

ACT ONE, SCENE THREE - The next day. MARY is now in the booth, announcing traffic, of all things.

WZBQ (Jingle)

**Roller skates and hockey pucks
Buy your sporting goods at Chucks
Baseball gloves and shoulder pads
Yo-Yo's for the little laddies
Diving gear and a fishing lure
Everything you need and more
They got tennis balls and persimmon woods
Come or call
From Spring to Fall
Find it all
At Chucks Sporting Goods**

MARY

Good morning, Iowa, this is Mary McDonnell, here with the Sunday morning traffic report. A garage sale at 222 Church Lane has traffic backed up clear across Main, which could mean a delay of at least five to six minutes. To avoid this, make the U-turn in front of Wally's Bait and Tackle Shop, turn left at Cindy Langston's place, that's the one with the pink curtains in the windows, and skip Church altogether. Today's weather will be...

(The lights fade out on MARY, come up on BARRY's office.

**MARTY and LAWRENCE are sitting on the couch in the office,
BARRY and KAREN are with them)**

MARTY

(After an extremely long pause)

You want to do what now?

BARRY

Baseball, my boys. The national pastime. For the next three months WZBQ is exclusively the Baker City Cougars.

MARTY

But Barry, I don't know anything about baseball. I've never even seen a baseball game!

KAREN

Terrific.

BARRY

So, you'll learn! What's to know, anyway, you've got bats, balls, uniforms, easiest thing in the world! And we'll give you one of those clever catch phrases, like 'holy cow'.

MARTY

Holy cow? Do I have to blaspheme? I mean, my folks could be listening.

BARRY

It's not blaspheming, it's baseball! You'll see. Before we're through with you you're going to know the game better than Babe Ruth.

MARTY

Who?

BARRY

Babe Ruth. Plays right field for the Yankees.

MARTY

(To LAWRENCE)

Women play baseball?

KAREN

We are in so much trouble....

LAWRENCE

May I say something?

BARRY

Why, of course!

LAWRENCE

I believe you are all mentally deranged. I am a graduate from Dubuque University, summa cum laude, with degrees in art, literature, political history and home economics. I have a bright and promising future in broadcast, and I do not intend to jeopardize that by participating in this...'con'.

BARRY

Lawrence, I don't want to be the one to bring this up, but you've been at this radio station for ten years now.

LAWRENCE

Honing my skills.

BARRY

Yes, and God knows it shows...but the fact of the matter is, without the Cougars, there's not going to be any ZBQ.

LAWRENCE

A regrettable occurrence, but one which I will attempt to survive. I am a Pendegrass, and a Pendegrass always lands on his feet. I may, perhaps, have to accept a position less suited to my talents...

KAREN

There is one?

LAWRENCE

**But as the French say, 'c'est la vie'.
(He starts out)**

BARRY

Did I happen to mention with this increase in duties is a raise in salary?

LAWRENCE

You did not.

BARRY

Twenty two a month?

LAWRENCE

Twenty three?

BARRY

Twenty one?

LAWRENCE

(Comes back quickly)

Well, you know, I was quite the avid fan at one point in my life. I'll never forget the game against Iowa State. There were ten seconds left to play in the bottom of the ninth. Walter Scantini was dribbling the ball at the foul line, bases were loaded, we were going for the extra point...

BARRY

We've got our announcers.

KAREN

Rah, rah.

LAWRENCE

There's just one problem.

KAREN

Just one?

LAWRENCE

You should be prepared for some sort of outcry when it's announced that I'm giving up my popular Vegetable of the Week show on Thursday mornings.

KAREN

Yes, we're preparing for all sorts of outcry.

(Two scruffy looking men show up at BETTY LOU's desk)

BETTY LOU

May I help you...gentlemen?