

WAITING FOR THE BUS

by Fred Coppersmith

TOM, carrying a backpack, is late for a bus.

TOM

Oh damn it, I missed the bus! Great,
now I'm going to be late for my
interview!

He notices JERRY, already waiting at the bus stop.

TOM

Um, excuse me, you don't know when the
next Loop bus goes by here, do you?

JERRY

Puh-lease. The Loop? Do I honestly
look like I'm waiting here for the
Loop?

TOM

Well, um, I don't know. That's kind of
why I asked. You see, I'm running late
for a job interview at the other side
of campus and -- well, do you know when
the next bus goes by here?

JERRY

I am so not waiting for the Loop.

TOM

Oh. Well, do you know when --

JERRY

No. I don't.

TOM

Oh. Okay, fine then.

Pause.

TOM

Um, what are you waiting for?

JERRY

I think it should be obvious.

TOM

Well, it isn't.

JERRY

If it's all the same to you, I happen to be waiting for the 12:15 Orgy Bus, okay? It'll be here any minute now.

TOM

I'm sorry, the 12:15 what?

JERRY

The 12:15 Orgy Bus. You know, the bus where everybody's having sex with one another? They've got lights, music, scented oils, all that kind of stuff. It goes by, like, three or four times a day.

TOM

You're joking, right?

JERRY

Noooo, I don't think so. Look, I missed it this morning, and that's not gonna happen again, okay? So you just take your precious little Loop bus wherever it is you're going and leave me alone, all right? I've gotta keep my eyes open. It's almost here.

TOM

I've never heard of any Orgy Bus.

JERRY

Well then you obviously haven't been in State College very long, have you?

TOM

I've been here for fourteen years. I've never heard of the Orgy Bus.

JERRY

Your loss, pal. It's the reason I came to this school.

TOM

Oh. So, this bus -- they have, what? Like naked women and stuff?

JERRY

Well it wouldn't be much of an orgy without naked women, now would it?

TOM

No. No, I guess it wouldn't. It's just — well, I've never been to an orgy before. Let alone on a bus.

JERRY

Well they only have so much room on this bus, so don't think you're getting my seat. I've been waiting almost half an hour for this. I'm missing class.

TOM

Gee. How much does it cost?

JERRY

Three fifty. Two bucks even if you bring your own towel. But it gets pretty full around noon so no cutting in line.

TOM

And — and the University lets this happen?

JERRY

Man, of course they let it happen. What do you think pays Graham Spanier's salary anyway? Football? Tuition? The "government"? I don't think so. It's random sex with strangers on cold plastic seats, that's what. The Orgy Bus made Penn State what it is today.

TOM

Gee. I — I never knew.

JERRY

Yeah, well now you do. Are you happy?

TOM

Well, I guess. It's just —

JERRY

What?

TOM glances at his wristwatch.

TOM

Well, it's after 12:15, that's all. It's almost 12:30 by my watch.

JERRY

It's what? No, no, it can't be. It's
— you're kidding, right?

TOM

No, I'm sorry, look.

TOM holds up his wrist.

TOM

I mean, I don't know, maybe it's late.

JERRY

No, damn it, it's never late. Damn it.
I can't believe I missed it again!

TOM

Gee, I'm sorry. I don't know what to
tell you.

JERRY

I knew I should've gotten here earlier.
Damn it. I'm never gonna get on that
damn bus! I guess I might as well go
to my dumb class after all.

JERRY storms off angrily. Long pause, then TOM looks around
to make sure he isn't being watched. He resets his watch,
opens up his backpack, and pulls out a towel.

TOM

Sucker. Nobody gets my seat on the
Orgy Bus, pal. Hellooooo, ladies...