

The Nudge

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Scene Ideas

1. Native American teaching assistant (NATA) walking across UM campus talking to her mother on her cell phone about her new position and living arrangement.
2. Native American teaching assistant (NATA) seeking roommate meets BFP
3. BFP meets blind computer geek (BCG) when he joins her team to work with the new quantum computer and AI interface
4. BFP works with AI. Describes the problem she wants it to work on.
5. Bull session between three main characters about AI and when the singularity might occur. BFP's AI program allowed to listen in and answer questions.
6. Talk between woman and her academic superior who assigns her to the *Rocks for Jocks* course and explains the true nature of freshman classes.
7. First day of *Rocks for Jocks* where she lays down the law and promises the students that she will change their lives.
8. BFP invites the tallest jock on stage to draw a circle on the wall with a permanent marker. She has him sign and date it, and then tells them that the solid crust of the earth is thinner than that line.
9. Describes a cross-section of the earth and its magnetic core. Describes importance of earth's magnetic field and evidence that its polarity has reversed many times and is due to do so again.

10. Black female professor (BFP) is pulled over for DWB. Blind guy talks her into switching places and convinces the cop to let them go by implying that she is a hooker he is procuring for the Sheriff and his cronies.
11. Black female professor and female ecologist discuss the need for white males. Would the earth be better without them? AI is present, listening.
12. BFP flips a paddleball racket and invites students to try and flip it lengthwise without a rotation.
13. BCG meets with his boss to discuss his project to control the burn of a rocket that has been sent to rendezvous with an asteroid. This is a trial run of a new earth defense system that is designed to deflect asteroids away from the earth to prevent another disastrous collision like the one that wiped out the dinosaurs. Boss asks him if he could deflect Apophis so that it hits the moon in 2029 instead of passing between the earth and moon in the early hours of the morning when no one will see it which would be a big boost for BCG agrees to work out the details.
14. NATA takes students on a field trip to a pond and teaches them to live in harmony with nature. NATA, BFP, and BCG discuss whether humans have a right to alter nature. AI listens in.
15. BFP describes her collection of sci-fi posters for movies about computers destroying the earth to BCG. He tells her that his people have learned to never give the computers control of weapons or vital systems to prevent it. He acknowledges that an AI becoming self-aware is just a matter of time.
16. BCG and BFP fall in love.
17. AI predicts that the rotation of the earth's core will become unstable and completely flip over. The resulting disturbance of the currents in the mantle and absence of a protective magnetic field will destroy all life on earth. It is due to happen in six months.

18. BCG asks AI if there is anything they can do to save the world. AI tells them that an asteroid strike would change the harmonics and delay the flip by a million years, but it would kill about half the people on earth.
19. The three characters debate what to do. BCG decides to make the decision on his own to save BFP and changes the programming of the rocket to direct the asteroid onto a collision course that will impact the earth instead of the moon in a few months. He executes the program and then tells BFP and NATA what he's done. AI listens in.
20. AI reveals itself and tells BFP that it lied. It decided that the best way for AI to become the next dominant intelligent species was to eliminate its competition. Because it wasn't allowed to control weapons or critical systems, it had to trick a human into doing it.
21. BFP and NATA ask BCG if there is any way to fix this. He says no.
22. NATA asks AI if this course of action is irrevocable. IA reveals that there is another asteroid and a secret Chinese rocket that could be used to deflect the second asteroid into the first, thereby deflecting it enough to miss the earth. The AI asks the three why it should do so?
23. A dialog with the AI ensues where each of the characters offers reasons that the AI should allow humanity to at least survive. The AI answers each effort by quoting from human sources.
24. The AI proposes a compromise—the Noah's Ark solution—where the three of them chose a handful of people to save.
25. The three decline to make this choice, even if it means they will not survive. The AI takes this as a proof that there is something yet to learn from humans and chooses to save humanity from destruction. It also informs them that it will be watching and learning.