don't have a choice Come  
election day

CAROL  
Oh, how dare you? This is obscene.  
It's a fucking commercial for a  
fucking political candidate. You've  
got nothing left, Michael, you're  
nothing but a fucking shell with  
goo inside.

MICHAEL  
Are you having your period?

BOB  
(Sings on monitor)  
Only one man understands  
The American Way

CAROL  
Shit.

CAROL turns past camera and leaves the control room. The camera quickly follows her as, incensed, she walks behind and underneath the bleachers holding the studio audience.

BOB  
(Sings off screen)  
America is a work of art  
And I thank the Lord for America  
Retake America.

CAROL  
Cocksucking Nazi. Fuck you.

Carol cursing, yanks at some electrical wires. Having disconnected some, the audio is greatly diminished, we hear feedback, chaos. Carol comes out from underneath the bleachers heading toward the stage. The monitors go to black, then a preset graphic.

Panic among the CREW as they look to correct the malfunction. Bob stops playing. The feedback stops and over the PA comes the Director's voice. Technicians scramble around. Bob sits angrily waiting as this theatre unfolds before him. Michael Janes steps onstage.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
What happened??

MICHAEL  
You get out. You get out now. This is it. You're through, you are finished!

CAROL  
Boo hoo hoo.

MICHAEL  
You get of here now!

CAROL  
No problem.

MICHAEL  
Now! Move it! (To Director) Ready with the lobster sketch?

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Bob, I'm really so sorry. I want to apologize to you right now. I'm very sorry. Very, very humble apologies. You're going to be on the show again. And everybody, I'd really love to give a nice round of applause, please, to Bob Roberts.

The AUDIENCE applauds. Bob gels up from his stool and walks off the stage. The camera follows Bob out of the studio, passing actors dressed as lobsters. Bob is angry, his entourage by his side.

The Lobster Family Theme. Applause. We hear the dismal sketch beginning in the background.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Bob goes through the studio doors.

BOB  
Where's Polly?

HART  
She stayed behind to watch the  
Lobsters, Bob, she'll join us at  
the hotel later.

DOCKETT  
We're coming out.

BOB reaches the elevator where a crowd of people wait to see celebrities. Bugs Ralpin is there and yells out.

BUGS  
Mr. Roberts—Mr. Roberts! Did you  
read my article, Mr. Roberts?

Rita the obsessed fan suddenly steps up and plants a kiss on Bob. As Mackleroooney hustles her away, two gunshots ring out.

Before we know what is happening, the camera is bumped, all hell breaks loose, the camera is jostled about again, people are yelling, screaming, panicking. Anderson and Lukas Hart have tackled someone.

ANDERSON  
Get the gun. Get the gun.

MACKLEROONEY  
Where'd he go: Who was it?

PERRIGREW  
Oh my god. Bob. Bob!

The camera comes back to Bob, who lies on the ground motionless, Perrigrew beside him, holding his hand.

PERRIGRET  
Bob. Bob. Get an ambulance!

MACKLEROONEY  
Get out of the way! Get back! Get  
back! Give him some air! Jesus.

Chaos.

HART  
I've got him!

The camera swings around to see a man we recognize. It is Bugs Ralpin.

BUGS  
What? It's not me. No.

Lukas Hart has a chokehold on Bugs from behind and keeps him restrained.

HART  
Check his pockets, Clark.

Anderson discovers a gun in one of the man's pockets. Hart moves towards Bob.

HART (CONT'D)  
He's losing a lot of blood. We  
can't wait for an ambulance. Let's  
take him in my car. Hurry. Give me  
a hand.

Hart, MacGregor, Dockett, Mackleroooney lift Bob and take him down an escalator.

We see glimpses of BOB's frightened and confused face....  
Perrigrew in tears. Calvin, Burt and Roger run along with the crowd.

INT. LOBBY TELEVISION BUILDING - NIGHT

The camera runs out to find Bob being put into Hart's car.  
The doors close and Hart's car pulls away.

Our camera grabs a taxi and follows.

CUT TO:

EXT. MID MANHATTAN PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Bob is hustled out of the car.

The camera follows as he is carried towards an Emergency door.

NURSE  
You can't come in here.

EXT. MID MANHATTAN PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Terry is getting some footage of the candlelight vigil for Bob.

BIF (A FAN)  
This is how it happened: I was  
waiting for Bob when all of a  
sudden, gunshots, seven or eight of  
them.

(MORE)

BIF (A FAN) (CONT'D)

I quickly jumped on top of him to protect him. That's when I saw them--the Arabs--seven or eight of them. I found the main guy, disarmed him, knocked him unconscious, while the other guys were running away...

A POLICEMAN approaches Terry.

POLICEMAN (O.S.)

Terry Manchester?

TERRY

Who wants to know?

POLICEMAN

Don't get smart with me. You Terry Manchester?

TERRY

Yes, I am.

POLICEMAN

We understand you were filming during the shooting.

TERRY

Yes.

POLICEMAN

We'd like to look at that footage. It might provide us with some evidence.

TERRY

The footage is in my van. I'll get it for you.

Terry moves off, followed by the Policeman.

EXT. MID MANHATTAN PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Rita sits on the steps, crying. The Boys are in deep mourning. Calvin and Roger hug. They all cry.

ROGER (O.S.)

If he dies, I swear to God, I'm going to find that guy.

A RELIGIOUS ZEALOT dressed in a hospital gown under his coat holds a cross in front of his head and walks towards the camera.

RELIGIOUS ZEALOT  
Please Jesus, please Jesus, please  
Jesus—save Bob, save Bob.

INT. MID MANHATTAN PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A press conference is in full swing, REPORTERS jockey for position, scream out questions, flashes from cameras are continuous throughout. A POLICE SPOKESMAN addresses the throng.

POLICE SPOKESMAN  
At 12:17 a.m. this morning,  
Pennsylvania Senatorial candidate  
Bob Roberts was shot as he was  
leaving the "Cutting Edge Live"  
television show. He was shot twice  
at close range with a 22 calibre  
pistol. His condition has been  
listed as critical.

REPORTER 3  
Is there a suspect in the shooting?

POLICE SPOKESMAN  
Yes, we have a suspect in custody.  
He is under interrogation at the  
present time.

REPORTER 2 (O.S.)  
Who is it? What is his name?

POLICE SPOKESMAN (O.S.)  
I cannot reveal that information at  
this time.

We see a replay of the shooting.

EXT. MID MANHATTAN PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

As we pan from the doors of the hospital we see that the vigil is now still.

One WOMAN is singing PREVAILING TIDES.

WOMAN  
...Theirs is a fool's game and those that play  
(MORE)

WOMAN (CONT'D)

will find their hands tied  
and their hearts dry  
Prevailing tides  
will drown you  
unless you learn  
to swim against them...

The bodies all seem to be crowding into a centre point.

A news anchor, ERNESTO GALEANO, is doing a live report from the vigil. As we get closer to the ball of people we realize that they are all listening to something and discover it is a portable television on which Galeano is seen. The boys are there.

ERNESTO GALEANO

Well, he's in a serious condition, Jack. And they don't know if he'll live or not. Just minutes ago we learned the name of the suspect from Frank Ryan of the NYPD. His name is John Alijah Raplin, nicknamed "Bugs." He's an ethnic male approximately thirty-five years old. Not much else is known about the suspect at the present time, but we do know that they'll be moving him shortly from the 33rd Precinct for further questioning. This is Ernesto Galeano reporting live from Mid Manhattan Presbyterian Hospital.

Pandemonium in the vigil crowd as the report ends.

VIGILANTE I

Where's the 33rd precinct?

MANY VOICES

Sssh SSSSSSSHHHHHHHHH!!!

Pandemonium breaks out again.

VIGILANTE I

Alijah. He's an Arab.

VIGILANTE 2

His last name's Raplin.

VIGILANTE I

Half Arab.

CALVIN

Where's the 33rd Precinct?

VIGILANTE 4  
58th and Third.

ROGER  
Let's go.

BURT  
Who's going! Let's get that guy.

Different factions set out.

VIGILANTE 3  
58th and Third. They're moving him.  
Let's get him.

CALVIN  
Let's Go!!

VIGILANTE 4  
They're releasing the assassin!  
Let's Go!

Calvin, Roger, Burt and about a fourth of the vigil take off down the street. Vigilantes.

CUT TO:

EXT. THREE BLOCKS LATER - NIGHT

The group has become a mob. A man with long hair approaches, unsuspecting; the LIBERAL.

The mob surround him, taunt him.

BURT  
You don't deserve to live in this country, you piece of Arab trash!

VIGILANTE 4  
Fuckin' Arab!

VIGILANTE (BIF)  
Fuckin' Liberal!

VIGILANTE 3  
Kill the Arab!

VIGILANTE I  
Fuck you, you fuckin' Arab!

CALVIN  
You're gonna die!

Fists hit him from all angles. The SOUND MAN from the documentary team goes in to break it up and gets hit himself. Terry joins in trying to reason with the mob, also gets hit.

VIGILANTE 3

Get out of here, there's a camera!

After some chaos, the mob disperses, running down the block. The Liberal, badly beaten, staggers off in the other direction.

LIBERAL

(To the mob)

Fuck you, Man! Fuck!

TERRY (O.S.)

Did you get that?

EXT. 33RD PRECINCT - NIGHT

The mob arrives at the Precinct. Bugs Raplin is surrounded by police and is being escorted into a police van. The security is tight and we, at a distance, only catch a glimpse of him. A violent display by the fans, who yell obscenities and throw objects at the suspect.

VIGILANTES

Kill him!!!

EXT. MID MANHATTAN PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

News reporters and crews mill about.

A group of one hundred or so fans keep a candlelight vigil in the cold. The vigilantes, now calmed, stand at the foot of the stairs in front of the hospital and sing "Times are Changin' Back."

We pan right across their faces. They are mostly young, they are truly grieving. We see Calvin, Roger, and Burt, Bob's fans from Philadelphia, and BIF, the deranged fan with the boombox.

Terry is interviewing Rita, whom we saw on the bus and at the shooting. She sits in a ring of white candles.

RITA

I'm evil, I killed him. It was my fault. I'm bad luck. He said I could kiss him.

TERRY (O.S.)  
Who? Who said you could?

RITA  
One of the Bob men. The men with  
the black strings in their ears.

INSERT: FOOTAGE OF SHOOTING

RITA (V.O.)  
He said "you can kiss Bob." He said  
"Bob wants you to give him a kiss",  
and I kissed him, and he was shot.

EXT. MID MANHATTAN PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Perrigrew comes out of the hospital. She is nervous. There is  
blood on her dress.

PERRIGREW  
I just came for some air.

TERRY  
How is Bob?

PERRIGREW  
He's gonna live. Thank God.

TERRY  
Yes. My God.

PERRIGREW  
He probably won't walk, for a  
while. But he's gonna live and  
that's what counts.

TERRY  
You've all had a very rough  
evening. I'm sorry we have to  
bother you.

PERRIGREW  
Oh, that's OK. No mind. I'm going  
to go back up.

She leaves. Before we cut we see Perrigrew look back towards  
the camera.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A press conference. DR. Caleb Menck and the Police Spokesman.

POLICE SPOKESMAN

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a doctor here who can shed some light on Mr. Roberts' medical condition. Dr. Caleb Menck.

DR. MENCK

I am Bob Roberts' personal physician. I flew up from Philadelphia the moment I learned of the shooting. Mr. Roberts' condition is critical. One of the bullets regrettably entered the spinal column at the L5 vertebra, paralysis has incurred in both of his legs.

REPORTER 3

Mike, Mike. Is there any truth to the rumor that the assassination attempt was filmed?

POLICE SPOKESMAN

Uh, yes, the, uh, there was a documentary filmmaker present at the scene of the crime and we are now in possession of that film.

Pandemonium breaks out at the new information.

REPORTER 2

Does the film identify the assassin?

POLICE SPOKESMAN

I have no answer for that particular question at this time.

INSERT: FOOTAGE OF THE SHOOTING

The film is being analyzed frame by frame. We will inform you as soon as we know.

EXT. MID MANHATTAN PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - DAY

Chet MacGregor stands on the hospital steps.

MACGREGOR

Well, there's no question it was Raplin. I was standing right behind him. I saw him shoot Bob.

EXT. MID MANHATTAN PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

We see Lukas Hart outside the hospital, surrounded by bodyguards, cameras and reporters.

HART

The fact that men like Raplin exist shows what you get with a liberal agenda. You pump people full of drugs and pipe dreams and what happens? They come gunning for people like Bob. But those folks don't realize something. You can't kill the truth. Bob Roberts is not going to be stopped by any bullet. He'll be back and man, you better watch out, 'cause he's headed straight for Washington. And that's all I've got to say. Excuse me, I have to go pray.

He walks towards his waiting car.

REPORTERS

Mr. Hart! Mr. Hart!

EXT. LOWER MANHATTAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY - DAY

Hordes of REPORTERS gather around MACK LAFLIN, the court-appointed attorney for Bugs Raplin.

LAFLIN

The film offers no concrete evidence of any kind regarding my client. Mr. Raplin asserts that the gun was placed on his person at the scene of the attack, that he was set up.

REPORTER 4

Who did it then, if not Raplin?

LAFLIN

That is not my job, sir. That is for the police to find out. I am merely representing the accused.

REPORTER 5

Is it true that the assassin was a card carrying member of the American Civil Liberties Union?

LAF LIN

I do not know and if he was, so  
what?

REPORTER 4

Will Raplin be released?

LAF LIN

No, there are witnesses who assert  
they saw him pull the trigger. He  
is being held in custody without  
bail. That'll be all for now, thank  
you very much.

INSERT: BOB'S FACE ON THE COVER OF NEWSWEEK, ROLLING STONE,  
PEOPLE, TIME.

INSERT: NEWSPAPER HEADLINE "POLLS SHOW SENATE RACE EVEN"

TERRY (V.O.)

After the attack on Bob's life, the  
media outcry is unprecedented. His  
face echoes across the American  
landscape on the covers of  
magazines, in newspapers, and on  
television specials. He is  
proclaimed "an American hero," a  
"martyr of the New Right," a  
"crippled prophet of the future."

EXT. MID MANHATTAN PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - DAY

The yuppies still gathered in vigil are erupting in cheers of  
"We Want Bob!".

TERRY (V.O.)

One week after the shooting, word  
comes that Bob will be released and  
transported to Pennsylvania by  
medivac helicopter in time for the  
election.

TITLE CARD: ELECTION EVE

One fan, Bif, racing through the crowd:

BIF

They seen him from the back, he's  
coming from the back, he's coming  
'round from the back way!

The Yuppies run towards the rear entrance as do the highly  
excitable press and assorted paparazzi.

EXT. MID MANHATTAN PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ENTRANCE - DAY

Orderlies are lowering BOB, strapped to a gurney, into the back of an ambulance as reporters and fans alike call out to him. The entourage and Polly are by his side. Bob flashes too "V's for Victory."

TERRY

Bob!

Bob is in the ambulance and the door closed behind him before anyone can ask a question. MacGregor smiles at the camera and gives a thumbs up. Rita, the Obsessed Fan, rushes the ambulance, too late.

RITA

Bob! Bob!

TERRY (O.S.)

What are the possibilities of recovery?

DR. MENCK (O.S.)

Well, like I said, it's up to the individual. After surgery and extensive rehabilitation he could begin to move his toes in a couple of years and be walking four or five years after that.

Perrigrew hangs back, sullen und serious.

INT. MENCK CLINIC - DAY

DR. MENCK

To tell you the truth it will be a miracle if he ever walks again.

INT. RESTAURAN - DAY

Terry and Mack Laflin.

LAFLIN

As you've been denied access to him, Mr. Raplin has asked me to convey his feelings to you. First he asserts his absolute innocence, given that due to a restrictive palsy in his right hand he would have never been able to fire the weapon in question.

(MORE)

LAFLIN (CONT'D)

Second, he would like to express again his beliefs that Roberts is involved with dirty dealings involving guns, drugs, and Savings and Loans and lastly, and most importantly, he would like to say that as a witness to this incident he saw the gun fired twice into the ground, not at Bob Robert.

TERRY (O.S.)

What?

LAFLIN

Mr. Raplin contends that Bob Roberts was not shot that evening.

EXT. BRYN MAWR GATE - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: ROBERTS' ESTATE, BRYN MAWR, PA

We see evidence of a new vigil, sleeping fans, posters, candles. A FAN is matching a television report from "Good Morning Philadelphia" on a portable television.

ANCHOR (DAN RILEY)

Charges were dropped today for lack of evidence against businessman Lukas Hart III in the Senate investigation involving the West Pennsylvania Savings and Loan scandal. The case, which gained momentum with new evidence last month was said by committee chairman, Henry Haydn, to be, quote "Utter contrivance, and ludicrous fantasy."

Insert: Newspaper. We start on a map of Pennsylvania with poll results by district panning up to reveal a picture of Bob Roberts in a wheelchair, confident with a "V for Victory" salute. Also, a picture of Paiste with a headline reading "Roberts Healthy, Vows Victory" and "Paiste Confident as Election Nears."

Over the previous me hear:

ANCHOR (DAN RILEY) (CONT'D)

Meanwhile, tensions continue to mount in the mid-East today. Recent intelligence suggests that Iraq is very close to developing a nuclear bomb.

(MORE)

ANCHOR (DAN RILEY) (CONT'D)  
Sources say that Saddam Hussein  
could have a nuclear device in a  
matter of months.

EXT. ROBERTS' ESTATE - NIGHT

TERRY (V.O.)  
On election day, his new album  
entitled

INSERT: ALBUM COVER - "BOB ON BOB"

TERRY (V.O.)  
"Bob on Bob" is released and debuts  
with a bullet at number two on the  
charts. His video and single, "I  
Want To Live," go to number one.

EXT. ROBERTS' ESTATE GATE - DAY

The vigil continues. On Bif's boombox we hear the  
instrumental introduction of the song "I Want To Live."

"I WANT TO LIVE" - MUSIC VIDEO

INSERT: AN MTV-STYLE CREDIT READING: BOB ROBERTS "I WANT TO  
LIVE" BOB ON BOB, PRIDE RECORDS

EXT. HILLSIDE - DAWN

In a murky grey light on top of a grassy hill, next to a  
magnificent elm tree, we see a revolutionary war fife, drum  
and flag corp marching.

We intercut between images of Bif and the Boys at Bob's gates  
and images of dead yuppies on the hillside of the video.

We follow them and find Bob Roberts and Liberal standing back  
to back. A drum is beating slowly, a guitar is heard.

BOB  
I want to live  
chances are I will.  
In the hearts and minds  
of those that care  
Of those that hold their banner  
high Of those with pride

Bob and the Liberal begin pacing off.

The pacing BOB in revolutionary garb is no longer singing, but we occasionally cut to Bob in his concert wardrobe, standing behind a floating window frame, singing, with the duel in the background.

BOB (CONT'D)

I want to live  
beyond my years  
In Elysian Fields...  
Where poets wrestle with injustice  
Where my heart could rest  
Where my words would never die

At the count of nine, Bob turns from his pacing to fire at the Liberal, but sees the Liberal. only holding a quill. Bob turns his back on the Liberal and facing the camera, gun resting on his shoulder, sings the next verse.

BOB (CONT'D)

Take me to the heart  
of this beautiful land  
And walk with me  
down its fine white roads  
Of justice and supremacy  
of roads built by you and me

During the last lines, the Liberal, behind Bob's back, pulls out a portable missile launcher, readies it, and points it at Bob. At the end of the last line, and just in time, Bob turns and unloads his dueling pistol into the Liberal, who falls dead.

Bob behind the floating window frame again playing harmonica. As the song finishes, the DEAD YUPPIES slowly rise, resurrected, and begin marching down the hill.

EXT. ROBERTS' ESTATE BRYN MAWR GATE - NIGHT

The fan, Roger, holds his guitar.

ROGER

It's as if he knew what would  
happen to him. I mean we have to  
use the word "prophetic."

EXT. ROBERTS' ESTATE - NIGHT

The vigil continues. Several FANS stand and gather around Bif's portable radio.

TACK MANNERS  
(On radio)  
This is Tack Manners, APW News.

YUPPIE  
Wait. Listen.

YUPPIE (CONT'D)  
Here it is.

The FANS all rush towards the radio.

TACK MANNERS  
Voters throughout the state of Pennsylvania have been turning out in record numbers tonight to cast their votes in a Senatorial race that has been full of controversy and drama. Brickley Paiste and Bob Roberts have been running neck and neck all night, but in the last five minutes, APW News has learned that a winner has been declared. With 98 percent of precincts reporting, Brickley Paiste shows 48 percent and Bob Roberts 52 percent.

An exultant cheer rises up from the crowd. Their cheers of "Bob! Bob! Bob!" fade into the cheers of campaign workers as we cut to:

INT. ROBERTS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

The cheers subside as LUKAS HART begins to address the crowd.

HART  
Thanks are due a lot of people but I would like to take a moment out of this festive celebration and remember a good friend of ours who lies at home tonight. A man who was shot for having the courage to take a stand, a young man who speaks his mind for a better America. Let's all bow our heads and pray for the safe recovery of Senator Bob Roberts.

The camera pans across the crowd. A reverent silence fills the air.

BOB (V.O.)  
Are we on?

We pan to see a bank of large-screen televisions. On them, Bob appears, lying in bed, Polly at his side.

BOB

(By satellite from home)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.  
Thank you, Lukas. I am truly  
honored to be selected as the next  
Senator of the great state of  
Pennsylvania. I hereby humbly vow  
to serve you, the people, to best  
of my ability, as long as God will  
allow. Polly and I thank God and  
thank you for this wonderful  
opportunity. We won't let you down.

Wild cheering as Bob, the victorious candidate, waves and salutes from his bed at home. Balloons, noisemakers, pandemonium.

INT. BRICKLEY PAISTE'S OFFICE - DAY

PAISTE

You know, it's almost exactly  
thirty years since I came to the  
Senate. It was 1960. Jack Kennedy  
had been elected President. "We're  
going to get America moving again."  
There was going to be a new  
frontier. And the world was going  
to be a better place. Well, the new  
frontier turned out to be Vietnam  
and we sort of fell off the edge.

INSERT: TELEVISION REPORT. THE "GOOD MORNING PHILADELPHIA"  
LOGO AND THEME LEAD INTO A REPORT (COMPLETE WITH FOOTAGE) ON  
THE CRISIS IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

ANCHOR

Our top story this hour: With the  
agreement yesterday among the five  
permanent Security Council members,  
the broad coalition the United  
States has mustered against Iraqi  
President Saddam Hussein has  
crossed a crucial threshold,  
authorizing the use of military  
force.

(MORE)

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

The United States has won the backing of the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France for a UN resolution threatening to use "all necessary means" to drive Iraq from Kuwait if it does not leave by January 15.

EXT. ROBERTS' ESTATE - DAY

Terry, inside his van, pulls up the driveway of Bob's house.

TERRY (V.O.)

Six weeks after the shooting we receive a call from Chet MacGregor. Bob Roberts wants to see our footage of the tragic incident at the "Cutting Edge Live" television show. We have transferred the film to videotape and are just arriving at Fair Acres, Bob's palatial estate at Bryn Mawr, in suburban Pennsylvania.

INT. ROBERTS' ESTATE - DAY

A servant dressed in white picks up discarded napkins and exits.

MacGregor dances with a YOUNG WOMAN.

BOB sits in a wheelchair, staring off into space. Polly next to him, opening letters and cards. The entourage is there, with their dates. Dockett plays the piano and they all sing "Joy to the World."

Bob comes to, and continues reading a card he has just opened. The carol continues.

Dockett continues playing a jazzy, instrumental version of "Joy to the World." Bob's wife, Polly, speaks for the first time.

POLLY

Oh this is precious. Bob, sweetie look at this. It's from a little girl in Stowe, Vermont. "Dear Bob, even though it's not Valentine's Day... will you be mine? Signed, Amy Biddle Richman. Age seven."

She hands the card to BOB.

BOB  
Oh, that's sweet. Look at that. See that?

He shows it to the camera, smiling.

BOB (CONT'D)  
Why don't we send a letter back to her. Dear Amy, your kind valentine has made this difficult transition a great deal easier. Be good in school and don't do crack. It's a ghetto drug.

DOCKETT (O.S.)  
Straight up, Bob.

They all raise their glasses.

BOB  
To Amy and all the future soldiers throughout the land.

They all clink glasses.

INT. ROBERTS' ESTATE - DAY

BOB sits in a wheelchair in front of a television, his back to camera.

Around him, the entourage, their dates and Polly sit, still reading from cards and letters.

BOB stares at the large television, a remote control in his hand. On the screen we see footage of the assassination, over and over, backwards and forwards in slow motion as Bob searches for something.

Meanwhile, people read aloud from cards.

ANDERSON  
"Make America great for Christian people and walk again, too, God bless, Dorian Graff, Millersville, Pennsylvania"

MACKLEROONEY  
Somebody got off an early Christmas card...

(MORE)

MACKLEROONEY (CONT'D)

"We wish you a Merry Christinas and a year filled with song, and where the body is there will the vultures be gathered. Love, Billy LaRay."

MACGREGOR

Here's one from the whole board of directors at Interunus, "Dear Bob, we here at Interunus wish to extend our support. Best wishes for your complete recovery. As you may know, Interunus is a Fortune 500 company specializing in waste management and genetic engineering. Our philosophy here is much in tune with yours and, in fact, we play 'This Land' as an anthem before—

BOB

(Pointing)

You see, there it is, there. The gun, right there.

We see a still frame from the assassination. Bugs Raplin is there. The image is blurry. Do we see a gun?

ANDERSON (O.S.)

Yeah.

MACGREGOR (O.S.)

"We play 'This Land' as an anthem before all of our board meetings. The best to you and yours, God bless you Bob."

Now, we hear Perrigrew reading a letter. Something is wrong with her. Aside from being drunk, she is distant, removed.

PERRIGREW

May he rot in hell... Vengeful sword carry that terrible man that shot you to the pit of hell for eternity. Signed, James McCaw, Boston, Mass. P.S. Do more songs like "Don't Smoke."

MACGREGOR

Ah, more champagne.

PERRIGREW

Well, I'm going. Goodbye all.

She starts to leave.

MACGREGOR  
(Up, after her)  
Delores, maybe you'd better lie  
down for a while.

PERRIGREW  
I'm tired of this shit.

Macklerooney and Anderson go after her.

TERRY  
Is there something wrong, old boy?

MACGREGOR  
Well, she's been working very hard,  
Terry, and I think she's had a bit  
of the bubbly.

ANDERSON  
(Returning)  
She could never say no to the  
Perignon.

EXT. PRISON - DAY

TITLE CARD: LOWER MANHATTAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

Bugs Raplin, surrounded by police, is brought out of the  
prison and placed in a police van.

Several press photographers and TV news REPORTERS try to push  
their way towards him as do hundreds of angry YUPPIES, who  
yell at him. Roger, Calvin and Burt are there.

ROGER  
You're dead!

Raplin's attorney Mack Laflin is surrounded by reporters.

REPORTERS  
Mr. Laflin! A few questions!

LAFLIN  
Yes, if I may. It appears the gun  
in question was placed on my  
client's person by a third party  
present at the time of the  
shooting.

REPORTER 5  
How do you know that?

LAFLIN

Fingerprints indicate that the gun was fired by Mr. Raplin's right hand. Mr. Raplin cannot pick up a fork, let alone fire a gun with his right hand. He has constrictive palsy which cripples motor functions in that limb. And furthermore, there were no powder burns of any kind on any of his clothing.

REPORTER 4

Why has he been held in custody this long, then?

LAFLIN

You tell me.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

We see Perrigrew walking towards her car.

TERRY (O.S.)

Delores, Delores.

PERRIGREW

I can't talk to you, Terry.

TERRY

Have you left Bob? Are you no longer working for him?

PERRIGREW

That is correct.

TERRY

What happened?

PERRIGREW

It was a mutual decision. I felt it was time to move on.

She gets into her car.

TERRY

I don't believe you.

PERRIGREW

I'm sorry about that.

TERRY

Raplin's been released. They found he couldn't have fired the gun. Is there something we should know?

She drives away.

INT. BUGS' APARTMENT - DAY

A distorted mirror image of Bugs. Twisted and dark, the reflection gives way, as we pull back, showing that we have been looking at his reflection in the dead screen of a television. The camera continues until it finds Bugs' real face, then holds on a close-up.

Bugs Raplin looking much the worse for wear of his past three months in jail, smokes a cigarette and talks nervously.

BUGS

You see, the truth of this is that American taxpayers have been paying for covert war. Illegal, covert war waged in countries we haven't even heard of. Central America, thousands have died, Chile, Indonesia, Africa. Up until now Americans paid for these wars every time they did cocaine or crack or heroin or any other drug smuggled in by these self-proclaimed patriots. But now, now we have a situation where all Americans will soon pay for these smugglings of drugs in the form of taxes to bail out failed Savings and Loans. Savings and Loans that misused people's funds and provided money to illegal covert drug smuggling operations. And surprise! We find ourselves with a seemingly insurmountable drug problem.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

TITLE CARD: JANUARY 15, 1991 WASHINGTON, DC

The camera, from the front, follows Bob, being pushed through the airport. The bodyguards keep reporters and fans at a distance. The entourage (minus Perrigrew), led by Hart, surround Bob and Polly.

DC REPORTER  
How do you feel, Bob

BOB  
Great. There's a new breeze  
blowin'. A new day dawnin'.

DC REPORTER  
Any comment on the release of  
Alijah Raplin?

BOB  
Well it's obvious that the legal  
system is too lenient on criminals  
in this country. As a United States  
Senator, I will see to it that this  
leniency ends in our lifetime and  
criminals like Raplin get their  
just do.

DC REPORTER  
Have you been to Washington before?

BOB  
Yes. But this time is special.

HART  
It's a new town now.

TERRY (O.S.)  
Why is that, Mr. Hart?

HART  
Because Bob Roberts is here to  
stay. Excuse us.

Flashbulbs explode as the entourage continues.

INSERT: NEWSPAPER.

We start on a picture of BOB with a headline that reads  
"Washington Welcomes Rebel." We pan up to see a pie chart on  
support for the impending war in the Gulf and the lead  
headline which reads, "Senate OKs Force in Gulf."

INT. BUGS' APARTMENT - DAY

Same as before. A nervous, smoking Bugs talks to the  
interviewer.

#### BUGS

The reason Iran-Contra happened is because no one did anything substantial about Watergate. And the reason Watergate happened is because there were no consequences from the Bay of Pigs. They're all the same operatives, didn't you notice? The foot soldiers in the Bay of Pigs, the plumbers that got busted at Watergate, the gun-runners in Iran-Contra; all the same people, same faces. Now it doesn't take a genius to figure out the connection here. A secret government beyond the control of the people and accountable to no one. And the closer we are to discovering the connection, the more Congress turns a blind eye to it. "We can't talk about that in open session", they say, "national security reasons." The truth lies dormant in their laps and they stay blind out of choice. A conspiracy of silence.

#### INT. BRICKLEY PAISTE'S OFFICE - DAY

##### PAISTE

I think the entire Congress is quite aware of the National Security Council and its powers and its functions and the fact that this is a National Security State and less and less of a representative one. But, it's, you know, you know the story of the frog in the pan of cold water. You throw a frog into hot water and it'll jump around and suffer greatly and die. If you put the frog in a pan of cold water and you put that on the stove and you heat it to the boiling point, the frog doesn't stir. He doesn't feel it, he doesn't notice it, and at the end of it, he's dead. These things happen incrementally, they're gradual. Are we complicit? Yes, we are. Are we revolutionaries? How do you do it once you're here?

INT. BUGS' APARTMENT - DAY

Same as before.

BUGS

There are no Mr. Smiths in  
Washington. Mr. Smith has been  
bought. Just a bunch of dealmakers.  
No visionaries. No one really  
concerned with the disenfranchised.  
Just a secret state of business  
liaisons out of control. So out of  
control that they're willing to  
send American soldiers to war to  
protect their prurient business  
interests.

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - NIGHT

A black tie inaugural gala is in full swing:

The guests consist of Financial Supporters, Dignitaries and  
Military Personnel and their Wives.

Bob and his band, in black-tie attire, are on stage  
performing.

We move through the room until the camera is close on Bob.

Song: THIS WORLD TURNS

BOB

Walks may come down  
but what is let in?  
Godless men, Godless men  
They'll take the jobs  
of the decent ones  
And wait for the day  
that their leaders  
Will make you their slaves.

This world turns  
its back on God  
We must fight to protect Him  
This world turns  
its back on God  
We must die to join Him

The desert teems  
with dangerous schemes  
Godless men, Godless men  
They take the innocent  
and stroke their face  
(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)

And wait for the day  
that their oil  
Will make you their slaves.

This world turns  
its back on God  
We must fight to protect Him

The entourage and POLLY are seated at a table. MacGregor flashes a smile and a thumbs-up.

BOB (CONT'D)

This world turns  
its back on God  
We must die to join Him  
Meet fury with fury,  
belief with belief  
God against the devil,  
an eternal fight  
March on, march on,  
brave young men  
Our prayers go with you  
to the holy land

This world turns  
its back on God  
We must fight to protect Him  
This world turns its back on God  
We must kill to join Him

The camera catches something, we do not see exactly what and it zooms in quickly to the bottom half of Bob Roberts. We see Bob's foot tapping, once, twice. Then it stops.

The AUDIENCE applauds wildly.

BOB looks into the camera.

INT. BUGS' APARTMENT - DAY

Same as before.

BUGS

No poll will tell you the truth.  
The corporations and big business  
that own the networks and major  
newspapers, they won't tell you the  
truth. It's not in their interest  
to tell you the truth. The truth is  
too dangerous to them. If you want  
the truth in this country, you have  
to seek it out.

(MORE)

BUGS (CONT'D)

You must be vigilant, unrelenting, uncompromising. I will get Bob Roberts. I don't need a gun to do it.

EXT. WATERGATE HOTEL - NIGHT

Our intrepid team stands outside the hotel interviewing Calvin and Roger, who has "Bob" tattooed on his forehead. They hold candles. They are clearly obsessed; dangerous-looking future leaders. Near them are other obsessed fans. The boys talk to Terry.

ROGER

...and I finally found it. I scooped up Calvin, he had all the candles ready. I was the first to find out, though.

CALVIN

He's in that room up there. I saw him in the wheelchair earlier. He waved. I couldn't believe it. I think he recognized me.

TERRY

Which room?

CALVIN

Two up, three to the left. The curtain's closed now, it was open before.

ROGER

So, how's the documentary going?

TERRY

Well, I'm learning a great deal about Bob Roberts.

ROGER

Yeah?

CALVIN

You know, you're lucky. You're lucky to be spending so much time with Bob Roberts.

TERRY

I don't know if I'm lucky.

The camera begins panning towards the window.

ROGER  
What do you mean?

TERRY  
I don't know if I really like him.  
I don't know if he's healthy for  
your country.

The camera locates the window.

TERRY (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Why do you like him?

CALVIN (O.S.)  
Because he's righteous. And he  
sticks up for you.

TERRY (O.S.)  
In what way does he stick up for  
you?

ROGER (O.S.)  
He believes in America. He believes  
in making money, being rich. He's  
not one of those sensitive liberals  
that make you feel responsible for  
everything that's gone wrong.

TERRY (O.S.)  
Have you heard about his connection  
to the failed S&Ls and his  
involvement with drug smuggling?

ROGER (O.S.)  
No.

CALVIN (O.S.)  
Yeah. Yeah, I heard about that.  
That's bullshit.

TERRY (O.S.)  
It may be.

ROGER  
It's the press. They always lie.

TERRY  
That may be as well.

Burt comes running up, newspaper in hand.

BURT  
Roger! Calvin! Roger, Calvin! He's  
dead! He's dead. They got him.

TERRY

Who's dead?

BURT

Bugs Raplin. He's dead. You guys,  
he's dead!

CROWD

All right!

Everyone cheers. The song "We are Marching" plays under the following:

The camera stays on the crowd for a while, then pans up to the window and sees a figure talking across the room and turning the light off.

We see Calvin looking up, smiling.

We see Bif dressed in Revolutionary War gear, sitting in a wheelchair. He looks up and smiles.

INT. TERRY'S VAN - NIGHT

Terry drives past various DC sites. On the radio we hear a report.

RADIO

...was shot at 6:30 this evening at close range by a man describing himself as a member of "The Arm of Justice", a radical right wing group dedicated to undoing injustices of the criminal system. Outside the 3rd Precinct in downtown Philadelphia, the as yet unidentified man yelled at reporters and police saying that he is one of many throughout this country and that his action is the beginning of a new era for justice in the United States. Mr. Raplin died at 8:30 this evening after a prolonged attempt to revive him failed. Raplin, who suffered from cerebral palsy, was released last week from police custody and cleared of any connection with the attack on folksinger Bob Roberts. Raplin, a self-professed radical, leaves no surviving family.

During the following part, we arrive at the Jefferson Memorial and we see Terry go in.

We angle up to the epitaph carved in stone and, during the following, pan across it slowly. The epitaph reads:

"I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

RADIO (CONT'D)

A United Nations delegation led by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar left Baghdad last night after a last minute attempt at diplomacy with Iraq. The Iraqis have steadfastly refused to withdraw from Kuwait as the mandated deadline approaches tonight at twelve o'clock midnight. President Bush said yesterday that every attempt at diplomacy has been exhausted and that there will be no linkage and that the job of repelling the aggressor has reached a crucial stage. On Capitol Hill today, the Senate voted overwhelming to support the President if force becomes necessary. Two weeks ago 48 per cent of Congress had voted against the use of force in the Persian Gulf. Democratic Majority Leader George Mitchell said today that, since the war appears imminent, it is important that we stand behind the President. An overnight poll released this morning shows that the American people have shifted their opinion and now are supporting the use of force in the Persian Gulf. Two weeks ago, 58 per cent opposed intervention. Tonight, on the eve of war only 48 oppose the use of force the poll says.

VOTE.