

THE HILL

an original screenplay

by

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FADE IN:

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

A passionate ORCHESTRAL SCORE (THE HILL MAIN THEME) plays on a variation of the ROOTS THEME.

One by one, SKETCHES are torn out of aged BOOKS and tossed into a FLAMING FIREPLACE. As each sketch is completely burned, another sketch is torn from a book and tossed into the fireplace.

SERIES OF SKETCHES

Adam and Eve are banished from the Garden of Eden.

The Tower of Babel is destroyed in Babylon.

Imhotep constructs the first pyramid for the Pharaoh Zoser.

The Pharaoh's daughter takes in baby Moses.

Greek philosophers study at the Library of Carthage.

Jesus is crucified on the cross.

The Pope hangs a painting of Black Madonna in his office.

Olmec Heads are constructed in South America.

The Moors invade Spain.

The Moorish Empire falls during the crusades.

Slaves are shipped to America on the "Good Ship Jesus."

Afrika is colonized.

CUT TO BLACK:

BLACK SCREEN

Pages are torn from a calendar which dial back the year. The years dial back from A.D. to B.C. until there is nothing left but darkness. These words appear where the calendar was:

IN THE BEGINNING...

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN

There are three carved holes at the bottom of the screen: triangle, circle, square. A challenged HAND forces a SQUARE PEG into a round hole. Once the hand is removed from the square peg, it reveals the word:

ORIENTATION

CUT TO:

INT. BOXING RING - NIGHT

All of the KEY PLAYERS IN THE MOVIE - whom you're yet to meet - are spread out across the screen, eyes directed forward: the Pre-Alumni Association members in power suits, the Chapel Assistants in clergy collars, and the Disciples of ANKH in Afrikan robes. The Pre-Alumni Members, the Chapel Assistants, and Disciples of ANKH all wear BOXING GLOVES.

The floor of the boxing ring is covered with a FLAT MAP OF THE WORLD.

Meet ADAM (17), he's all that's American - baseball, Cracker Jacks, and apple pie. Adam wears a GOLD PINKY RING on his right-hand engraved with the initials "A.L.E." beneath a small DIAMOND.

Adam stands in the center of the screen. He wears a LETTERMAN SWEATER which reads: "THE HILL." He stares directly at the camera.

Now, say hello to CHANCELLOR DIX (58). He's light skinned and full of pretentious honor and overplayed grandeur.

Chancellor Dix sits at the judges' table garbed in a GENERAL'S MILITARY DRESS.

Adjacent to Chancellor Dix, garbed in a complimenting ADMIRAL'S MILITARY DRESS, is DEAN RICHARDS (52). He would be better placed as a Baptist Television evangelist instead of aging in academia.

LIESL, dressed as a ring card girl, walks into the center of the ring and holds up a RING CARD which reads:

(EVERY MAN 4 HIMSELF)

Adam smacks the gloves of the two students closest to him.

As all the students bump gloves together with a fighter form an opposing camp, a BELL RINGS.

CUT TO:

EXT. GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

College age Afrikan-American men squeeze through the doors of a rustic gym. The MARQUEE reads:

1991-1992 Hillfield University Freshman Orientation Week

ADAM (V.O.)

August 28th, 1990. Freshmen Week at Hillfield University, or "The Hill" as they like to call it. It's where boyhood ends and manhood begins. The Hill is a microcosm of the real world. What you experience here, you will experience in the world, but tenfold.

INT. GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

All of the freshmen sit on the floor of the gym.

Adam crouches next to T.J. and WINSTON. T.J. (18), dark skinned, is a pure blood bumpkin equipped with a homemade Jheri curl. Winston (17), light skinned, could be the spokesperson for "Snobs-R-Us".

TWELVE UPPERCLASSMEN DISCIPLES OF ANKH stand at attention underneath a basketball hoop in a straight line. They are all dark-skinned Afrikan-Americans. Each Disciple wears matching combat boots in addition to an array of traditional style "Back to Afrika" garb - robes, beads, and ankh necklaces. Each Disciple's head is evenly partitioned with sprouting dreadlock twists.

At the end of the row of Twelve Disciples stands a thirteenth Disciple, KAREEM (21), Assistant Ra of ANKH. He wears a different robe and his locks are long and flowing.

OSIRIS parades amidst the freshmen in a baggy cotton traditional Afrikan gown while he clutches a STAFF forged of hardened root. Osiris (22), is a light skinned, green eyed Afrikan-American man with a deep resounding commanding voice, long flowing locks, and lengthy bushy beard.

OSIRIS

My brothers, there are...
(raises staff)
Three things...

The Disciples snap to parade-rest and each present THREE FINGERS.

DISCIPLES

Three!

OSIRIS (CONT'D)

That I must leave you with before you go tonight.

Osiris lowers his STAFF.

The Disciples return to attention.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)

Number One. Be on time! A Hillfield Man is always on time. To be on time, means to be fifteen minutes early.

While you rush to get to work, in just enough time, to be late as hell, the white devils have been there for three hours.

They've read the paper, had breakfast together, and talked about you. Be on time!

The freshmen CHUCKLE.

T.J.

(during the silence)

Oh lawd, who the fuck is this guy?

OSIRIS

(shouts)

Who am I?

Osiris POUNDS HIS STAFF TWICE on the floor.

Kareem marches out of formation next to Osiris.

KAREEM

Sir, your name is Osiris, sir!

(roars)

Ra, of ANKH, sir!

Kareem marches back into formation and snaps to attention.

The freshmen LAUGH.

T.J.

Ra?

WINSTON

It's equivalent to basileus, but
in lieu of being a Greek Frat,
it's Afrikan.

T.J.

Basileus?

OSIRIS

Number Two.

Raises STAFF.

The Disciples snap to parade rest and each present TWO
FINGERS.

DISCIPLES

Two!

ADAM

(to T.J.)

Shhh. He's moving on to number
two.

Winston and T.J. look at Adam, and both ROLL THEIR EYES.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)

A Hillfield Man always has a pen.

Osiris removes a PEN from his gown.

The Disciples snap to attention. They flex INK PENS.

FRESHMEN VOICE

That's to write down the numbers
of our Springfield Sisters.

OSIRIS

The key to a good memory is writing
it down. You can always tell a
Hillfield Man. But, you can never
tell him much.

LAUGHS.

A few of the freshmen wave PENS.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)

And my brothers, **Number Three.**

The Disciples snap to attention.

DISCIPLES

Three!

Osiris stands next to T.J.

OSIRIS
 A Hillfield Man, never, never,
ever, has a Jheri curl.

PANDEMONIUM.

The freshmen lift T.J. up above their heads. They bounce him around like a beach ball.

DISCIPLES
 The Hill!

It's catchy. Freshmen repeat it at random.

Osiris POUNDS HIS STAFF TWICE on the gymnasium floor and outstretches his arms, gown draping, like Moses at the Red Sea.

The Disciples march in place.

Kareem leads the marching disciples through the sea of freshmen.

KAREEM
 (chants)
 RAIN...

DISCIPLES
 (chants)
 CAN'T STOP THE HILL!

KAREEM
 SLEET...

DISCIPLES
 (chants)
 CAN'T STOP THE HILL!

KAREEM
 (chants, imitating a
 girl)
 SPRINGFIELD...

DISCIPLES
 (chants)
 MAY SHOCK THE HILL!

ALL
 (chants)
 BUT, NO ONE STOPS THE HILL!

Freshmen quickly pick up the tune and all CHANT in unison ad nauseam.

Osiris boldly points his staff at HOSEA JOHNSON (23),
 Chancellor of the Chapel Assistants.

A clergy collar hugs Hosea's throat and a SCOFIELD BIBLE bound in a LEATHER CASE is perched under his arm. Hosea is accompanied by SEVEN CHAPEL ASSISTANTS each with matching collars and LEATHER BIBLE CASES.

Among the Chapel Assistants are MORGAN and EVERS. Morgan (20), would be better named as "Malcolm Machiavelli." Evers (22), Vice Chancellor of the Chapel Assistants, is a portly, jolly fellow who is far too nice to completely trust.

Hosea coldly locks EYES with Osiris.

Hosea removes a CIGAR from his coat pocket. He holds it erect, for a beat, next to his head, then bites the tip off, and spits it out in Osiris' direction.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

T.J. attempts to cross Osiris' path in order to talk to some of the fellas, but is met with the strong arming PALM of DISCIPLE JONAS (21), an over zealous follower.

DISCIPLE JONAS

Stand back, my brother. Osiris is coming through.

Osiris tunnels between two rows of marching ANKH Disciples. His gown flows behind him like the train of an Emperor returning home from a long day's conquest. Disciple Jonas leans over and whispers into Osiris' ear.

DISCIPLE JONAS (CONT'D)

You will be the next Hillfield University Student Government President.

Kareem steps out of line and puts his arm around T.J.

KAREEM

(whispers)

I used to have a Jheri curl, too. You can look a brother up if you want. I'm the R.A. on the first floor of Anderson Hall.

Winks.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHAPEL - NIGHT

A lone STATUE of Frederick E. Hillfield towers in front of the barren walk of an ominous chapel.

INT. CHAPEL - STAGE - NIGHT

Hosea stands on a DIMLY LIT stage encapsulated by a VINTAGE PIPE ORGAN. Hosea is positioned in front of a podium upon which rests his Scofield Bible encapsulated in a soft leather case. The Chapel Assistants stand by close in a row of solidarity. Morgan is on Hosea's right-hand side and Evers is on Hosea's left-hand side.

HOSEA

In the words and the wisdom of the
old Chinese proverb, it is better
to light a lantern in the night
than it is to curse the darkness.

The house lights go down. A SILHOUETTED FIGURE OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. raises and LIGHTS A LANTERN. His back is to the audience.

[EXCERPT FROM THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S "I HAVE A DREAM SPEECH" DELIVERED ON THE STEPS OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON D.C. ON AUGUST 28, 1963]

MALE CHORALERS, dressed in all black, slowly walk up the aisles from the front of the chapel towards the back of the chapel. Each choraler carries a single LANTERN which illuminates his own face. They sing the WENDELL P. WHALUM ARRANGEMENT OF "LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING (THE NEGRO NATIONAL ANTHEM)."

KING SILHOUETTE

MALE CHORUS
(SINGS)

I have a dream,

LIFT EVERY VOICE

That one day this nation
will rise up and live
out the true meaning
of its creed: "We hold
these truths to be
self-evident: that all
men are created
equal."...

AND SING

TILL EARTH AND

HEAVEN RING,

RING WITH THE HARMONIES...

INT. CHAPEL - SEATS - NIGHT

Winston YAWNS.

WINSTON

I'm going to the block party.

Winston leaves.

T.J.
 (to Adam)
 Coming?

ADAM
 I'll catch up with you guys later.

INT. CHAPEL - STAGE - NIGHT

The Chapel Assistants join arms with Hosea, Morgan, and Evers.

The King Silhouette BLOWS OUT his LANTERN.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAPEL - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

JOHN MASON makes eye contact from the wing with Hosea who is still on stage. Hosea raises a LANTERN to his face and smiles.

John Mason (22), is the self-proclaimed despot and Premiere of the Pre-Alumni Association.

John is accompanied by five officers from the Pre-Alumni Association. They all wear power costumes: blue suits, white shirts, and red ties. Among the officers are TERRELL and LAWRENCE.

Terrell (21), Associate Premiere of the Pre-Alumni Association, is a dark skinned cavalier born leader.

Lawrence (21), is a wryly passive aggressive with the weight of the world in his electromagnetic glasses.

John whips out a CIGAR and LIGHTS it. Without breaking eye contact, he flicks ASHES onto the stage, then walks away.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. CHAPEL - NIGHT

It's post performance hour. Hosea is well guarded by his posse of preachers - the Chapel Assistants.

RONALD ROLLINS (30), slick and clean-cut, the Resident Director of Packard Hall, warmly wraps one arm around Hosea and clasps Hosea's hand with the other. Ronald wears a CLERGY COLLAR.

Hosea inconspicuously slides an ENVELOP into Ronald's hand.

RONALD
Looks like you might be the next
Hillfield University Student
Government President.

HOSEA
No doubt.

As Hosea and Ronald separate hands, Ronald slips the envelop into his pocket.

RONALD
(winks)
Be sure to give me the list for
your floor in the morning.

HOSEA
(winks back)
Already done.

Ronald disappears into the crowd.

Adam scurries to the front of the stage to greet Hosea.

ADAM
Hosea, I thought your message was-

Adam is sideswiped by Morgan.

MORGAN
Hosea needs time for prayer.

Morgan turns his back to Adam. Morgan covers Hosea, drenched with SWEAT, with a CAPE. Hosea, Morgan, and the Chapel Assistants walk away. Evers grabs Adam by the HAND. Firmly shakes it.

EVERS
Come to Chapel. Or if you just
want to kick it, I'm the R.A. on
the second floor of Packard Hall.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET CORNER - NIGHT

Several men from The Hill and sisters from Springfield congregate on the street corner. They sip on ORANGE JUICE and VODKA from PLASTIC CUPS. Several sisters wear tight BIKER SHORTS revealing every nook and cranny while other sisters let it all hang out from DAISY DUKES and BIKINI TOPS. A BUFF DRUNK BROTHER with no shirt on SPRAYS a scantily clad sister with CHAMPAGNE. Wet T-shirt time.

A NIGERIAN MERCHANT has set up a table where he's peddling INCENSE, HAND BAGS, SCENTED OILS, HANDMADE JEWELRY, AND BOOTLEG COMPACT DISCS.

Adam approaches Winston and T.J. who are in the midst of a conversation with two Springfield Sisters: LIESL (18), and KANEISHA JACKSON-WASHINGTON (18). Liesl and Kaneisha lean against a CONVERTIBLE JAGUAR XJS. Kaneisha is an around-the-way girl trying to make good, while Liesl is everything that Adam desires and doesn't possess.

T.J., topsy-turvy and quite tipsy, slings his arm around Adam and sloshes screwdriver on Winston's shirt.

T.J.
Bro', this is Liesl and Kaneisha.
They go to Springfield.

Winston ROLLS HIS EYES at T.J. and fans the stench of T.J.'s breath.

Adam touches Liesl's hand. Smiles. There is chemistry.

EVERS watches Adam from afar.

CLAUDE DUBOSE (25), a high-yellow, wavy-haired, fifth year senior, steps in front of Winston, T.J., and Adam. Claude whips out a KEY CHAIN and BEEPS an ALARM on the Jag.

CLAUDE DUBOSE
(to the girls)
I'm making a liquor run. Wanna'
roll?

Liesl and Kaneisha giggle with approval.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

An ALARM CLOCK reads: "4:00 A.M."

EXT. THE QUAD - NIGHT

Four buildings face each other from four corners of a vast grassy court. Three are dormitories and one is the Administration Building (Hillfield Hall).

John Mason stands in the center of the Quad while Terrell stands on his right-hand side and Lawrence stands on his left hand side.

John dons an indulgent OVERCOAT with baggy shoulders and a tale that just misses touching the ground.

It's complimented by a coordinated paisley SILK SCARF, ASCOT, and pair of sleek LEATHER GLOVES clasp in his hands.

John raises his right hand for a beat, then lets it fall to his side.

SLAM CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S DORMITORY - NIGHT

Adam, Winston, and T.J. rest nestled in their individual beds of a comfy triplex dorm room until they are rudely awakened by the sound of a FIRE ALARM BUZZ. A Pre-Alumni Association member (PETE) BURSTS into the room.

PRE-ALUMNI PETE

Get your ass up, niggaz! There's a fire!

Adam, Winston, and T.J. leap out of bed. Adam tries to put on his pants. T.J. doesn't move. Winston reaches for his robe.

Pete pushes T.J. out of the bed. He falls on the floor and moans.

T.J.

Not now honey, I have a headache.

Adam helps T.J. stand.

PETE

Move!!!

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

One-thousand Afrikan-American Hillfield freshmen jog down a street in the heart of the ghetto. Some are in PAJAMAS, some are in HOUSE SHOES, and some are in UNDERWEAR. Others don't have on shirts, others are run while half asleep, and others are confused and frightened. Adam, Winston, and T.J. are among them. T.J. is miserably hung over.

Several Pre-Alumni Association Members in OVERLY STARCHED MATCHING JOGGING SUITS lead the pack.

The impoverished PEOPLE FROM THE PROJECTS line the streets and spectate.

Several AFRIKAN-AMERICAN POLICE keep the crowd safely on the sidewalk behind POLICE BARRICADES.

INT. EXOTIC CONVERTIBLE - NIGHT

John Mason schleps along in the back seat of an exotic convertible. Terrell faithfully serves as John Mason's driver and Lawrence John Mason's valet.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

HOMELESS HENRY (44), eyes John Mason.

Homeless Henry slips underneath a BARRICADE and starts jogging with the students. He waves to crowd. Henry catches up with the convertible and touches John Mason on the shoulder.

HOMELESS HENRY

Say, brother man, how about some spare change?

INT. EXOTIC CONVERTIBLE - NIGHT

John Mason indignantly frowns at Homeless Henry. POLICE OFFICER BLACK tackles Homeless Henry and drags him away from the convertible.

HOMELESS HENRY

Fuck y'all Hill Niggaz, then.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

T.J. ceases to run.

T.J.

(to Adam)

Ah, shit. I'm about to hurl.

T.J. turns and hurls his breakfast, lunch, and dinner in John Mason's direction.

INT. EXOTIC CONVERTIBLE - NIGHT

Lawrence whips out a HANDKERCHIEF, and quickly brushes off the spot on John Mason's overcoat that Homeless Henry touched.

THEN:

Mini chunks of T.J.'s upchuck land on John Mason's coat in the same spot where Lawrence wiped.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Adam puts his arm around T.J.

ADAM

Can't stop now. Keep going. You
can do it.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

The freshmen, soiled and sweaty, pant as John Mason glides on foot between them. Terrell and Lawrence trail close behind.

John Mason interrupts his gait when he arrives at a MAUSOLEUM. He stares at the sky for a beat, then turns to face the freshmen.

JOHN MASON

The tomb of our founder-the Rev.
Dr. Frederick E. Hillfield.

(beat)

As far back as my family lineage
lays, the men in my family have
always been Hillfield Men and the
women Springfield Women.

Winston nods affirmatively.

JOHN MASON (CONT'D)

Hillfield University has a long,
proud, rich history of tradition.
And I will not allow myself or
anyone else to dishonor my Hillfield
family's name.

A single TEAR crawls down John Mason's cheek.

JOHN MASON (CONT'D)

You will not bring dishonor upon
this Hill.

John Mason reaches down on the ground and picks up a CROWN. As he raises the crown above his head, the SUN RISES above the Tomb of Frederick E. Hillfield, and shines rays of light through the center of the crown.

JOHN MASON (CONT'D)

Hillfield University places a crown
above all of our heads, and it's
up to each and everyone of us to
aspire to it.

Winston is moved.

JOHN MASON (CONT'D)

Let's take a moment of silent meditation as we prepare to hear from the 1991 - 1992 Hillfield University Student Government President, Quincy Collins.

TEARS stream down John Mason's face. As he turns around to face QUINCY COLLINS, and the rest of the Pre-Alumni Association, his composure is bipolar and emotionless.

Quincy Collins' (21), personality amazingly falls just a few steps short of a pet rock. Quincy wears glasses equally as un-amazing as his charisma. John Mason pokes a finger into QUINCY COLLINS' chest.

JOHN MASON (CONT'D)

(to Quincy)

I've got them. Try not to lose them.

John Mason outstretches his arms. Lawrence slips on John Mason's overcoat.

Lawrence gently touches John Mason on the HAND.

LAWRENCE

Your speech really moved me.

John Mason SMILES devilishly. Touches Lawrence softly on the hand.

JOHN MASON

As it should. Next year, the gimp will be gone, and I will be the Hillfield University Student Government President.

John Mason whips out a CIGAR from his coat pocket. He passionately sniffs it as he stares at Quincy, then stuffs it back into his pocket.

Quincy fumbles through a pile of NOTE-CARDS.

John Mason rolls his eyes at Quincy.

QUINCY

(reads)

Be may that every year Freshmen Orientation exposes you to Hillfield traditions - Spirit Night, Chapel, the Block Party, and the Run - I encourage all of you to be not a number, but a member of an organization.

QUINCY (CONT'D)

The first day of class begins in two hours. Remember, a Hillfield Man must always-

ALL FRESHMEN

(patronizes)

Be on time.

QUINCY

And to be on time means-

ALL FRESHMEN

(lackadaisical)

To be fifteen minutes early.

QUINCY

This concludes Orientation. Thank you very much. God bless. Good-night.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Winston slyly approaches John Mason.

WINSTON

John Mason

(offers his hand)

Winston Chamberlain. We became acquainted this summer at Oak Bluffs.

Winks.

John Mason sucks his teeth.

JOHN MASON

Yes, I remember. Come to the first Pre-Alumni Association meeting and I'll introduce you to some of the family. Or you can drop by my room sometime. I'm the R.A. on the third floor of Smith Hall.

CUT TO:

EXT. COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES - DAY

Students tote BOOK BAGS and scurry into the building.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Adam sits in a classroom along with T.J., Winston, and twenty other students-two of which are girls (Liesl and Kaneisha).

DR. MFUME (45), an estranged female professor extraordinaire, sits quietly as she stares at the students and listens to their chatter.

As the students realize that someone watches them, the banter decrescendos to an uncomfortable silence. Dr. Mfume rises and addresses the chalk board. She scrawls out in letters whose height is equal to that of the chalk board:

A F R I K A

Faces the class.

DR. MFUME

Afrika.

WINSTON

I think you spelled it wrong.

The class SNICKERS.

DR. MFUME

Says who?

Winston removes a PAPERBACK BOOK from his back pack.

WINSTON

Webster's dictionary.

DR. MFUME

And who wrote it?

WINSTON

Noah Webster.

DR. MFUME

And where is he from?

SILENCE.

DR. MFUME (CONT'D)

Hello, my name is Dr. Mfume, and this is "The History of Civilization." Welcome.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Dr. Mfume sits on top of her desk as she reviews the COURSE SYLLABUS. The students peruse their own personal copies of it.

DR. MFUME

At the conclusion of this course, each of you will hand in a 50 page essay dealing with The Destruction of Afrikan Civilization.

People MOAN.

DR. MFUME (CONT'D)

We'll discuss it further on Wednesday. Class dismissed.

Adam leans over towards' T.J.'s desk.

ADAM

Do you want to hit the library with me?

T.J.

No, I have to go to Financial Aid. My funds still haven't been dispersed.

Liesl brushes up against Adam.

LIESL

I'll go with you.

Smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Adam and Liesl walk along the sidewalk towards the steps of HILLFIELD LIBRARY. A SPEAKER propped up in the window of a BOARDING HOUSE blasts the beats of a LIVE MIX. A crowd of brothers stand in front of the house taking turns freestyling rhymes on the mic. Several onlookers seated on the library steps bob their heads to the beats while smacking on WING SPECIALS in STYROFOAM PLATES.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Adam and Liesl sit at a table as they flip through books. The library is full of courting brothers and sisters, but Adam and Liesl are the only ones who actually have books.

ADAM

So, what do you wanna' be when you grow up?

Adam looks into Liesl's eyes.

LIESL

I wanna' be a lawyer. And you?

ADAM

I want to make a difference. If one will lead, many will follow.

(takes Liesl by the hand)

Trust me.

INSERT

King James Bible - Genesis Chapter 2

OVERLAY:

INT. BLACK ROOM - DAY

There are three dark stages in triangle formation. Adam #1 sits at a table in the middle of the frame as he flips through pages in a pile of books. Adam #2 walks to the first stage.

A SPOTLIGHT illuminates Stage #1, located in the lower left hand corner of the frame.

John Mason, Hosea, and Osiris stare at an APPLE TREE in the middle of the stage. They point at the FRUIT, hesitant to take a piece.

ADAM (V.O.)

Genesis, Chapter 2, Verses 16 & 17. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

The lights go down on stage #1. Adam walks over to stage #2. It is illuminated by a SPOTLIGHT.

Adam #1 opens another book.

OVERLAY

Introduction to Afrikan Civilizations - Chapter 6

Quincy, Cleo, and Pete sit together with their legs folded in the right front corner of the stage. Three Preachers; Evers, Morgan, and Ronald; sit together with their legs folded at the back stage. Kareem, Jonas, and Dashon sit together with their legs folded on the left side of the stage.

ADAM (CONT'D)

The first Spanish and Portuguese explorers found colonies of Black men on the eastern coasts of South and Central America, and in Yucatan and Nicaragua.

The LIGHTS GO DOWN on stage #2.

Adam #2 walks over to stage #3. A SPOTLIGHT illuminates the stage.

Osiris sits on a HORSE while he holds a LANCE.

ADAM (CONT'D)

The Moors had a thriving empire spanning from Spain to Persia for over 500 years.

The word "Moor" literally means "Black," so the Moorish people were the Black people.

In medieval time the name Moor was not restricted to the inhabitants of Morocco, but it was customary to refer to all Afrikans as Moors.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN

A SCROLL of old parchment opens and rolls down the left side of the screen and down across the bottom of the screen from left to right. The last portion of the scroll reveals:

...THE ISSUES...

CUT TO:

INT. CIRCUS - TRAPEZE - NIGHT

A HOODED MAN dressed in a RED SATIN ROBE stands on the right side of the screen on a high wire while he holds a rope which descends from somewhere above. TRAPEZE ARTIST #1 swings from the left of the screen to the right. Lands. Disappears from the frame.

TRAPEZE ARTIST #2 swings from left to right, lands, and disappears. As the Trapeze moves towards Trapeze Artist #3, the Hooded Man pulls the rope. The trapeze raises. Trapeze Artist #3 misses, and flails his limbs as he falls out of the frame.

A word appears in the center of the screen:

COLOR

CUT TO:

INT. BOXING RING - NIGHT

Lawrence, dressed in an ALL BLACK SUIT AND TIE, faces Terrell, dressed in an ALL WHITE SUIT AND TIE. They both wear BOXING GLOVES. The floor of the boxing ring is covered with a FLAT MAP OF THE WORLD.

Adam stands between them. Adam wears a LETTERMAN SWEATER which reads: "THE HILL." He stares directly at the camera.

Chancellor Dix and Dean Richards sit ringside at the judges' table respectively garbed in a GENERAL'S AND ADMIRAL'S MILITARY DRESS.

Liesl, dressed as a ring card girl, walks into the center of the frame and holds up a RING CARD which reads:

(SUIT - VS.- SUIT)

Adam smacks the gloves of Lawrence and Terrell.

As Lawrence and Terrell bump gloves, a BELL RINGS.

CUT TO:

SPLIT SCREEN

The screen is split into four screens.

SCREEN 1 - CONTINUOUS

EXT. CHAPEL - DAY

Adam enters a side door at the rear of the chapel.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAPEL - OFFICE - DAY

Evers sits behind a desk in a small office. A name plate on the desk reads:

VICE-CHANCELLOR OF CHAPEL ASSISTANTS

Adam takes a seat in front of Evers desk. Evers talks to him.

ADAM (V.O.)

School starts off with a bang.
Evers makes me his assistant, but
I soon found out why he's so
interested in befriending me.

SPLIT SCREEN:

SCREEN 2 - CONTINUOUS

INT. SPRINGFIELD UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL AID OFFICE - DAY

Liesl searches through records on a computer. She writes several names on a POST-IT NOTE. Walks over to the file cabinet. Searches through files.

ADAM (V.O.)

Liesl works in the Financial Aid
Office at Springfield University.
Evers is looking for the name of a
needy girl who does not have a
scholarship. And he finds one.

Liesl reads from a file.

LIESL

(finishes Adam's phrase)
Duh, Kaneisha Jackson-Washington.

SPLIT SCREEN:

SCREEN 1 - CONTINUOUS

INT. CHAPEL - OFFICE - DAY

Evers sits behind his desk.

EVERS
 (finishes Liesl's
 phrase)
 Perfect.

Kaneisha sits in a chair in front of Evers' desk. Evers provides her with a mini sermonette.

EVERS (CONT'D)
 My Mom and the Chancellor of
 Springfield were soro's who crossed
 together on the same line at
 Springfield.

SPLIT SCREEN:

SCREEN 3 - CONTINUOUS

EXT. THE QUAD - NIGHT

Kaneisha bumps into John Mason. She faints and falls into his arms. John carries her into his dormitory.

ADAM (V.O.)
 Evers promises Kaneisha that she
 will receive financial aid if she
 supports her Progressive Hillfield
 preachers in their hour of need.

CUT TO:

INT. JOHN MASON'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Kaneisha lies on the bed. John Mason brings her a GLASS OF WATER and an ASPIRIN. She smiles. John makes a place for himself to sleep on the floor.

CUT TO:

INT. SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

A CAMPUS POLICE OFFICER leads Kaneisha into the office. She cries, covered in a blanket.

ADAM (V.O.)
 Come morning, she calls security,
 hysterical, proclaiming-

KANEISHA
 John Mason raped me!

SPLIT SCREEN:

SCREEN 4 - CONTINUOUS

INT. CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY

John Mason sits at a long table before a disciplinary committee which consists of Chancellor Dix and FOUR OTHERS. They shake their heads.

ADAM (V.O.)
 Hillfield does not hesitate to
 give John a candy bar, comic book,
 and a bus ride back home.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JANE
 He was such a nice boy.

SPLIT SCREEN:

SCREEN 1 - CONTINUOUS

INT. CHAPEL OFFICE - DAY

Adam hands Evers a piece of paper.

ADAM (V.O.)
 And of course, Kaneisha is justly
 rewarded. Here's that letter you
 asked me to write to the Chancellor
 of Springfield for Kaneisha.

Evers takes the letter, balls it up, and shoots a three-pointer with it into a TRASH CAN.

ALL FOUR SPLIT SCREENS REVOLVE TO REVEAL A SINGLE IMAGE
 SPREAD ACROSS ALL FOUR SCREENS

INT. JOHN MASON'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Several BOXES and SUITCASES are stacked up next to the door. Lawrence helps John pack a TRUNK. Their HANDS accidentally touch each other.

A beat.

They gaze into each others eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

Evers sits on the steps of his dorm as he watches John Mason and Lawrence through the window of John's dorm room.

P.O.V. - EVERS

John and Lawrence stand next to each other in a long embrace. They break apart. Lawrence leaves the room.

Evers smiles. Lights a cigar. Walks towards John's Dorm. John exits the building as he carries a box. John walks across the Quad. Evers intentionally bumps into John.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. JOHN MASON'S DORM ROOM - DAY

A single tear rolls down Lawrence's cheek.

P.O.V. - LAWRENCE

Evers takes a drag from his cigar and forms his lips like a kiss. Blows smoke in John's face.

END SPLIT SCREEN

CUT TO:

EXT. SMITH HALL - DAY

Students enter the building.

CUT TO:

INT. SMITH HALL - MEETING ROOM - DAY

The Pre-Alumni Association officers are seated at a long table before the other members of the Pre-Alumni Association. Terrell is seated at the center of the table. Lawrence is to his right.

TERRELL

In reference to the recent tragedy of events, I apologize, and promise that this administration will have no further such faults.

Admittedly, our reputation has been tarnished, but the Hillfield Pre-Alumni Association has a rich tradition of leadership at this great institution.

I am positive that our history speaks for itself and we will recover.

We had all hoped that John would take the helm of next year's Student Government as so many of our Premieres of the Pre-Alumni Association past.

I would like to take this time to fully acknowledge that I will run for the 1992 - 1993 Presidency of the Hillfield University Student Government. And I will win, and I will bring honor to the men of Pre-Alumni.

The Pre-Alumni members applaud.

TERRELL (CONT'D)

This meeting is adjourned.

The Pre-Alumni officers rise. Lawrence fishes through a briefcase. Terrell leans over to Lawrence. Puts his arm around him.

TERRELL (CONT'D)

Lawrence, I want you to be my Chief of Staff.

LAWRENCE

(troubled)

Sure, anything.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLFIELD HALL - DAY

HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS wait in an endless line stemming from the front of the building.

A makeshift sign taped to the front doors reads: FINANCIAL AID.

T.J. is stuck in the middle of the line.

INT. CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Chancellor Dix sits behind his desk as he reviews a file labeled: "LAWRENCE JEFFRIES." BAROQUE CLASSICAL MUSIC plays softly in the background.

[A SCENE FROM A SOLDIER'S STORY PLAYS ON HIS:]

TELEVISION

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Sergeant Waters and Private Wilkie turn away from the bar and watch C.J. play his guitar and sing the blues.

SERGEANT WATERS

My daddy told me we got to turn
our backs on these kind, Wilkie.
Close our ranks to the chitterlings,
collard greens, cornbread style.

END TELEVISION

The INTERCOM BEEPS.

Chancellor Dix turns off the television with a REMOTE CONTROL.

MRS. THOMPSON (O.S.)

Chancellor Dix? Lawrence Jeffries
is here to see you, sir.

Chancellor Dix pushes a button on the telephone.

CHANCELLOR DIX

Send him in, please.

Lawrence timidly steps into the office.

Chancellor Dix stands as he faces a wall with portraits of all the past Hillfield University Chancellors. The majority of men in the portraits have light complexions.

Chancellor Dix, as his back faces Lawrence, snaps his fingers and points to a seat before his desk. Lawrence takes the cue.

Chancellor Dix walks along the wall of portraits. He stops and looks up at one.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

The Reverend Doctor Samuel T.
Bennett - Bishop. Hillfield
University Chancellor 1892 to 1914.
Hillfield University Student
Government President 1873 to 1874.

Chancellor Dix walks along the wall. Stops at another
portrait.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

Dr. Nathaniel C. Thompson - Mayor.
Hillfield University Chancellor
1941 to 1957. Student Government
President 1919 to 1920.

Chancellor Dix takes a few more steps. Admires another
portrait.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

Dr. William H. Lewis - CEO.
Hillfield University Chancellor
1963 to 1978. Student Government
President 1933 to 1934.

Chancellor Dix peruses the wall.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

A handsome lot, weren't they?

Chancellor Dix stares at a portrait of himself.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

I too was a Hillfield University
Student Government President.

Chancellor Dix faces Lawrence.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

Hillfield University has a long,
proud, rich history of tradition.
I understand that you yourself
have aspirations in academia.

Earlier today Terrell announced
his candidacy for next year's
Student Government Presidency.

The Hillfield University Student
Government President is a position
of great power, prestige, and
prosperity. Freshmen year, you
and Terrell were roommates.

You're like brothers. You know
things about each other.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

Terrell has a 2.9 G.P.A., but you have a 3.7.

You work hard, don't you? But it only takes a 2.7 to run for Student Government President. Doesn't seem fair, does it. However, Terrell is quite well liked, but-

Chancellor Dix innocently removes a small BROWN PAPER BAG from his briefcase.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

It seems like he's been getting quite a bit of sun lately.

Chancellor Dix removes a ruler from the bag.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

And what is he putting in his hair these days? It's very robust.

Chancellor Dix sticks the ruler in his desk drawer.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

Did he run track in high school?
(gestures towards his
own nose)
Looks like he can supply quite a bit of air to his lungs.

Ponders a beat.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

Doesn't your family own a summer home in Sag Harbor? I have one myself at Martha's Vineyard. And didn't you grow up in Jack and Jill?

Terrell doesn't know Jack from Jill and he's never even been to Sag Harbor or the Vineyard. Do you get what I'm saying?

Terrell is a nice boy, but he's not like you and me. A real man. He's not our kind of people.

Lawrence stares at Chancellor Dix.

Chancellor Dix faces the wall of portraits.

THEN:

Violently shoves his computer off his desk which sends it into the floor with a CRASH.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

(enraged)

And there will not be a pickininy
Student Government President on my
watch. Never, not ever! This is
your responsibility!

Chancellor Dix turns his back to Lawrence and faces the window.

A beat.

As he maintains eye contact, Chancellor Dix reaches behind him and flips open a BOX OF CIGARS on his desktop.

Lawrence stares at the cigars.

Chancellor Dix reaches into his coat pocket and flips open a PLATINUM LIGHTER, outstretches his arm, and ignites it.

Lawrence's hands tremble as he takes a CUTTER and clips the tip of the cigar. Slips the cigar in his mouth. Leans forward to light it.

Chancellor Dix flips the lighter closed, and stuffs it back into his coat pocket.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

Good day, sir.

Lawrence coughs as he takes a drag from the cigar. He heads for the door.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

And get some new glasses.

Chancellor Dix pushes a button on his desk phone which activates his intercom.

CHANCELLOR DIX (CONT'D)

(into intercom)

Mrs. Thompson, get me the Swiss
Corporation on the line.

CUT TO:

INT. CLEO WALLINGFORD'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

CLEO WALLINGFORD (20), an ambitious justice on the student court, sits at a desk as he reads through a pile of BOOKS. His dorm door is propped open. On the door is a sign which reads: "Resident Advisor."

Lawrence steps into the doorway. Raps on the door. He wears a new pair of HIP GLASSES with ULTRA THIN LENSES.

LAWRENCE

Studying?

WALLINGFORD

Yup.

LAWRENCE

You work hard, don't you?

WALLINGFORD

(ignoring)

This is not your floor.

LAWRENCE

It was a shame when you got passed over for Chief Justice. You work the hardest. Do well in school, too.

Some folks don't put nearly as much effort in their studies, as they do campaigning, yet they seem to reap all the rewards.

Wallingford stares down into his books.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I appreciate a hard worker who is not a punk. So does Chancellor Dix.

Wallingford looks up from his book and directly into Lawrence's EYES.

WALLINGFORD

Close the door.

Lawrence closes the DOOR.

CUT TO:

EXT. DEAN RICHARD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Several men from The Hill congregate outside, giddy as school "girlz".

The marquee reads:

THE HILL NIGHT

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Evers sits behind the steering wheel and Adam is in the passenger's seat. The car is parked three blocks away from Debra's Nightclub.

Ever's LIGHTS a CIGAR.

Adam fans the SMOKE and coughs.

ADAM

Must you do that?

Evers laughs. He rolls down the windows. He stares at Debra's Nightclub.

Adam traces his eyeline.

ADAM (CONT'D)

(about Debra's)

What is that? The place to be?

EVERS

(smiles)

Depends. That's Debra's. It's where many men from The Hill meet their boyfriends at 1:00 after they drop off their girlfriends at 12:00.

ADAM

(uncomfortable)

Wait a minute, now. You're not, uh, and I hope that you don't think I'm uh.

Evers takes a drag from his cigar.

EVERS

No, I'm not. I'm fucking appalled. It's a God damn blasphemous sin. They should all die.

ADAM

Well, on the other hand, there's no need to go to extremes. Some people are different. It doesn't mean that they're going to make us be different with them.

EVERS

That's not what I'm talking about. The same people that you see frolicking and twirling in there, are the same people that will relentlessly crucify someone else

EVERS (CONT'D)
publicly for something they do
privately.

Be who you're going to be, but
don't be fake and punish other
people for it.

Evers extinguishes his cigar in the ASHTRAY.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDENT COURTROOM - DAY

Evers and Adam enter the courtroom and take a seat in the
back of the courtroom. All of the disciples of ANKH sit
in the back of the court room on the left.

The Chapel Assistants sit in the back of the courtroom on
the left. The Pre-alumni Members are split on two sides
of the front of the courtroom: those on the right with
Terrell and those on the left with Lawrence.

BAILIFF BOB stands.

BAILIFF BOB

All rise.

The CHIEF JUSTICE and SIX JUSTICES, one of which is Cleo
Wallingford, enter the room and take their seats at the
front of the courtroom.

CHIEF JUSTICE

We've heard both parties speak.
After careful review of both points
of view, we have decided that the
minimum G.P.A. to run for the
Student Government Presidency shall
hither be 3.0. Court is adjourned.

The Chief Justice SLAMS a GAVEL.

Lawrence and Cleo Wallingford lock eyes. Wallingford
nods. Lawrence returns the nod.

TERRELL

This is bullshit.

Terrell pushes through the crowd towards Lawrence.

TERRELL (CONT'D)

They smile in your face - back
stabbers. And do you really think
you'll be the next Student
Government President?

LAWRENCE

No. I know I'll be.

Terrell tries to bash Lawrence in the lip, but the Pre-alumni members hold Terrell back.

TERRELL

You ain't shit. You ain't never been shit. And you ain't never gonna' be shit.

Lawrence sticks a CIGAR in his mouth. He whips out a MATCH and LIGHTS it off the side of Terrell's cheek. IGNITES his cigar. Takes a puff. Blows SMOKE in Terrell's face.

Terrell snatches the cigar from Lawrence's mouth. Breaks it in half. Throws it in Lawrence's face.

TERRELL (CONT'D)

Watch your back.

Terrell storms off.

Evers looks at Adam.

Adam fans away a bit of smoke that lingers. Coughs.

EVERS

End of round 1.

A BELL RINGS.

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Liesl sits at a table as she flips through BOOKS. Adam spots her from afar and takes a seat next to her. Adam place his BOOK BAG on the table.

ADAM

How's your paper coming along?

Liesl gets up. Adam grabs Liesl.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Wait!

LIESL

I have nothing to say to you.

ADAM

I'm sorry about what happened to Kaneisha.

LIESL

Sorry? What you did to Kaneisha was really foul. She was a good girl.

ADAM

Evers just asked her to distract John Mason. How were we supposed to know that he was a rapist?

LIESL

Using people - is that how you plan to make your difference?

Adam takes Liesl by the hand.

ADAM

Evers has given me the opportunity to really make difference at this place. And, I promise, the first difference I'll make is with him. Trust me.

Liesl gives in.

Adam caresses her shoulder.

ADAM (CONT'D)

That's my girl. I promise if I get in too deep, I'll get out.

LIESL

Or drown.

Adam reaches into his book bag, and removes a stack of BOOKS.

INSERT

King James Bible - Genesis Chapter 4

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BLACK ROOM - DAY

There are three dark stages in triangle formation. Adam #1 sits at a table in the middle of the frame as he flips through pages in a pile of books. Adam #2 walks to the first stage.

A SPOTLIGHT illuminates Stage #1, located in the lower left hand corner of the frame.

Lawrence and Terrell, dressed in SUITS, hunch over with HOES as they till an imaginary field.

In classic Greek Theater fashion, Lawrence pantomimes striking Terrell with his hoe. Terrell pantomimes death.

ADAM (V.O.)

Genesis, Chapter 4, Verse 8. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

The lights go down on stage #1. Adam walks over to stage #2. It is illuminated by a SPOTLIGHT.

Adam #1 opens another book.

OVERLAY

From Slavery To Freedom - Chapter 8

Three students stand on an OLYMPIC WINNERS platform. On the Gold Medal spot John Mason wears an APRON and holds a TRAY. On the silver medal spot is Hosea hunched over as he holds a HORSESHOE and a HAMMER. On the third platform is Osiris who kneels with a BUSHEL OF COTTON.

ADAM (CONT'D)

There were typically three types of slaves on the plantation: house slaves, field slaves, and skilled slaves.

The house slaves, usually lighter in complexion, were often the illegitimate children of the slave owners. They were frequently treated better.

The LIGHTS GO DOWN on stage #2.

Adam #1 opens another book.

Adam #2 walks over to stage #3. It is illuminated by a SPOTLIGHT.

Pete swings a BULL WHIP at T.J. and Winston. They try to shield themselves from the whip.

ADAM (CONT'D)

There was another type of slave on the plantation called the driver, or "head driver." It was the drivers responsibility to help the overseer make the other slaves work harder.

The LIGHTS GO DOWN on stage #3.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN

GRUNTS. A CHAIN is pulled by both ends. One link stretches, then breaks. The link flies toward the camera in slow motion. It stops, then rotates to reveal the word:

AFRIKA

CUT TO:

INT. BOXING RING - NIGHT

BOXING RING. Uniformly dressed PREACHERS (Hosea, Evers, Morgan, & Ronald) who wear CLERGY COLLARS stand on one side of the screen while uniformly dressed AFRIKANS (Osiris, Kareem, Jonas, & Dashon) stand on the other side in gowns and combat boots. Both the Preachers and Afrikans wear BOXING GLOVES. The floor of the boxing ring is covered with a FLAT WORLD MAP.

Adam stands in the center of the ring. He wears a LETTERMAN SWEATER which reads: "THE HILL." Adam stares directly at the camera.

Chancellor Dix and Dean Richards sit ringside at the judges table respectively garbed in a GENERAL'S AND ADMIRAL'S MILITARY DRESS.

Liesl, dressed as a ring card girl, walks into the center of the ring and holds up a RING CARD which reads:

(PREACHERS -VS.- AFRIKANS)

Adam smacks the gloves of Evers and Osiris. As all fighters bump the gloves of a fighter from an opposing camp, a BELL RINGS.

WIPE RIGHT TO:

A SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN TV ASPECT RATIO FRAME

SUPERIMPOSE - CONTINUOUS

A translucent GOLD overlay with an ANKH SYMBOL. The ankh part is clear.

EXT. ANDERSON HALL - NIGHT

CARDBOARD and DUCT TAPE serve as a renegade patch on BROKEN WINDOW.

ADAM (V.O.)

The Afrikans have the worst dorm
on campus. It isn't like the
projects, it is the projects.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDERSON HALL - BETWEEN THE WALLS - NIGHT

An OLD RUSTY PIPE EXPLODES which spews CHUNKS OF ICE and
GUSHES WATER onto a FRAYED POWER LINE. SPARKS fly and
FIRE embroils.

ADAM (V.O.)

As it gets cold, the pipes burst,
and an electrical fire starts.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANDERSON HALL - NIGHT

OVERWEIGHT and PINT-SIZED Hillfield University SECURITY
GUARDS bump into to each other as they SQUIRT FIRE
EXTINGUISHERS at roaring FLAMES at the top of the building.
Osiris and the Disciples of ANKH stand outside in the
Quad covered in SOOT as they shiver in their BOXER SHORTS.

ADAM (V.O.)

The keystone cops put out the fire,
but it's one too many frozen
Afrikans for Osiris to let it go
by idly.

WIPE UP TO:

SUPERIMPOSE - CONTINUOUS

A translucent RED overlay with a BLACK POWER FIST. The
fist part is clear.

INT. NEWS VAN - DAY

A conservative Afrikan-American woman, MARSHA COHEN, fixes
her hair and applies MAKE-UP.

ADAM (V.O.)

The anchor woman from the Channel 6 news is the scheduled speaker at the next Assembly.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLFIELD HALL - DAY

Marsha Cohen stands nearby in front of Hillfield Chapel with her camera crew. She is greeted by hundreds of students, POLICE CARS, and FLASHING LIGHTS. The Disciples of ANKH are chained to the doors of Hillfield Hall.

ADAM (V.O.)

When she arrives with her camera crew to do an uplifting piece about the men of The Hill, she's met by several crazed Afrikans who have taken over Hillfield Hall.

A SMALL FRAME CRAWLS RIGHT TO LEFT ACROSS THE TOP OF THE SCREEN.

Osiris speaks into a MEGAPHONE.

OSIRIS

No justice, no peace!

A SMALL FRAME CRAWLS LEFT TO RIGHT ACROSS THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN.

Osiris holds up a picture of Chancellor Dix and Dean Richards.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)

Chancellor Dix and Dean Richards are Uncle Toms!!

A SMALL FRAME CRAWLS FROM THE TOP OF THE SCREEN TO THE BOTTOM.

Osiris waves a RUBBER PENIS.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)

Dix has been a dick!

A SMALL FRAME CRAWLS FROM THE RIGHT OF THE SCREEN TO THE LEFT.

Osiris throws COTTON BALLS into the crowd.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)
We wish we weren't in Dixie!

A SMALL FRAME GROWS FROM THE CENTER OF THE MAIN FRAME.

Osiris burns the picture of Chancellor Dix and Dean Richards.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)
The last thing we need is more
Hill Niggaz!!!

Marsha Cohen breaks through the crowd with her camera crew to insure that she is in the SPOTLIGHT.

ADAM (V.O.)
Osiris has planned well. With their dorm in piss poor shape, he has all the evidence on live television to back him up.

The administration can't touch him, or at least he thinks so. Makes you wonder if he started the fire himself.

Osiris looks at the camera and WINKS.

WIPE DOWN TO:

SUPERIMPOSE - CONTINUOUS

A translucent GREEN overlay with a PEACE SIGN. The peace sign part is clear.

EXT. HILLFIELD HALL - TELEVISION FRAME - DAY

Chancellor Dix and Dean Richards stand with Marsha Cohen as they address America. Chancellor Dix and Dean Richards have shitty grins on their faces.

ADAM (V.O.)
Chancellor Dix does the buck and the whip dance for the camera, sure to show all his pearly white teeth, promising the revolutionary Afrikans-

CHANCELLOR DIX
No recourse and a new dorm.

CHEERS!!!

Dean Richards makes EYE CONTACT with Evers. They both nod.

ADAM (V.O.)

But once the camera crews go, and all is said and done, the hourglass of Osiris' life at The Hill is overturned and his sands of time run thin.

END SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN TV ASPECT RATIO

CUT TO:

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

Osiris stands on the steps of Anderson Hall with the Disciples of ANKH lined up behind him. He addresses a crowd with his megaphone. A Disciple plays THE HILL MAIN THEME on a stereo in the window of Anderson Hall.

OSIRIS

They thought that they could keep us down.

CROWD

No!

OSIRIS

They thought that they could keep us in the cold.

CROWD

No!

OSIRIS

They thought we would just give up.

CROWD

No!

OSIRIS

But, they couldn't keep us down!!!

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. DEAN RICHARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Evers sits in a chair in front of Dean Richards' desk. Dean Richards has his back to Evers as Dean Richards peers

out of his window. Dean Richards observes Osiris as Osiris addresses the crowd.

CROSS CUT TO:

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

Terrell and his Pre-alumni followers observe Osiris from the steps of Smith Hall.

Osiris holds up his STAFF.

OSIRIS

There were three types of slaves on the plantations. House slaves, Field slaves, and skilled slaves.

Many of the house slaves, mostly half-breeds, some with the master's blood running through their veins, were down for the cause.

But, the question is, whose cause were they down for?

CHEERS.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. DEAN RICHARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Dean Richards continues to peer out of his window.

DEAN RICHARDS

God damn Afrikans.

Dean Richards turns to face Evers.

DEAN RICHARDS (CONT'D)

I was ordained when I turned 18 years old. The Reverend Doctor Frederick T. Hillfield was ordained at 18 years old, too. Hillfield University was founded by preachers; not by Afrikans, not by suits.

CROSS CUT TO:

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

Morgan and the Chapel Assistants observe Osiris from the steps of Packard Hall.

Osiris waves a WAD OF MONEY.

OSIRIS

Chancellor Dix and Dean Richards have already got their's and don't give a damn if we ever get ours.

In the 60's our parents asked for integration, but what the White man gave us was assimilation.

Instead of mixing in with their culture, we were forced to adopt their's and lose our own. Chancellor Dix and Dean Richards, have assimilated, adopted, and sold out.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. DEAN RICHARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Dean Richards points out of the window.

DEAN RICHARDS

The suits would like you to think that it was their half-breed ancestors of the slave masters that started this institution.

That may be true at some other schools, but it's not true at this one. It was preachers and the church.

Dean Richards SLAMS his FIST on his desk.

DEAN RICHARDS (CONT'D)

It's time we take this institution back!

CUT TO BLACK:

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

Osiris waves a PAMPHLET at the crowd.

OSIRIS

During slavery times, the White man raped our mothers, and today Chancellor Dix and Dean Richards are raping our brothers. I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it any more.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. DEAN RICHARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Dean Richards sits in his chair. Glances out of the window.

DEAN RICHARDS

You can either be part of the
problem or part of the solution.

Dean Richards flips open a box of cigars. Leans back in his chair.

OSIRIS (O.S.)

The preachers and the suits couldn't
be happier than to maintain the
status quo. Morgan, Lawrence,
Evers, Terrell-all sellouts and
the minions of an oppressive
administration.

Evers takes a cigar from the box. Dean Richards whips out a lighter and lights it.

CROSS CUT TO:

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

Osiris drops down to one knee.

OSIRIS (O.S.)

Just as I brought justice to you
today, I will bring justice to
you tomorrow when you elect me,
Osiris, the 1992 - 1993 Hillfield
University Student Government
President.

PANDEMONIUM.

KAREEM

(chants)

'Siris! 'Siris! 'Siris!

The crowd catches on and chants along with Kareem.

CUT TO:

INT. OSIRIS' DORM ROOM - NIGHT

An upside down half-burned AMERICAN FLAG hangs on one wall. A larger than life size POSTER OF MALCOLM X "BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY" hangs on another wall.

Osiris sits in chair along with Kareem and Jonas sit next to Osiris amidst a meeting of the ANKH minds.

They are all crowded around a television set. They all smack on STYROFOAM containers filled with WING SPECIALS.

Jonas has his ear glued to the phone. He listens to ELEVATOR STYLE MUSIC. The phone BEEPS in his ear.

CUT TO:

TELEVISION

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

Marsha Cohen delivers the news from a studio set.

MARSHA

Following a dormitory fire, the men of The Hill protested today against poor building and grounds standards and questionable university policies and procedures.

EXT. CHAPEL - DAY

Osiris speaks into a megaphone. Kareem and Jonas stand chained next to Osiris.

OSIRIS

No justice, no peace.

END TELEVISION

INT. OSIRIS' DORM ROOM - DAY

Osiris, Kareem, and Jonas slap each other high five.

TELEVISION

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

RODNEY KING begs for mercy as LAPD officers beat him mercilessly and pull on the chain around his neck.

MARSHA COHEN (O.S.)

We just got this shocking footage of blatant police brutality from an amateur videographer in Los Angeles!

END TELEVISION

CUT TO:

INT. OSIRIS' DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Kareem turns down the television volume.

EVERYONE

Damn!

KAREEM

I can't believe this shit.

OSIRIS

You can't believe that the pigs
would beat a Black man, brother?

KAREEM

No, I can't believe that someone
finally got it on tape.

INT. ANDERSON HALL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

A PAY PHONE RINGS in the hallway. DISCIPLE DASHON (19),
answers the phone.

DISCIPLE DASHON

Peace and Blessings.

(a beat)

Who???

INT. OSIRIS DORM ROOM - NIGHT

The meeting of the minds is interrupted by a knock at the
door.

OSIRIS

See who it is.

Jonas opens the door. It's Disciple DaShon.

DISCIPLE DASHON

Osiris, you have phone call on the
pay phone.

OSIRIS

Tell them to call my room.

DISCIPLE DASHON

She said it rings and rings, but
the voicemail won't pick up.

OSIRIS
Jonas, what did I tell you about
not clicking over?

JONAS
I've been on hold for 15 minutes!

CUT TO:

INT. ANDERSON HALL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Osiris talks into the receiver at the pay phone.

OSIRIS
I told you never to call me on
this number unless it's an
emergency.

Dashon walks down the hallway towards the bathroom. He overhears Osiris, becomes quite curious, and pauses in the bathroom doorway. Osiris gives him a dirty look. Dashon disappears into the bathroom.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Yes, that was me on TV. I'm fine.
Nothing has changed. In a couple
of hours. Me too. Bye.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

T.J. IRONS a SHIRT on a HALF-SIZED IRONING BOARD propped up on top of his desk. T.J. no longer has a Jheri curl. Winston sits on his bed as he reads THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Adam enters the room.

ADAM
(to T.J.)
Did you ever get your financial
aid straightened out?

T.J.
They said that the Alumni Benevolent
Fund ran out of money. I was
supposed to get a full ride. I
might not be able to come back
next quarter.

An uncomfortable silence.

WINSTON
The world needs ditch diggers.

Adam rolls his eyes at Winston.

T.J. lays his freshly ironed shirt across his bed.

ADAM
(to T.J.)
Big date?

T.J.
I'm going up yonder with some of the brothers who want to join ANKH to visit some sisters we met from Abigail Williams. My honey has a roommate. Wanna' roll with me?

ADAM
What's Abigail Williams?

WINSTON
It's an all girls school. A predominantly white all girls school. I suppose if my game was as feeble as yours, T.J., I too would necessitate a journey someplace where the female species was compelled to choose me due to lack of adequate choice.

Adam and Winston laugh. T.J. SQUIRTS them with WATER from the spray button on the iron.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Hey, my Journal!

ADAM
I think I'll come. Besides, at least once a year we should all do some charity work.

WINSTON
That's what the sisters at Abigail Williams will be singing when they see T.J.

Adam and Winston laugh. T.J. throws a WHOLE CUP OF WATER on Winston.

CUT TO:

EXT. GIRL'S DORMITORY - NIGHT

WHITE GUYS AND GIRLS leave the dorm as they walk arm and arm and hand in hand.

A LEFT-HAND.

A beat.

A tan right-hand from the same body slides a ring on the left-hand's ring finger.

We hear the sound of a DEEP INHALE & EXHALE.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. GIRL'S DORMITORY - NIGHT

T.J. and Adam sit on a couch in the lobby. SEVERAL BROTHERS FROM THE HILL talk in the lobby to AFRIKAN-AMERICAN GIRLS. Claude Dubose (the pretty smooth boy with the Jag) is seated at a PIANO with a crowd of sisters. He plays and sings along to STEVIE WONDER'S LOVE SONG "A RIBBON IN THE SKY".

The elevator BEEPS. The elevator doors open.

CROSS CUT TO:

Osiris smiles and outstretches his arms. It's his hand that now has the ring on it.

CROSS CUT TO:

A country girl, Lavette (18), steps out of the elevator. She's tar black with a short Jheri Curl. Adam stands.

ADAM

I'm leaving.

T.J.

(about her Jheri curl)

Chill, I'm working on that.

Lavette and T.J. embrace.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. GIRLS DORM - NIGHT

Osiris in a long embrace with MAGGIE (20), a perky blonde-haired green-eyed Barbie Doll type.

MAGGIE

Danny, I was so worried about you.

OSIRIS

I know.

Maggie runs her hands through Osiris' dreadlocks. Maggie's ring finger has an identical ring to the one on Osiris' hand.

MAGGIE

What's up with your hair, dude?
You used to say that Bob Marley
looked like a homeless man.

OSIRIS

I know.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. LAVETTE'S DORM - LOBBY - NIGHT

T.J. takes Lavette by the hand and walks her over to Adam.

T.J.

Adam, Lavette. Lavette, Adam.

LAVETTE

He's cute. Ho-Ho will love him.

T.J.

Ho-Ho?

LAVETTE

That's her nickname.

Adam smiles.

T.J.

And you were scared. I told you I
had the hook up.

LAVETTE

Sign-in, so you guys can come
upstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. LAVETTE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Lavette opens the door. Adam and T.J. stand behind her.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Osiris sits on the bed and rests his back against the
wall.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. LAVETTE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Ho-Ho (19), 400 lbs, four feet high, pimples, and glasses, shovels Hostess "Ho-Ho's" into her mouth.

LAVETTE
Ho-Ho, this is Adam.

HO-HO
Whatever.

LAVETTE
Don't worry, it takes a minute for her to warm-up.

Adam tries to escape, but T.J. has the door blocked.

LAVETTE (CONT'D)
Have a seat.

ADAM
Close the door, T.J.

HO-HO
(stern)
Underclassman are not allowed to close their doors when men are in their rooms.

Lavette seats Adam next to Ho-Ho on Ho-Ho's bed.

HO-HO (CONT'D)
If you touch me, I'll scream.

ADAM
Funny, that's just what-

T.J. kicks Adam.

T.J. and Lavette sit on Lavette's bed.

A few of the Perspective Freshmen Disciples pass by the dorm room.

FRESHMEN VOICES
What's up, Adam?

They LAUGH, then walk away.

ADAM
(mumbles to self)
Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, he maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

LAVETTE
What was that, Adam?

T.J. kicks Adam.

Ho-Ho continues to shovel "Ho-Ho's" into her mouth.

T.J.
 (answers for Adam)
 Nothing.

THROUGH THE WINDOW - IN THE ADJACENT DORM

Maggie grabs a book from her desktop.

MAGGIE
 Look what mom sent me today.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Maggie climbs onto the bed and leans her back against Osiris. She puts Osiris arms around her. She flips through a PHOTO ALBUM.

MAGGIE
 Remember when we tried out for the
 cross country team.

INSERT

A PICTURE of Osiris with a short un-stylish afro and Maggie dressed in sweats. They are both keeled over a bench as they hurl up lunch.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 We Irish sure know how to drink.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. LAVETTE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

ADAM
 Can I have a Ho-Ho?

HO-HO
 No.

Adam rises.

ADAM
 That's it.

Lavette grabs Adam.

LAVETTE

Ho-Ho, show Adam your new video camera.

Ho-Ho tosses a camera bag at Adam.

HO-HO

Break it. Buy it.

Adam tosses the bag back at Ho-Ho.

Adam peers:

THROUGH THE WINDOW

Osiris stares emotionless.

MAGGIE

I can still remember prom night.
Your mom was so excited. She kept
calling me her favorite daughter.
But your Dad really took the cake.
You would have thought we were
getting married that night.

END WINDOW

ADAM

Oh, shit.

Ho-Ho smacks Adam on the cheek.

HO-HO

Watch your language.

ADAM

On second thought, let me take it
for a test drive.

HO-HO

Well, I never.

ADAM

And you never will. The camera.
Give me the camera.

Adam grabs the camera bag. He quickly lifts the video camera from the bag, points it through the window, and presses a RECORD BUTTON. A red light on the camera illuminates. A reflection of the red light glistens on

the DIAMOND of Adam's GOLD PINKY RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on the it.

CROSS CUT TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

INSERT

A picture of Osiris in a Tuxedo and Maggie in a prom dress. A gorgeous ebony woman, OSIRIS' MOM (41), stands next to Maggie. A blonde haired, green eyed White man, OSIRIS' DAD (48), stands next to Osiris.

MAGGIE

You and your Dad can almost pass
for twins. Same eyes. Same lips.

Osiris doesn't blink.

INSERT

A picture of Osiris and Maggie dressed in U2 paraphernalia. Osiris holds a sleeping bag under his arm and Maggie sits on his shoulders and cheers as she waves TWO TICKETS.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

What about that time we skipped
school and slept outside for the
U2 concert.

OSIRIS

Sunday, Bloody Sunday.

Maggie tosses aside the photo album. Turns to face Osiris.

MAGGIE

I love you.

OSIRIS

I Love you, too.

Osiris and Maggie embrace in a long passionate kiss while Osiris' hand reaches and closes the WINDOW SHADE.

CUT TO:

INT. EVERS DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Evers sits in his bed as he reads a copy of SUN TZU'S THE ART OF WAR. The PHONE RINGS.

EVERS

Evers. Osiris? You did? This changes things. You did the right thing. I'll take care of it.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CHAPEL - DAY

Stragglng students race into the chapel.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

Chapel Assistants, with CLIPBOARDS in hand, survey the rows of seats CHECKING OFF the names of those who are and those who aren't present.

Hosea stands at the podium.

HOSEA

Today's assembly will be led by
Osiris and the Disciples of ANKH.
I give to you, Osiris.

Osiris walks onto the stage. The crowd cheers. The Disciples march behind him and stand at attention in a straight line.

Hosea relinquishes the stage to Osiris.

INT. CHAPEL - OFFICE - DAY

Evers whispers to Morgan. Morgan, smiles, nods, then walks away. Adam confronts Evers.

ADAM

Did you use the tape to blackmail
Osiris into not running for Student
Government President?

Evers puts his arm around Adam.

EVERS

Better.

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

Osiris is deep in his groove. He reads from a small book.

OSIRIS

Mentacide: The deliberate and systematic destruction of a group or individuals mind with the ultimate objective of genocide.

The White Devils do this through their media. By controlling the images we see.

A screen slowly descends from the ceiling behind Osiris and the Disciples.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)

Every time you turn on the television all you see is people of color committing crimes on the Police shows, being arrested on the news, or simply acting like a coon in June in a New Millennium Minstrel Show.

(points to screen)

Observe.

Osiris buries his nose in his book.

INT. CHAPEL - BACK STAGE - DAY

Evers connects eyes with Morgan. They nod.

ON SCREEN / INSERT

A picture of Osiris and Maggie dressed in U2 paraphernalia. Osiris holds a sleeping bag under his arm and Maggie sits on his shoulders and cheers as she waves TWO TICKETS.

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

People snicker.

Osiris is puzzled, but doesn't look up at the screen.

Hosea confronts Evers.

HOSEA

What's going on?

EVERS

Justice.

ON SCREEN / INSERT

Maggie snuggles with Osiris.

MAGGIE

What about that time we skipped
school and slept outside for the
U2 concert.

INT. CHAPEL - STAGE - DAY

Osiris looks at the screen.

OSIRIS

What is this? Turn this off!

Kareem does not allow Osiris to move.

The men of The Hill are in hysterics.

Evers laughs uncontrollably.

Adam smiles uncomfortably.

ON SCREEN / INSERT

Osiris stares emotionless.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)

Sunday, Bloody Sunday.

Maggie tosses aside the photo album. Turns to face Osiris.

MAGGIE

I love you.

OSIRIS

I love you, too.

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

The crowd is unsavory.

EVERS

Boo!

Oops. It catches on.

Osiris attempts to speak into the microphone.

OSIRIS

I can explain this-

Kareem sticks his hand over the microphone.

The crowd is unruly and tosses random TRASH on the stage.

Evers marches onto stage with his bible. He commandeers the microphone.

EVERS

Wait a minute. Calm down. I have a scripture I would like to read.

People continue to boo.

Evers flips to a page in his BIBLE. He speaks over the crowd.

EVERS (CONT'D)

What is done in the dark, shall come to the White.

(loses composure)

Oops, I meant light.

MAYHEM.

Osiris bangs his staff twice on the floor.

OSIRIS

(shouts)

Disciples, who am I?

Kareem raises his hand.

The Disciples of ANKH snap to attention.

Kareem locks eyes with Osiris. Kareem points to the side of the stage.

The Disciples pivot right and march off stage.

Kareem snatches Osiris' staff and breaks it over his leg, tosses it at Osiris, then exits the stage with the marching disciples.

Osiris removes his RING from his pocket. Stares at it.

INT. CHAPEL - OFF STAGE - DAY

Dean Richards observes from the side of the stage. He locks eyes with Evers. They nod. Dean Richards lights a cigar, takes a drag, then flicks ashes onto the stage.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHAPEL - NIGHT

The lone STATUE of Frederick E. Hillfield, CHAINS draping from it's neck, towers in front of the baron walk of Hillfield Chapel.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDERSON HALL - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Kareem addresses the Disciples of ANKH. They stand before him at attention in a straight line.

KAREEM

Osiris set us back a few steps.
We may have lost a battle, but we
will win the war.

By any means necessary, we must
elect me, Kareem, the 1992 - 1993
Hillfield University Student
Government President. We - shall -
over - come!!!

Kareem holds up a fist with a single black glove.

KAREEM (CONT'D)

Disciples, what is my name?

DISCIPLES

Sir, your name is Kareem, sir.
(roars)
Ra of ANKH, sir.

KAREEM

Victory! Victory!

All of the Disciples raise their right hands which are covered with BLACK LEATHER GLOVES.

DISCIPLES

Victory!!!

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A classroom full of freshmen gaze glossy eyed at Dr. Mfume as she meanders through the aisles of desks. The faint sound of random SNORING emanates from an unknown location in the room. Winston and T.J. sit near the back of the room.

DR. MFUME

It's a myth that the slaves could not communicate with each other. They spoke Portuguese and other languages that they acquired while trading with foreign countries. It was not uncommon for Afrikans to be headmasters in European schools because of this fact.

Adam sleeps and snores sitting up straight at the back of the room next to Liesl. A long string of DROOL slinks down from his lower lip to his desk. Dr. Mfume plants herself in front of Adam.

DR. MFUME (CONT'D)

Next week, The Middle Passage.
Class dismissed.

Students jump from their seats and press towards the door. Liesl attempts to wake Adam, but Dr. Mfume stops Liesl. The classroom empties leaving only Dr. Mfume and a catatonic Adam.

SUDDENLY:

Adam awakens. He is startled to see an empty classroom and Dr. Mfume's eyes glaring at him.

DR. MFUME (CONT'D)

My office.

CUT TO:

INT. DR. MFUME'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Mfume sits behind her desk. Her office is decorated with AFRIKAN ART. Adam slouches in a hard chair before her desk.

DR. MFUME

(motherly)

What's really going on, Adam?

ADAM

It's not what I thought it would be.

DR. MFUME

School?

ADAM

Life. It's not black or white.
It's blurry.

DR. MFUME

Does the end justify the means?

ADAM

Do the means justify the end?

A beat.

Dr. Mfume looks out of her window.

CUT TO:

EXT. HUMANITIES BUILDING - DAY

Liesl waits along the side of the building. Adam slowly mopes out of the front door. Liesl catches him by surprise.

LIESL

You had something to do with what happened to Osiris today, didn't you.

Adam looks down.

LIESL (CONT'D)

You really need to quit playing before somebody gets hurt or even killed.

Adam only stares at Liesl.

LIESL (CONT'D)

Who gave you the right?

ADAM

I know what I'm doing. Trust me. Once I'm a part of the system, I can change things.

LIESL

You don't get it, do you. You already are a part of the system and you haven't changed a damn thing for the better. You've only made them worse.

Adam affectionately touches Liesl on the shoulder.

ADAM

Let's get something to eat.

LIESL

No, I don't think so.

Liesl leaves Adam standing alone.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Adam sits at a table as he flips through BOOKS.

INSERT

King James Bible - Matthew Chapter 26

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BLACK ROOM - DAY

Adam #1 sits at a table in the middle of the frame as he flips through pages in a pile of books. Adam #2 walks to a dark stage.

A SPOTLIGHT illuminates stage number 1, located in the lower left hand corner of the frame.

Osiris removes a GREEK DRAMA MASK FOR SORROW, kneels on the stage, and holds his hands over his face.

ADAM (V.O.)

Matthew, Chapter 26, Verse 75.

And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

The lights go down on the stage.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN

An HOURGLASS on the left side of the screen drains WHITE sand from the top of the hourglass to the bottom. The bottom is broken and sand leaks out onto the bottom of the screen.

A HAND scoops white sand onto a pile of white sand on a SCALE. On the other end of the scale is a stack of MONEY. As the extra scoop of sand makes the sand side of the scale heavier and drop lower than the money side, a word appears on the base of the sand side of the scale:

MORALITY

CUT TO:

INT. BOXING RING - NIGHT

Evers, dressed in a CLERGY COLLAR with a BIBLE clasp under his arm, faces Hosea who wears an identical outfit. They both wear BOXING GLOVES. The floor of the ring is covered with a FLAT MAP OF THE WORLD.

Adam stands in the center of the ring. He wears a LETTERMAN SWEATER which reads: "THE HILL." He stares directly at the camera.

Chancellor Dix and Dean Richards sit ringside at the judges' table. They are respectively garbed in a GENERAL'S AND ADMIRAL'S MILITARY DRESS.

Liesl, dressed as a ring card girl, walks into the center of the ring. She holds up a RING CARD which reveals the words:

(PREACHER -VS.- PREACHER)

Adam smacks the gloves of Evers and Hosea.

As Evers socks Hosea in the face, a BELL RINGS.

CUT TO:

INT. BLACK ROOM - DAY

A long cord extends from one end of the frame to the next. A tray of water for developing photos is at the bottom of the frame. We see a WHITE FLASH and hear a CAMERA SNAP PICTURES.

A NEGATIVE appears with THREE BLACK AND WHITE SHOTS of Hosea as he addresses a crowd in Chapel and the men of The Hill cheer him on. Morgan and Evers each hold up one of Hosea's hands high above his head.

The negative DISAPPEARS. Hands remove a PHOTO of one of the stills from the tray of water and hangs it on the cord with CLOTHES PINS.

ADAM (V.O.)

Hosea gears up for his bid for the Student Government Presidency, but he's short on funds. Hosea has a good family name, but he does not come from money.

We see a WHITE FLASH and hear a CAMERA SNAP PICTURES.

A NEGATIVE appears with THREE BLACK AND WHITE SHOTS of Hosea as he walks across the Quad with TWO GIRLS in his arms.

The negative DISAPPEARS. Hands remove a PHOTO of one of the stills from the tray of water and hangs it on the cord with CLOTHES PINS.

ADAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Hosea had traded his way to the top of the preachers by pimping Springfield sisters out to the less than desirable preachers.

We see a WHITE FLASH and hear a CAMERA SNAP PICTURES.

A NEGATIVE appears with THREE BLACK AND WHITE SHOTS of three Chapel Assistants who shake hands with Hosea.

The negative DISAPPEARS. Hands remove a PHOTO of one of the stills from the tray of water and hangs it on the cord with CLOTHES PINS.

ADAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It wasn't long before he became popular and their leader. However, they don't know he's broke, an atheist, and not worthy in their eyes of the crown The Hill places before you.

ALL THREE PHOTOS move from left to right along the cord and out of the frame.

We see a WHITE FLASH and hear a CAMERA SNAP PICTURES.

A NEGATIVE appears with THREE BLACK AND WHITE SHOTS where Hosea removes a BROWN PAPER BAG from the trunk of a car and shakes hands with Ronald Rollins.

The negative DISAPPEARS. Hands remove a PHOTO of one of the stills from the tray of water and hangs it on the cord with CLOTHES PINS.

ADAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Desperate to become King of The Hill, Hosea goes into business with Ronald Rollins, the Resident Director from Packard Hall, and secretly dope deals from his dorm room.

We see a WHITE FLASH and hear a CAMERA SNAP PICTURES.

A NEGATIVE appears with THREE BLACK AND WHITE SHOTS of a SPRINGFIELD SISTER who throws a POT OF STEAMING COFFEE on Hosea.

The negative DISAPPEARS. Hands remove a PHOTO of one of the stills from the tray of water and hangs it on the cord with CLOTHES PINS.

ADAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

After pissing off one of the mares in his Springfield stable, the fallen angel bids Evers for justice and spreads Hosea's "tea."

We see a WHITE FLASH and hear a CAMERA SNAP PICTURES.

A NEGATIVE appears with THREE BLACK AND WHITE SHOTS where Evers waves a BIBLE at Hosea. Hosea points aggressively at Evers.

The negative DISAPPEARS. Hands remove a PHOTO of one of the stills from the tray of water and hangs it on the cord with CLOTHES PINS.

ADAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Evers demands that Hosea step down as Chancellor of the Chapel Assistants, but Hosea refuses, and threatens Evers. Evers does not hesitate to return the favor.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

The Chapel Assistants are seated in the first few rows of the Chapel. Hosea stands on the floor as he leans against the stage and addresses the Chapel Assistants.

HOSEA

This hill sits right on top of the very backs of the people who need us most. We must to take back leadership of The Hill.

And when we elect me, Hosea Johnson, the 1992 - 1993 Hillfield University Student Government President, we shall bringeth forth good fruit in the vineyard.

APPLAUSE.

Evers taps Adam on the shoulder.

EVERS

(whispers)

Meet me in my room in an hour.

A sea of encouraging Chapel Assistants surrounds Hosea. He catches a glimpse of Evers who whispers to Adam.

CUT TO:

INT. EVERS' DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Evers kneels at his bed deep in prayer as he clutches a CRUCIFIX. His BIBLE is spread open before him on the bed. He breathes heavy. BEADS OF SWEAT pummel down his face. There are KNOCKS at the door, but Evers does not answer. More KNOCKS. Still he does not budge. KNOCKS.

ADAM (O.S.)

Evers, open the door. It's me, Adam.

(KNOCKS)

I know you're in there. I can hear you breathing.

(JIGGLES DOOR KNOB)

What's wrong? Open the door.

Evers slowly unlocks and opens the door. He retreats to his desk. He pulls out a bottle of SCOTCH and TWO TUMBLERS from the back of the bottom desk drawer.

EVERS

Close the door.

Adam shuts the door and takes a seat on the bed.

ADAM

Have you been drinking?

Evers pours a portion of scotch into both tumblers. Hands a glass to Adam.

EVERS

Drink. You're going to need it after you hear what I have to tell you.

Adam obliges.

EVERS (CONT'D)

There's no easy way to break this to you, so I'm just going to have to come right out and say it. It's Hosea, he's gone mad.

ADAM

Mad?

EVERS

He's selling drugs. Selling drugs right here on campus.

EVERS (CONT'D)

Selling them right out of his dorm room.

ADAM

It's a lie.

EVERS

I didn't want to believe it either, but I confronted him and he admitted it. He even showed me his stash. It's hidden in the air vent above his desk.

I asked him how a man of the cloth could do this, but he misinterpreted scriptures for his own purposes claiming the good of the few must be sacrificed for the good of the many.

He's using the money he makes dope dealing to fund his campaign for the Student Government Presidency.

ADAM

He's lost his mind.

EVERS

If this gets out, not only will it damage the reputation of the Chapel Assistants, but the character of this institution, and the sanctity of Christianity. I don't think he even believes in God.

Evers grabs the bottle of scotch and swigs straight from the bottle.

Adam grabs the bottle.

ADAM

Stop, that's not helping.

EVERS

I'm so afraid. I don't know what to do.

A beat.

ADAM

Did you say that he keeps his stash in the air vent above his desk.

EVERS

(innocent)
Yes. Why?

ADAM

Don't worry. I'm going to fix this.

EVERS

What are you planning on doing?

ADAM

Have you told anyone else?

EVERS

No.

ADAM

Let's keep this between ourselves. For now. Trust me.

Adam downs his scotch and leaves the room.

Evers takes a seat on the bed. Kicks off his shoes. He is relaxed. Reaches behind the bed and grabs a spray bottle. Douses himself - voilà, the beads of sweat.

Evers removes a cigar from his pocket and pops it into his mouth. Evers whips out a pack of matches which reads: "DEBRA'S". Evers flips open the matches and inside the flap there is a phone number written and the name: "TERRELL".

Evers lights the cigar and takes a deep drag. Mmm, good. He sprinkles ashes which fall slowly onto his open Bible. Smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSEA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

An ALARM CLOCK RINGS. A HAND smashes the clock and CEASES TO RING. Hosea hops out of bed. He's nude. Slips into a TERRY CLOTH BATH ROBE. Slides into a pair of sandals. Grabs a huge TOILETRIES CASE. Leaves the room.

THEN:

Adam slips into the room. Grabs a chair. An IRON THUDS onto the floor. He freezes. No one enters. He positions the chair beneath the air vent. Searches. Nothing. Searches. Nothing. Searches. Got something. TWO POUNDS OF MARIJUANA and SEVERAL EMPTY DIME & NICKEL BAGS. The DIAMOND on Adam's GOLD PINKY RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on it SPARKLES.

INT. SHOWER - DAY

Hosea turns off the shower water. Steps out of the shower and towel dries himself off.

INT. HOSEA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Adam quickly fills several dime bags. Pushes the stash back in it's original hiding place. Moves the chair to the opposite side of the room. Opens another air vent in the ceiling. Stashes the dime bags that he's filled up.

We hear someone FUMBLING WITH THE DOOR KNOB.

EXT. HOSEA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

A hand turns the DOOR KNOB.

INT. HOSEA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Adam hides in the closet. His eyes can be seen through a crack in the closet doors.

Claude Dubose (yeah, that fancy brother) sneaks into Hosea's room. Looks around. Searches Hosea's desk. Finds his wallet. Steals a CREDIT CARD. Slips back out of the room.

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM - DAY

Hosea brushes his teeth. Packs his toiletries case. Leaves the bathroom.

INT. HOSEA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Adam slips out of the closet. Rushes out of the door.

REVERSE TO:

INT. PACKARD HALL - HALLWAY - DAY

Adam quietly closes the door to Hosea's room. As he walks away from the door, he bumps into Hosea as he turns the corner.

HOSEA

Adam, what are you doing in Packard Hall this time of morning?

ADAM

My showers out. Gotta' run.

Adam pushes past Hosea.

A beat.

Hosea rushes into his room.

INT. HOSEA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Hosea SLAMS his door and locks the top and bottom locks. He snatches a chair and positions it under an air vent in the ceiling. Hosea frantically removes the air vent. He reaches his hand into the ceiling. A BEAD OF SWEAT oozes down Hosea's face. He slowly removes his stash of MARIJUANA.

All there. A sigh of relief.

Hosea returns the marijuana to its hiding place and steps down from the chair. He selects a PAIR OF SLACKS and a CLERGY COLLAR from his closet and lays them across his bed.

INT. EVERS'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Evers sits on his bed in boxers while Adam, high on adrenaline, stands before him.

EVERS

You want me to do what?

ADAM

Call the Resident Director and have him search Evers' room.

EVERS

Ronald Rollins is a preacher. What if he just tips off Hosea first about the search?

ADAM

That's why I hid part of the stash in another air vent.

EVERS

(maniacal)

I can handle things from here.

CUT TO:

INT. LAWRENCE'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Lawrence reclines on his bed as he reads a copy of SUN TZU'S THE ART OF WAR. The PHONE RINGS. Eyes still focused on the book, his hand reaches for the PHONE.

LAWRENCE

Hello.

DISGUISED VOICE (ON PHONE)

If you want to get those damn
preachers, now's your chance.

John Mason steps into the room. He wears a BATHROBE.

JOHN MASON

Who's that?

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. EVER'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Evers sits in his bed as he reads a copy of SUN TZU'S THE ART OF WAR. A hand reaches for his nightstand to hang up the PHONE.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Chancellor Dix sits with his back against the wall on his bed with a copy of SUN TZU'S THE ART OF WAR. He wears a wig, make-up, and a silk negligee. The PHONE on the nightstand RINGS. He reaches with one hand for the phone.

CHANCELLOR DIX

Hello. I told you never to call
me on this line unless it's. What?
No, don't. I'm on my way.

CUT TO:

EXT. PACKARD HALL - DAY

Chancellor Dix marches down the Quad with two white police officers - OFFICERS SMITH AND WESSON. There are remnants of make-up on his face. As Chancellor Dix reaches the steps of the dorm, Ronald Rollins walks from around the back of the building. Ronald carries TWO BAGS OF GROCERIES and wears a CLERGY COLLAR. He tries to stop Chancellor Dix as Chancellor Dix storms toward the dorm.

RONALD

Chancellor Dix, what's going on?

CHANCELLOR DIX

I've got your boy Hosea.

Chancellor Dix pushes Ronald. His grocery bags tumble to the ground. A JUG OF APPLE CIDER SHATTERS.

Ronald whips out a CELL PHONE.

INT. BATHROOM STALL - DAY

Hosea sits on the commode as he reads: "SUN TZU'S THE ART OF WAR". He wears a CLERGY COLLAR. His pager goes off. He is startled. He grabs it. It reads: "9-1-1."

HOSEA

Shit!!!

INT. PACKARD HALL - STAIRWELL - DAY

Chancellor Dix and Officers Smith & Wesson march up the stairs.

INT. PACKARD HALL - HALLWAY - DAY

Hosea stumbles out of the bathroom with his pants still down around his legs. He falls into the floor. Pulls his pants up. Rushes to a GLASS CASE. Punches it. Pulls a FIRE ALARM.

Whips a BUTANE LIGHTER from his pants. Turns it to high. It ignites a THREE FOOT FLAME. He holds it underneath a smoke detector. Sensors light up. A CHEMICAL sand SPRAYS all over the building.

INT. PACKARD HALL - STAIRWELL - DAY

Chancellor Dix and Officers Smith & Wesson are bombarded by several students who try to get out of the dorm. Chancellor Dix COUGHS on the CLOUD OF DRY CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHER.

INT. BATHROOM STALL - DAY

Hosea flushes a last clump of MARIJUANA down the toilette.

INT. PACKARD HALL - HALLWAY - DAY

Hosea rushes back to his room. He bumps into Chancellor Dix and Officers Smith & Wesson.

HOSEA

(innocent)

I think I smell smoke.

Hosea stares at Chancellor Dix's face.

HOSEA (CONT'D)
 (perplexed)
 Is that make-up?

Chancellor Dix grabs Hosea by the ear.

HOSEA (CONT'D)
 Ow!

CHANCELLOR DIX
 Come with me.

Chancellor Dix leads Hosea to his room.

Chancellor Dix kicks open Hosea's door. He looks at Officers Smith & Wesson. Officers Smith and Wesson look at each other. Smith & Wesson follow Chancellor Dix and Hosea into the room.

INT. HOSEA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Chancellor Dix grabs a chair and goes directly to the air vent where Adam hid the dime bags.

Hosea is puzzled.

Chancellor Dix removes the dime bags from the air vent.

CHANCELLOR DIX
 (to Hosea)
 How do you explain this?

Chancellor Dix CHUCKS the dime bags at Hosea.

HOSEA
 (truly sincere)
 Huh? It's not mine. I swear.
 It's not mine.

CHANCELLOR DIX
 Cuff him.

Police Officer Smith removes HAND CUFFS from his utility belt.

OFFICER SMITH
 Place your hands on the wall and
 spread your legs.

HOSEA
 No, wait a minute.

OFFICER SMITH
 Place your hands on the wall now!

Hosea grabs Chancellor Dix by the arm.

HOSEA

This is bullshit!

Officer wesson grabs Hosea. Hosea pushes Officer wesson off of him and into the window hands first. The window SHATTERS and Officer wesson bloodies his hands.

OFFICER WESSON

Fuck!

Officer smith swings his NIGHT STICK at Hosea. Hosea dodges the swing and punches Officer smith in the face which breaks Officer Smith's nose. BLOOD spurts from Officer Smith's face.

OFFICER SMITH

Aw, Christ!

Officer Wesson tackles Hosea and puts his knee into Hosea's neck. Hosea struggles. Hosea claws at Officer Wesson's pants and tears them.

HOSEA

You're hurting my neck.

OFFICER WESSON

Shut the fuck up!

Officer Smith puts his NIGHT-STICK around Hosea's neck. Hosea gags and urinates on himself.

Chancellor Dix taps Officer Smith on the back.

OFFICER SMITH

(pants)

Stand back, sir!!!

CHANCELLOR DIX

(sincere)

It's OK. Good job, Officers.

The Officers are stunned by Chancellor Dix's support of their actions.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

Hundreds of students are gathered in the Quad. They struggle to understand what's going on. Liesl is among them.

An AMBULANCE is parked on the grass in the center of the Quad.

Chancellor Dix and Officers Smith & Wesson exit the dorm accompanied by EMT GABRIEL and EMT MICHAEL who carry Hosea down the steps of the Dorm HANDCUFFED to a STRETCHER -lip busted, nose broken, blood smeared over his face, and a brace around his neck.

Adam looks at Hosea and is horrified. He then glances at Evers.

Evers holds up his hands as if to say he is just as surprised and appalled as Adam is.

Liesl spots Adam and makes her way in his direction.

EMT Gabriel and EMT Michael carry Hosea past Adam, Hosea goes into convulsions and spits up BLOOD. Hosea reaches with a free hand and grabs Adam by the hands.

EMT GABRIEL
Clear the fucking way!!!

EMT Gabriel and EMT Michael push students out of their way as they scurry towards the ambulance.

Adam looks at his HANDS. His hands and his GOLD PINKY RING engraved with the initials "A.L.E." are covered in BLOOD.

Lawrence LIGHTS a CIGAR. Slips it into his mouth.

As Hosea passes by, Lawrence takes a drag and puffs smoke into Hosea's face. Lawrence sticks the cigar back into his mouth.

MATCH CUT TO:

Evers removes a cigar from his mouth. As he watches the EMTs stuff Hosea into the ambulance, Evers takes the cigar and breaks it in half and lets both halves fall to the ground.

Liesl grabs Adam.

LIESL
Please don't tell me you're a part
of this, too?

Adam breaks down into Liesl's arm.

LIESL (CONT'D)
You're trembling.

TEARS stream down Adam's face. Adam looks Liesl in the eyes. Liesl affectionately wipes away the tears.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Liesl and Adam lie naked beneath the sheets in a post coital embrace.

LIESL

Remember when you said if you got in too deep, you would get out?

ADAM

Yes.

LIESL

I think you're in too deep.

ADAM

Are you asking me to become uninvolved in campus politics for you?

LIESL

I'm asking you to become uninvolved for yourself.

ADAM

Tomorrow, after the Chapel Assistants meeting, I'll tell Evers that I quit and that I don't want anything else to do with politics.

Liesl kisses Adam.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

The Chapel Assistants sit in the first few rows while Evers leans against the stage as he addresses the Chapel Assistants.

EVERS

Yesterday's events were truly an atrocity. I am convinced that it must have been the Afrikans that set Hosea up.

Nods of confirmation from the Chapel Assistants.

Morgan pounds his fist into the back of chair.

MORGAN

God damn Afrikans!

EVERS

None-the-less, the Chancellor has called Hosea out and the damage is

EVERS (CONT'D)

done. Even once we clear his name, there will always be doubt in the minds of the student body.

True, time can heal the wounded heart, but time is something that we don't have a lot of here on The Hill.

I worked with Hosea very closely formulating his community outreach vision, and if we are the men we say we are, it's our duty to see his vision come to fruition.

That's why I will run for the 1992 - 1993 Hillfield Student Government Presidency. And I will honor our fallen brother's name.

APPLAUSE.

Evers is surrounded by supporting Chapel Assistants who pat him on the back.

Evers whispers into Adam's ear.

EVERS (CONT'D)

I want you to be my Chief of Staff.

Adam is silent.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S DORM - DAY

Adam dials a number of the PAYPHONE.

INT. LIESL'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Liesl sits at her desk writing in a notebook. The PHONE RINGS. She answers it.

LIESL

Hello.

INTERCUT - ADAM AT PAYPHONE AND LIESL IN HER DORM ROOM

ADAM

Guess who?

LIESL

Hey, boo.

ADAM

You're never going to believe this.
The Preachers are supporting Evers
as their Presidential candidate.
Evers has asked me to be his Chief
of Staff.

(beat)

If we win, I could become the next
Student Government President after
Ever's term.

LIESL

You're not just like all the others,
you're worse. I really do hope
you become Chief of Staff,
President, or Emperor for all I
care. I don't ever want to see
you again. Vaya con dios.

Liesl hangs up the telephone.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Adam vociferously scrubs his hands under scolding steamy
hot water piping from the sink. He looks at his hands.
They tremble. DRIED BLOOD has stained his GOLD PINKY
RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on it. Adam
turns his head away from the mirror. Adam scrubs his
hands more. Turns the hot water hotter. The palms of
his hands turn red. He scrubs them some more.

CUT TO:

IN THE MIRROR

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Adam sits at a table as he flips through BOOKS.

INSERT

King James Bible - Mark Chapter 8

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BLACK ROOM - DAY

There are three dark stages in triangle formation. Adam
#1 sits at a table in the middle of the frame as he flips
through pages in a pile of books.

Adam #2 walks to the first stage.

A SPOTLIGHT illuminates stage #1, located in the lower left hand corner of the frame.

Hosea stands on the backs of Homeless Henry and Kaneisha who lie face down. Hosea removes a GREEK MASK FOR A HAPPY FACE. He is solemn. Hosea holds a BUSHEL OF GOLD BRICKS in his arms.

ADAM (V.O.)

MARK, Chapter 8, Verse 36. For
what shall it profit a man, if he
shall gain the whole world, and
lose his own soul?

The lights go down on stage #1. Adam walks over to stage #2. It is illuminated by a SPOTLIGHT.

Adam #1 opens another book.

OVERLAY

1001 Things Everyone Should Know About Afrikan American History - Part I Great Migration

John Mason & Terrell and Osiris & Kareem kneel at the front of the stage with their hands tied behind their backs. Evers stands behind them as he shakes hands with a Officer Smith.

ADAM (CONT'D)

It is a myth that most Afrikans
who became slaves in America were
captured by Europeans in slave
raids. Most of the Afrikans who
became slaves were sold into slavery
by other Afrikans.

The LIGHTS GO DOWN on stage #2.

Adam #1 opens another book.

OVERLAY

A Hymnal - Amazing Grace

Adam #2 walks over to stage #3. It is illuminated by a SPOTLIGHT.

Officer Wesson lays across the backs of Pete, Morgan, and Jonas, as he reads The Bible.

ADAM (CONT'D)

From 1619 - 1860, "The Good Ship Jesus" formerly the Mayflower, delivered over 4 million Afrikans as slaves to the New World by Christians.

John Newton was the captain of a slave ship, and it was on a slave ship where he penned the lyrics to Amazing Grace.

The LIGHTS GO DOWN on stage #3.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN

P.O.V. - INSIDE A CLOSET

INTENSE HEAVY BREATHING. The SOUND OF AN AX hacking at a closet door echoes. With each strike, a PLANK OF WOOD BREAKS and an additional ray of light streams into the closet.

The ax eventually becomes visible as it is crashes through the closet door. The HANDS OF A SKELETON reach into the closet as it tears away the shards of wood until a full SKELETON is revealed, but immediately swallowed up by a WHITE LIGHT BURST.

A word appears on the screen:

PREFERENCES

CUT TO:

INT. BOXING RING - NIGHT

Evers and Terrell face Lawrence. Evers and Terrell wear both wear boxing gloves. The floor of the boxing ring is covered with a FLAT MAP OF THE WORLD.

Adam stands in the center of the ring. He wears a LETTERMAN SWEATER which reads: "THE HILL." He stares directly at the camera.

Liesl walks into the center of the ring. She holds up a RING CARD which reads:

(PREACHER - VS. - SUIT)

Adam taps Evers and Terrell on the gloves.

As Evers and Terrell both punch Lawrence, a BELL RINGS.

CUT TO:

INT. BLACK ROOM - NIGHT

In the frame, from left to right, are a LIGHT BOARD, an ASHTRAY with a SMOKING CIGAR, a MOVIE PROJECTOR, and a PROJECTOR SCREEN.

PROJECTOR SCREEN - CONTINUOUS

INT. HILLFIELD HALL - DAY

Students enter the building.

We hear a CAMERA SNAP A PICTURE. A PHOTO appears across the light board and the ashtray.

PHOTO

It's a still shot of the students who enter Hillfield Hall.

The photo reduces in size as it moves to the upper left-hand corner of the light board.

ADAM (V.O.)

Whether or not there actually are "Toms" in Hillfield Hall, I can't tell you, but there definitely is treachery.

PROJECTOR SCREEN - CONTINUOUS

INT. CHANCELLOR DIX'S OFFICE - DAY

Chancellor Dix sits at his desk. Dean Richards barges into the office as he angrily waves a SPREADSHEET.

DEAN RICHARDS

God damn you, mother fucker!

We hear a CAMERA SNAP A PICTURE. A PHOTO appears across the light board and the ashtray.

PHOTO

A still shot of Dean Richards as he angrily waves a spreadsheet printout in Chancellor Dix's face.

The photo reduces in size as it moves to the light board.

ADAM (V.O.)

For years something has been funny
with the money, and now Dean
Richards wants to up his cut...

CHANCELLOR DIX

Fuck you!

ADAM (V.O.)

But Chancellor Dix is through
dealing with Richards' greed.
Little does Chancellor Dix know,
it's his own greed that he'll be
through dealing with.

PROJECTOR SCREEN - CONTINUOUS

INT. DEAN RICHARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Dean Richards stands as he gazes out of his window. Evers
enters his office.

We hear a CAMERA SNAP A PICTURE. A PHOTO appears across
the light board and the ashtray.

PHOTO

A still shot of Lawrence who stands in front of Dean
Richard's desk.

The photo reduces in size as it moves to the light board.

ADAM (V.O.)

Dean Richards summons his minions,
and Evers is the first to respond
to the dinner bell.

EVERS

You rang, sir?

ADAM (V.O.)

Do you want to be the 1992 - 1993
Hillfield University Student
Government President?

PROJECTOR SCREEN - CONTINUOUS

INT. CHANCELLOR DIX'S OFFICE - DAY

Evers enters Chancellor's Dix's office. Checks to see if anyone sees him enter. Closes the door behind him.

We hear a CAMERA SNAP A PICTURE. A PHOTO appears across the light board and the ashtray.

PHOTO

It's a still shot of Evers as he enters Chancellor Dix's office.

The photo reduces in size as it moves to the light board.

ADAM (V.O.)

Dean Richards arranges for Evers to work as a temporary assistant upstairs in Hillfield hall.

PROJECTOR SCREEN - CONTINUOUS

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Chancellor Dix addresses a room full of OLDER WHITE BUSINESSMEN dressed in suits and ties seated at a long table. Chancellor Dix is animated with his eyes wide and his lips protruding.

We hear a CAMERA SNAP A PICTURE. A PHOTO appears across the light board and the ashtray.

PHOTO

It's a still shot of Chancellor Dix as he addresses the businessmen.

The photo reduces in size as it moves to the light board.

ADAM (V.O.)

While Chancellor Dix is away on his routine tour begging White corporations for more money, for him to steal.

CHANCELLOR DIX

After 400 years of enslavement, 10 years of Affirmative Action is not enough to call it even.

PROJECTOR SCREEN - CONTINUOUS

INT. CHANCELLOR DIX'S OFFICE

Evers sits at Chancellor Dix's desk typing on the computer. Evers reaches into the bottom desk drawer and removes, a WIG, MAKE-UP, and PANTYHOSE.

We hear the SOUND OF A CAMERA TAKING A PICTURE. A PHOTO appears across the light board and the ashtray.

PHOTO

It's a still shot of Evers holding up the wig.

The photo reduces in size as it moves to the light board.

ADAM (V.O.)

Evers is able to uncover transactions from Chancellor Dix's computer which reveal that he has been embezzling from the Alumni Student Benevolent Fund by making cash transfers to a dummy corporation in Switzerland to pay for a sex change operation.

EVERS

(smiles)

You're a bad, bad boy.

PROJECTOR SCREEN - CONTINUOUS

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Evers stands in a room as he addresses a group of SEVERAL MALE OLD FOGIES who sit at a long pristine table

We hear a CAMERA SNAP A PICTURE. A PHOTO appears across the light board and the ashtray.

PHOTO

It's a still shot of Evers as he addresses the Board of Trustees.

The photo reduces in size as it moves to the light board.

ADAM (V.O.)

Of course, Evers woefully shares this information with the Board of Trustees.

A single TEAR rolls down Evers' cheek.

EVERS
 (melodramatic)
 I didn't want to come here.

PROJECTOR SCREEN - CONTINUOUS

EXT. HILLFIELD HALL - TELEVISION FRAME - DAY

Marsha Cohen stands in front of Hillfield Hall as she talks into a microphone and to a TV CAMERA.

We hear a CAMERA SNAP A PICTURE. A PHOTO appears across the light board and the ashtray.

PHOTO

It's a still shot of Marsha Cohen as she reports her story in front of Hillfield Hall.

ADAM (V.O.)
 Nor does Evers fail to notify that same pretty anchor woman from the Channel 6 News who lambasted the Men of The Hill during the Afrikan take-over.

MARSHA
 Hillfield University Chancellor Dix has just resigned under accusations of embezzling from the University Endowment Fund for a sex change operation.

PROJECTOR SCREEN - CONTINUOUS

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Dean Richards stands at the head of the long table surrounded by several old FOGIES who congratulate him.

We hear a CAMERA SNAP A PICTURE. A PHOTO appears across the light board and the ashtray.

PHOTO

It's a still shot of the Trustees who congratulate Dean Richards.

ADAM (V.O.)
 After Chancellor Dix resigns, lo
 and behold, Dean Richards is named
 Acting Chancellor of Hillfield
 University. To the victor belongs
 the spoils!

END PROJECTOR SCREEN

CUT TO:

INT. ANDERSON HALL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

A POSTER, with a COLOR PHOTO of QUINCY COLLINS, who shakes hands and poses with LAWRENCE JEFFRIES, hangs on the wall. It reads:

QUINCY COLLINS

ELECTS

LAWRENCE JEFFRIES

PRESIDENT

A REAL MAN!!!

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Lawrence Jeffries.

A hand rips down the poster.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDERSON HALL - NIGHT

Two Disciples of ANKH, Disciple Malik and DISCIPLE GEORGE (20's), stand guard in front of Kareem's door. T.J. approaches Kareem's room. He attempts to knock on the door. They stop him.

INT. KAREEM'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Kareem sits in a WICKER BACK CHAIR as he clutches a LONG STAFF. His room is filled with several disciples who type on computers, design posters, write speeches, and review competitors' campaign literature. Piles of left over wing specials and styrofoam containers clutter the room.

There's a KNOCK at the door. Disciple Jonas opens the door.

DISCIPLE GEORGE

This brother has important information for Ra Kareem.

T.J. is allowed to enter the room. He stands before Kareem.

T.J.

Kareem, sir, Ra of ANKH, sir. I bid you peace and blessings.

Kareem nods.

T.J. (CONT'D)

I have something that I reckon you should see.

T.J. reaches into his pocket. Disciples grab T.J.

Kareem holds up his hand and gestures that it's OK for T.J. to go into his pocket.

T.J. removes the poster of Quincy and Lawrence. He hands it to Kareem. Kareem examines it.

KAREEM

Where did you get this?

T.J.

This one came from Smith Hall, but they're all over the place. Lawrence's people just put them up.

KAREEM

Is there anything we can do for you?

T.J.

My financial aid got fucked.

KAREEM

We can fix that for you. There will be a place for you on the next line of ANKH should you wish.

T.J.

I wish.

KAREEM

Then, so shall it be. Peace and blessings unto you.

T.J.

Peace and Blessings.

T.J. leaves the room. Jonas takes the poster from Kareem.

JONAS

God damn it! Look at this bullshit.
Fucking suits. They think they
can get away with anything.

Kareem rises. He picks up a MAGAZINE.

KAREEM

I'm about to take a shit. It's
time for operation Chaka Zulu. I
want you to contact every Disciple
and every perspective Disciple of
ANKH on this campus. And by the
time I have wiped my ass, washed
my hands, and walked back to this
room

(snatches poster from
Jonas)

I don't want there to be a single
one of these God damn posters
hanging anywhere.

Jonas steps back from Kareem.

JONAS

Kareem, sir, Ra of ANKH, sir. It
is already done, sir.

CUT TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. ANDERSON HALL - NIGHT

Various students simultaneously march out of their rooms.

INT. PACKARD HALL - NIGHT

Various students simultaneously march out of their rooms.

INT. SMITH HALL - NIGHT

Various students simultaneously march out of their rooms.

INT. ANDERSON HALL - NIGHT

Several posters of Quincy and Lawrence are torn from the
walls.

INT. PACKARD HALL - NIGHT

Several posters of Quincy Lawrence are ripped to shreds and tossed in the trash.

INT. SMITH HALL - NIGHT

"F.A.G." is spray painted over a single poster of Quincy and Lawrence and set on fire.

END SERIES

CUT TO:

EXT. DEBRA'S NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

The marquee reads:

THE HILL NIGHT

INT. DEBRA'S NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Evers and Terrell sit at the bar as they sip on TUMBLERS OF SCOTCH. Men of The Hill, who dance with each other, can be seen over Evers' and Terrell's shoulders.

EVERS

In return, I'll make you my Chief of Staff.

TERRELL

I'll take it, but even without it, I would have done it anyway.

Evers smiles.

Terrell and Evers simultaneously whip out CIGARS. They both LIGHT each other's cigar.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHAPEL - NIGHT

The marquee reads:

STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

INT. CHAPEL - NIGHT

Evers, Lawrence, and Kareem sit at a long table on stage. Adam stands at a podium positioned to the side of the stage.

APPLAUSE.

ADAM

Thank you all, gentleman. This indeed has been a most exciting debate. May the best man win! Good night, everyone.

Adam connects EYES with EVERS, then leaves the podium. The candidates leave the stage. People stagger, and converse, as they prepare to leave the Chapel.

THEN:

Terrell walks from out of the audience onto the stage to the podium and grabs the MICROPHONE.

TERRELL

Attention my brothers! I need your attention please.

Lawrence is startled.

Kareem smiles.

KAREEM

I have a funny feeling this is going to be good.

TERRELL

As you know, I was going to run for Student Government President, but my former roommate, Lawrence Jeffries, had the minimum qualifying G.P.A. raised so that I might be ineligible.

Lawrence runs over to ADAM.

LAWRENCE

What the hell is going on?

ADAM

I don't know.

TERRELL

I admit that I have a 2.9. And that is because instead of studying continuously, I devote a great portion of my time as a servant of the student body.

TERRELL (CONT'D)

Lawrence Jeffries would like you to believe that the stress and pressure of being Student Government President would be too great for me to handle in addition to my studies.

Lawrence grabs Adam.

LAWRENCE

You're the Moderator. Do something. You have to stop him!

Lawrence shoves Adam.

ADAM

He's a grown man, I can't stop him.

Evers sniffs a cigar.

LAWRENCE

Somebody get security!
(turns to face Adam)
Adam, you and your boy Evers are on my "X" list for life. Consider yourselves eternally damned.

TERRELL

It is true that Lawrence Jeffries has a 3.7 GPA.

But did you also know, that spring quarter, my freshmen year, Lawrence took an incomplete due to stress even though he was only taking one course.

And why is that you ask. And so I will tell you.

Lawrence is horrified. He stands frozen.

Adam looks at Evers. Evers smiles.

TERRELL (CONT'D)

Lawrence was undergoing counseling and therapy because he could not deal with the fact that by day he was a heroic homosexual hater and by night he was flaming fag.

SILENCE!!!

TERRELL (CONT'D)

The male organ of The Hill is erect
and Lawrence Jeffries is sucking
it.

Terrell leaves the stage.

Chaos erupts in the Chapel.

Winston grabs Adam by the neck.

WINSTON

(astonished)

Did you participate in this?

Adam doesn't say anything.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

You're a bastard.

Evers connects EYES with Lawrence. Evers moves his cigar
in and out of his mouth like a penis. Chuckles.

Lawrence remains frozen, and the chaos swarms around him.

CUT TO:

INT. LAWRENCE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Lawrence stands in front of his open window with the butt
of a smoldering cigar in his hand.

A Special Bulletin News Broadcast plays on the:

TELEVISION

INT. NEWSROOM - NIGHT

Marsha Cohen sits at a news desk as she holds a stack of
papers in front of her. In the upper left hand corner of
the screen is a PICTURE of O.J. & NICOLE BROWN-SIMPSON.

MARSHA

We just got shocking news that
Nicole Brown-Simpson, wife of
football legend O.J. Simpson, has
just been found stabbed to death
in her Brentwood home.

END TELEVISION

As the GOLD EMBERS of the cigar reach Lawrence's finger tips, we hear the SINGE of the fire go out.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAWRENCE'S DORM - NIGHT

Lawrence jumps out of his window.

INT. ADAM'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

We hear a loud THUD as Adam is violently awakened from a deep sleep. Could this have been a nightmare?

CUT TO:

Winston stands in the doorway with the door wide open.

WINSTON

I hope you fuckers have joy.
Lawrence Jeffries is dead. He
killed himself.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Adam scrubs his hands underneath scolding hot water. He looks at them. They tremble. Adam pours bleach on his hands and scrubs them some more.

CUT TO:

IN THE MIRROR

INT. BLACK ROOM - DAY

There are two dark stages in triangle formation. Adam #1 sits at a table in the middle of the frame as he flips through pages in a pile of books. Adam #2 walks to the first stage.

A SPOTLIGHT illuminates stage #1, located in the lower left hand corner of the frame.

Terrell and Lawrence face each other as they prepare to strike with OVERSIZED BOOMERANGS.

ADAM (V.O.)

Exodus, Verse 21, Chapter 24.

ADAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand
 for hand, foot for foot.

The lights go down on stage #1. Adam walks over to stage #2. It is illuminated by a SPOTLIGHT.

Adam #1 opens another book.

OVERLAY

1001 Things Everyone Should Know About Afrikan American History - Part I Great Migrations

Twelve students total stand in a straight line on the stage: Four Suits (Quincy Collins, John Mason, Pete, & Cleo), Four Preachers (Hosea, Evers, Morgan, & Ronald), and Four Afrikans (Osiris, Kareem, Jonas, & Dashon).

ADAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 During World War II, there were
 407,316 American lives lost.

The Suits leave the stage.

ADAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 During the Civil War, there were
 558,052 American lives lost.

The Preachers leave the stage.

ADAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 During the slave trade, there were
 approximately 12 million people
 transported from Afrika with the
 intention of being slaves.

Only about 10 million made it to
 their destination. The rest
 perished.

The Afrikans leave the stage.

The LIGHTS GO DOWN on stage #2.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN

A ROARING FIRE burns across the bottom of the screen.

...IN THE END

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN

SEVERAL RATS scurry through a MAZE towards a single piece of CHEESE positioned in a RAT TRAP which reads:

CHAOS

A single RAT reaches the cheese.

CUT TO BLACK:

SNAP.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN

All of the Pre-Alumni Members, Chapel Assistants, and Disciples of ANKH are in the ring in an ALL OUT BRAWL.

Adam stands motionless in the center of the screen. He wears a LETTERMAN SWEATER which reads: "THE HILL." He stares directly at the camera.

Acting Chancellor Richards sits ringside in an Admiral's military dress at the judges' table. Chancellor Dix is hunched over the table with a KNIFE stuck in his back. Police Officers storm the ring and join the brawl.

Liesl, dressed as a ring card girl, walks into the center of the ring as she carries a RING CARD. Officers Smith & Wesson violently grab Liesl and toss the ring card towards the camera. The Ring card travels and spins in slow motion to reveal these words as it moves directly in front of the camera:

(EVERY MAN 4 HIMSELF)

A BELL RINGS.

CUT TO:

The frame is split into two equal halves. The right half is divided into four equal quadrants - screens 1 - 4. The left half of the screen is one big screen - screen 5.

SCREEN 5

INT. ANDERSON HALL - DAY

A POSTER OF EVERS hangs on the wall. Next to the poster of Evers, is a larger poster of KAREEM.

ADAM (V.O.)
 Decision 91 has come down to Evers,
 Kareem, and Cleo Wallingford, the
 Student Court Justice - a write in
 candidate that the Pre-Alumni
 Members decided to support.

HANDS HOLD A COLOR POSTER OF CLEO WALLINGFORD:

WRITE IN

Cleo Wallingford

PRESIDENT

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Cleo Wallingford.

DARK HANDS set it on FIRE and drop it into a TRASH CAN
 full of other Cleo Wallingford posters.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDENT COURTROOM - NIGHT

A group of students shake hands with Morgan. Evers taps
 Morgan on the shoulder and whispers into his ear.

ADAM (V.O.)
 Luck is a residue of design. Evers
 makes a deal with Dean Richards
 and Morgan is magically named
 Elections Committee Chairman.

INT. ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Acting Chancellor Richards sits behind his desk and flips
 open a box of cigars.

ADAM (V.O.)
 The fix is in.

Evers and Morgan reach into the box of cigars. They light
 them and take a puff. Smiles.

The previous action from SCREEN 5 moves to and continues
 on SCREEN 1.

SCREEN 5

INT. MEETING HALL - DAY

Students wait in line to vote. There is a long table with elections committee members with stacks of PRINT-OUTS. Morgan sits at the end of the table. As a student stands before a committee member, the student flashes his student ID.

A committee member hands a student a BALLOT and a PEN. The student fills out the ballot, folds it in half, drops it into a wooden box, and returns the pen. Dr. Mfume sits at another end of the table. She collects all of the pens, and distributes a different set of colored pens.

ADAM (V.O.)

The Hill is still quite antiquated and only one or two percent of students actually vote.

The deal is that Morgan will cross off extra names when no one is watching to the sum of 50 extra votes.

The previous action from SCREEN 5 moves to and continues on SCREEN 2.

SCREEN 5

INT. ADAM'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Evers, the most trusted Chapel Assistants, and other candidates in on the fix are huddled around the room as they rapidly fill out ballots. There's a knock at the door.

Adam opens the door without stopping to check to see who it is. Everyone in the room jumps and tries to hide the ballots. The person on the other side of the door turns out to be Morgan. He hands everyone a new set of colored pens.

ADAM (V.O.)

Morgan comes to my dorm room to let us know what color to use. I look the most innocent, so I'm drafted to make the drop.

The previous action from SCREEN 5 moves to and continues on SCREEN 3.

SCREEN 5

INT. HILLFIELD HALL - MEETING ROOM - DAY

Adam suspiciously walks into the polling place. He wears an overcoat while everyone else wears TANK-TOPS and SHORTS.

ADAM (V.O.)

In the dead of summer, I go into the polling area wearing a grossly oversized Inspector Gadget style overcoat.

The 50 extra ballots are in my outside coat pocket. When it's my turn to insert my ballot, I hold the 50 ballots in my coat sleeve.

As I stick my hand on the ballot box, the sleeve slides down covering the slot in the box.

Within the blink of an eye, I slyly stuff 50 extra ballots into the ballot box.

Dr. Mfume grabs Adam by the arm.

DR. MFUME

(congenial)

Are you familiar with Dr. Frances Cress-Welsing and her "Theory of Color Confrontation"?

The action from SCREEN 5 moves to and continues on SCREEN 4.

SCREEN 5

INT. HILLFIELD HALL - SMALL MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Adam celebrates. The others pout.

ADAM (V.O.)

When Evers and our crew win the election, there are complaints.

PRE-ALUMNI PETE sticks his hand into the ballot box.

PRE-ALUMNI PETE

All these ballots say the exact same thing for every office. The election has been fixed!

A Disciple of ANKH Poll Watcher looks at the TALLY SHEETS.

DISCIPLE DASHON

The number of names crossed off on the sign-in sheet and the number of ballots cast is off by 5 votes.

DR. MFUME

In the last 25 years of Hillfield University history, never before has the count been that close. It's usually off by 50 votes.

Adam looks at the camera.

ADAM

Mission accomplished!

END SPLIT SCREENS

CUT TO:

INT. ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS' OFFICE - DAY

Terrell sits across from Acting Chancellor Richards at his desk. Richards has his feet propped up on his desk and his nose buried in SUN TZU'S THE ART OF WAR.

ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS

(nose still in book)

Elections at The Hill never seem to be without drama.

(looks up from book)

Have you ever read this book? Sure you have. Great book. Today is your lucky day. I am greatly displeased with the results thus far of this year's Student Government Presidential Election.

TERRELL

(puzzled)

Sir?

ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS

All loose ends must be eliminated. With or without the drama, life goes on. Should the drama continue, it will become necessary for the lambs to follow a temporary shepherd.

Acting Chancellor Richards looks around his new office.

Terrell smiles.

Richards opens the box of cigars on his desk.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADAM'S DORM - ROOFTOP - DAY

Adam stands at the edge to take in a view of all of The Hill. Adam's back is to Terrell, who is a few paces behind him.

TERRELL

The Hill is a microcosm of the real world. Everything you experience here, you will experience in the world, but tenfold.

Adam continues to take in the view. Terrell steps next to Adam. Puts his arm around Adam. Points Adam's head towards the ground. It's a long way down.

TERRELL (CONT'D)

Evers is going down. Are you going with him? No, you're not. And why is that? Because you're going to knock him down.

ADAM

(mumbles)

No.

TERRELL

What was that?

ADAM

(mumbles)

No.

TERRELL

It's called C.Y.A. Adam. You're debt to Evers. You're a liability. You know too much.

Those are the rules of the game. By any means necessary, if you don't take him down, he'll take you down.

What? Did he offer you Chief of Staff? Well, Adam, he offered me Chief of Staff, too. Just as Evers must eliminate you, there are higher powers that must eliminate Evers.

I'll be named Acting Student Government President and you'll be my Chief of Staff.

ADAM
(mumbles)

No.

TERRELL
Then who should run next year's
Student Government, Adam? Evers?
Is that what the people need? How
many more bodies will he bury
between now and the end of next
school year? If you want to stand
against something, stand against
that.

CUT TO:

INT. LIESL'S DORM ROOM - DAY

CLAUDE DUBOSE is lip-locked with the figure of an
unrecognizable Springfield freshman sister. Claude tries
to slide his hand up the girl's shirt, but she stops him.

CLAUDE DUBOSE
(whispers)
Come on.

LIESL
(moans)
No.

The PHONE RINGS.

ADAM (O.S.)
(on answering machine)
Liesl, I just wanted you to know
that I've been thinking about what
you said.

Liesl raise her head into view.

ADAM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(on answering machine)
I already am a part of the system,
but I haven't done anything to
change it. I won't you to know I
love you and I'm going to make
things right.

Claude tries to unzip Liesl's pants, but she stops him.

LIESL
No.

Claude goes for her pants again.

CLAUDE DUBOSE

Come on!

Liesl twists Claude's arm behind his back.

LIESL

No means no!

Liesl leads Claude to her door. She opens it.

CLAUDE DUBOSE

Ow, fucking freshman!

Liesl kicks Claude in the rear, out her doorway, and slams the door shut behind him.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Adam scrubs his hands in the sink. He turns up the hot water. Steam fogs up the mirror.

CUT TO:

IN THE MIRROR

INT. BLACK ROOM - NIGHT

John Mason, Hosea, and Osiris stare at an apple tree in the middle of the stage. They point at the fruit and hesitate to take a piece.

ADAM (V.O.)

Genesis, Chapter 2, Verses 16 & 17. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

END MIRROR

CUT TO:

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DAY

Hosea lies on a hospital bed with an OXYGEN MASK on his face and several TUBES that stick out of his arms. A HEART MONITOR BEEPS.

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

Dr. Mfume slowly walks with a PAD under her arm towards an OLD FIRE BELL.

INT. ANDERSON HALL - MEETING ROOM - DAY

Kareem and several Disciples form a long line. The perspective disciples are huddled into a group. T.J. is among them. They all have their hair twisted into sprouting baby dreadlocks.

KAREEM

Many were called, but few were chosen. Who will be man enough to be the first to walk down the line?

T.J.

I will Kareem, sir, Ra of ANKH, sir.

KAREEM

Then so be it.

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

Osiris stands in the center of a mob of young men and women.

OSIRIS

They just arrested O.J. Simpson for the murder of his wife. Free O.J.!!!

INT. ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS OFFICE - DAY

Acting Chancellor Richards sits at the head of the table. Present are Dr. Mfume and a couple of other faculty members in addition to Evers, Adam, Terrell, Kareem, and Cleo Wallingford. Evers and Adam sit at opposite sides of the table.

ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS

In light of all the information that has been presented...

INT. ANDERSON HALL - MEETING ROOM - DAY

T.J. steps in front of Malik. Malik punches T.J. in the chest. T.J. gasps.

INT. ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS' OFFICE - DAY

Cleo wipes sweat from his brow.

ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS

It leaves me no choice, but to
decree the immediate expulsion of
Evers...

INT. ANDERSON HALL - MEETING ROOM - DAY

T.J. steps in front of Dashon. Dashon punches T.J. in the chest. T.J. breathes heavy.

INT. ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS' OFFICE - DAY

Evers slams his hand on the table.

ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS

And the temporary appointment of
Terrell as Acting Student Government
President...

INT. ANDERSON HALL - MEETING ROOM - DAY

T.J. steps in front of Jonas. Jonas punches T.J. in the chest. Beads of sweat stream down T.J.'s face.

INT. ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS' OFFICE - DAY

Adam holds his head down.

ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS

Until this matter can be further
resolved.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DAY

Hosea twitches.

The STEADY BEEP BECOMES UNSTABLE.

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

Dr. Mfume RINGS the old fire bell. Students gather around.

The HEART MONITOR BEEPS.

INT. ANDERSON HALL - MEETING ROOM - DAY

T.J. staggers to Kareem. Kareem punches T.J. in the chest.
T.J. collapses. He pants frantically.

The HEART MONITOR BEEPS.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Osiris leads a mob of marching students through the middle
of the street. He is in the middle of several male and
female students who hold a SPRAY PAINTED SHEET which reads:

FREE O.J.

Traffic is backed up on all side streets.

ALL STUDENTS
(chants)
FREE O.J. FREE O.J. FREE O.J.

Homeless henry climbs out of a TRASH DUMPSTER and joins
the marchers.

HOMELESS HENRY
Free O.J.

The HEART MONITOR BEEPS.

INT. ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS OFFICE - DAY

Terrell smiles.

CLEO
This is bullshit.

KAREEM
Can he do that?

EVERS
Mother fucker.

The HEART MONITOR BEEPS.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DAY

Hosea goes into convulsions.

The UNSTABLE BEEPS BECOME A LONG CONTINUOUS TONE.

EXT. THE QUAD

The heart monitor TONE CONTINUES.

Dr. Mfume no longer rings the bell. She is surrounded by several Chapel Assistants, Pre-Alumni members, and Disciples of ANKH.

DR. MFUME

The election has been thrown out. Terrell has been appointed Acting Student Government President until a new election can take place.

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

The heart monitor TONE CONTINUES.

Morgan is surrounded by a mob of male and female students.

MORGAN

Hosea is dead! The Afrikans killed him. Fuck the Afrikans!!!

INT. ANDERSON HALL - MEETING ROOM - DAY

The heart monitor TONE CONTINUES.

PERSPECTIVE DISCIPLE JIMMY runs over to T.J. and tears open T.J.'s shirt.

JIMMY

Give him some air. He's gone into cardiac arrest.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The heart monitor TONE CONTINUES.

A row of all AFRIKAN-AMERICAN Policemen in RIOT GEAR with and SHOTGUNS and RUBBER BULLETS march towards the peacefully demonstrating students.

A car on a side street rear-ends another car. There is a crash. A Policeman fires into the crowd. Lavette (T.J.'s honey) gets hit in the EYE by a rubber bullet.

INT. ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS' OFFICE - DAY

The heart monitor TONE CONTINUES.

Evers pushes over the conference table onto Adam. He leaps over the table and tries to strike Adam, but the other guys pull him off.

ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS
Security!!!

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DAY

Hosea lies motionless in his hospital bed.

The LONG CONTINUOUS TONE continues. No one enters the room.

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

The heart monitor TONE CONTINUES.

Chapel Assistants, Pre-Alumni members, and Disciples of ANKH complain.

DISCIPLE DASHON
What?

CHAPEL ASSISTANT CHAD
Come on!

INT. ANDERSON HALL - MEETING ROOM - DAY

Jimmy administers CPR to T.J. - breathing life into his mouth and pounding hope onto his chest.

The heart monitor TONE CEASES.

EXT. STREET - DAY

An Officer gets hit in the neck by a bottle. Screams. The crowd disperses. Dogs are released on the crowd. The Policemen chase after them.

INT. TERRELL'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Terrell looks out of his window down at the Quad.

SUDDENLY:

His door is SMASHED open. It's...

TERRELL
John Mason?

John points a HANDGUN at Terrell.

JOHN MASON

Mother Fucker. I trusted you. It wasn't enough to kill my future, but you had to kill my lover, too.

TERRELL

You mean Lawrence. Wait a minute. You got it all wrong.

John Mason empties an entire clip into Terrell's chest. Terrell crashes through the window and falls to the ground.

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

A WORLD WAR II AIR-RAID SIREN RINGS CONTINUOUSLY. The Policemen and dogs chase the students through the campus. It's utter chaos. A dog chews on a guy's ankle. Students try to get into the dorms, but they are shot or clubbed. Tear gas is launched into the center of the Quad. Liesl is among them.

EMT Gabriel and EMT Michael try to push through the crowd while they carry T.J. on a stretcher. An OXYGEN MASK covers T.J.'s face.

Adam stands frozen on the steps of his dorm as he watches the chaos. Liesl is shot with a rubber bullet in front of him. Liesl falls on the steps.

ADAM

(softly)

No.

(normal tone)

No.

(screams)

Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!!!

Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!!!

Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!!!

Officer Black tries to strike Liesl with a BATON. Adam leaps from the steps and grabs the baton and punches the Officer Black, which knocks Black down to the ground.

Officer Wesson tries to strike Adam from behind in the head with a baton, but a Chapel Assistant, adorned in a clergy collar, tackles Smith.

Students overturn the AMBULANCE.

Officer Wesson is tossed head first through the first floor window of a dormitory.

Anderson Hall is set on FIRE.

Students from each dorm turn FIRE HOSES onto the Police.

CUT TO:

The morning after...

EXT. HILLFIELD HALL - DAY

GROUNDS MEN remove the words:

NO JUSTICE. NO PEACE.

spray painted across the front doors of the Hillfield Hall.

INT. ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS' OFFICE - DAY

Adam stands across from Acting Chancellor Richards on the other side of Acting Chancellor Richards' desk. They shake hands.

ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS

I'm appointing you acting Student
Government President.
Congratulations, Adam. You'll be
Hillfield University's first
Sophomore Student Government
President.

Acting Chancellor Richards reaches into a cigar box. His HAND TWITCHES. He removes TWO CIGARS from a box. He LIGHTS both of them.

Adam walks over to the window. Peers through the glass and surveys the previous day's aftermath.

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

Windows are broken. HAZE and MIDST rises from the ground. Cars are over-turned. BLOOD is stained on the pavement.

EXT. CHAPEL - DAY

A lone STATUE of Frederick E. Hillfield, BLOOD smeared on it's face, towers in front of the BLOOD-STAINED, TRASH strewn walk of Hillfield Chapel.

INT. ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS' OFFICE - DAY

Acting Chancellor Richards steps away from his desk. Stands next to Adam.

ACTING CHANCELLOR RICHARDS
 I was a Hillfield Student Government
 President, too.
 (beat)
 Look how far we've come.

Acting Chancellor Richards hands Adam a cigar. The DIAMOND ON Adam's GOLD PINKY RING engraved with the initials "A.L.E." sparkles for a moment from a single ray of sunlight squeezing through the window.

Adam's hand twitches. He takes a drag. Coughs profusely. He takes another drag. Coughs a little less. Takes another drag. Coughs even less. Takes another drag. Holds it in. Blows smoke out of his nose.

CUT TO:

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

A WOODEN PLAQUE is tossed into a FLAMING FIREPLACE amidst the ashes of the burning SKETCHES from the opening of the film.

THE HILL MAIN THEME slowly rises.

WOODEN PLAQUE

Hillfield University
Proudly presents this plaque to
Acting Student Government President
1995 - 1996

Adam Lawrence Evers

SUPERIMPOSE SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. STUDENT COURTROOM - DAY

A SHORT-HAIRED, GOATEED ADAM, wearing a JUDGE'S ROBE, SLAMS a gavel. Adam wears his DIAMOND GOLD PINKY RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on it.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

A SHORT-HAIRED, GOATEED ADAM wearing a SWEAT SUIT holds a CROWN above his head while the morning sunrise shines through it. Adam wears his DIAMOND GOLD PINKY RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on it.

INT. CHAPEL - NIGHT

A BALDHEADED, CLEAN-CUT ADAM adorned in a CLERGY COLLAR holds a LANTERN to his face while he preaches from the makeshift pulpit. Adam wears his DIAMOND GOLD PINKY RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on it.

EXT. HILLFIELD HALL - DAY

A BALDHEADED, CLEAN-CUT ADAM adorned in a CLERGY COLLAR stands CHAINED to the doors with a MEGAPHONE IN HIS HAND. Adam wears his DIAMOND GOLD PINKY RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on it.

INT. MAGGIE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

A DREDLOCKED ADAM lies on a twin bed engaged in a long passionate embrace and kiss with MAGGIE. Adam wears his DIAMOND GOLD PINKY RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on it.

INT. DEBRA'S NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

A SHORT-HAIRED, GOATEED ADAM sits at the bar sipping on a tumbler of SCOTCH and writing on the inside flap of a BOOK OF MATCHES.

INT. ADAM'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

A BALDHEADED, CLEAN-CUT ADAM adorned in a clergy collar gives a BAG OF MARIJUANA to a pair of HANDS. The hands hand Adam a WAD OF MONEY. Adam wears his DIAMOND GOLD PINKY RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on it.

INT. ANDERSON HALL - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

A DREDLOCKED ADAM punches a YOUNG DISCIPLE OF ANKH in the chest. Adam wears his DIAMOND GOLD PINKY RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on it.

INT. CHANCELLOR DIX'S OFFICE - DAY

A SHORT-HAIRED, GOATEED ADAM removes a WIG from Chancellor Dix's DESK. Adam wears his DIAMOND GOLD PINKY RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on it.

INT. DEAN RICHARD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A BALDHEADED, CLEAN-CUT ADAM adorned in a CLERGY COLLAR, smokes CIGARS with Dean Richards.

Adam wears his DIAMOND GOLD PINKY RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on it.

INT. SMITH HALL - NIGHT

A HAND points a PISTOL at a DREDLOCKED ADAM'S FACE while Adam stands in front of a window. Adam attempts to grab the gun. Adam wears his DIAMOND GOLD PINKY RING with the initials "A.L.E." engraved on it.

INT. ANDERSON HALL - NIGHT

A PAIR OF HANDS tear down a COLOR POSTER of a DREDLOCKED ADAM which reads:

ELECT

ADAM LAWRENCE EVERS

PRESIDENT

Paid For By The Committee To Elect "A.L.E."

The hands toss the poster into a FLAMING GARBAGE CAN.

END SERIES

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

The plaque slowly burns until it is black with ash and encompassed in flames.

FADE OUT:

FINIT.