

James' Protest
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EXT. STREET - DAY

JAMES is carrying a loudspeaker in one hand and a large handmade sign saying 'Rights for the blind' in the other. He marches up and down rainy pavement as dozens of PEDESTRIANS, some with DOGS stare at him. PEOPLE in shops on both sides of the road also stare, through glass windows and doors. A few BLIND PEOPLE wearing sunglasses and with walking sticks follow JAMES. The traffic is moderate.

JAMES
(into the loudspeaker)
Blind rights for all! Blind rights
for all!

A FEMALE TV REPORTER (early 20s) approaches JAMES with a microphone in her hand. A CAMERAMAN (30s) is behind her. JAMES stops walking as do the BLIND PEOPLE. He then drops his loudspeaker.

TV REPORTER
Hello there! Word is going around
that you've been walking up this
street for an hour now, but people
are unsure of what your message is.
Would you like to explain your story
to the local news?

JAMES
Basically, I'm trying to say how
important it is for everyone to be
treated as equal.

TV REPORTER
Would you care to elaborate on that?

JAMES
Blind rights for all!

TV REPORTER
Ok, I'll move on for now. I've
noticed you're protesting pretty much
alone...

JAMES
Yes, but not for much longer I'm
sure! My goal is to get the
government involved!

The CAMERAMAN looks confused.

CAMERAMAN
The reporter had a valid question,
you know? I think we're all wondering
what it is that you're trying to say.

TV REPORTER

Yes for the love of God, what is the message you're trying to get out there? Do you have a blind relative or something like that you're standing up for?

JAMES

No blind relatives, I'm just a great guy. Anyway, my message? Why aren't blind people allowed to drive?

The BLIND PEOPLE look embarrassed and walk away.

TV REPORTER

I'm sorry?

JAMES

You heard.

TV REPORTER

There's no way blind people can drive...

JAMES

You ableist scum!

JAMES throws his sign to the ground in a rage. Another BLIND MAN that was walking towards JAMES turns back.

TV REPORTER

I'm just trying to say it isn't physically possible for them...

JAMES

You patronising rat!

TV REPORTER

I'm sorry?

JAMES

You heard.

TV REPORTER

How can you drive if you can't see??

JAMES

Granted, there may be a few more accidents than usual, but there are risks with everything...

TV REPORTER

How do YOU picture a blind person driving?

JAMES

Errrrr...

CAMERAMAN

You don't know, do you?

JAMES

No, hang on.

CAMERAMAN

You have all the time in the world.

JAMES

Guide dogs?

A DOG yelps with approval.

CAMERAMAN

Guide dogs somehow lead the cars that blind people drive?

JAMES

Oh so you're not just abelist when it comes to people but animals, too??

CAMERAMAN

YOU'RE the one who's going to get charged with animal cruelty, not me.

JAMES

Oh God, what have I done this time?

CAMERAMAN

The endangerment of animals...

The same DOG looks nervous and turns away from JAMES.

JAMES

Dogs love running! Ever see the look on their faces as they do so? But you don't want that to happen, as you can't stand the thought of anyone being happy! Including dogs.

The DOG yelps as if to say 'that's not true...'

CAMERAMAN

You're crazy.

JAMES

Oh yeah? Can cheetahs drag cars for blind people? That sounds like a good idea...

CAMERAMAN

Sadly no. They'd get exhausted. Also,
you can't tell them where to go.

JAMES

You ableist piece of trash!

A MAN walking with a CHEETAH on a leash nods with approval.

MAN WITH CHEETAH

Cheetahs are actually very clever.

The CAMERAMAN turns to the MAN WITH CHEETAH.

CAMERAMAN

What are you doing with a cheetah?

MAN WITH CHEETAH

I work for a zoo. People relax by
visiting animals in zoos, animals
relax by going on walks.

CAMERAMAN

Oh, that makes sense.

The CAMERAMAN faces JAMES, again.

CAMERAMAN

Anyway, I'm warning you. You're
James, aren't you?

JAMES

Sure am.

TV REPORTER

How about you forget the idea of dogs
driving cars for blind people AND the
idea of of blind people driving and
society can continuing offering bus
or taxi services? So. How's that
sound?

JAMES

No, it's not good enough. Sorry.

TV REPORTER

Oh. I'm sorry you feel that way.

JAMES

Blind people should have the right to
guns, as well.

There is a stunned silence. JAMES makes a gun sign with his
hand to clarify things.

TV REPORTER

Wow... That's a pretty wild argument.
..

JAMES

Maybe to you.

TV REPORTER

And why should blind people have the right to guns whereas no one else is allowed?

JAMES

No, the shouldn't have the right, they should be forced to have guns.

TV REPORTER

And why is that?

JAMES

Ok, I didn't think that through. No wait, self defence! Self defence!

TV REPORTER

And how would a blind person defend himself without being able to see?

JAMES

Able...

TV REPORTER

Don't you dare call me ableist again.

JAMES

You see...

TV REPORTER

You can't admit you're wrong, can you?

JAMES

You may think I'm an idiot, but blind people love me.

TV REPORTER

Do they?

JAMES

They think I'm a bit goofy maybe, but VERY open-minded. Some blind people however, as you've just seen, try to avoid me.

TV REPORTER

I see. Well I hope you have a great
rest of your day, but your ideas
simply mustn't catch on, so I'm going
to have to stop filming.

JAMES

But...