

WNED IS SUPPORTED BY VIEWERS LIKE YOU
(By Chris Rogers)

INT. WNED TV STUDIO - NIGHT

GLEN DIRKOVITCH and MARY SLATE stand with MICROPHONES in hand. Behind them, a GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS work a PHONE BANK.

GLEN DIRKOVITCH

Hello and welcome to hour seventy-one of the WNED Membership Telethon. For those just tuning in, I'm Glen Dirkovitch.

MARY SLATE

And I'm Mary Slate.
(to volunteers)
Everyone hangin' in there?
Coffee's on the way!

Smiles and big thumbs ups from the volunteers.

GLEN DIRKOVITCH

We've heard what you, the viewers, have asked for. And in response, we've cut the length of this year's Telethon to just 118 hours. That's only seven-thousand-eighty minutes. We did this because that's what you, the viewers, told us you wanted.

MARY SLATE

But now you need to do your half by calling in and pledging your support. I'd like to invite you to join at the 120 dollar level. That's just ten dollars a month or 33 cents a day or 1.375 cents an hour.

GLEN DIRKOVITCH

Your time is valuable. We get that, which is why we're bending over backwards, and, quite frankly, really taking it in the rear by cutting 60 minutes or 3600 seconds from this year's Telethon.

MARY SLATE

Right Glen, and in the time it takes to brew a cup of delicious java -- Approximately 3.67 minutes or point-zero-six-one-one hours. You can make a difference and allow us to continue bringing you the programming upon which you rely.

GLEN DIRKOVITCH

Please. Call now. 716-845-6300 -- that's one-thousand-seven-hundred-ninety-two-point-one-four-four times 4 million -- and pledge your support.

MARY SLATE

With just 57 thousand milliseconds left in the hour, we're still 740 thousand cents short of our goal. So light up those phones!

GLEN DIRKOVITCH

Speaking of phones, let's check in with one of our wonderful volunteers.

Glen walks over to the phone bank...

GLEN DIRKOVITCH (CONT'D)

George! Burning that midnight oil!

GEORGE

I'm tired Glen. Super tuckered. Popping Sudafed by the handful -- the old kind that's sorta methy.

GLEN DIRKOVITCH

That's the spirit! George has been working the phones since we went live two-hundred-and-eleven-thousand-three-hundred-and-nine-point-five-two micro-fortnights ago!

MARY SLATE

For clarity, a micro-fortnight equals one-point-two-zero seconds.

GLEN DIRKOVITCH

Ha Ha! No clarity needed, Mary! Not for our viewers! I'm Glen Dirkovitch!

George downs a handful of Sudafed pills, immediately begins convulsing and foaming at the mouth.

GLEN DIRKOVITCH (CONT'D)

Well, it looks like George is dead. Unfortunately, we have to extend the Telethon by 216,000 Jiffies. To make up for our diminished volunteer pool.

MARY SLATE

What that means for you, our viewers, is we only have the-cube-root-of-the-speed-of-light-in-a-frictionless-vacuum nanoseconds remaining to hit our pledge goal of seventy-one-thousand-point-three-two-four-one Sixpence.

GLEN DIRKOVITCH

The clock's a ticking!

MARY SLATE

Additionally, seventy-one-thousand-point-three-two-four-one is a sacred and mystic number. By simply speaking it aloud, I've opened The Great Stargate, bestowing upon myself the hidden powers of Xzan.

GLEN DIRKOVITCH

Shit just got real, y'all!

MARY SLATE

Indeed. I'm in charge now and the rules have changed. You, our viewers, have one last chance to do your part. Our programming is why you tune in, and it's funded in part by viewers like you. To ensure its continuation, please, help us reach our goal in the next seven seconds...

GLEN DIRKOVITCH

You hear that, folks? A sprint to the finish! SEVEN... SIX... FIVE... FOUR... THREE... TWO... ONE... AND... Time's up!

(beat)

I'm getting word we've fallen short by 3 cents! So close!

MARY SLATE

What a shame...

Mary takes a seat in the Lotus position.

MARY SLATE (CONT'D)

This is happening because of
viewers like you.

She closes her eyes.

GLEN DIRKOVITCH

If only we had another 36 quarks!

A FLASH OF LIGHTNING. A CLAP OF THUNDER. The studio and
everyone inside are vaporized.

FADE TO BLACK.