

Scene "Real Genius"

MALE/MALE COMEDY  
18-25

CHRIS

Okay, if you want to leave, go ahead. But you'll miss the fun.

MITCH

(sour)

What fun?

CHRIS

Ick invented a new virus and we're gonna release it in Kent's room.

Mitch turns on Chris with surprising hostility.

MITCH

The other night I needed your help and all you wanted to do was party.

CHRIS

I did help you. I tried to help you relax.

MITCH

Being snubbed by beauticians isn't my idea of relaxing.

CHRIS

Student beauticians.

MITCH

(Blows up)

I thought this place was going to be different, but it's just the same. I'm either used or made fun of. In high school they pushed me in a mailbox, did I tell you that?

CHRIS

My teachers disliked me because I was smarter than they were. Students hated me because I blew the bell curve. Does that sound familiar? Mitch, I was just like you. My mother used to dress me in white shirts and hush puppies and made me carry a briefcase. Guaranteeing a girl would never talk to me. And when I first came here, for three years I studied all the time.

MITCH

You?

CHRIS  
Yeah. And then one night, I'm  
sitting in this chair right here I  
had a vision.

MITCH  
What?

CHRIS  
Hollyfeld.

MITCH  
The guy in the closet?

CHRIS  
Lazlo Hollyfeld. And I followed him  
into the closet, down into the  
steam tunnels. And there I saw the  
most disgusting thing I've ever  
seen in my life.

MITCH  
What?

CHRIS  
Hollyfeld in his pajamas.

MITCH  
So?

CHRIS  
So. I talked to him.

MITCH  
You did?

CHRIS  
Yeah. And he use to be the number  
one stud around here in 70s.  
Smarter than you and me put  
together.

MITCH  
So, what happened? Did he crack?

CHRIS  
Yes, Mitch. He cracked, severely.

MITCH  
Why?

CHRIS  
He loved his work.

MITCH

What's wrong with that?

CHRIS

There is nothing wrong that. But that's all he did. He loved solving problems, he loved coming up with the answers. But he thought the answers were the answer for everything. All science no philosophy. So then one day, someone tells him the stuff that he was making was killing people.

MITCH

So, what's your point? Are you saying I'm going to end up in the steam tunnels?

CHRIS

Yeah.

MITCH

What?

CHRIS

You are, if you keep up like this. Mitch you don't need to run away from here. When you're smart people need you. You can use your mind creatively.

MITCH

Yeah. I notice you don't study too hard.

CHRIS

Bingo.

MITCH

Yeah, but if I stay what should I do?

CHRIS

First thing you should do is get even with Kent. It's a moral imperative.

MITCH

Yeah.

CHRIS

YEAH!