

CAMPUS COP

Episode #17

"The Puddle and the Lake"

Written by

Jonathan Vilardi

Based on Tom Musca's original idea

COLD OPEN

INT. OWEN'S APARTMENT - MORNING (DAY 1)

Multitasking with frantic desperation, Owen tears apart the living room with a toothbrush hanging from his mouth, a glass of orange juice in his hand, and one sock on.

OWEN

Bruno! Have you seen my cop hat
anywhere?

BRUNO'S BATHROOM

Bruno stands in the mirror, giving himself "the eyes" whilst determinedly attacking a blemish on his face with a cotton ball soaked in acne cream.

He pauses, and looks down to Owen's hat sitting upside down, holding a reserve of cotton balls. Bruno picks it up, flings out the cotton balls, and walks out to Owen.

BRUNO

Here, you left it in my bathroom.

OWEN

Why would I have left it in your
bathroom?

Bruno shrugs innocently, then returns to his cosmetic duties. Owen dons the cap, takes the toothbrush out of his mouth, and sips the orange juice.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Eugh. Do it for the Vitamin C.

A KNOCK at the door.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Damn it, Bruno. You gotta stop
bringing girls over before nine.

Owen answers the door, and finds Toad standing there, grinning ear to ear, holding a LETTER in his hand. He pushes past Owen into the apartment.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Toad, what are you doing here, man?
I'm late for work, I can't chill
right now.

TOAD

I did it, dude! I finally got in to
PLU! Check it out, brotha.

Toad hands Owen the letter when, suddenly, Bruno swoops in
and snags it from him.

BRUNO

You can't be serious.

TOAD

Read it and weep. Ah, I can't wait.
I'm gonna talk to every hottie on
campus. Might even become the
captain of the football team, you
know, if I have time. Ooh, and I'm
going to need to get me one of
those backpack things--

BRUNO

Did you read past the first line?

TOAD

No, it said "Congratulations". What
else do I need to know?

BRUNO

"Congratulations. You have set
PLU's official record for the most
applications by one individual.
Unfortunately, we still can not
offer you admission at this time,
nor will we be able to accept any
further applications from you in
the future. Thirty five is enough."

OWEN

Oh no. Toad...

Toad grabs the letter and stares at it with a look of pure
devastation. He wordlessly walks over to the couch, lays
down, and curls up in the fetal position.

BRUNO

Whoa, that's a no go. Owen, tell
him he has to leave.

OWEN

Your problem now, sorry.

Owen SLAMS the door behind him.

ACT ONE

INT. PLUP HQ - DAY (DAY 1)

Owen bursts in, out of breath, and immediately tries to collect himself and act as if he isn't late.

RODRIGUEZ
Owen! Get in here!

OWEN
Damn it.

INT. PLUP HQ - RODRIGUEZ'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (DAY 1)

OWEN
Yes, sir?

RODRIGUEZ
Owen, what time is it?

OWEN
I forgot to charge my phone last night, so I'm not actually sure.

Rodriguez points to the large clock on the wall behind him.

OWEN (CONT'D)
Oh, uh, hm. Let's see, it's... No wait, that's the big hand. Umm, so carry the one, and--

RODRIGUEZ
Seriously?

OWEN
I'm a millennial, sir.

RODRIGUEZ
It's 9:17. You're seventeen minutes late. This is the third time this month.

OWEN
I know, and I'm really sorry, It's just--

RODRIGUEZ
No, no, no. I don't wanna hear excuses, just make sure it stops before we have a real problem.

(MORE)

RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)

Now, hurry up and get your ass over to the lake, there's some kind of disturbance going on.

Owen nods, and hurries out of the office. After him,

RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)

And learn how to read a damn clock!

EXT. PLU - LAKESIDE BRIDGE - DAY (DAY 1)

Owen makes his way on to the scene, where a small crowd has gathered around two guys arguing, each dangling a something over the railing.

These guys are BRYSON, whose face is probably in the dictionary next to "frat bro", and CARL who, with his horn-rimmed glasses and GAP button-up shirt, looks like he could've written the dictionary.

OWEN

Hey, hey, hey. Campus PD, what's going on here?

Bryson and Carl turn to Owen, as we see that Bryson is holding a SLEEP APNEA MACHINE, while Carl has a GOLDFISH.

CARL

Ah, thank gosh you're here. My asinine roommate refuses to respect the fact that his damned ichthys is a boisterous nuisance that continues to agitate my allergies.

BRYSON

Oh my god, shut up, Carl. My asi-- asin... My stupid roommate keeps me up all night with his fricken noisy sex machine thing.

CARL

Bryson, you dolt, how many times must I explain to you that it's for my sleep apnea? As if I need a sex machine!

OWEN

Whoa, alright, let's simmer down here. How about you guys try to compromise? Let's see. Bryson, if you try and make sure your fish, uh...

(MORE)

OWEN (CONT'D)
 sheds less, then will you try a
 little harder not to suffocate in
 your sleep, Carl?

Bryson and Carl stare at Owen for a moment, before breaking into an incoherent bout of bickering. Owen sighs, when his phone suddenly begins to RING.

OWEN (CONT'D)
 Guys, shut up for a minute! Hello?

BRUNO (V.O.)
 Owen! You need to get back to the
 apartment right now. Toad's
 threatening to light himself on
 fire, and I swear to god if he
 scorches my couch--

Owen hangs up, and buries his face in his hands.

OWEN
 Jesus Christ. Guys, I need to go.
 Please just work this out like
 adults, okay?

Owen sprints off, leaving Bryson and Carl locked in a death stare. A GIRL WALKING A DOG walks by and, suddenly, Carl unleashes an uproarious SNEEZE that causes him to drop the fishbowl into the lake.

BRYSON
 SWIMMY, NO!!!

Bryson immediately dives into the water after Swimmy.

INT. OWEN'S APARTMENT - LATER (DAY 1)

Owen flies into the apartment, where Bruno is desperately trying to reason with Toad, who's holding a bottle in one hand, and a lighter in the other.

TOAD
 I'm gonna do it!

Toad pours the clear contents of the bottle over his head.

OWEN/BRUNO
 Toad! / My couch!

Toad flicks the lighter, and... nothing. Owen runs over to Toad and forcefully grabs the bottle from his hand. "Non-alcoholic Vodka". He raises it for Toad to see.

TOAD

Aw, come on. Can I do anything right?

Toad despondently sits down on the couch, Owen joining and putting his arm around him.

OWEN

Toad, come on, buddy. This isn't the end of the world. College isn't for everyone, you know.

TOAD

It was my dream, man. That and the Olympics, but after the groin injury of '08...

OWEN

Okay. But, shit happens. So focus on the good things you got going for you. Like The Pond! The Pond makes so many people happy, and it's all thanks to you!

TOAD

Yeah... yeah, I guess you're right. Maybe that's just my calling. Thanks man. Oh, but I just told my buddy Frog that he could have The Pond- and my apartment- since I thought I was going to light myself on fire and all. And he's kind of a stubborn dude. Can I just chill here until I work that out?

OWEN/BRUNO

Of course. / No!

TOAD

Ah, thanks, Owen. Means the world.

OWEN

Anytime. I really need to get back to work, so I'll catch you guys later. No more self-immolation alright?

Owen leaves. Bruno stares wearily at Toad, then downs the remainder of the bottle.

BRUNO

Close enough.

INT. PLUP HQ - DAY (DAY 1)

Owen arrives back to the HQ. He looks up to see Rodriguez, standing angrily in front of his office, beckoning him over.

INT. PLUP HQ - RODRIGUEZ'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 1)

RODRIGUEZ

It's unacceptable! How the hell did you let a student jump into the lake on your watch? He could've drowned, the school would've been sued!

OWEN

I'm sorry, there was an emergency--

RODRIGUEZ

The tardiness, this negligence... We have a VIP visiting campus this week, and I can't risk having you out there. Owen, I gotta put you on traffic duty until further notice.

OWEN

We have traffic duty?

RODRIGUEZ

We do now.

ACT TWO

EXT. BUSY STREET - DAY (DAY 2)

Owen stands at the crosswalk, decked out in full crossing guard attire. Neon vest, sign, whistle, the works.

Two CUTE GIRLS approach, ready to cross the street.

OWEN

Allow me.

Owen BLOWS way too hard on his whistle, causing the girls to recoil in pain. He spreads his arms and raises his sign, and begins leading them.

GIRL #1

I think we're okay, actually.

OWEN

Well apparently the University doesn't, so let's go.

Halfway across the intersection, a car pulls up too close and stops just short of Owen, warranting a harsh whistle BLAST and flashing of his sign, as the girls scurry off.

The car swings around Owen, and stops next to him. Inside is Professor Gaines, laughing his ass off, as he snaps a picture of Owen and speeds off.

EXT. BUSY STREET - LATER

Owen sits against a post, disinterestedly PUFFING on his whistle. A nearby, crazed looking HOMELESS MAN calls out,

HOMELESS MAN

Will you cut it out?! I can't hear myself think. Or my other self. Or my other self. Or my other self...

EXT. BUSY STREET - NIGHT

Owen is barely awake, slumped on the ground. Suddenly, Rose Beans approaches.

ROSE

Owen? Is that you?

OWEN

Huh? Oh, hey Rose! Let me help you cross.

Rose looks up and down Owen's get-up and bursts out laughing.

OWEN (CONT'D)

I know, I know.

She keeps cracking up, to the point of struggling for breath.

ROSE

(collecting herself)

I'm sorry honey, it's just...

And, she loses it again. Owen isn't so amused anymore. Rose crosses the street unassisted, cackling the whole way.

INT. OWEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (DAY 2)

Owen walks into the apartment, exhausted, and throws down all his equipment on the floor. There's MUSIC playing, people chilling and drinking, and Toad set up with a makeshift bar full of beer and liquor.

TOAD

Owen! Damn, you look beat, let me get you a drink. The usual?

OWEN

Sure, thanks.

Owen sits down at the "bar", while Toad prepares his drink. He lazily nods to the DUDE sitting next to him, and gets a nod back. To Toad, with a sigh,

OWEN (CONT'D)

Hell of a day, man. They got me on this ridiculous crossing guard detail. It's unbelievably demeaning.

TOAD

(handing Owen his drink)
Wow, sounds rough.

OWEN

Thanks. Yeah, no kidding.

Owen takes a satisfied sip, as he begins to unwind. He calmly looks around, then, suddenly, twists his face.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Wait a minute, what the hell? Who are these people? Why is my apartment The Pond?

TOAD

Not The Pond, The Puddle! Turns out Frog wasn't too hot on me going back on my promise, so I just set up here. Pretty dope right?

OWEN

No. Not cool, man.

Bruno emerges from his room, unaware and wearing headphones. He looks up and sees what his apartment has become.

BRUNO

What the hell?!

A KNOCK on the door. Owen answers it, and standing there is Cassandra, on duty.

CASSANDRA

Hi there, we got a call about a noise complai--

She realizes who she's talking to, then looks past him to see the fully functioning bar in Owen's living room.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
Oh, you're kidding me.

INT. PLUP HQ - RODRIGUEZ'S OFFICE - DAY (DAY 3)

Owen stares shamefully at his feet, with Cassandra sitting next to him, while Rodriguez glares at Owen.

RODRIGUEZ
You're not having a good week. Do you understand how serious an offense it is to run an unlicensed bar out of your apartment?

CASSANDRA
While serving to underage "patrons".

OWEN
Nobody was serving to anyone underage!

RODRIGUEZ
You're underage!

OWEN
Damn it.

A hint of sorrow mixes in with the anger on Rodriguez's face.

RODRIGUEZ
This is one misstep too many. Effective immediately, you are suspended without pay, while your conduct is put up for review. I'm going to need you to turn in your hat.

OWEN
What? Guys, come on, we don't need to blow this out of proportion. You know how important--

RODRIGUEZ
Owen. I'm sorry. Your hat.

With a melancholy sigh, Owen puts his hat down on Rodriguez's desk, and storms out of the office. Rodriguez and Cassandra share a pitying glance.

ACT THREE

INT. OWEN'S APARTMENT - DAY (DAY 3)

This time Owen is the one laying despondently on the couch, his head on Tomorrow's lap as she comfortingly strokes his hair. Toad and Bruno sit on the adjacent chairs, watching TV.

TOAD

So I got the pond back.

(beat)

Owen, I'm really sorry I probably got you fired, man. But it's not the end of the world, right?

Owen, Tomorrow, and Bruno all turn to glare at him.

BRUNO

Why are you still here?

TOMORROW

Bruno, be nice. Toad doesn't always understand the damage he's causing.

TOAD

I want to make it up to you, I just don't know how, you know?

BRUNO

And you really didn't get in to PLU?

TOAD

Hey man, you don't need to break out the low blows.

TOMORROW

Guys, stop it. Owen, I need to go to campus to do my piece on Richard Rogers's visit, why don't you come with me? The fresh air will help.

Owen laboriously sits up and sighs. Flatly,

OWEN

Alright.

BRUNO

That's a white name if I ever heard one. Who's Richard Rogers?

TOMORROW

Some huge benefactor to the school.

Bruno's eyes glaze over.

TOMORROW (CONT'D)

He gives a lot of money. He's actually about to give a multi-million dollar grant so the school can build some fancy new facility, hence the visit.

BRUNO

Lame.

TOMORROW

(to Owen)

You ready?

Owen nods, and he and Tomorrow exit. Bruno shifts his attention back to the TV, but Toad is suddenly wearing a look of determination, gears clearly turning in his head.

EXT. PLU - LAKESIDE BRIDGE - DAY (DAY 3)

A small crowd of people are gathered, as if preparing to watch a parade. Owen and Tomorrow stand toward the front, with Owen staring out blankly, as Tomorrow sets up her camera and tripod.

OWEN

I just don't know what to do next.

TOMORROW

Aw, Owen, we'll figure it out. It's going to be okay.

OWEN

I meant for lunch after this because I'm hungry. Just trying to get my mind off it...

TOMORROW

Oh look, he's coming!

Tomorrow hops behind her camera. Sure enough, approaching with the Provost is RICHARD ROGERS, 60s, a quite distinguished looking wealthy man with a smile that looks like he has an upside down coat hanger in his mouth.

Cassandra and Rodriguez trail behind, carefully surveying their surroundings for any possible threats.

OWEN

I should be the one playing secret service right now.

TOMORROW

(sotto)

I know babe. But, shh, you're
messing up my audio.

Richard Rogers pauses in front of the crowd and waves.

PROVOST

Oh, we really don't need to bother
with them.

RICHARD

Hello, everyone! What a lovely day
to be here at Ponce De Leon
University. I'm very excited to--

BOOM. Out of nowhere, Toad comes flying in on a skateboard
and SLAMS into Richard, sending him over the rail of the
bridge and PLUMMETING into the lake.

The whole crowd, which includes Bryson and Carl, GASPS.

RICHARD (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Help! I can't swim!

TOAD

Oh my god! Oh no! Won't somebody
save--

Rodriguez tackles him to the ground. Tomorrow looks over to
Owen,

TOMORROW

Holy shi--

But he's not there. Instead, he's sprinting toward the lake,
then dives in.

EXT. LAKE - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 3)

With Richard in tow, Owen swims back to shore, as the crowd
migrates to watch. He throws Richard safely on to land.

OWEN

Are you alright?

The Provost swoops in, and pushes Owen out of the way.

PROVOST

My god, Mr. Rogers, I am so, so
sorry. Are you alright? Did Owen
make it worse? Please don't
withdraw your donation!

Richard stands up, pulls off his blazer, and wrings it out. The tension is tangible, as the crowd waits for his reaction.

RICHARD

Son... You just saved my life.

(to the crowd)

This young man is a hero!

(to Owen)

How can I ever repay you? Keep in mind, I have lots of money.

OWEN

(re: his ruined phone)

Ah, shit. Huh? Oh, no it's fine, don't mention it. Just doing my job. I mean it *was* my job.

RICHARD

Pardon?

OWEN

I just got fired from my job as a security officer here. Long story.

RICHARD

Well, what a dire mistake that is. Donna, I insist that this young man is reinstated to his former position. With a promotion.

Donna stares daggers at Owen, who smirks back.

PROVOST

Of course, Mr. Rogers. Now let's go get you dried off.

Richard gives Owen a hearty handshake, before departing with the Provost. As the Provost passes Rodriguez,

PROVOST (CONT'D)

You heard the man.

Still soaking wet, Owen makes his way back up to the pavement. Toad passes, being dragged by the arm by Cassandra. He flashes Owen a big smile, Owen just grins and shakes his head.

RODRIGUEZ

I swear to *God*, if this was one of your schemes--

OWEN

I swear to God, it wasn't.

Rodriguez gets real close to Owen's face, and stares him intensely in the eyes. Satisfied with whatever he saw,

RODRIGUEZ

Well. Good work then, son. I guess I'll be seeing you first thing on Monday. *On time.*

OWEN

Absolutely. Thank, you sir.

Rodriguez pats him on the shoulder and starts to walk away.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Oh, and he did kind of specify a promotion...

RODRIGUEZ

Did you bump your head on a rock when you jumped in that lake?

OWEN

No, sir. Monday, bright and early.

Rodriguez nods and exits. Tomorrow runs up to Owen and kisses him.

TOMORROW

My crazy hero. What came over you?

OWEN

I literally have no idea. All of the sudden I was just running, and next thing I know I'm in the water. Maybe this sort of thing is just my calling.

TOMORROW

Maybe it is... So, do you want to see the video?

OWEN

Oh my god, yes.

Owen and Tomorrow erupt with guilty laughter, watching Toad clobber Richard Rogers over, and over, and over again.

THE END