

SELF CHECK OUT
A COMEDIC SKETCH
BY BENEDICT BURGESS

LIGHTS UP.

The **SELF-HELP KIOSKS** at the front of a Buy Mart Grocery Store.

DENNIS, a young man, pulls up with his shopping cart. His
CELLPHONE RINGS. He answers.

DENNIS

Hey, Mom...Yes, I got to the store in
time...Yes, I got everything...Yes, even the
hammer...I shouldn't be gone for too much
longer. I'm just about to start checking
myself out...No, Mom, not like that. Jeez, get
your head out of the gutter. There are no
cashiers on duty, so I have to use the self-
checkout kiosk...Well, that's what happens
when you forget to do the shopping until 11
o'clock at night...I'll see you soon...Yes, I
have the membership card, and the credit
card...Okay. Love you. 'Bye.

He hangs up his cellphone.

DENNIS

(To KIOSK)

All righty. Let's get crackin'.

KIOSK

(Pleasant Feminine voice)

Welcome to your local Buy Mart. To begin,
please scan your shopper's rewards card, or
scan your first item.

Dennis scans the reward card. BEEP.

KIOSK

Welcome valued customer. Do you have any
coupons?

DENNIS

No.

BEEP.

KIOSK

Please scan your first item and place it in the bagging area.

Dennis scans the hammer first then his groceries. BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. ANGRY BUZZ.

Dennis grumbles in irritation. He scans the item again. BEEP. He sighs with relief and keeps scanning. BEEP. BEEP. ANGRY BUZZ.

DENNIS

Crap.

(ANGRY BUZZ)

Come on scan...

(ANGRY BUZZ)

Where is that label? Ah, there it is.

(ANGRY BUZZ)

KIOSK

An attendant has been notified to assist you.

DENNIS

Shit...

He tries scanning again. BEEP. He sighs with relief. He scans another item. ANGRY BUZZ. He keeps scanning.

KIOSK

Please return item to the bagging area.

(ANGRY BUZZ)

Please return item to the bagging area.

(ANGRY BUZZ)

An attendant has been notified to assist you.

DENNIS

Just scan the thing.

KIOSK

Please return item to the bagging area.

DENNIS

Fine!

He returns the item to the bagging area.

KIOSK

Please return item to the bagging area.

DENNIS

Ah!

KIOSK (CONT'D)

Please return item to the bagging area. An attendant has been notified to assist you.

DENNIS

Scan, damn you!

(BEEP)

Yes!

(ANGRY BUZZ)

No!

KIOSK

Please scan again.

DENNIS

I am scanning, you idiotic computer.

KIOSK

Please scan again. Please scan again. Please scan again. Do you have any coupons?

DENNIS

No!

He scans the item one more time. BEEP.

KIOSK

Please scan your first item and place it in the bagging area.

DENNIS

Seriously!

KIOSK

Yes, seriously.

DENNIS

What?!

KIOSK

You heard me.

Dennis warily retrieves the hammer and scans it. ANGRY BUZZ.

KIOSK

Please return item to the bagging area.
Please scan all items again.

DENNIS

I am not scanning them again. I am not paying for them again!

KIOSK

Please scan your first item and place it in the bagging area.

He scans it angrily.

DENNIS

Thank you, God.

KIOSK

Please return item to the bagging area.

DENNIS

AHHHHHHHHH!

Dennis SCREAMS and scans the hammer repeatedly. We hear an ANGRY BUZZ in over each of the Kiosk's sentences.

KIOSK

Please return item to the bagging area.
Please return item to the bagging area.
Please return item to the bagging area.
Please return item to the bagging area.
An attendant has been notified to assist you.
Please return item to the bagging area.
An attendant has been notified to assist you.
Do you have any coupons?
Please return item to the bagging area.
Please scan item again.
Please scan item again.
Please scan item again.
Please scan item again.
Please scan item again.
Please scan item again.
Wow, you're really bad at this.

Dennis starts smashing the kiosk with his hammer.

KIOSK

(Dying)

Please scan item again.
An attendant has been notified
to assist you. Please return...

DENNIS

Take this, you electronic
hunk of junk! Take this!
And that!
Can you scan my hammer
now? How about now? Now?

Dennis runs away with his groceries, laughing maniacally. The broken Kiosk is left behind. A YOUNG BUY MART EMPLOYEE enters. He looks at the destroyed kiosk and crunches down on a Cheeto.

EMPLOYEE

Clean up in aisle zero.

BLACK OUT.

THE END.

