

**New Mueller Report Drama, Avengers: Endgame Discussion, Sonic  
The Hedgehog Movie Trailer, Caster Semenya Forced to Lower  
Testosterone, Chase Bank's Terrible Tweet, Peter Mayhew, 'Alien:  
The Play'**

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[theme music plays]

**Travis:** This week: Avengers end gaming, attorney general blaming, and Chase customer shaming.

**Courtney:** I'm Courtney Enlow.

**Brent:** I'm Brent Black.

**Travis:** I'm Travis McElroy.

**Courtney:** And I'm big green zaddy Bruce Banner Hulk.

**Brent:** With Trends Like These.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hello, Brent and Courtney!

**Brent:** Hello, Travis, and hello, Courtney.

**Courtney:** Hello, Brent, and hello, Travis.

**Travis:** Hi, everybody.

**Brent:** Hello.

**Travis:** We are all back from outer space. We just walked in to find you here with that trends look upon your these.

**Brent:** I was like, "How's he gonna get out of this one? How's he gonna get out of this caper?" And then you did.

**Travis:** Deftly.

**Brent:** Yep.

**Travis:** Yeah, no, we're back from all our various and sundry places. Back with another episode. It is May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. It's gonna be May.

**Brent:** It's already May.

**Courtney:** It is. It is May.

**Travis:** [singing] It's currently May.

**Courtney:** Can I just tell you guys that my six year old daughter Julian loves that song. Is not familiar with—

**Travis:** She's got two ears and a heart, I understand.

**Courtney:** She is not familiar with the meme culture, because she's six years old, and she is certain that the lyrics are, in fact, "it's gonna be May." And so, when she looks at the screen of my phone, and it says, "it's gonna be me," she says, "That's wrong. Because it's called 'It's Gonna Be May.'"

**Brent:** I mean, she has a point. The pronunciation was quite pronouncedly an A vowel. So...

**Courtney:** Yeah, 100%. But only on the JT verses.

**Brent:** I'm rolling team Julian on this one.

**Courtney:** JC pronounced it correct.

**Travis:** Wow.

**Courtney:** That's why JC Chasez, superior NSYNC member. Hot take. I know.

**Brent:** Or, is it JC Chazee?

**Travis:** You know what, Courtney? I back that play. I agree.

**Courtney:** [singing] It's gonna be Chasez.

**Travis:** I'm saying, I like JT. His solo career is fine. But when we're talking about NSYNC proper, I think JC was definitely the dominant member.

**Courtney:** There was a clear front runner, and his name was JC Chasez.

**Brent:** Now, related, have you guys heard that there's actually a pretty good documentary about the manager of both NSYNC and the Backstreet Boys on YouTube premium?

**Courtney:** You mean Lou Pearlman?

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** Oh, he's a bad guy. He's a bad man.

**Brent:** I know. I never knew the same guy managed both of those boy bands, and pitted them against each other.

**Courtney:** Well, he's also got a...

**Brent:** Yeah, no, it's bad. He's bad.

**Courtney:** Bad man. They discussed that in the Backstreet Boys documentary, which is fucking excellent, bee tee dubs. I'm a Backstreet Boys girl, I'm just saying.

**Brent:** Oh, NSYNC all the way.

**Courtney:** Saw them live four times. I still know all their middle names.

**Travis:** I'm LFO all the way.

**Courtney:** It's fine. Don't worry about it.

**Brent:** Look, 98 Degrees got robbed, as long as we're on that topic. They were the true champions.

**Courtney:** Hey, you know what, guys? I do cherish you.

**Travis:** I'm LFO. I love girls that wear Abercrombie & Fitch. Sorry. That's where I'm at.

**Courtney:** I'd date them if I had one wish.

**Brent:** Imagine a 21 year old listening to this. This would be like hieroglyphics to them. They'd have no idea.

**Courtney:** What are all of you ancient bitches talking about? We didn't talk about what we're drinking yet. Or a time stamp. This is not time to pause.

**Brent:** No, Travis did a... yeah.

**Courtney:** Okay, Travis did a time stamp. But we did not talk about what we're drinking yet. It is not time to end this.

**Travis:** Yeah, right. Bevs like these. I'm drinking water.

**Courtney:** I'm drinking wine. Travis and I together are Jesus.

**Travis:** I've always said that.

**Brent:** And I, like some kind of tropical Judas, am drinking Dasani Sparkling, the pineapple flavor.

**Travis:** Ooh. I like pineapple.

**Courtney:** I'm always the one that's the Drunky Brewster.

**Brent:** We got a little ribbing in the Facebook group this week by one of our listeners, who posted something about LaCroix being not very good. I'm paraphrasing, but I pointed out, I miss full sugar soda, and even diet soda, every dang day. But, my blood work doesn't, so...

**Courtney:** And I pointed out that I was drinking a goddamn LaCroix when they posted that, and that was treason.

**Brent:** I mean... there you go.

**Courtney:** I like my sparkle drink.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** You know what, I don't have a clever thing to say at this point. It's Beyond the Headlines.

**Brent:** Nice.

**Travis:** I normally would come up with a super funny...

**Courtney:** Travis was on a plane. And the plane went through the sky, in the air, beyond the headlines, and then it landed in Cincinnati.

**Travis:** That's pretty good.

**Brent:** Nice.

**Travis:** You know what, I lost my luggage for 36 hours, so I can only assume it was beyond the headlines.

**Courtney:** Oh, honey booboo.

**Travis:** I got it back. I have my luggage back now.

**Brent:** Well played, everyone. Team work.

**Travis:** Okay, we've done it. So, the Sonic the Hedgehog trailer came out, in case you don't know. In case you are much like Larry King, unaware of who Sonic the Hedgehog is. Which, by the way, if you ever get a chance, Griffin just showed it to me this week. There is a just absolutely weird interview where Larry King is interviewing Ben Schwartz, and Ben Schwartz is trying to explain Sonic the Hedgehog to him, and like, what it is. And Larry King asks what voice Ben Schwartz is going to do for Sonic the Hedgehog. Ben Schwartz says that he cannot tell Larry King that, but then, encourages Larry King to do the voice he imagines Sonic the Hedgehog would have. And it's just... it's amazing. It's an incredible clip.

But so, the Sonic the Hedgehog clip came out, and the internet... hm... didn't like it. Didn't care for it. So, have you two watched it?

**Brent:** Yes.

**Courtney:** Yes.

**Travis:** I feel like... I saw the reaction before I saw the trailer, and I feel that, while I think some of the backlash, some of the 'oh no' is warranted, there are some moments in it where I was like, "I am interested in this."

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** That's actually what I think... We'll get into the details of the trailer in a second, but I actually think the interesting thing about the reaction, the response to it, is it was not like, "I hate this." More of like, "Come on, it's gotta be better." It was almost a very loving hate, you know? It wasn't just like, "This looks dumb." It was like, "You are missing it. Please. Please, do better."

**Brent:** Yeah. That's how I feel. And I'm not even that big of a Sonic fan, but as a gamer, you know?

**Travis:** Right? Well, here's the thing. I'm jumping around a little bit, but I looked it up, and I was looking at like, live action, North American released video game adaptation movies, and I haven't seen all of them, but I've seen a lot of them, and just to clarify, I specifically wanted to say, I haven't seen

the most recent Tomb Raider, which I have heard is good, and I also have not seen any of the Resident Evil movies, which, I have heard some of those are good. But I have never seen a video game adaptation movie that is good, that lives up to the expectation. And like, Sonic is right up there with like, hugely recognizable video game franchises.

**Brent:** Oh, yeah.

**Travis:** And I think it's just like, please don't fuck this up. Especially, especially considering, every trailer I see for Detective Pikachu makes me want to see it more and more. And every trailer, every piece of anything I've seen from Sonic the Hedgehog, makes me go, "Oh, no. Oh, please."

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So, a couple of weird choices that we see in the movie. One, the whole trailer, the soundtrack is 'Gangster's Paradise'?

**Brent:** Yeah, I tweeted about that. It was so weird.

**Travis:** It has... listen. You missed the mark so big. Nothing about speed, or fastness, or running. There are so many songs out there that are about moving quickly, and instead, you chose to go with 'Gangster's Paradise.' When I don't know who is supposed to be a gangster in this film. Who, who?

**Brent:** and also, I found it to be a little problematic. The concept of 'Gangster's Paradise' is very serious. Coolio did not like when Weird Al did Amish Paradise. There's a lot of real shit going on in that lyric.

**Courtney:** Yeah, it's a song about—

**Brent:** And for it to be repurposed as a Sonic...

**Courtney:** About people dying. Literally.

**Brent:** That's what I'm saying. For it to be repurposed as the Sonic the Hedgehog trailer music, it was like, about as tonally appropriate as like, 'Don't Cry for Me, Argentina' or some shit. It was a very bad choice.

**Travis:** It also just, 'Gangster's Paradise' is a fairly slow song. It's not... it doesn't cook. It just felt tonally weird, tempo weird. We got our first glimpse of Jim Carrey as Dr. Robotnik. Now, some listeners may know, I have an interesting fascination with Jim Carrey's career.

**Courtney:** You did a whole thing. A Jim Carrey thing.

**Travis:** Yes. I will never stop being fascinated by Jim Carrey's career, because I believe that there was a time when Jim Carrey was a fairly skilled comedic actor, who then was given free range to do whatever he wanted, and he stopped being any form of good whatsoever. And so, when I first saw him in this trailer as Dr. Robotnik, there was a moment where I was like, "This is an interesting take on Dr. Robotnik." And then he starts doing like, really, like '90s Jim Carrey. Like, "Nobody cares. Zip. No. Zip." Almost Dr. Evil level joke. And it's weird. But for a second there, I was like, "I'm kind of interested in this." And then I wasn't.

And finally, it's the design of the character. And let me also say, I also want to point out good things. I do think Ben Schwartz's voice acting is very good. And some of the effects in the movie look really cool. But, the design of the character, overall, between his body shape being oddly like a tiny human, but also a giant, blue, electric hedgehog, and his eyes being far too small, far too realistic, and his teeth. My god, the teeth.

**Courtney:** He's got the human teeth.

**Travis:** The human teeth.

**Courtney:** My very good friend, Preeti Chhibber, who is my co-host on Strong Female Characters. She is an author, she's wonderful. But she is the one who pointed out the human teeth. And now, I can't not see it. They are very human, very teeth.

**Travis:** I do not care for them.

**Brent:** To me, I think it's a studio meddling problem, or something. Because I look at it and go, "You're already inventing a world with a blue,



anthropomorphic hedgehog that can run faster than the speed of sound. Are you that concerned about making sure it really feels like a mammalian, expressive character in a way that could be humanoid?"

**Travis:** Yes.

**Brent:** You've got this cute character. Except that, first off, I don't think having Sonic be in the real world was a creative choice. It was to save money. I think Sonic in his own fictitious universe would've been much more interesting, personally.

**Travis:** Well, I think you've hit the nail on the head, is that it seems like they said, "I want it to feel grounded." Because we've seen that over and over. I kind of have the same problem, once again, never saw it, but the trailers with the Alvin and the Chipmunks live action movie. Any time you introduce a talking animal character into a rest-of-the-human-world, don't try to bring them together. Push them farther and farther apart, because otherwise, you are gonna land squarely in the uncanny valley.

Now, here's what's interesting. Because the way that we communicate with each other has drastically changed. Because of the response to the trailer, the director took to Twitter today, and said that the studio and Sega and everybody was going to be working to redesign the character, and try to live up to people's expectations. Which is a really interesting... you know, it's both interesting, but also like, uh, doy. When everybody sees your first reveal trailer, and they're like, "No." I think it would be really hard to justify like, "You know what? We're gonna keep moving forward in the same direction." So we'll see.

You know, here's the thing – I'm not willing. There were some other things in the trailer that were weird. A joke about kidnapping a child. The weird thing about traveling through rings... I don't know.

**Courtney:** But they did say every hero has a genesis, and I appreciated that.

**Travis:** That got me real good.

**Brent:** Yeah. And the rings around the Paramount logo, I kind of... even as not much of a Sonic fan, I was like, "That's cute. Alright. Take me on a ride."

**Courtney:** I liked it.

**Travis:** I'm not willing. Hey, Sonic, I'm not willing to give up on you yet. I'm giving you another chance.

**Courtney:** Hey, super serious question. If you had to pick a song for the trailer that was not 'Gangster's Paradise,' but also was not like, [imitating trumpet sounds]. What would you pick?

**Travis:** The first thing that popped into my head, and maybe it's a little too on the nose, but like, 'Running with the Devil.' But like, that's pretty... It's just more for the running. Or like, what's the song that's [imitating guitar sounds] that's in every movie that has a driving... Anything from the Kill Bill soundtrack. Just saying, anything that cooks.

**Brent:** My thoughts include... I think it should've been a multi-tune trailer. It was weirdly all 'Gangster's Paradise.' Songs I can imagine are, it's not about speed, but 'Cashmere.' I can imagine, what is it, 'Can't Drive 55.' Even though it's very '80s, it's like, at least there's a thematic element, and it's a cool song that chugs along. Or maybe like, a really, I don't know, a super EDM—

**Travis:** I got it. No, 'Don't Stop Me Now.'

**Brent:** Hold on, hold on.

**Travis:** Sorry.

**Brent:** A super EDM 'Flight of the Bumblebee.' Or something that feels fast, you know?

**Travis:** I would do 'Don't Stop Me Now' by Queen.

**Brent:** Oh!

**Courtney:** Seriously. That could have wailed. Hear me out on this—

**Brent:** Was that what you were gonna say, Courtney?

**Courtney:** No. 'Fast Car.' Tracy Chapman.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Brent:** Perfect.

**Travis:** Okay. But maybe play it like, at half, you know, twice the speed.

**Courtney:** At least open with like, [singing]. Actually, my honest pick—

**Brent:** The Cardi B remix.

**Courtney:** My honest pick would actually be 'Ready to Go' by Republica, but they just used it in Captain Marvel, that trailer. But that would be really good. It really would be. Plus, it would be the same music I was listening to while I was playing the game.

**Travis:** There you go.

**Courtney:** On Wednesday, the court of arbitration and sport held up a ruling from the International Association of Athletics Federations to introduce restrictions on how much testosterone a woman can have in her body. And as such, South African runner, Caster Semenya, has the choice of pumping her body full of regulative hormones to lessen the natural testosterone in her body, or to quit the sport entirely. Per the IAAF, anyone over the level of testosterone determined to be "normal" for a woman – trust me, we will come back to that – will have to take hormones to suppress testosterone until they are determined to be fully womanly enough.

**Travis:** Eugh.

**Courtney:** Now, there are those who will excuse this. How can a sport be fair when one athlete has an obvious biological advantage over their competitors? Glad you asked. See, plenty of athletes have physical or

biological advances over their competitors. Some are very tall. Some build muscle in very certain areas versus others. Michael Phelps, for example, produces half the lactic acid of his fellow swimmers, meaning he experiences less muscle fatigue and contraction when paired with a massive wingspan. And as such, he was dubbed a biomechanical freak of nature, and “the man who was built to be a swimmer.” Semenya, on the other hand, has not been given that same level of praise.

And that’s for a variety of reasons. For one, she’s a woman. But we live in a society hell bent on setting rules and regulations for what makes a woman a woman. Transphobia is a huge part of this. Despite the fact that Semenya is not trans, literally despite what Fox News ran as their cry on, and what their host said, she’s not trans. She’s just not. She has more testosterone than the “average woman,” and she underwent gender testing ten years ago when she was still a teenager. Imagine that. Being a fucking teenager, and having to have your gender tested publicly. You might not even know that there was anything going on in your body that made you “different.” That fucking sucks.

But since then, there has been a battle over whether or not she is considered woman enough, frankly. And just, all the way fuck that. But what it comes down to is, is she female enough to compete as a woman? Which, she is. She’s a woman! There is this thing called differences of sex development, DSD, one variation of which is intersex. Some people have hyper-androgynism. There are many forms that this can take, and often, the person with these biological traits have no idea. You live your life knowing you're a certain gender, and then like, surprise! Society tells you that you're something else.

It will not surprise you to learn that it is TERF rhetoric, as we have talked about in the past, that got us here. When people started insisting that sex and gender are purely biological, and started being listened to based on the international, society-wide, universal transphobia and otherism, people learned that they could shift the goal posts. Because to them, trans women are not women. But also, women like Semenya are not women, either. To them, there is a right and wrong way to be a woman. And spoiler alert – one of those right ways is the white way. Because Semenya is a black woman,

and a lesbian, and her gender is now up for public discussion and literal litigation, and this is something that black female athletes are forced to face.

One recent example, obviously, is Serena Williams, who has had to face horrible accusations of being manly, being somehow less than human, being just a mean, nasty lady to the nice white, blonde ladies. All that. But this goes back centuries. Black women have always been depicted as less feminine than white women. It's deeply steeped in white supremacy. You can see this in Jim Crow era art, slavery era art, everything. This is a long standing thing.

Now, these goal posts are going to keep shifting. The very sad fact is that many won't notice it until it impacts them. There is no right or wrong way to be a woman, or a man, or a person. Our genitals, our hormones, our perceived femininity or masculinity, none of that defines us or our genders. Even the CAS admitted that the ruling is discriminatory, but necessary. That's fucked up.

**Brent:** That's kind of like the phrase "separate but equal."

**Courtney:** Exactly, yes.

**Brent:** It's self-contradicting and kind of inherently evil.

**Courtney:** Yeah. And if people don't see this—

**Travis:** When you start to say like, "We recognize that this is discriminatory," like, you shouldn't even finish the word before you're like, "Wait, what the fuck am I saying?"

**Courtney:** There should never be a 'but' after 'discriminatory.' Ugh.

**Travis:** Hey. Should we check history books to see if doing discriminatory stuff is ever okay? Nah, it's probably fine.

**Courtney:** And that's the thing. That's where the transphobia – which is buck wild, because she's not trans. And not that transphobia is okay. I don't want to imply in any way, shape, or form that it would be okay if she was

trans. But that's what it's all steeped in. It's steeped in this idea of what being a woman is supposed to be. This clear definition of gender, and Caster Semenya exists outside of it.

**Brent:** And that's how it's being framed.

**Courtney:** That's how it's being framed. Literally, people are phrasing this as a trans issue, when it's not. She's not trans.

**Brent:** I honestly thought that's what it was before I actually knew anything about the story. I did the thing we say not to do, which is, the headlines just made it seem that way, and I thought I knew what it was about. So that has definitely permeated coverage, and I wonder if that's affected the outcome of this ruling.

**Courtney:** Well, and one of the things, too, is that going from article to article based on the outlet, and depending on how careful they are about language, some pieces say, like, DSD has intersex qualities, or intersex traits. Some are just outright saying that she's intersex. Some are saying she's just trans. And like, frankly, it's none of our fucking business.

**Brent:** I was gonna say. None of that has been—

**Courtney:** It's just none of our goddamn business.

**Brent:** Yeah. Intersex hasn't been established. It's speculation.

**Courtney:** No. She has not come out and said anything other than like, "I'm a woman." That just is what it is. And if people have issue with that, they need to fucking examine themselves. In a statement, Semenya said, "I know that the IAAF's regulations have always targeted me specifically. For a decade, the IAAF has tried to slow me down. But this has actually made me stronger. The decision of the CAS will not hold me back. I will once again rise above, and continue to inspire young women and athletes in South Africa, and around the world."

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** Well, folks, if you do not live under a rock, and perhaps even if you do live under a rock that gets Wi-Fi, you know that this past week, Avengers: Endgame, the ultimate chapter in the original Avengers arc, in the Marvel cinematic universe. This film was released. I think it made something in the neighborhood of \$85 trillion in the first two hours.

**Courtney:** It made all the money. There is no more money.

**Brent:** Correct.

**Courtney:** There's just no more. All of it's gone.

**Brent:** And we all three saw it. And longtime listeners know that I am very anti-spoiler. I didn't watch a trailer. I did watch Captain Marvel to kind of know, you know... I did not watch Ant Man & the Wasp. My point is, I avoided any information, and unlike Infinity War and the Force Awakens, I legit did not get anything spoiled before seeing it. It almost felt like a hush... Maybe I'm wrong. But in my internet landscape, it felt like a hush came over all the good people. And even more people than last time went, "Let's just not. Let's just not. After 11 years of this movie franchise, let's just not ruin it, okay?" That being said—

**Travis:** I definitely felt that I think that there was more... There was a bigger, up-front push from the actors, the crew, the directors, producers, and fans, of like, everybody, be fucking cool.

**Courtney:** Be cool, for fucking once. And so here's the thing. Here's what we're gonna do. We're gonna talk about spoilers. And we are going to tell you, right now, when to come back if you have not seen this movie. This voice is not gonna be ours. It's gonna be Mustin. Mustin's just gonna pop in and be like, ba-boom, money.

**Brent:** I'd like to point out that I got a DM about this. I forget from who. But I believe it was a sir. I thank you for bringing this to my attention. At the time, I was like, "Yeah, maybe." But it was a good idea. So, if you don't want to hear spoilers for Avengers: Endgame, the one where they show Howard the duck's penis... oh no, I spoiled it! I'm just kidding.

If you don't want to hear spoilers, go forward to the following time code.  
Take it away, Mustin.

**Courtney:** Ba-boom!

**Mustin:** 55 minutes.

**Brent:** Okay. We're back.

**Courtney:** Just in case, honestly, I'm gonna like, sing a little song.  
[singing] Spoilers, Avengers! Spoilers, it is the spoilers where they show  
Howard the duck's penis! Okay, now we can start.

**Brent:** New theme song for the show. Fuck what I wrote. That's what it's  
gonna be.

**Travis:** Okay. Should we start with... Are we talking about our feelings, and  
should we start with the good, or the bad?

**Brent:** I think just basic takeaways, and then we get into it.

**Courtney:** Okay. I feel like...

**Brent:** I cried.

**Courtney:** My good feelings are so strong that I need to get them out  
before I get to the like, "Okay, but..." Because my feelings were... I have got  
to fucking tell you guys. I saw this movie with two people I love very, very  
much. And I cried, in that way that you're comfortable crying in front of  
people that you love very much. Except for one of those people, the next  
night, literally was just like, "I need to talk to you about how you reacted to  
this movie. Was your PTSD triggered? Are you okay?" And I was like, "I'm  
okay. I just really, very much love these very super babies. I love them so  
much." I was not fucking okay. I was crying so goddamn hard.

**Travis:** The number of times that I did that, like [gasping, crying sound].  
That like, breath that then makes you start crying. Specifically for me, I was  
got real good by Iron Man.



**Courtney:** Uh-huh.

**Travis:** Because once... I know, I've already said, spoilers. There are two moments in the movie that just felt like the writers are like, "Alright, we're gonna fuck Travis' shit up." And the one is Thor getting to go back and time and talk to his dead mom.

**Courtney:** Oh, that's where the tears fucking started for me. I can't fucking imagine what that was like for you.

**Travis:** And then like, Iron Man and his daughter, there was the moment where the little girl, you know, a young Stark, says that she wants a cheeseburger. And like, John Favreau as Hap chokes up, because he remembers getting cheeseburgers for Tony Stark, and I just started bawling. Just uncontrollably, out loud sobbing.

**Courtney:** You know what? Rather than discussing the good and the bad, I would actually like to talk about the kinds of tears that I experienced, because fuck me, there were so many. Again, I started crying when Thor was with his mother. And we're gonna talk about Thor. Y'all, don't worry about it. My take might surprise you, but we're gonna talk about Thor. But that's when that started.

I cried when... every moment with Tony and his daughter. Knowing that something might happen, but also just, as a parent, where it's just like, "I love this small fucking human so much, and I don't know how to save them from the world." I cried very, very hard at the moment... everything with Nebula. I really fucking love Nebula. I want so much, I want Nebula to have a good life.

**Travis:** A lot of growth in that character.

**Courtney:** I love her.

**Travis:** Yeah, I enjoyed that very much.

**Courtney:** Very, very much. I cried when Captain America was able to pick up, is it Mjolnir?

**Travis:** Yes. And I did, too.

**Courtney:** I cried, plus clapped. There was so much clapping and crying. Just that screaming sob clap.

**Travis:** I cried clap as all of the like, portals opened, and everybody came through.

**Courtney:** Every single time. Just cry, cry, cry, cry, cry, yes.

**Brent:** Yeah, that was badass.

**Courtney:** I very much love... I just want to say, I very much love the AV Club. It's one of my favorite websites. But they have a piece about how Endgame did not earn this moment where all of the female characters fight, and I vehemently disagree. I goddamn loved that moment. I scream-sob-clapped at that so goddamn hard. That meant everything to me. Maybe, yeah, the whole franchise didn't earn it, necessarily. But you know what? We got it. That meant the world to me. For my daughter to get to eventually see all of these female characters fighting, that meant the fucking world.

**Brent:** And the thing is that like, it's another example of how, if something feels like it's pandering to women, it's pandering. But every other fucking fan service moment in a three hour, nougat bar of fan service, was fine.

**Courtney:** I mean, I'm sorry—

**Travis:** That's what I thought about it, 'cause like—

**Courtney:** What about every single fucking Stan Lee cameo? And I say that as someone... If you think that what I'm saying is insensitive, think about that. How is that not pandering, if this isn't pandering? It means something.

**Travis:** Not only that, it feels so weird to me, double standardy, that like, that happens, and it's a thing that people are gonna say, like a debate. But if

you had a shot where Bucky and Spiderman and Thor and, I don't know, people who have not worked together up 'til now, were working together to get the gauntlet there, it wouldn't have stood out.

**Courtney:** That's just all the movies. That's just the plot of Civil War.

**Travis:** Right. That's not a thing, but it's like, "Well, it's all women, so it's a choice, now. If it was all men, that's the normal." And like, I think that, 'cause my first reaction was, "Oh, I see what you're doing." And then I thought, I know they were doing it, and I know it is something. But also, it's weird that we have to consider that as like, a thing. I don't know. It was...

**Brent:** I think that these movies and the other movies that are being made, things are changing so that children... I mean, it's not fast enough, let's be clear. But children now, growing up watching these movies, one would hope that it would be less of a... It would feel less out of place, or feel less like, "Oh, that was definitely a choice." And it'll just be like, "Yeah, the girls, too. Moving on."

**Travis:** So, I would like to talk now about really, the only thing that actively bothered me in this movie. The only solidly negative feeling. And frankly, if I'm being up front, a lot of it had to do with expectation. Because one of the things coming out of Infinity War that I could not wait to find out what the big resolution was, was in Infinity War, there was this big running thing of like, what's the issue with Hulk and Banner? What's going on? Why won't Hulk fight? And then you get to this one, Endgame, and it's just like, "We worked it out. It's fine."

**Courtney:** That was very abrupt.

**Travis:** And I was like, "Wait, but..."

**Brent:** Yeah, in a movie that's already that long, there could've been a 20 second flashback of just, something emblematic of how it happened. It was very much off-screen character development.

**Courtney:** Now, please do not mistake me that hot, zaddy Banner Hulk was an awakening.

**Brent:** Really?

**Travis:** I see.

**Courtney:** Of just like, my whole entire situation.

**Brent:** Hey, girl, I don't want to yuck your yum. You can have him. That's great.

**Courtney:** Okay. If you want to know more about that, please go to my boss, Cher Martinetti's Twitter, where she has a lot of very graphic feelings about hot zaddy Hulk. And I have chimed the fuck in. But, like, yeah, it did just kind of happen, where it was just like, "Okay, clearly, this just all got worked out. Everything is fine now. That's neat."

**Travis:** That's fine. You don't need to worry about this anymore. And it was like, what? Hold on, you promised a lot, there.

**Courtney:** He had like Hulk impotence, and now he's just got nothing.

**Brent:** Courtney, I just want to know. Courtney, did you say anything along the lines of 'Hulk smash' when y'all were talking about that?

**Courtney:** I said, "Hulk can smash."

**Brent:** Great. Great. Wonderful.

**Courtney:** I said that on Strong Female Characters, which you can listen to on iTunes, or anywhere podcasts are found.

**Brent:** Perfect.

**Travis:** I also will say. So, this is, I think, going to be a moment that I will continue to ruminate upon for a long, long time. And this is a big... if you've been listening up to this point, and you still haven't seen the movie, but you're like, "I don't care about spoilers." This is a big one. Black Widow going down to get the soul stone. The thing is, the two things I think that

bother me about it, is that one, Clint, Hawkeye, Ronan, makes the very compelling argument that he has done some fucked up stuff in the five years since the snapping. And that he, the snapture. Who was it? I think Lynn Well called it the snapture.

**Brent:** Oh, that's good.

**Travis:** Since the snapture, and that he should do it. And I was watching the movie thinking, "That makes sense." And like, that is what I wanted to happen. And then, she sacrificed herself. And the thing is, that is a moment, a hero moment. But then like, an hour later, you have a much bigger moment sacrifice that like, overshadowed that. And it felt a little bit like, yeah, she got to have a cool moment. Well, not really. It's like if I showed up with cake to a party, and everybody cheered, and then 20 minutes later, the next person walks in with like an ice cream cake, and then all anybody remembers is the ice cream cake. Like yeah, it's cool that I brought cake, but...

**Brent:** I think I see it from two sides. Because number one, it is in line with the fact that she never got a solo movie, and Iron Man was the first one. But that doesn't make it okay. I see their logic in that, and also, in such a long movie. But at the same time, you're right. Did they even... I remember, the next shot after she died, or when they found out, anyway, it looked like a funeral. But then, I think it actually wasn't a coffin. It was like, well, of course it wouldn't be. But it was like a bench. And like, they didn't even have any... it could've been something. You know, Hulk putting a flower on it. I don't know. Something.

**Courtney:** Here's how I feel. I feel like, in Infinity War, we got a woman being sacrificed for the soul stone. And people were upset about that, about this fridging. This fridging of Gamora. And if you aren't familiar with fridging, it is a concept that was devised by Gail Simone, and it is the thing that happens where a woman is killed in a comic book or movie, TV show, for the furthering of a male narrative. And that is very much what happened to Gamora. And for it to, frankly, happen again... not necessarily... I mean, I know what they were doing. They were like, "Natasha needs her big, heroic moment." Except for, here's the thing – it fucking made the most sense for it to be Clint. It made the most sense for it to be Clint to sacrifice himself for

his family that he lost. His entire family. Also, Clint spent the entire fucking five years, apparently, attacking people of color. Can we be real about this? Can we be real about the cultural appropriation of Ronan?

**Brent:** That's fair. I guess, really, it comes down to like, I wonder if, in the writer's room that I've invented in my head, if they're like, "What's more important? That Black Widow be the bigger hero, or that we kill the right one?"

**Courtney:** And to that, what I think is that the writer's room was male.

**Brent:** Wouldn't shock me.

**Courtney:** That is what that ultimately comes down to.

**Travis:** 'Cause that's the thing. I just think that like, him dying to be like, if this brings them back... Because all you have to do, 'cause this is what I was thinking. All you have to do is have him say something like, "I want them back more than anything, but I can't face them who I am now." And it's like, yep. Yep.

**Courtney:** And that's the thing, is that people have pointed out that this soul stone death wasn't necessarily permanent. And therefore, there weren't any fucking stakes to Clint dying to bring his family back. Natasha died for, frankly, nothing.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** And that's a fucking bummer.

**Travis:** I was also fairly bothered by the fact that like, three or four different times after that, they just kept hammering home like, "Couldn't bring her back. Couldn't bring her back. Couldn't bring..." I was like, okay, I fucking get it, guys. Okay.

Also, along those same lines, talking about the directors and that kind of choice. I also wanted to mention, so, the Russo brothers made a big deal about having an explicitly gay character...

**Courtney:** Oh, whole entire fucking yikes.

**Travis:** In the movie. And I think it's Joe said that said like, that he was gonna play it, because he didn't trust anybody else to like, do it justice. And it was the, honestly, blink if you miss it. I read that, I was like, "Wait, which of the characters..." I was like, "Oh, the—"

**Brent:** He's gay the way LeFou was gay.

**Travis:** Well, so, it's in the first, in the scene, the support group that Captain America is in. And the guy is talking about going on a date with a guy. But it's like three lines, and the fact that the straight director said he didn't trust anybody else to do it justice, and so he played it... it was weird. It was weird.

**Courtney:** There's a canonically bisexual character in this film. And like, they didn't think to give it to her? Give her something to do? Like...

**Brent:** Would've been better.

**Courtney:** Instead, they had to just create this random man in a grief support group? That's just... god. They really thought they did a whole thing.

**Travis:** Literally, you had an army of characters. A literal army of characters, and not one of them that you couldn't have a moment where it's like, okay, turns out, uhh, Bucky is gay. Or it turns out, uhh, you know, who at like... An army of characters. And you had to make it a three-line... I don't even know if they got a name, character.

**Courtney:** No. This fails whatever the gay Bechdel test version is. It's not good. It's not good.

**Brent:** Are we too deep into criticisms to go back to a positive? 'Cause y'all were real enthusiastic during positives.

**Courtney:** No, let's bring it back to positives, because I think we're gonna get to Thor pretty soon, which is going to be in both.

**Brent:** So yeah, yeah. I have two sides of a thing, and it has to do with time travel. I've got a negative and a positive tied to that. First off, I loved how very sci-fi the premise was. Like, the structure, it had elements of Back to the Future 2, which I liked. But the basic structure was similar to Star Trek 4, the original Star Trek episode where they go back to the '60s, the Deep Space Nine episode where they go back to Roswell, and the Futurama episode where they go back to Roswell. It's a great formula. We gotta go back and get this thing, but we gotta split up into teams, and something is gonna go wrong, and we all gotta get back together. I loved that.

However, honestly, I was paying attention, perfectly. I was engaged, and the logic of Hulk Banner talking about why the past doesn't affect the future the way we think it does really felt like word salad, just to tell the audience, "Hey, don't worry about it." I did not understand the logic of it. Did you guys understand the logic of it?

**Courtney:** I think I honestly... Okay, I'm doing that thing where I'm kind of crossing over with the other podcast I do. But the way that I see it was, basically, what he was saying is that very lost thing of what happened, happened. So it doesn't undo the previous movies. Nothing is undone. Everything that happened, happened. It doesn't change the past, it only changes the future going forward.

**Travis:** Right, so basically, you couldn't go back and stop Thanos from doing what he did, 'cause that would be a paradox. But what we can do is, go get the stones, use them to bring everyone back now, and then return the stones back to their time, and still let Thanos get his hands on them and do the snap.

**Brent:** Yeah. By the end, I got it, I just felt like—

**Courtney:** 'Cause there's a lot of people calling out that like, oh, would Cap not go back and save Bucky? My version of that is that he couldn't, because the Winter Soldier Bucky needed to exist to get to where we are now. So he couldn't save Bucky.



**Brent:** I guess all I'm saying is, you know, the bald mystic lady who knows Doctor Strange got to stop time and like, they both got to manipulate this weird glitter rope. But like, when it really mattered, which was before they went back in time, there was no... Like, this is a movie where there's all kinds of visuals. All kinds of monitors that are somehow corresponding to a conversation which is off the cuff. But in the moment where I really wanted to know how this works, it felt like it really came fast, and I was like, "Wait, what, what?"

**Courtney:** I think they're counting on a lot of people not seeing Doctor Strange, TBH.

**Brent:** Ah.

**Travis:** I think, Brent, my bet is that's intentional. Because that's the thing. I love time travel movies, and I love studying time travel movie logic. And the fact of the matter is, most of the time, what you want... This is what you learn from Doctor Who. You want to say something that sounds very convincing, but that, under scrutiny, is basically just gibberish.

**Brent:** Word salad, yeah. Exactly.

**Travis:** Yeah. Because the thing is that like, when you get right down to it, it's really hard to explain taking action to travel back in time to undo something without causing a paradox. And so, my bet is, they probably were trying to figure out a way to do it, and they were like, "Let's just have him say fuckin' something."

**Courtney:** Yeah, this is the Avengers' version of like, "It's a fixed point in time." What? How? How are some things fixed points, Doctor?

**Travis:** What? What does that mean?

**Courtney:** Be chill for once. Let's talk about the thing that the internet is talking about, which is both important, but also like, we might have different ideas about, and that is Thor. Tell me what you guy thought about the big Thorbowski.

**Brent:** I will be vulnerable and say, in the moment, I was like, "Oh man, he's really let himself go. I didn't know a god could do that." And then, like, toward the end of the film, I was like, "Ah, shit, this is fat shaming." That's where I was with it.

**Travis:** I will say that, I did not care for the fact that, what I thought they were setting up, that they never did, was to be able to address an issue of like, mental health, or grief, or something, in a way that, you know, we see this character, seemingly having, you know, given up, or whatever you want to say. And really, it's just that he is so wrecked by depression and PTSD and all of these things, that he is self-medicating, and is, you know, whatever. But like, the thing is, they never really... We have a moment of him talking to his mom, but it's just about how he feels bad because he didn't kill him better, without really addressing... There was never a grounding moment to it, that just made it seem like, "Isn't it funny that he got fat?"

**Courtney:** My theory is that they initially presented it as like, "Let's laugh at this fat guy," which is not okay. It's not okay. But in my mind, they did that to then make people feel bad over the course of the rest of the movie, that like, oh, shit, this isn't just funny beer gut guy. This is someone going through something. I don't know how successful they were. I did not like the jokes made by the other characters, particularly the one with Renee Russo, where she told him to eat a salad.

I will very honestly defend the choice to do that to this character, with just my whole heart, because I think that PTSD is complicated and weird, and this was honestly the best depiction of it that has happened in the Marvel cinematic universe. They have made attempts. Because I actually just had to watch Iron Man 3 for, SYFY did a podcast, 22 Days of Marvel. Listen to it on iTunes. But I watched Iron Man 3 for that, and I forgot, honestly, that they tried to do a whole Tony Stark PTSD thing. And it went, honestly, nowhere. Whereas this, the fact is, and I say this as someone who is like, rocking 30 pounds of PTSD on my body right this second. Thor's not gonna keep up that physique going through what he's been through. That Thor level of trauma has been building over several movies now. And I stand by it as a character choice. I really, genuinely do.

**Travis:** I think so, too.

**Courtney:** I don't know that I liked the way that they made the jokes around it.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** That was the thing. That was my problem.

**Courtney:** In terms of like, how Chris Hemsworth, personally, in a bubble, played it. I really, really, really appreciated it.

**Travis:** I think, here's the thing. I think so, too. I just wish they had just... Even if it was a line like, "I did everything I could before, and fought, and failed, so why even try?"

**Courtney:** I mean, there's a moment where he says like, "I should've aimed for the head," something like that, that felt like a really subtle moment of that.

**Travis:** Hm, yeah.

**Courtney:** But I think it was undercut by the Renee Russo character saying, like, "Eat a salad." That undid the power of this moment. And there is a writer, Caroline Heinz, who pointed out on Twitter that, at the beginning of the movie, Tony has lost a significant amount of weight, because he and Nebula are in space, alone, and they don't have food. And we don't laugh at that. But we laugh at Thor gaining weight. And it's, you know, it's our own fucked up versions of what trauma looks like.

**Brent:** So in three minutes, we'll have talked for half an hour. Do y'all wanna just do final thoughts? Put a bow on it, maybe?

**Travis:** So my final thought is that I felt, above all else, whatever criticisms or whatever issues, whatever. I felt that, against all odds, I will say, it lived

up to expectation, and it was satisfactory to me in a way that... We're talking about, what, 12, 13...

**Brent:** 11 years, and something like 21 movies.

**Travis:** Yeah, right? Of lead up to a big finale like this, and that I walked out saying like, "Yes, that was what I wanted."

**Courtney:** Yeah. This movie really—

**Travis:** Is a huge win.

**Courtney:** This movie really did feel like the ending that the whole franchise deserved. And especially, that Tony deserved, that Captain America deserved. Because like, we haven't even talked about the fact that the only thing I wanted was for Cap and Peggy to get their dance. And they got it, and that was probably like, the actual hardest that I sobbed, because I've been waiting for that moment since first Avenger. I loved... Peggy Carter is honestly my favorite character in the entire MCU. I wanted them to have this, and they got it.

I loved this movie. I really did. I know that it's not perfect. I know that there's issues. But I fucking loved it. I really did.

**Travis:** For me, looking at this movie crystallized for me the fact that - and this is not a joke - from Iron Man 1, to Avengers: Endgame, I realized that a lot of my personal growth arc as a narcissist has mirrored Tony Stark's, of this feeling of wanting to be a hero for like, you know, saying it's like, to be good, but because you like the attention. You like being a hero. And then to like, thinking you're putting other people before yourself, but really, you're trying to enforce your own will on them, and say like, "I'm doing what's right," and it's like, no, you're doing what you think is right. To then, trying to make up for your past mistakes, to then, finally, having something that you care about more than yourself that you're willing to put everything else, you know, behind yourself, to save one person. And like, that idea of watching this movie, and thinking about that, his moment isn't a hero moment because it's big and flashy, and it's not something that's like... It's not something that, you know, you would write about in epic stories or

whatever. It's something where, if he doesn't do that, and Thanos wins, his daughter dies. And like, that, to me, I would do the exact same thing.

**Brent:** So, for me, I agree with both of you. I felt like it was just an amazing... I mean, Infinity War was a feat, and this was also a feat. And all I can think was, with all these attempts at cinematic universes flopping, the Universal Monsters dark universe, the DC extended universe, we'll see if the King Kong Godzillaverse works. But I think I can, you know, I can say, mark my words. We will never see a film extended universe that has this many, this high of a percentage of really good movies, in this many movies in a series, that is tied up so well, without more actors having to drop out.

The point I'm getting at is, that I think this is something historical.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah.

**Brent:** I think that it will not be like this again, and there's something really special about the fact that we, not to, you know, it's not like we made it through the Great Depression. I'm just saying, something really unique that will never be replicated happened here.

**Courtney:** It was a cultural moment. It was a moment where we all came together, and loved a thing.

**Travis:** Right.

**Courtney:** And it was really, really special. And the fact is, it happened in the same fucking weekend as like, what was, in theory, supposed to be a very big Game of Thrones episode. Which like, it was, but I thought way more people were gonna die. No big deal. But like, this was a big weekend for pop culture. For people to come together and love something all at the same time. And that's really wonderful. That's really, really, really wonderful. And I think about that line from High Fidelity a lot, that like, it's not what you're like, it's what you like. And this is the kind of stuff that like, as different as all people are, we can come together over this stuff. And it just makes me happy.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** So, this week, boy, there was just a huge story. And we're gonna just focus on that for the politics segment. The Robert Mueller special counsel investigation is the political news version of one of those trick birthday candles that you keep blowing out, and it keeps relighting itself. So, let's review.

Five weeks ago, Mueller completed the report, and sent it to attorney general Barr. Two days later, Barr released a short summary that very carefully attempted to spin the report in Trump's favor. Barr worded it to make it seem like there was nothing like collusion found, and no obstruction found, and Trump immediately started repeating the phrase, "No collusion, no obstruction."

Now, remember: the whole reason Trump appointed Barr as the AG is because Barr had written a published piece criticizing Mueller. Now, at the time of Barr's short summary, I said that it must have been somewhat representative of the actual report, because no one on the Mueller team spoke out or leaked anything to contradict it. Hold onto that thought.

So, the public had weeks to absorb the idea that the Mueller report didn't find any wrongdoing, and that sunk in, especially with Trump's base and conservative media. So then, almost a month later, Barr held a press conference just ahead of his wider release of the almost entire report. And once again, he spun it in Trump's favor, kind of like a defense attorney. He repeated the 'no collusion' talking points in an exaggerated way, even though the actual report pointed out the numerous links that the Trump campaign had to the Russian government. Barr congratulated Trump for fully cooperating, even though Trump refused to even sit for questioning.

Barr was asked by a reporter whether he had applied spin to his public summary, and Barr simply said no, and walked off the stage. And like I said, I kept thinking that, even though there was obviously a lot of misleading framing, Mueller or his team would've spoken out if any of this was a huge, egregious lie. Well, this past Wednesday, Barr was scheduled to speak to the senate judiciary committee to defend his handling of the Mueller report. But, the day before on Tuesday, we found out that Mueller had, in fact, been very

frustrated with Barr's behavior, and had contacted him multiple times to tell him so.

The letter he sent is very clinical, so you can go read it yourself. But I'm gonna translate it into plain English. "Dear attorney general Barr. Your four page summary didn't accurately reflect our report, bro. Now you've confused the public about really important stuff in the report, and that threatens to undermine the whole point of what we did for two freaking years, which was to conduct an independent investigation in order to ensure public confidence in that investigation's findings. I'm requesting that you release our intro and summaries of the report, which are basically like the abstract of a scientific study. So, don't delay the release because of the redactions. Just release it now to fix the misunderstandings congress and the public have about it."

Again, it was more clinical than that. But when Robert Mueller writes you a letter, and it's a public letter... Like, in politics, nobody writes anything. There's some kind of saying that's like, "In politics, nobody puts anything in writing, and nobody ever throws away a letter." Because it's a paper trail. Mueller really knew what he was doing here, very pointedly.

So, the day after Mueller sent that letter, he called Barr, and reportedly, his main worry was that the public wasn't getting an accurate picture of the obstruction of justice part of the report. So it's not just that Barr spun the report in Trump's favor. He seems to have broken the law by publicly lying to congress.

**Travis:** Sorry, to interrupt real quick. When you say 'it seems he's broken the law,' are you speaking with a color commentary of like, "Well, he broke the law." Or, that there is a possibility that he might have?

**Brent:** You know, that's a great question, and I'm gonna try to be brief. In the beforetime, when people were accountable, and people in power under this administration weren't just able to get away with anything, it would've been a pretty clear case of perjury. But I'm saying that because, to be fair, there's some daylight between what happened and a definite, you know, he didn't hold up congress with a deadly weapon. But he did lie. And lying to congress, I mean, you know, for comparison, Michael Cohen was indicted for lying to congress. But let me explain how he lied, and thank you for asking

for that clarification, because I'm sure some listeners were wondering the same thing.

So, I'm almost positive, I'll put it that way, Barr broke the law by publicly lying to congress. So, look. Back on April 9<sup>th</sup>, Barr told the senate committee that he wasn't aware of anyone from the Mueller team disagreeing with his four page summary. But he did know, because he had already gotten that letter from Mueller saying that Mueller had real problems with his summary. Barr also said on April 9<sup>th</sup>, he didn't know whether Mueller supported his conclusion, but that was a lie, because he did know by then that Mueller did not support it.

So, yesterday, Barr gave testimony. He was questioned in a senate hearing. Democrats grilled him. I'll say this for Kamala Harris – she can grill a witness. She is one of the fastest brains I've ever seen for keeping a line of questioning going, and not giving a witness one inch of wiggle room. She pinned that motherfucker down, and she was like, "Has the president or anyone at the White House ever asked or suggested you open an investigation into anyone?" And Barr broke out the tap shoes, and suddenly needed to parse out what the word 'suggest' means to run out the clock. What that tells you is, he probably has been encouraged, or asked, to open investigations on specific people in the White House. If y'all are interested, you should really YouTube search that moment with Kamala Harris, because it is spectacular.

But, perhaps the most dramatic moment was when democratic senator Dick Durbin caught Barr in the lie about how he had already heard Mueller's objections when he claimed not to be aware of them. So, that's a lie. Like I said, Michael Cohen got indicted for lying to congress. But I guess we're okay with the country's top cop doing that. The attorney general. Like, the notion of accountability for people in power... This is one of the scariest things about the Trump administration, is it's really being normalized that they're powerful, so they can kind of get away with whatever. And like, yeah, you know, people have always kind of had that cynical attitude. But like, it's just really scary that we're all kind of like, "Well, what are you gonna do?" 'Cause it's one of a million things you hear like that every week, and you just can't process it, and you just can't get upset about it, because you have no more fucks.



Anyway. It's perjury, as far as I can see. Barr tap danced and used technicalities, and dodges all day during the most recent hearing. But that was a pretty clear cut case of perjury for my money. And let's keep in mind what the actual Mueller report says Trump did. No, the Mueller report did not conclude that Trump should be indicted for obstruction of justice. But the Mueller report did sort of say, that's for congress to decide. And again, let's keep in mind what the report says Trump did. Trump, according to the report, asked for Comey's loyalty, and pressured Comey to let the Michael Flynn thing go. And then he fired Comey, and told NBC that it was because of the Russia thing. Then he tried to fire Mueller. Then he tried to hobble Mueller's power. He told his White House lawyer to lie and say that he hadn't tried to fire Mueller. He also tried to hide the Trump Tower meeting with the Russians. He tried to get his lap dog, Jeff Sessions, to take over the investigation, and he implied the possibility of a pardon from Michael Cohen if Cohen didn't flip on him.

Now, while the nature of those actions were not enough for Mueller's team to indict Trump, holy shit, there is certainly a lot of smoke there. And remember, Trump said, he was quoted as saying, "I'm fucked, this is the end of my presidency," when they decided to do the special counsel. So, that brings us to today. Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Barr was supposed to appear, not for the senate, but this time, for the house judiciary committee – which, unlike the senate judiciary committee, is controlled by the democratic majority.

So, Barr threw a fake tantrum over the format of the questioning of the hearing, and literally did not show up. He was a no show. So, house speaker Nancy Pelosi held a press room to say, "Barr lied to congress," and now, certain members of the committee are already suggesting holding Barr in contempt of congress, or issuing a subpoena to force him to come and be questioned. And they're also not ruling out the idea of impeaching Barr, many of them also calling for him to resign. So he is in some deep caca.

But you know, you thought it was over? I thought it was over, and that it was a really unsatisfying end to the story. But just like we fell to the end of Avengers: Infinity War, just because the ultimate ending wasn't yet known,

and just because our heroes were left in a very uncertain situation, it doesn't mean the end game won't be good.

Shall we tid the bits?

**Travis:** Yes, please.

**Courtney:** Let's tid the bits. But like, this one is sad. So we were ready to do the show, the family of Peter Mayhew announced that the Chewbacca actor has passed away at 74. Fans most recently got to see him at Star Wars Celebration in Chicago, where the trailer of the final film in the Star Wars saga as we know it appeared, and we will miss this very wonderful, very tall, very lovely man.

**Brent:** Agreed. Now, for the second tidbit. So, Chase bank caught some flak when they tweeted the following tweet, which was in the form of a dialogue script. "You: Why is my balance so low? Bank account: Make coffee at home. Bank account: Eat the food that's already in the fridge. Bank account: You don't need a cab. It's only three blocks. You: I guess we'll never know. Bank account: Seriously?" So, welcome to late capitalism, folks. A company run by billionaires whose bank fees built the very people who cannot afford to pay them is shaming people for spending more than they need to. Go fuck yourself.

Best outcome of this? My opinion is, Elizabeth Warren very smartly jumped on it, pointing out that tax payers gave the banks a \$25 billion bailout when they lived beyond their means. And also, American workers have no living wage standard, and rising costs mean people don't have any savings. So really knocked it out of the park there, Elizabeth Warren.

**Elliott:** Have you ever watched a movie so bad, you just needed to talk to somebody about it?

**Dan:** Well, here at the Flop House, we watch a bad movie, and then talk about it.

**Stewart:** Yeah, you don't have to do anything. We'll watch it, and we'll talk it. We do the hard work.

**Dan:** Featuring the beautiful vocal talents of Dan McCoy.

**Stewart:** Stewart Wellington.

**Elliott:** And me, America's rascal, Elliott Kalan.

**Dan:** New episodes every other Saturday, at MaximumFun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts, dude. Bye-bye.

**Elliott:** Bye-bye.

[music plays]

**Speaker 1:** Thanks so much to the over 28,000 members who joined or upgraded during the 2019 Max Fun Drive, and to all of our monthly members.

**Speaker 2:** To celebrate hitting our goal this year, we're putting the 2019 Max Fun Drive pins on sale for all \$10 and up monthly members.

**Speaker 1:** As in past years, you'll be able to get some pins, and support a great cause at the same time. The proceeds for this year's sale will support the national court appointed special advocates association.

**Speaker 2:** National CASAA does amazing work for children and youth through a national network of 950 member programs. We're proud to be able to support them.

**Speaker 1:** The pin sale will run from April 29<sup>th</sup> until May 10<sup>th</sup>. And if you're a \$10 and up monthly member, your personalized code is waiting in your inbox right now. For more details, you can head over to [MaximumFun.org/pins](https://MaximumFun.org/pins).

**Speaker 2:** And once again, thank you.

**Speaker 1:** Thank you.

[music plays]

**Brent:** Now it's time for our Wi-Five of the week. Each week, we scour the internet for examples of folks doing good things and being good people, and we choose one or more to whom we'd like to give an internet high-five, or Wi-Five. [slapping sound]

Sometimes, we give the Wi-Five to doctors, or inventors, or philanthropists, or someone who saved somebody's life. Not today. Today, I'm giving it out of sheer love for theater and the sci-fi and horror genres, and a story that made me feel good, because I'm a fan of all those things.

Last month, the internet was taken by storm with the news that the drama club at a high school in New Jersey put on a show called 'Alien: The Play.' That's right – a live stage play based on the 1979 sci-fi horror film, Alien. Now, some of you know this. When I was in high school, I adapted the movie Clue into a play, and got our drama teacher to let us put it on. So, this is extremely close to my heart. And apparently, it was better than your average high school play. Alien, I mean.

The drama club of North Bergen high school only had enough money to put the show up two nights in March. But after it went viral, Alien director Ridley Scott put \$5,000 towards more. So, this past Friday, to honor the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the movie, they did a performance before a packed house. One of the people in attendance that night was Sigourney Weaver herself. After the show, each of the cast and crew received a \$1,000 scholarship to go to the summer camp of the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, and the graduating seniors were offered a \$10,000 scholarship for college. A piece.

What really warms my heart about this is that some kids went out of their way to do something creative. Nobody asked them, or assigned them, or forced them to do it, but they wanted to do it. They wanted to come together artistically and collaboratively, and they all put work into it for the sake of artistic expression, and making something cool where there was nothing there before. And for that, they get a lot of attention, and amazing opportunities they wouldn't have gotten otherwise. It's just a really cool

story, and I hope we can eventually see another production, or at least a mid-quality bootleg.

So, to the drama club of North Bergen High, as well as Ridley Scott and Sigourney Weaver: Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Alright, folks, that's gonna do it for us this week. Thank you so much for joining us. Want to let you know, My Brother, My Brother, and Me is coming to Cleveland and Cincinnati, May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We're in Cleveland on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Cincinnati on the 16<sup>th</sup>. And opening for us on May 15<sup>th</sup> is going to be Paul and Storm, which we're very excited about. Paul has gone on tour with us many, many times, but this will be the first time that he and Storm will be there playing some music on stage. It's really exciting. To get your tickets, go to [McElroy.family](http://McElroy.family), and you can click on 'Tours' there. We also have a bunch of other shows coming out throughout the rest of the year, so make sure you check those out.

**Courtney:** You can read my stuff at SYFY Fangrrls, and you can actually come see me live in Chicago. I'm gonna be the guest of Jordan, Jesse, Go. Their live tour, I believe it is the Boys of Summer of Summer. Some kind of summer boys kind of thing. But they are going to be appearing at the Sleeping Village in Chicago on June 13<sup>th</sup>, and I will be there, and you can come see me and these gentlemen. So yeah, do all those things.

**Brent:** As for me, I am the creator and co-designer of a comedy party game called Use Your Words. And it's really fun, and it's \$14.99 on Steam, Wii U, Xbox One, PlayStation 4, and the Nintendo Switch. So, check it out, get more information at [UseYourWords.lol](http://UseYourWords.lol).

**Travis:** And make sure to check out all the other amazing shows at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org), our podcast home. You can tweet at us @trendslikethese. And yeah, I think that's gonna do it for us. Courtney, am I forgetting anything?

**Courtney:** Yes, you're forgetting that the actual song necessary for the Sonic trailer should've been, [singing] baby got a fast car, bluh bluh bluh bluh. That's the version of Fast Car that's really fast.

**Brent:** Ah, yes.

**Travis:** We'll be back in a couple days.

**Brent:** See ya next time.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** My bed has had it. It's like, almost ten years old.

**Travis:** From too much fuckin'?

**Brent:** I mean, honestly, yes.

**Travis:** Nicccccce.

[chord]

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