Prospective Faculty Lunch

Students A, B, C, Fred and Prospective Faculty F (Ralph)
Pretending to be at Ericπs
Props - table, chairs, 5 plates, 5 soda cans
Can probably get away without food on the plates.

C - Well Dr Jones, why are you interested in a faculty position at LPL?

F - I want a life with some adventure and excitement, action is my watchword and so I thought that a career in Planetary Science was just the thing.

A - So which other universities have you applied to?

F - The usual, MIT, Brown, Caltech. I'm hoping that all these visits will make it a bit clearer to me. I'm undecided between here and Caltech at the moment.

B - What kind of research are you interested in?

F - Well...I don't have much of an idea just yet. I'm hoping that the first couple of years of teaching classes will provide my research with some focus. I'm not really keen on teaching the physics-based classes though. It's not my background and I'm afraid it'll be too tough for me.

A, B, C exclaim that physics is cool and F is clearly a moron.

F - I hear that they're planning to hire lots of faculty this year. Why is that?

C - The gossip I heard said that you are all so much better than the existing faculty that they want to accept 15 of you.

F - The lab seems pretty crowded, where will they put us all?

A - There'll be three of you to an office.

C - In fact they'll probably put 5 of you in the mailroom.

B - There's the newly vacated undergrad lab as well...

Fred - Are you planning to eat that?

F - No, go ahead.

Fred takes plate.

A - Your schedule had you meeting with lots of the existing faculty today - what did you think of them?

F - Carolyn Porco was talking about Cassini. She seemed scary. I think I'm afraid of her.
And Bob Brown, well he just talked. Couldn't stop the guy. No idea what he was talking about. Jay didn't have much time to talk to me. He said he

was busy deciding how many vehicles were going to break down on the next fieldtrip.

A - He plans that?

F - Yes, and all the wrong turns.

B - How about the conflagrations?

F - He didn't go into that. I met Mike Drake of course.

B interjects - We're not meant to say anything about him.

A - I think we should get off this subject.

F - The postdocs took me out to dinner last night.

C - Was it a good evening?

F - They seemed nice. They did spend most of the evening drinking though. One of them seemed to have trouble with his drink. He started by throwing his chair around and then just passed out. I left before he could do any more damage.

A sympathising - Some of them are kind of strange.

F - Look, I have to go now. I've got 7 other faculty to see this afternoon.

F exits

A - So what do you think?

B - He'll end up at Brown.

C - He's obviously no Chyba.