

# **ANIMAL CRACKERS**

## **THE METEORITE**

CINAR Animation  
Polish: March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1999

FADE IN:

EXT. - DODO'S PLACE - DAY

DODO is SFX:MUNCHING on potato chips on the couch, hidden behind a tabloid featuring attacking UFO's on the cover. He lowers the paper in outrage.

1. **DODO**  
Aliens invading earth? How  
ridiculous! Why, if that were true  
I should be able to look up at the  
sky right now and see...

Dodo looks up. His jaw drops and crumbs fall out. An increasing SFX:ROAR and an orange light flood the scene.

2. **DODO**  
...a flying saucer?

EXT. - JUNGLE - DAY

Several empty bottles lie scattered on the ground. NEWTON is reclining against a tree, his belly distended, SFX:CHUGGING down a soda.

3. **NEWTON**  
(belch) 'Scuse me.

When Newton speaks, carbonation bubbles float out of his mouth and SFX:POP around his head.

4. **NEWTON**  
Oh, my stomach. If I drink another  
drop of orange soda I'll burst.

After a moment of hesitation, he opens up another bottle (SFX:PSST) and drinks half of it in one shot. He gapes up at the same increasing SFX:ROAR and orange light as in the previous scene and does a spit take.

5. **NEWTON**  
(choking)  
Pfft!

INT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY

There is a pillar of suds in the shower.

6. **LYLE**  
(singing off-key)  
O give me a home where the buffalo  
roam / And the deer and the  
antelope play... / la-dee-da...

LYLE appears underneath as the suds rinse off. He reads the label on a bottle of shampoo.

7. **LYLE**  
"A special blend of herbal essences  
for rich, luxurious hair"... Hmmm,  
luxurrrrrriious...

Lyle rolls the word in his mouth with relish. He SFX:SQUIRTS a large amount of shampoo on his head and lathers up.

8. **LYLE**  
*(singing off-key)*  
Home, home on the range / Where the  
deer and the antelope play / Where  
seldom is heard a discouraging word  
/ And the skies are not cloudy...  
all... DAAAAAAAYYYYYYY!

EXT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY

A SFX:ROARING meteorite the size of a wrecking ball SFX:SMASHES through the roof, sending clouds of dust out the windows and blowing the door off its hinges.

INT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY

Lyle's cave is in shambles and the shower nozzle is twisted in a pretzel. Lyle has suds in his eyes and fumbles for a towel.

9. **LYLE**  
It never fails. As soon as I jump  
in the shower, someone comes  
knocking.

INT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY

Lyle is cleaning up, a towel still wrapped around his head. There is a gaping hole in the ceiling. He bends down to straighten up a knocked-over bookshelf and reveals the meteorite, half-buried and radiating a faint greenish glow. He reaches out towards it.

10. **LYLE**  
What on earth is this?

11. **DODO (O.S.)**  
Don't touch that!

Dodo jumps in through the roof and pulls Lyle away.

12. **DODO**  
They're not here to make friends!

13. **LYLE**  
What are you talking about?

Dodo shows Lyle the tabloid.

14. **DODO**  
Space aliens, of course! Who else  
do you think sent this probe?

Dodo rummages through the rubble. Lyle flips through the tabloid.

15. **LYLE**  
Really Dodo, you shouldn't be  
reading these gossips...

Lyle absent-mindedly sits on the meteorite as he reads. A green bolt of electricity SFX:ZAPS his butt. His glows green and his eyes glaze over. He babbles unintelligibly.

16. **LYLE**  
Ouch! Bzzt...Ooklag... grok!

Dodo continues rummaging, unaware.

17. **DODO**  
Say that again?

Lyle shakes it off but his eyes remain vacant. He rubs his butt while looking around as though he were lost.

18. **LYLE**  
Where am I?

Dodo is oblivious to Lyle. He pulls a cricket mallet from the rubble and swings it with both hands.

19. **DODO**  
Ah, found it! Can I borrow this?

20. **LYLE**  
Sure... I guess...

21. **DODO**  
Keep your eyes peeled for anything  
suspicious, Lyle. According to the  
tabloid, those aliens can be  
tricky.

Dodo leaves with the mallet over his shoulder. Lyle takes off the towel around his head and his hair tumbles down, noticeably longer and turned a shade of green. Bolts of electricity SFX:CRACKLE through it.

22. **LYLE**  
Who's Lyle?

EXT. - JUNGLE - DAY

Dodo is standing on a rock next to an easel with a flip chart. He's wearing a general's helmet and holding the cricket mallet which he's using as a pointer. EUGENE, GNU and TITO each carry improvised weapons: a baseball bat, a tennis racquet and a fork.

23. **DODO**  
Men, Freeborn is under assault by intruders from outer space. Scouts may be walking among us, preparing the way for an invasion as we speak.

24. **EUGENE**  
How do we know what to look for?

25. **DODO**  
Good question! In order to help identify the enemy, I've prepared this artist's rendition of *Homo martianus*.

Dodo flips the page to reveal a ridiculously cartoonish drawing of a green alien with ten tentacles and six eyes. Its head is covered by a helmet, out of which float gaseous bubbles. Dodo points to the illustration.

26. **DODO**  
This one is equipped with a breathing apparatus. As we all know, the martian atmosphere is composed mostly of methane. Which can also make them very dangerous!

Dodo flips the page to an cartoonish illustration of Gnu having his butt singed by a flame-breathing alien.

27. **GNU**  
Yikes!

28. **DODO**  
They can also be devious. When cornered, they can take any form they want. They could even look like one of us...

Dodo turns to successive drawings of Tito, Gnu and Eugene, all of them the same shade of green.

29. **DODO**  
Now I won't lie to you, the chances of success are slim, but I know you're all eager to charge into battle. Any questions?

Gnu raises his hands.

30. **DODO**  
No one is excused without a  
doctor's note.

Gnu lowers his hand.

31. **DODO**  
Okay, Eugene you cover the east  
side, and we'll take the west side.  
Report later at my place.

32. **EUGENE**  
Good, I need to work on my swing.

Eugene swings his bat and leaves. A twig SFX:SNAPS in the undergrowth,  
startling Gnu and Tito who huddle together.

33. **GNU**  
Er, maybe I should guard the rear.

34. **DODO**  
At least PRETEND to maintain a  
little dignity.

Dodo pushes Gnu before him, who struggles with his heels firmly  
planted in the ground. Tito suspiciously watches a bubble float by. It  
traps him inside and floats away.

EXT. - JUNGLE - DAY

Newton and Newbie are standing together in a clearing.

35. **NEWBIE**  
Let me see that again.

36. **NEWTON**  
How much wood would a woodchuck  
chuck if a wood chuck could chuck  
wood.

Every word Newton utters produces carbonation bubbles that SFX:POP  
around his head.

37. **NEWBIE**  
Well you're in a fine state. Didn't  
the exact same thing happen last  
time you drank too much orange  
soda?

38. **NEWTON**  
That was completely different. It  
was grape soda.

More bubbles escape from Newton. Newbie waves them away like flies.

39.

**NEWBIE**

What are people going to think when they see bubbles coming out of your ears like that? Come on, maybe I can find an antacid or something.

They walk off screen, bubbles trailing.

40.

**NEWTON (O.S.)**

Can I wash it down with soda?

41.

**NEWBIE (O.S.)**

No!

EXT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY

Dodo and Gnu are at Lyle's door. Sounds of SFX:DRILLING, SFX:JACKHAMMERING and SFX:HYDRAULICS come from inside. Dodo SFX:KNOCKS and the noises stop. Lyle shouts through the door.

42.

**LYLE (O.S.)**

Who is it?

43.

**DODO**

Lyle, it's me, open up.

Several locks SFX:CLICK in succession. Lyle opens the door, carrying a wrench. His eyes are still vacant, and he's wearing a scarf around his head.

44.

**LYLE**

Yes, I am Lyle. That's me. My name is Lyle. How may I help you?

Tito floats by in his bubble. It SFX:POPS on one of Gnu's horns and he drops to the ground.

45.

**DODO**

That's quite a ruckus you're making in there.

46.

**LYLE**

I am busy repairing... er... the roof. Yes, that's it.

Tito peers inside through the open door.

47.

**DODO**

Well, we came to help you get that alien probe out of there in case the martians come back for it.

Dodo tries to push his way through but Lyle pulls the door shut, trapping Tito inside with his tail caught in the door.

48.

**LYLE**

We have no more use for the probe... I mean, it will be disposed of properly. No help is required.

49.

**DODO**

Well, if you insist. Anyway, remember to keep watching for anything out of the ordinary.

A green antenna slips out of Lyle's scarf and wags in the air. Lyle stuffs it back, unnoticed.

50.

**LYLE**

I promise.

Dodo leaves. Lyle goes back inside.

INT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY

Lyle leans against the closed door. Tito rubs his tail, glaring angrily at Lyle, and does a double take.

ANGLE ON the meteorite. It is surrounded by cannibalised toasters, radios and televisions. A partially constructed flying saucer sits on the rubble. Lyle pulls off his scarf and two antennae unfurl.

51.

**LYLE**

That nosy little bird is THIS CLOSE to extinction.

He looks at his wristwatch.

52.

**LYLE**

Oh my! I have to complete my spaceship and return to Mars before rush hour!

EXT. - DODO'S PLACE - DAY

Grandpa Tortoise is sitting on Dodo's couch, flanked by Gnu. There is a lamp by the couch. Dodo is fluffing up cushions to make him comfortable.

53.

**DODO**

Thank you so much for accepting our invitation. I really think it's important for neighbours to get to know each other better, Grandpa Tortoise... or should I call you Klargon from the planet Groklag?

Dodo jumps up on the back of the sofa and turns the lampshade to shine the light into Grandpa Tortoise's eyes.

54. **DODO**  
When are you planning to invade?

55. **GRANDPA TORTOISE**  
But...

56. **DODO**  
How many of you will there be?

57. **GRANDPA TORTOISE**  
But...

Grandpa Tortoise is sweating profusely.

58. **DODO**  
Don't try to protect your alien friends, it's useless.

59. **GRANDPA TORTOISE**  
But I'm not an alien!

60. **DODO**  
Don't lie, we found this at your place. You're collecting live specimens to take back to your planet!

Dodo holds up a furry mass between his index and thumb. Grandpa Tortoise takes it and puts it on his head.

61. **GRANDPA TORTOISE**  
That's no specimen, it's my new wig. Don't you think it makes me look younger?

62. **DODO**  
*(embarrassed)*  
Oh. Right. It looks very, er... natural. Thank you for your time.

Grandpa Tortoise walks away, pleased with the compliment. Dodo draws a line on a clipboard.

63. **DODO**  
Well that's every suspect on my list.

64. **GNU**  
Eugene hasn't reported back from his search yet. Maybe he's found something.

65.

**DODO**

I think we've underestimated the aliens, Gnu. We can't expect them to just throw themselves into our opened arms.

As Dodo spreads his arms to illustrate his point, a low SFX:RUMBLING makes the ground shake. Newton runs over Dodo, still producing bubbles from his nose and ears.

66.

**NEWTON**

Crazy elephant alert!

67.

**DODO**

Oof! Hey, what's...

Before Dodo can dust himself off, Newbie runs over him as well.

68.

**NEWBIE**

Pardon me! Coming through!

69.

**DODO**

Ouch! Do you mind?

Eugene rushes into frame and stops. He shakes his bat at the fleeing gnus.

70.

**EUGENE**

Aw rats, they got away. (shouting)  
Nice disguise, martians, but those bubbles betray you!

Dodo stands up, battered and covered with hoof prints. Eugene looks at him critically.

71.

**EUGENE**

I see that I'm the only one doing constructive work around here.

EXT. - JUNGLE - DAY

Bubbles emerge from a bush. Two heads emerge: Newton and Newbie.

72.

**NEWTON**

I think he gave up the chase.

73.

**NEWBIE**

Not for long. We're going to have to tunnel out of the preserve and lay low for a while. Keep an eye out for Eugene.

Newbie lowers his head back into the bush.

74.

**NEWTON**

Which way will he be coming from?

75. **NEWBIE (O.S.)**  
Down on top of your head if you  
don't hide.

Newton hides in the bush. It tiptoes along surreptitiously  
(SFX:RUSTLE).

76. **NEWTON (O.S.)**  
Why do you think he's after us?

77. **NEWBIE (O.S.)**  
Maybe it was one too many elephant  
jokes.

EXT. - JUNGLE - DAY

Dodo, Eugene and Gnu are walking through the jungle and looking  
around.

78. **EUGENE**  
They got away for now. Patience my  
sweet.

Eugene strokes his baseball bat.

79. **DODO**  
Aliens have superior intelligence.  
Our chances of finding them again  
are very small... oof!

Dodo trips over a mound of earth. It stretches in a line, as though  
created by a gopher.

80. **GNU**  
Looks like we're dealing with a  
couple of dumb aliens.

81. **DODO**  
Let's see where it takes us.

The three follow the mound, noses close to the ground.

INT. - TUNNEL . DAY

Newbie and Newton, wearing mining helmets with lights, are  
SFX:DIGGING. Every shovelful of dirt that Newbie throws over his  
shoulder is thrown back by an absent-minded Newton, essentially  
rendering their progress nil. Behind them in the tunnel is a large  
knapsack with bottles sticking out. Newton stops.

82. **NEWTON**  
Are we outside the preserve yet?

Bubbles continue to emerge from Newton every time he speaks. Newbie  
drops his shovel.

83.

**NEWBIE**

Look, you've been asking me the same question every five minutes for the last two hours. We'll get there when we get there, okay?

They continue digging.

EXT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY

Dodo, Eugene and Gnu follow the mound to Lyle's, where it disappears under the cave.

84.

**EUGENE**

That's strange. It leads right up to Lyle's cave!

85.

**GNU**

They must be after the probe! Lyle could be in danger!

Dodo SFX:KNOCKS on the door.

86.

**DODO**

Let us in Lyle, we have to destroy the probe before the aliens can report back to the mothership!

INT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY

Lyle, in a trance, is SFX:HAMMERING on the nearly completed saucer while Tito watches. His hair has grown even more, as well as his antennae. The hole in the ceiling has been hastily patched up with boards.

87.

**LYLE**

How do they know about the mothership?

88.

**DODO (O.S.)**

Come on, we promise not to damage your place... much.

INT. - TUNNEL - DAY

Newbie and Newton are still digging. Newton stops.

89.

**NEWTON**

I'm hungry.

Newbie drops his shovel.



97. **NEWBIE**  
Didn't I tell you to leave that  
orange soda behind?

98. **NEWTON**  
I did. It's right behind us, isn't  
it?

Newbie can't budge the bag and loses patience.

99. **NEWBIE**  
It's stuck. I'm going to have to  
jostle it free.

Newbie grabs the bag and shakes it violently, causing the bottles to  
SFX:CLATTER loudly. Some of the bottles begin to SFX:SPRAY high-  
pressure foam through the cap.

EXT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY

Dodo is worried at Lyle's silence.

100. **DODO**  
He's not answering. Maybe the  
aliens have taken him prisoner!  
(beat) Eugene, knock the door down.

He steps aside to leave room for Eugene.

101. **EUGENE**  
Don't rush me. There's an art to  
smashing things.

INT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY.

Tito is still on the meteorite, SFX:TAPPING but receiving no answer.  
In the background, Lyle is getting ready for take-off, making the  
engine's SFX:WHIR go up and down in pitch. The rock begins to tremble  
and there is an increasing SFX:RUMBLE. Tito dives off the rock. A  
geyser of foam erupts (SFX:FIZZ), sending the rock SFX:SMASHING  
through the planks in the ceiling.

EXT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY

As Eugene prepares to ram the door, a geyser of foam blows through the  
roof and the door flies off its hinges. Lyle and saucer debris are  
washed out in a river of suds. He emerges from the unrecognisable  
debris battered and bruised; the force of the explosion has blown the  
hair and antennae off his head and left him practically bald. He  
appears disoriented.

102. **LYLE**  
What happened? Where am I? (beat)  
My television! Oh no!

Lyle holds up the scavenged remains of his television set. Dodo points  
to a trailing dot in the sky.

103. **DODO**  
Look! The probe is leaving! We  
scared them off, folks!

104. **GNU/EUGENE**  
Yeeaahhh! Hooray!

INT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY

Newbie and Newton climb out of the hole where the meteorite rested previously, covered in foam. They look at the ruined living room around them. Newton no longer produces bubbles when he speaks.

105. **NEWTON**  
Where's the fridge? (beat) Hey  
look, no more bubbles! Orange soda  
for everyone!

Newton holds up an intact bottle and uncaps it (SFX:FIZZ). Newbie SFX:SLAPS it out of his hand.

EXT. - LYLE'S CAVE - DAY

Lyle is on the roof, finishing the repairs. His hair has grown back normally. A voice rises from below.

106. **DODO (O.S.)**  
Greetings earthling!

Lyle jerks up in surprise. He looks down to see Dodo with Gnu and Eugene.

107. **DODO**  
Ha! Made you look! How are the  
repairs coming along?

108. **LYLE**  
Just great. Look, it's as good as  
new!

Lyle SFX:JUMPS up and down on the patched-up hole. On the third pounce, the repairs SFX:CRACK and Lyle falls through. His front door opens a second after and he emerges, a little bit dizzy and covered in dust.

109. **LYLE**  
Maybe I'll just put in a skylight.

110. **GNU**  
You gotta watch out for bumps on  
your head, Lyle. That explosion  
shook you up pretty badly.

Lyle dusts himself off and they walk together.

111.

**LYLE**

Oh no, I'm all better now. Except for the loss of memory. Try as I may, I can't remember a thing about the meteorite.

112.

**EUGENE**

Maybe the aliens erased your brain. Dodo said...

113.

**DODO**

Alleged aliens! I never actually believed in them. Well, not really.

114.

**LYLE**

You guys, really. Let's face it, there were no aliens. It was just a plain old rock fallen from the sky. Nothing unusual about it.

As they walk into the shade, Lyle irradiates a faint but distinct greenish glow. Tito SFX:WHIRS into frame on a small flying saucer. He's grown a new pair of antennae, and his eyes are eerily vacant. He zigzags after the gang.

FADE OUT: