

Trends Like These: Trump Pulls Emergency Lever, Georgia's Terrible Abortion Law, Trump's Taxes Released, Jacob Wohl is a Big Ol' Liar, Marijuana Breathalyzer, Facebook Co-Founder's Surprising Opinion, How Andrew Yang Beats Bernie Sanders, James Cameron's Weird Tweet

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[theme music plays]

Travis: This week: Jacob Wohl fails again, disqualifying the derby win, and taxes cause Trump chagrin.

Courtney: I'm Courtney Enlow.

Brent: I'm Brent Black.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Brent: And I'm a cruise ship humping the Avengers logo.

Courtney: 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: Hello, Brent and Courtney.

Courtney: Hi. Hi, Travis and Brent.

Brent: Hello again.

Travis: Hello!

Courtney: Hi!

Travis: Hey.

Courtney: Hey.

Travis: Hi everybody. Okay, bye.

Courtney: Okay, bye.

Travis: That's gonna do it. Our shortest episode to date.

Brent: Later!

Travis: Speaking of date, it is May 9th, 2019. It's about five PM Eastern Time. And we're coming to you... not live. But we are alive. We're coming to you alive.

Brent: Alive, yes.

Courtney: We're coming in hot. As we always do.

Travis: We're coming in hot, but we're staying cool.

Brent: We're all the temperatures.

Travis: Real cool.

Courtney: So cool.

Travis: This is Trends Like These. It's a trending news show, but really, just three friends hanging out. Having a good old time, drinking a few brews together. Y'know, good times, great brews, great country. 103.3 WTCR.

Courtney: That's our mantra. That's what we say every week.

Travis: Yeah. That's what we've always said, and that's the radio station my dad used to work for before he retired.

Courtney: Aww.

Brent: Yeah, sometimes the brews are water-based, but brews nonetheless.

Travis: What are you drinking, Brent?

Brent: I am drinking a peach Perrier, which is just like a LaCroix, but in a tiny can that makes my hands feel big and strong. And also, I'm double fisting with just some normal tap water.

Travis: Wait, so, hold on. You're having sparkly flavored water, and tap water?

Brent: You know why?

Travis: Why?

Brent: We've mentioned on this show before, but I really like sparkly waters. I think we all do. But what'll happen is, I'll take a big gulp, and it'll be my turn to talk.

Courtney: You get a case of the urpies.

Brent: And I'll be burpy, yeah. And sometimes... Yeah. I was gonna say, don't catch the urpies. But anywho. Yeah, so sometimes, I'm craning my head way back from the mic, just to have one of those, like, "Buhhh." But the water, see, neutralizes the bubbles, so it's helpful and lets me do what I wanna do, and I'm doubly hydrating.

Travis: I see.

Brent: Everybody wins. Mostly me.

Courtney: it's like when you go to a restaurant, and they say, "Still or sparkling?" And Brent was like, "Yes please."

Brent: Give me it all. And mix it up in a big jug.

Courtney: I'll take all your liquids, please and thanks.

Travis: And Courtney, what are you consuming?

Courtney: I am consuming a Kim Crawford sav blanc. My favorite sav blanc of all the sav blancs.

Travis: Who is Kim Crawford?

Courtney: I don't know, but she's my hero.

Travis: Okay.

Courtney: She's a hero and a scholar. She does good things. Specifically, the sav blanc things.

Travis: Think she's related to Cindy Crawford?

Courtney: Yeah, that's her dad.

Travis: [gasps] Whoa.

Brent: Wow, a lot going on there.

Courtney: Yeah, her dad was a Kim. The doctor was a woman. It's all shifting.

Travis: I'm having Urban Artifact, which I believe is Cincinnati based. I'm almost positive. Yes. An Urban Artifact, Key Punch, Key Lime gose. It is very good.

Courtney: Interesting.

Travis: And when I finish that, I also have an Urban Artifact Pinwheel Orange gose. I'm a big... when I'm in the late spring, and to the early summer months, nothing quite hits the spot for me like a sour beer. Be that a tart ale, or a gose, or whatever.

Brent: So in the fall, you're saying that gose way?

Travis: Yes.

Brent: Great.

Travis: I don't get it.

Courtney: I like that you have all the citrus, though, so you can prevent the scurvy.

Travis: It goes well. I've had... I think Urban Artifact does one that's called Slide Rule, that's like, blueberry and chocolate gose. Which is okay, but I prefer a citrusy, sour, tart ale.

Brent: I wish I liked goses, but...

Courtney: You know, I can only have tiny bits of sours. It's just too much.

Travis: Oh, really?

Brent: That's where I'm at, Courtney. Sometimes I feel like, when I drink a gose, I go, I know this is what it's intended to taste like. But if I didn't know that, I would be like, has this beer gone bad?

Courtney: But then, I'm an IPA person who just like, I'd just sit there basically drinking perfume and flowers.

Travis: Oh, see, I can't do IPA.

Courtney: Like a big fuckin' weirdo.

Travis: See, I like a gose, 'cause it's a lot less sweet than like, a shandy. Where a shandy is just too sweet for ol' Travis.

Brent: That's my jam. Now you're speaking my language. Shandies.

Travis: Oh no. We're never gonna get on the same page. Oh no.

Brent: No, we're not.

Courtney: How are we gonna make this work, guys?

Travis: Oh, no. Isn't this just your classic sitcom set up? One of us likes IPA, one of us likes gose, and one of us likes shandy. How are we gonna live together?

Courtney: Well, the way it's gonna work is like it does at every one of those secret nonsense shows that I'm not saying that I've ever done, where I just drink all the IPA myself.

Travis: I see.

Courtney: And it's gone very well for me, I will say.

Travis: Oh, 'There Gose the Neighborhood.'

Courtney: Okay.

Travis: What do you think?

Brent: How about 'Two Guys, a Girl, and a Disagreement About Beer'?

Travis: 'Two Gose, a Girl, and a Pizza Place.'

Brent: 'The Beer-ady Bunch.'

Travis: Ooh! 'Friends.'

Courtney: 'Gose the Destructor?'

Travis: 'Friends, but with Beer.'

Courtney: 'Friendsa.'

Travis: Were they ever drinking beers on friends?

Brent: Surely.

Courtney: There was one episode where they drank wine, and they made a whole episode about how funny it was that Monica's boyfriend was an alcoholic. I remember that episode.

Travis: Ooh.

Brent: Ooh. '90s problematic.

Travis: Ooh, yikes, yikes, yikes.

Courtney: Because then he got sober and became boring. It's a fucked up episode.

Travis: Ooh.

Courtney: Ooh, Friends, why'd you do it?

Travis: But luckily, that's the only bad thing Friends ever did.

Courtney: Ever.

Brent: Yep, the one blemish.

Courtney: Gose.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Brent, I have a question for you.

Brent: Hit me.

Travis: What goes down, then goes up, and can sometimes be confusing and enlightening at the same time?

Brent: Uhh, penises?

Travis: No... Well, yeah. I mean... I was setting up a thing...

Brent: Ticked every box for you, Travis.

Travis: No, you stop. You stop. I was gonna say Be-Yo-Yo the Headlines, and it was gonna be like a funny, weird dad joke. And you had to say, in the middle of my dad joke, the word penis. How...

Courtney: What does it mean?

Brent: I ticked every box for you in a record amount of time.

Courtney: What does it mean that I also thought penis?

Brent: Thank you.

Travis: Oh no!

Courtney: What's happening?

Travis: Be-Yo-Yo the Headlines! No, oh no!

Brent: What decade are you from with a yo-yo? Were you also thinking Pogs? Come on, gramps.

Travis: I just recently, on Amazon, bought a yo-yo. A Dunkin. It's good action, I love it. It's not... you know what? I don't have to explain myself to you. You're not my dad.

Courtney: Travis is doing cat's cradle as we speak.

Travis: I can walk the hell out of a dog. Okay?

Brent: Alright.

Travis: Real good. Okay. So, first Be-Yo-Yo the Headlines. Let's take a moment and discuss: Jacob Wohl, raging dumbshit.

Brent: [laughing] Yep.

Travis: Now, if that name seems familiar, but doesn't quite ring a bell, here's a refresher. Jacob has, in the past—[inhales deeply]—claimed to be a genius, founded a fraudulent investment firm [Indecipherable] a teenager, and as a result, was banned by the National Futures Association for life. He created Surefire Intelligence, a fake private investigation company. Surefire then tried to frame Robert Mueller for sexual assault. You may also remember him as hosting several disastrous press conferences. [exhales] Well, he's at it again. Press conferences and all.

It seems Jacob and his cohort, Jack Burkman, attempted to orchestrate a fake sexual assault accusation against democratic presidential hopeful, Pete Buttigieg. Did I say that correctly?

Brent: Think of it as 'boot,' and then two edges in a row. Boot edge edge.

Travis: Buttigieg.

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. Jacob and Jack reached out to a Republican college student named Hunter Kelly, to convince him to make the accusation, even going so far as to fly Kelly to DC to talk to them about it. In late April, a story was posted to media, making accusation that Buttigieg assaulted the student while the student was drunk. It was then shared via social media accounts that appeared to be the students, but turns out, were made by Jacob and Jack.

Now, the student claims that the two men tried to sell him on the plan, but he never agreed to it. However, it is important to note that the Daily Beast

appears to contradict that. This is from the Daily Beast. "The Daily Beast reached out to Kelly on a cell phone listed to him in the student directory at his Michigan college, told we were reporting on apparent efforts by Jacob Wohl and Jack Burkman to drum up false sexual assault allegations against Buttigieg. Kelly replied, "I was unaware this was happening, but yes, it is true."" Daily Beast also said that the student sent them a selfie to confirm his identity, and two hours after speaking with the Daily Beast, Kelly posted a post on Facebook, titled, in all caps, "I WAS NOT SEXUALLY ASSAULTED." This also from Daily Beast. The post went on, "It is important for everyone to know that I was not sexually assaulted, and would never falsely accuse anyone," he wrote. "To keep it brief for now, I was approached by a political figure to come to DC to discuss political situations from the standpoint of a gay republican. When I arrived, they discussed Peter Buttigieg, and started talking about how they would be working a campaign against him. I went to bed, and woke up to a fake Twitter, @realhunterkelly, and an article that I in no way endorsed or wrote."

So, all done, right? I think that's all done. How could this story continue after that? Seems pretty cut and dry to me. Only a real dumbshit would... Oh, wait, what's that? Hold on. [paper rustling] I've been handed a report.

Brent: Great Foley work, there.

Travis: Oh. Oh, it seems that Jacob Wohl is a real dumbshit. So, on May 8th—

Courtney: That was hot off the wire. Glad you got that.

Travis: Hot off the wire. Still, still, I can hear the laser printer in the background. Like, this is about nine days after. After Hunter Kelly came forward and was like, "Yeah, it's not real. No, that's nothing." On May 8th, Jacob Wohl and Jack Burkman held a press conference, continuing on with the accusations against Buttigieg. Now, first, and maybe most importantly, the press conference was held in Burkman's own driveway. Where every good press conference happens, in your home's driveway. Legit.

Second, Wohl presented a video of his and Burkman's meeting with Kelly, and the video contained, according to Wohl, proof that Kelly had not been

coerced into the accusation. The proof? This from Daily Beast, "He has got a Starbucks caramel Frappuccino," Wohl said. "Most forced coercion events do not involve caramel Frappuccino."

Brent: It's much more of a java chip thing, to be honest.

Travis: Oh, yeah, absolutely. Also, to prove their empathy, they talked about the expensive haircut Kelly had gotten while in DC.

Brent: [laughing]

Travis: If you, at all, find this real dumbshit fascinating in a car wreck kind of way, Will Sommer from the Daily Beast covers all of Jacob Wohl's shit, and also tweets about it. It's so worth a follow. It's great. Because Will Sommer goes to all of Jacob Wohl's weird press things, and it's fucking fascinating.

Okay. So, while all this was going on, Hunter Kelly released a statement, calling the two 'chronic liars,' and regretting that he couldn't be there to watch the embarrassment. Oh, and also, during the press conference, Wohl randomly made a claim that Joe Biden, "may have Parkinson's," and that they are "looking into this stuff."

Brent: They did this same shit with Hilary Clinton. Like, even though Trump is obviously the least healthy presidential candidate of all time... Yeah, no. It's such fucking bullshit.

Travis: Now, one more thing. This one is perhaps the weirdest. Wohl and Burkman attempted to stage a protest against themselves, question mark? So on Monday, Burkman tweeted a link an EventBrite page for a protest against them. The content of the EventBrite page read, "We are going to protest homophobic bigots Jack Burkman and Jacob Wohl as they give a press conference to continue their vile campaign against the first openly gay presidential candidate, mayor Pete Buttigieg. They were caught red handed by the Daily Beast. Now, we need to show up and show them that their bigotry has no place in our democracy."

Burkman's accompanying tweet read, "Hundreds of leftist protesters are set to descend on our Wednesday press conference. We will not surrender to the mob. We've called in extra security to guard our safety, and that of our partners in the media." Except that the email associated with the invite was wohlthinktank@gmail.com, an email used by Jacob Wohl. Now, Wohl claims that it wasn't created by him, but rather, by a troll. And this is hard to buy for two reasons. One, before Burkman tweeted, no other Twitter account had ever promoted that link. Two, Jacob Wohl has proven himself, time and again, to be a real dumbshit who would do something exactly like this to get attention.

Courtney: You know, I'm starting to think he might not really be a genius.

Travis: Whoa. Whoa, how dare thou.

Courtney: I mean, yeah.

Brent: It is lucky, though, that so often, people... I mean, so far, that I've seen. People that really try to sort of stage these small time things, you can sort of tell they lack a certain level of intelligence. Like I remember one guy tried to make a lot of hey because of his home being graffitied by leftists. But he wrote in spray paint, "Left is best." And like, that just isn't a thing a leftist would write. Maybe a like, anarchy or antifa symbol, I guess, but like, "Left is best." Nah, bro.

Travis: Also, another shout out to Will Sommer, S-O-M-M-E-R, by the way. In his report about the press conference on Daily Beast, he talks about that no protestors showed up, and the only disruption was the garbage truck that was coming down the street that kept interrupting the press conference. And that's the thing is, when they're like, "No, it was a troll." It's a weird troll to be like, "Hey, we're gonna stage a protest against these bigots, and I put his email on it." Like, what is the play here? What's the troll?

Anyways, Jacob Wohl, real dumbshit.

Brent: You heard it here. Alright, so, next story. Marijuana. I know it's the first time you've heard me say that word. Now you know how I pronounce it.

Courtney: Marijuana, won't you?

Brent: [laughing]

Travis: Please consider the following: marijuana?

Brent: I mean, I fully agree with that statement from beginning to end.

Courtney: Why doesn't it taste good when you spit it out your nose, was a thing I just learned. It doesn't taste good.

Travis: Oh, I thought you said why *does* it.

Courtney: Why does it?

Travis: Why does marijuana taste good when you spit it out your nose?

Courtney: You know the thing where you laugh while smoking marijuana, and it like, comes out your nose? Yeah, that's me. Classic.

Brent: Oh, yeah, no.

Courtney: Classic stony times.

Brent: So on that note, a majority of Americans in countless polls and studies believe marijuana should be legalized, or at least, decriminalized. And a majority of Americans also lack reasonable access to it, or reasonably easy access to it. And one of the last remaining arguments against legalization that holds any water is the fact that there isn't a field test for police to use on drivers in order to determine whether they're high. Like yeah, you could take a hair sample from a motorist, and see if they've smoked weed in the last few weeks, if you had like a huge lab in the cop car. But that doesn't help to determine whether they broke the law, since they could've done that in a place where it's legal.

And while some weed smokers claim to be able to drive high, and like one time, I found out that my friend that drove me across town had been high at the time, and I was like, "What?" But it obviously impairs like, most or all

drivers. And indeed, the driver who drove me across town may have just been lucky. So we know that there's a huge risk of impairment while driving high, and if there were a way to test it, there would be, in my estimation, zero arguments against legalization. Well, it turns out, I actually misplaced, or perhaps, didn't write the copy for the rest of this story that I thought I did, so I'm gonna wing it.

There's a company that claims it can determine the amount of THC present on a driver's breath without taking a sample of bodily fluid. And following a recent Florida highway patrol initiative to prevent people from driving while high, which, again, good idea, an announcement for the creation of this marijuana breathalyzer has been made. It's made by Hound Labs incorporated, and it's supposed to be a first of its kind breathalyzer which determines, as we've said, if you're high while you're driving, and that could hold drivers accountable.

And like I said, like, to me, there is an argument there. One of my friends in Texas who's a parent is like, "Look, I get high now and then. But I don't want people to drive around with it. I don't want that to add to the drunk driving situation, and make the roads even more dangerous." The company's website claims the hyper-sensitive breathalyzer can figure out whether you've got recent marijuana use in your system in just minutes, and it can avoid detecting marijuana use from days before, and can collect samples, like I said, without the use of oral fluid, which is a terrible term, blood, or urine.

And it's in its second trial, or rather, in late February, it completed its second clinical trial, and the results seem promising. But, I just want to point out, as much as I want this product to exist, it's still in development. And some of the headlines this week were like, "Check out the new marijuana breathalyzer," as if it's ready on store shelves. It's not. But, it could be, and me, personally, I'm hopeful.

Courtney: So on Tuesday, Georgia governor Brian Kemp signed a bill that outlaws all abortions after six weeks. That includes in the case of rape or incest. If you don't know much about pregnancy, or the reproductive process, that is essentially a complete and total ban on abortion in general, as most people do not know that they are pregnant at six weeks gestation.

Unless you have a period that is like clockwork no matter what, which is very, very rare, or you are actively trying to get pregnant, most people have no idea that they're pregnant at the time.

Both my pregnancies, I knew that I was pregnant at like four or five weeks, but that's because I was actively taking pregnancy tests like nonstop, even before I was supposed to, because I wanted to have a baby.

Travis: Just to jump in, here. That's another thing where most OBs, and doctors and stuff, won't even do an ultrasound or give you an appointment until eight to ten weeks.

Courtney: Exactly. And one common element, too, is implantation bleeding. So even those who have really light periods might have assumed that they had their period, and like Travis just said, OBGYNs won't even let you come in for an ultrasound and pregnancy confirmation until at least eight weeks. And that is because of the commonality of miscarriage that happens that early, and it's really common, and a lot of people don't even know that they've had one, necessarily, because they just assume it's their period, and there wouldn't be anything to see on the ultrasound anyway. To say that six weeks is early is an understatement.

And now, that, in and of itself, is horrific. Just as it is in all the other states where such bills have been signed into law, like Ohio and Mississippi, as well as Kentucky, where it was signed into law, but temporarily blocked by a judge after being challenged by the ACLU. But this one gets worse. This same bill, HB481, expands the term "natural person" to include, quote, "unborn children." What that means is, it's a personhood law. And it means people who get abortions, as well as their doctors who perform the abortions, could face life in prison, or, as self-termination or medical abortion would be considered murder, which is a capital crime in Georgia, potentially the death penalty. Even if they go to a state where abortion is legal, they could still face charge of conspiracy to commit murder, and perhaps, most terrifyingly, which is a fucking high bar in this whole horrific story, someone who miscarries, quote, "of their own conduct," that means using drugs while they're pregnant. But frankly, that could be any myriad reasons that a miscarriage could happen, that a person could be deemed

culpable in some way, shape, or form. They could be charged with second degree murder. Meanwhile, in Ohio—

Travis: That, by the way?

Courtney: Yeah?

Travis: Hey, that's real fucked up.

Courtney: That's so fucked up.

Travis: So, Teresa and I, we've had two miscarriages at this point. And there's already such a fuck ton of stigma around it, the idea of like, it's really scary to talk about, because either you worry about pity or judgment. And then, to add on that, possible, actual judgment? Fuck you.

Courtney: And like, it's already ingrained in any person that like, something's your fault. What did I do that made this happen? I mean, I've thought that about like, what did I do wrong that my son has a speech delay? Stuff like that. You're constantly blaming yourself for anything, and to add to that, literally a judgment being passed down upon you that could put you in fucking jail? [sighs]

And also, again, if you don't know you're fucking pregnant at that point, and you're like, you go out and drink a whole lot, and stuff like that. Is that cause for second degree murder?

Brent: Nature did not... And first off, this bill is fucked up, so nature shouldn't have done anything for it. But nature does not tell you soon enough that you would know, and that's part of why... I mean, I didn't actually fully understand that six weeks could still be within the range of not knowing until I saw AOC tweet it. But this has been an education for me, and I hope that at least, people are learning through that, how ridiculous the number of six weeks is.

Courtney: Well like, let's say you have irregular periods. So you would have no idea based on missing a period that you were pregnant. You

wouldn't experience symptoms until, minimum, eight weeks, more like nine, ten.

Travis: You know, it's really interesting, by which I mean, disgusting, that I was listening... And this is gonna seem, I promise, like a weird tangent, but go with me. An episode of Reply All. And they were talking about why there seems to be such a huge surge of robo-calls, which is a great episode, and you should totally listen to. But they talk about it, how in 2018, there was this 2015 FCC ruling that was overturned because one word in it was kind of ambiguous. And it was like, this one word capacity, right? And that overturned the whole thing. Having one word that was kind of ambiguous was an issue. And then I listened to the language in this ruling, and it is some of the most wholly ambiguous shit I've ever heard. Where like, think about this, when it talks about miscarriage of your own causing or whatever. The language sounds like, well, but, it'll probably be fine. And it's like, you motherfuckers rushed this through. You didn't vet it. You were just trying to make it a thing, because you, not because you care about the law or you think the law is important, but because you want to make abortion an issue, and you're trying to make it into a thing, and you're trying to prove that you win and that you have control over people's bodies and all of this bullshit. Not because this is a well thought through, well measured law.

Brent: Yeah, and it ends up being, you know, they're not trying to frame it as a ban. But like Courtney said, it's a backdoor ban. But because of the time limit, it's a ban. And like, so much, the discussion here is that six weeks is unreasonable. Basically, in my opinion, and I have a feeling we agree, banning any level of abortion is fucked up, and we should be past that, and more mature than that as a country. This is just the most egregious version I think we've seen of it.

Courtney: Yeah, I'm gonna get to why it is fucked up at any point. It's... I'll get to that. Meanwhile, in Ohio, where, as I said, governor Mike Dewine signed a heartbeat law, banning abortion as early as six weeks. There's also an anti-abortion bill in the house that extends all the way to banning insurance coverage for all abortions, including those considered medically necessary, such as in the treatment of ectopic pregnancies.

According to John Becker, the republican who created the bill, "Part of that treatment would be removing that embryo from the fallopian tube and reinserting it in the uterus, so that is defined as not an abortion under this bill."

Brent: Get the fuck out.

Travis: Holy shit.

Courtney: That's not a fucking thing! That's not a thing! That is not a thing! If they could just reinsert the embryo into the uterus, it wouldn't be a fucking ectopic pregnancy that is not able to sustain.

Travis: It's not like a weird like, whoops, slipped down the fallopian... Like, no, it didn't take in the... You can't... you dumb piece of shit. Man, I'm gonna say dumb piece of shit a lot this episode.

Courtney: We're gonna say it so much this episode.

Brent: Yes.

Travis: Yeah, and I mean it every time.

Courtney: Beyond that, the bill extends to coverage for birth control devices, as in, any birth control that could stop a fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus would be considered an abortion.

Travis: What?

Courtney: To which Becker said, "When you get into the contraception and abortifacients, that's clearly not my area of expertise. But I suppose if it were true that what we typically know as 'the pill' would be classified as an abortifacient, then I would imagine that drug manufacturers would reformulate it so that it's no longer an abortifacient and is strictly a contraceptive." [gasps] Once you say this is not your area of expertise, you do not get to legislate it. You don't get a say.

Brent: They made up... The word 'abortifacient' is made up, essentially, for the pro-life movement. It's not really a thing. It's not some medical term.

Courtney: It is so made up that I don't know how to pronounce it, 'cause it's not a real word.

Brent: I was trying to low-key not correct you, but also, when I look at... I follow conservatives to see what they're up to, and abortifacient is this word they love, and they make it seem like it's this scientific medical term, and it's not.

Travis: What's it mean?

Brent: It just means a thing that stops a pregnancy.

Courtney: It's that thing, like, going back years where people think that the abortion pill is a thing that we just have. That that's what birth control does, that that's what the IUD does. It's just this like... I've had this argument with women. With women who just don't understand, because they've been so indoctrinated with this, you know, right wing rhetoric. They're like, "Oh, yeah, did you know that birth control pills can kill babies?" Like, no, it fucking can't. They don't even work a lot of the time.

Travis: As soon as you introduce the idea of contraception as potentially abortion-adjacent, or even abortion-causing... This isn't even slippery slope. This is just trap door, where it's just like—

Brent: Well, now, you're culpable at the point of basically doing it. Like, that's when—

Travis: Well, not only that. I'm saying that this is one step removed from saying, birth control should be outlawed.

Brent: Yeah, and that's something that Catholics—

Travis: No.

Brent: That's something that arch-Catholics... I mean, you don't hear it as much anymore, because they can sense that the culture's moving on. But as late as the early 2000s, many voices in the Catholic church, typically the more severe ones, still felt that contraception is essentially next door to murder, and it is aborting the pregnancy.

Courtney: As long as we're on the fucking subject, Mike Pence, once again, linked abortion to infanticide, echoing his dumpsterfuck boss, who, in February, said, "Democrat position on abortion is now so extreme that they don't mind executing babies after birth." [sighs]

Travis: Based on what?

Brent: Yeah, show me one.

Courtney: No one is giving birth to a baby, and then deciding, jk lols, kill the thing. That's not a goddamn thing. What these born alive bills insist is that any "live birth" must be subject to life saving measures. Meaning that fetuses born at 22 weeks, and therefore unviable, would have to be given lifesaving measures rather than palliative care. Additionally, parents wouldn't be allowed to sign a DNR to limit their child's suffering. The implication here is that these are just leftist monsters who just hastily decided after four months of pregnancy or more, and let's be honest, that they are genuinely implying that abortions are being performed at like, full term pregnancies. Like nine months, and they're like, "Oh, I don't want this." Would just be murder, because they just didn't want to be pregnant.

The reality is, people who are having this kind of procedure are ones facing unspeakable grief and devastation of losing a child. To vilify these people, and the actual saints who do newborn palliative care as a career, which I cannot fucking imagine, is monstrous.

Travis: When Bebe was born, she spent about a week and a half in the NICU. And I saw, in there, and Bebe was, you know, thankfully, by far, one of the healthiest babies in there. But I saw babies born in there, at like, you know, 22, 23 weeks. I saw like a one pound, one ounce baby that nurses and doctors were working around the clock to keep alive, and to keep healthy. Bebe was born in October, and there were parents in there, you

know, that we like, three or four different times, were like, scrubbing in at the same time so we could go, you know, see our babies. And they asked, "When do you guys get to take your kid home?" And we said, "Well, we're hoping by the end of the week. What about you?" And they said, "We're hoping about mid-January." And what I saw in that NICU, and what I saw in just, you know, the natal unit in general, is some of the kindest, most committed human beings I've ever seen in my life, working sometimes around the clock, to try to save children, and give everything they could to do that. And to imply that they wouldn't, that these people would make the choice to just not help a kid, or that a parent who, I've seen parents like, basically, live in a NICU for months, that parents would just offhandedly, casually decide not to take care of their kid, is some of the most disgusting, inhuman behavior I've ever seen.

Courtney: Exactly. And it's based in this just... [sighs] The only word I can think of is naïve, or ignorant. Like some kind of idea...

Travis: Fear mongering. That's what I think about it.

Courtney: It's absolutely fear mongering. But it hits on this idea that people have where it's just like, well, yeah, why wouldn't they save a baby? And the thing is, if the baby is viable, they fucking do.

Travis: They do.

Courtney: But sometimes, they can't. Sometimes, a child cannot be saved, and that is horrific, and tragic, and devastating to the people losing their child. And to the caretakers that are in charge of having to like, let this child go peacefully and comfortably.

Travis: And let me say, also—

Courtney: And to imply that this is just straight up murder? How fucking dare.

Travis: We have twice now... Twice now, having gone through miscarriages at around ten weeks, if a doctor had to legally say to me, "We'll wait and see," and like, keep going... Like, it was hard. Oh, god, was it fucking hard.

But I am so thankful that our doctors, and the people working at the OB, were so definite that they were like, "This is not going to progress. It's done." You know what I mean? Because there was finality to it, there was no ambiguity. We weren't left wondering what could've happened, or what did. And so, this idea of a pregnancy being unviable, and parents being in, what is most likely, some of the most vulnerable situations a human being could ever find themselves in, being basically like, led along, strung along with some kind of hope, because doctors are not legally allowed to be definite about their diagnosis of the situation, that is crueler than anything I could possibly think of.

Courtney: My boss at Pajiba, my former boss, Dustin Rowles. He's my former boss, but a very good friend. And he has written publicly about this, so I'm not like, betraying any confidence or anything. But he has written about, he and his wife found out that they were pregnant with twins, but the twins were mono-amniotic. And what that means is, they were in one amniotic sac, and what that means is that, more likely than not, they would be born with defects that would make them "incompatible with life," which is a term that doctors use to at least somewhat cushion that for parents, I think. But they would probably die. They had about a 50/50 chance. They might lose one, they might lose both. The surviving baby would be severely brain damaged, while the other one was lost. And the thing is, those doctors did not just say, "So let's go ahead and abort these." They kept Dustin's wife Molly in the hospital, and took care of her, and now, those twins are fine. I believe they just turned six. They're a little bit older than, or about to turn seven. They're a little bit older than Julian.

And they were not like, "Go ahead and just undo this." They took care of this family, and made sure that those babies made it. No one is just giving up, and that is what this is implying. Not even implying, outright saying, that doctors and parents are committing just murder of live babies, and that is just absolutely the most fucked up thing I could imagine.

Brent: Yeah, and so, I'm seeing various people talking about boycotts against Georgia, and this reminds me of, in 2016, there was this anti-LGBT legislation that basically said, in Georgia, it was passed in their state legislation that you could refuse services to any LGBT person if you wanted, as a business. And Disney and Netflix threatened to boycott Georgia over it,

and so, then, the governor vetoed it. I think this is more difficult, and I think that like, is Disney gonna go to bat over abortion? Maybe not. But what I'm hoping is that enough companies and people just make it clear, like... For instance, there's that filmed in Georgia thing that you see at the end of a lot of TV shows. Georgia gives tax breaks to companies that make films and TV. That's a good start. Go, "We're not doing that." But I feel like there hopefully is power to affect this, or at least, I mean, you don't want to hurt the citizens of Georgia who may or may not agree with it, but there's gotta be something that people can do.

[theme music plays]

Brent: This week, Trends Like These is brought to you in part by Quip. It's time for spring cleaning. Quip's got an easy way to start: with your teeth brushing habits. Now, I own a Quip toothbrush that, to be honest, I got because we do these ads. But I've had it since like, 2017, and I love it. And you've heard us talk about it before. It's got just the right amount of vibration. It's an electric toothbrush. But unlike most electric toothbrushes, you don't have to have the big stand to charge it. And if you want to travel with it, the thing that comes with it and keeps it where it goes is also... It works as a travel case. So it's built in.

And they send you the heads to replace them on a dentist recommended schedule. But today, I want to tell you about the fact that Quip has a new brush for kids. The new brush is the same as the original version, just tweaked for sized-down mouths, to help kids develop a grown-up routine without childish gimmicks. Kid friendly features, like a small brush head, watermelon anti-cavity toothpaste, which I'm just gonna tell you, is just as good, but I like more than mint, myself. And rubber grip handles in colors that little ones will love.

Courtney: I will actually just say that electric toothbrushes for kids, that was actually recommended to me, because well, my daughter, originally, but now, both my children have been diagnosed as on the autism spectrum. And electric toothbrushes are actually really good for kids on the autism spectrum.

Travis: Huh.

Courtney: It gives them kind of like that like, some kind of feeling that they enjoy that makes them more apt to brush their teeth.

Travis: Cool.

Courtney: Yeah. Yay, Quip.

Brent: I mean, I do think there is something just slightly more exciting and satisfying about a toothbrush that vibrates. And also, I don't know about other people. For me, it just feels cleaner at the end. But brush heads are automatically delivered by Quip on a dentist-recommended schedule, every three months, for just \$5. Over one million happy, healthy mouths love Quip, and Quip starts at just \$25. And if you go to [GetQuip.com/trends](https://www.getquip.com/trends) right now, you can get your first refill pack for free. That's your first refill pack free at [GetQuip.com/trends](https://www.getquip.com/trends).

Courtney: Hiring is all about finding the right person for the role. That's why when it comes to posting your job, go where you have access to an engaged community that people visit every day, LinkedIn. Most LinkedIn members haven't recently visited the top job boards, but nine out of ten members are open to new opportunities. And with 70% of the US workforce on LinkedIn, posting on LinkedIn is the best way to get your job opportunity in front of more of the right people. It's no wonder a new hire is made every ten seconds using LinkedIn. So head to [LinkedIn.com/trends](https://www.linkedin.com/trends) for \$50 off your first job post. That's [LinkedIn.com/trends](https://www.linkedin.com/trends) to get \$50. \$50 off your first job post. Terms and conditions apply.

[theme music plays]

Brent: Alright, folks. Sometimes we do a segment called the Politics Roundup, but that typically happens when we are covering different facets of politics going on. And this week, it's all Trump. So we're doing a Trumpdate.

Travis: You know how like, it's like in Fifth Element, as the evil just keeps growing and growing that big weird evil meteor thing. It just keeps growing and growing until it blots out the sun, and it's gonna consume the earth.

That's what Trump has done to politics, for like two years, two and a half years. But definitely this week.

Brent: That is an amazing reference that everyone can relate to.

Travis: Thank you.

Brent: Fun fact, my Stardew Valley character looks like Chrono, because that's one of the heads you can pick.

Travis: Huh.

Brent: Real quick, just to touch on this in the shortest, smallest way. Attorney general William Barr has been held in contempt of congress. That's not quite breaking, but very recent news, and will tie into other things we say in the other two stories in this segment.

Travis: So, on Tuesday the 7th, the New York Times published a story titled, "Decade in the Red: Trump Tax Figures Show Over \$1 Billion in Business Losses." In this story, they reported that between 1985 and 1994, Donald Trump claimed over a billion dollars in losses on his taxes. "The numbers show that in 1985, Mr. Trump reported losses of \$46.1 million from his core businesses, largely casinos, hotels, and retail spaces and apartment buildings, that continued to lose money every year, totaling \$1.17 billion dollars in losses for the decade. In fact, year after year, Mr. Trump appears to have lost more money than nearly any other individual American taxpayer, the Times found, when it compared to his results with detailed info the IRS compiles on an annual sampling of high income earners."

And let's not forget, back into October, 2016, a simpler, happier time, the New York Times reported that in 1995, Trump claimed a whopping \$916 million loss in one year. A loss so large, that he could, hypothetically, avoid paying any taxes for almost two decades. And now I say, hypothetically, because of course, we have not had access to Donald Trump's tax returns since then, so we have no idea what he has been paying in taxes.

So, those are huge losses, right? Huge, as he would say. He must be super bad at business! Well, Trump took to— where else— Twitter to respond to

these claims. These are from his tweets, "Real estate developers in the 1980s and '90s, more than 30 years ago," okay. The '90s weren't more than 30... that's fine. "... were entitled to massive write offs and depreciation, which would, if one was actively building, show losses and tax losses in almost all cases. Much was non-monetary, sometimes considered "tax shelter."" And now, I do want to point out. Then, he ended that tweet, first of all, with a comma, "tax shelter," and then, six periods. So like a double ellipses, as if he hadn't quite reached the character limit, and he just needed to fill that out, so he just kept going with three more dots, and then started the next tweet with four dots. Ten in total.

Okay, so, "... sometimes considered "tax shelter,"....." Whatever. "You would get it by building, or even buying. You always want to show losses for tax purposes. Almost all real estate developers did, and often renegotiate with banks. It was sport. Additionally, the very old information put out is a highly inaccurate, fake news hit job."

So, I want to just talk about that for a second. That last sentence. So basically, the New York Times says, "You lost a bunch of money in the '80s and '90s." Donald Trump says, "I didn't. If it showed losses, it was because of tax shelters, and tax dodges, and stuff. But I didn't. Fake news." Like, if it's not true, why not just say, "That's not true. Fake news." And if it is true, but incorrectly reported, just say that. But to say both?

Brent: Yeah. It's ridiculous. Usually, the man will, in different tweets, or at different times, give two different versions of a thing, so that Fox News, Talk Radio, whatever, can run with the one they like, and he can also, in his mind, cover his ass.

Travis: It's like if New York Times reported that in the '80s and '90s I committed manslaughter, and I said, "I didn't commit manslaughter. If I had committed manslaughter, it would've been murder, but I didn't." Like, wait, what? Why did you say that middle part, then? Wait, hold on, come back to this.

Brent: Everybody was doing it. Everybody was murdering in those days, so...

Travis: God knows that's true.

Brent: I mean, honestly, that is one thing that he says that is like, it's like, not even acceptable when you're a kid. Your parents tell you, everybody was doing it doesn't mean you can. And yet, that's, you know, almost all real estate developers did. Like, that's not a reason.

Travis: This is a weird, maybe irony is the word I'm looking for, I'm not sure. But if you remember, during the campaign, and I specifically remember during debates, him talking about the tax dodges he used, but then saying that if it was such a problem, Hillary Clinton should've done something while she was a senator to close those loopholes. And the irony being that a lot of the shit he did, Hillary Clinton was one of the senators who voted to close that loophole. Like, what? Hold on. Anyways.

Brent: And he also had that quote about like, "I was just being smart." And it's like, dude, I know republicans don't like taxes, but have you figured out that your salary as president will be paid by taxes, so what you're saying is that you didn't pay into the system that's about to pay you, you piece of shit?

Travis: So this is what I really like. So this is a quote from Washington Post that I think sums it up pretty well. "The man who sits two rungs above the IRS commissioner and the executive branch's organizational chart is bragging that tax dodging is one of his pastimes." Cool. So, let's break down what he may have just admitted to.

So, Trump's businesses are partnerships. That means that he was able to pass through losses from his businesses onto his personal tax returns. So, he can claim depreciation losses, in that his buildings were getting older, and therefore, depreciating in value, AKA, loss. That is a thing, right? If I own a business that is an income generator for me, and then that building decreases in value, that is a monetary loss that I can claim on my taxes. And that's completely possible. But it doesn't explain the full amount, according to the slate. In order to lose a billion dollars in ten years, he would've had to have buildings worth billions and billions of dollars.

So, what it can probably be attributed to is failing casinos, and other business ventures that failed during that period. Now, this is where it gets a little tax fraudy. From Slate, "Here's the important part. We know Trump got hundreds of millions of debt forgiven in the '90s, as the projects went belly up. To the IRS, cancelled debt is the same as income. If you don't have to pay back a dollar you said you did, you've effectively made a dollar. Trump appears to have claimed other people's losses as his losses, but never accounted for the money he didn't have to pay back. Reported correctly, that income would've shrunk that billion dollar loss."

So, how did he do this? Well, he did something called stock for debt, which basically means that investors, who he owed a billion point one seven dollars to, instead of being paid back in cash, they take the stock equivalent to it. And because his were partnerships, it was partnership equity that he was giving away. So basically like, you own more of the company now as a partner than I do. And so, in doing so, forgiving debt isn't counted as taxable income. So, he claimed the losses, but then didn't claim the money he used to cover those losses, so very much double dipped. Now, the question is, is it illegal? Maaaybe?

You can read all about this in a story from the New York Times back in 2016, when they reported on his claiming almost a billion dollar loss in one year. But the long and the short of it, I will summarize, is that before instituting this stock for debt swap, he reached out to some lawyers to make sure that what he was doing was okay. It's called a formal tax opinion letter. And it's really interesting to read about, because the language used is, unsurprisingly, very lawyer gibberish, and very lawyery. It's basically like, if they say, you know, that it's acceptable, it's this, if they say it's this, it's this, right? But basically, it came back, "due to the lack of definitive judicial or administrator authority, substantial uncertainties exist with the respect to many of the tax consequences of this plan." Which, summarized, means if you do this, we have no idea how it's gonna go. It's never been done before, like, this could really go belly up. This could really get real fucked up.

And so, the lawyers even said, basically, everything a lawyer feels comfortable saying, except, "Don't do this, this is a mistake." So, all of this has led to a push to release his tax returns from 2013 to 2018 to house democrats. Now, they feel that they need oversight into how the IRS is

auditing the president's returns, since, remember, the president is only two rungs above, you know, the head of the IRS.

So, on Monday, the treasury secretary officially denied that request. However, and this is where it gets a little juicy, my friends. On Wednesday, the New York State senate passed legislation to allow congressional committees access to his state returns. So, it still needs approval by the democrat majority state assembly, and signed by the democrat governor, but there's not a lot of risk there. So, pretty soon, even though we don't have the federal returns, we may be getting a whole lot more insight into Trump's more recent financial activity.

Brent: Yeah. It's all coming down around him, and while, of course, I wish that the leaders of the democratic party would always do what's right immediately, I would not be shocked if they, you know, if something comes out, or they really push for a law that pins him down, I don't know, in October of 2020. Like, that's a long time away, but you know, they're... I don't want to use the word smart, but they—

Travis: Cunning?

Brent: There's a cunningness, yes.

Travis: There is a soupçon of cunning.

Brent: Yeah. Yeah. They cun. They do a little bit of the cunning.

Travis: Now, what's gonna be really interesting to me, when they get these state returns, is, they're, I think, you know, we've seen it before. There's gonna be a lot of wiggle room in that 2013 to 2016 range. But when we get into the tax returns from 2017 and 2018, he was in the office at that point. And if there's anything inconsistent in there, anything sketchy in there, that might be a fuckin' bombshell. And here's the thing – if we get Trump on taxes, I'm just gonna start screaming like 'Capone' over and over and over again.

Brent: Yeah. You know, and that's an argument that conservatives often make, particularly pundits that, well, it was before he was president. But

yeah, if they can pin him down on shady, illegal shit while he was in the office, I mean, again, will democrats impeach him? Will they move forward with some kind of... I don't know. I don't even know, can a president be held in contempt? Who knows. Censured? No idea.

Travis: Who knows? But, it'll be a lot harder to justify if he did shady shit while sitting in the most powerful office in the land.

Brent: For sure.

Travis: Not that he hasn't done shady shit, but you know what I mean. Like definite, here you go.

Brent: Right. And as for, on that note, the second Trumpdate story, I want to introduce a brand new and intriguing news item that we call the Mueller report. Okay.

Travis: Oh, no, no, Brent, it's Mull-er, I believe.

Brent: Oh, I'm so sorry. The Mueller report.

Travis: I'm just hearing about this for the first time. It's just coming through my ear piece. They're telling me it's Mull-er.

Brent: Okay, well, now I know for the future, as this story will probably...

Travis: Should we ever mention this again, yeah.

Brent: [laughing] Yeah. So here's what happened this week. You'll remember that Mueller had assumed his report would be sent to congress, who would then decide how to move forward with the evidence against Trump. But congress didn't get the unredacted version, because attorney general Barr wouldn't give it to them. So the house judiciary committee subpoenaed the full, unredacted report, and that's when Trump broke the glass on the emergency fire extinguisher, and actually invoked what's called executive privilege, to prevent the unredacted report from being sent to congress.

To be clear, this has nothing to do with releasing it to the public, since there are elements like grand jury proceedings, and activities that are illegal to release publicly. But we're not talking about publicly. We're talking about the people we elected to represent us at the state and local level, as part of the federal government. So, let's be clear. You know, I could've said that differently. To represent our states and local districts. There we go.

Let's be clear from the other side. Congress is over 500 people, not counting clerks, pages, and the individual staffs of each congressperson. So like, look, let's be real. Stuff would leak. It would. But I don't think anybody would need to leak private details of the grand jury hearings, because that's not what they're after. They're after the complete findings of Robert Mueller's team. Keep in mind, Trump criticized Obama for issuing executive orders, going over the heads of congress. But I mean, shock me, shock me, shock me, Trump is a hypocrite with no principles.

So, in effect, Trump is saying, "I am using my power as president to block info about an investigation into the activities of the president." And his lackey, who happens to be the attorney frickin' general, is fine with it. Personally, I think it's time for congress to scale back the powers of the presidency. It's probably not gonna happen, because so many people in congress want to be president, and they want the power, but you know, conservatives always like to lick the Constitution's butt and use it as a justification for the rampant gun problem, and an argument to keep the electoral college system. And an argument I hear over and over again on Facebook, sometimes from my own family, is, "Well, that's not how the system works." Well, executive privilege is nowhere in the Constitution, and its intended purpose is to protect the president from private interactions with advisors and executive branch officials becoming public. And you never hear a peep about that from Trump's base when he uses powers that weren't even mentioned until the 1950s, and which ruined the checks and balances the founding fathers envisioned.

So, what happens now? Well, as we mentioned, attorney general Barr has now been held in contempt of congress, and while Robert Mueller is supposed to testify before congress soon, house judiciary chairman Jerry Nadler is worried that Trump's executive order privilege will delay Mueller's testimony. And recently, it came out that Donald Trump Jr. has been

subpoenaed to testify. But we still have yet to say what Mueller and Jr. will say, and how it will affect the calculus on all of this. And we will keep you posted.

Courtney: Hey, y'all. What if we tid a bit?

Travis: Gross!

Courtney: What's the past tense of tidbit? Would it be like, tided-bitted?

Brent: Tided... we tided a bit.

Travis: Tad. I think it's taded.

Brent: We tad a bit. I like to tid a lot, but we can just tid a bit.

Courtney: Hashtadbat.

Travis: We tadbats.

Brent: Tadbad.

Courtney: Tadbats. Chris Hughes, one of the co-founders of Facebook, wrote an op-ed for the New York Times calling for Facebook to be broken up by the government, and addressing Mark Zuckerberg's staggering and unchecked level of power. According to Hughes, Zuckerberg is the controlling member of the board, meaning, he alone gets to decide how the algorithms are configured, the privacy settings, what counts as punishable, harassment on the platform, and, you know, also, all the things which ultimately led to the massive security breaches that destroyed our democracy.

So, agreed. Agreed. Hard agree, Chris Hughes.

Brent: For sure. And second tidbit, the plot of the 2020 race thickened this week when we found out that there is a candidate with more individual small money donors than Bernie Sanders, who in 2016 to now has been praised by

lefties for all of the small, individual donors he has. The implication is that he has a legit, grassroots campaign, rather than being bought by corporations.

Well, be that as it may, there is apparently a new sheriff in small donor town, and it's Andrew Yang, the entrepreneur who champions the concept of universal basic income. It shocked me, and while he has said a few questionable things on Twitter, like how "we've become underdogs in our own country," without specifying who 'we' is, and also citing the dwindling population of white Americans. Eh, you know what, I think UBI is something I'm ready to have batted around in a debate, and just, you know, those words pronounced in that order. Universal basic income, for Americans to hear in a prime time setting.

I'm excited to see what he brings to the conversation and the debates, whether he gets any long term traction or not.

Courtney: He brought up the dwindling population of white Americans?

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Eew.

Brent: And the thing is, I went, like, "Who are you trying to court, bro?" I mean, in context, I don't remember the full context, but just that phrase, regardless of the context, feels a little alt-right dog-whistley. Which is a weird thing for somebody—

Courtney: For a person of color to say.

Brent: Yeah, exactly. You wouldn't think that a person of color, who wants UBI to be the way that we do things to solve wealth inequality, would be trying to court almost definitely republican voting, alt-right people. But we'll see.

Travis: So, 145 years in, and there's still some firsts left for the Kentucky Derby. Racing officials, in a surprise decision, opted to disqualify the winner and clear favorite going into the race, Maximum Security. This is the first time the derby winner has been disqualified for an in-race foul. Maximum

Security drifted into the lane of War of Will. That horse then had to alter course, and affected several other horses. According to the SBN, the Kentucky Derby is the highest wagered sporting event in North America. There was over \$6.2 million wagered on Maximum Security. Add to that the added stud fees for a derby winning colt, and the \$3 million dollar purse, and we're talking about a shit ton of money on the line. Two separate objections were lodged against Maximum Security, and the officials discussed the issue for 22 minutes before making their ruling known. The lane departure occurred during the final turn, when the crowd usually reacts the loudest. Maximum Security's jockey, Luis Saez, stated that he thinks the crowd's roar may have caused the horse to duck away, causing the foul.

Courtney: Not a lot of people know this, but Maximum Security was actually the first security guard for Maximum Fun that is a horse.

Travis: Oh, that's weird.

Courtney: Yeah. So even if he lost this, you're breaking those glass ceilings of horses.

Travis: Yeah, breaking those glass fences.

Brent: I really like how our podcast security guard makes me feel a little less insecure. Which we all need sometimes when we're making podcasts, so shout out to Maximum Security.

Courtney: So this didn't so much trend, as it was just kind of wonderful. I just really want to tell y'all about this real tweet that James Cameron tweeted. So it's a picture of the Avengers logo, the A with a circle around it, knocking over the Titanic. And the message in there says, "To Kevin and everyone at Marvel, an iceberg sank the real Titanic. It took the Avengers to sink my Titanic. Everyone here at Lightstorm Entertainment salutes your amazing achievement. You've shown that the movie industry is not only alive and well, it's bigger than ever. --Jim Cameron"

Travis: Here's what I love. Without the image, it's not that weird. Like, if he just said, if you skip the weird part about the real Titanic, whatever.

Everyone here at Lightstorm Entertainment, blah blah blah. Oh, that's nice. You know, that's a... Wait. Hey, Jim? Why'd you put that picture...

Courtney: People died, Jim. A whole bunch of people. I don't mean Leo. He didn't really die. But a lot of people actually did.

Travis: My great-great-great-uncle... I think that's enough greats... died on there. So, hey, Jim? Hey, Jimbo? Also, to Courtney's point, rather than looking like it's sinking the Titanic, it does look like it's just flipping it over.

Courtney: It's just like, put, poke.

Brent: Everybody at dinner just flying against one wall, all kinds of food and entrées going everywhere.

Travis: This looks like maybe Jim had like, eaten some edibles, and he was like, "I have a great idea." And then it went up, and people were like, "Whoa, hey, Jimbo, didn't really check in with us on that one. Uhh..."

Courtney: Look, your relatives died, but isn't that worth it for the Avengers to overthrow the Titanic record, that isn't actually the main record, 'cause that's Avatar? Speaking of Avatar...

Travis: I would also point out that, if you look at the image, it does kind of look like the Titanic is humping to Avengers logo.

Courtney: You know, I would see that movie. Avatar 2, 3, 4, and 5 are allegedly still happening. [laughing] Avatar 2, which no one asked for, has been pushed back from 2020 to 2021, meaning Avatar 5 will allegedly release in 2027, which no one asked for times five.

Brent: Man. Guys, that tweet really sinks my Titanic.

Courtney: My heart will not go on. Not for that. Not for that, Brent.

Brent: Courtney, you're here. There's nothing to fear.

Travis: Oh, gross.

Biz: Hi, I'm Biz.

Theresa: And I'm Theresa.

Biz: And we host One Bad Mother, a comedy podcast about parenting.

Theresa: Whether you are a parent, or just know kids exist in the world, join us each week as we honestly share what it's like to be a parent.

Biz: These are really hard questions.

Theresa: They are really hard questions.

Biz: I don't have any answers for that.

Theresa: I don't either.

Biz: Sack of garbage.

Theresa: I know.

Biz: [yelling and laughing] The end of the show will just be five minutes of Biz and Theresa, crying and screaming, until the outro is played. So, great.

Theresa: I wish I had something—

Biz: I know. You have nothing to say to me.

Theresa: I don't even know. I'm just dealing with this reality.

Biz: And I'm not saying anything helpful to you.

Theresa: And I'm not saying anything helpful to you.

Biz: Yeah. So join us each week, as we judge less, laugh more, and remind you that you are doing a great job.

Theresa: Find us on MaximumFun.org, on Apple Podcast, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[gavel banging]

Speaker 1: Judge John Hodgman ruled in my favor.

Speaker 2: Judge John Hodgman ruled in my friend's favor.

Speaker 3: Judge John Hodgman ruled in my favor.

John: I'm Judge John Hodgman. You're hearing the voices of real litigants, real people, who have submitted disputes to my internet court at the Judge John Hodgman podcast. I hear their cases, I ask them questions, they're good ones, and then I tell them who's right and who's wrong.

Speaker 1: Thanks to Judge John Hodgman's ruling, my dad has been forced to retire one of the worst dad jokes of all time.

Speaker 3: Instead of cutting his own hair with a Flowbee, my husband has his hair cut professionally.

Speaker 4: I have to join a community theater group.

Speaker 5: And my wife has stopped bringing home wild animals.

John: It's the Judge John Hodgman podcast. Find it every Wednesday at MaximumFun.org, or wherever you download podcasts.

[gavel banging]

Speaker 1: Thanks, Judge John Hodgman.

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.

This week's Wi-Five is close to my heart, but I honestly think it's a good sign of things to come for everyone. The city of Denver, Colorado, narrowly became the first American municipality to decriminalize psilocybin mushrooms, AKA magic mushrooms. Now, I know what you're thinking. Brent, you stoner hippie. No one cares about magic mushrooms. This shouldn't be a Wi-Five. But let me tell you, and I guess, reiterate some facts I mentioned a while back on the show.

Johns Hopkins did a study where they dosed people with large amounts of the active chemical in the mushrooms. And what they found was, in an admittedly small cohort, the researchers, who had no dog in the fight, found that smokers having a hard time quitting had about an 80% success rate of abstinence over a six month period or more after taking a large dose. After 15 years of study, they also concluded that 67% of participants in a larger cohort said that the experience was among the top five most meaningful in their lifetime. And they also reported, perhaps this is the most significant piece of this, that among patients with depression and/or anxiety symptoms, in many cases, drug resistant symptoms, 80% showed clinically significant decreases in depressed mood and anxiety, as well as similar results with terminal cancer patients dealing with existential anxiety.

I'm not saying mushrooms are a cure-all. Neither is Johns Hopkins. But considering these depression numbers are higher than any success rate of a pharmaceutical antidepressant or mood stabilizer, I'd say a city decriminalizing them is a step toward all of us finding out how our lives could possibly be improved by this. So to the people of Denver, Colorado: Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Alright, folks, that's gonna do it for us. First of all, thank you, Mustin. You can check out Mustin's work at Mustin.net. Mustin does the editing and producing for the show, which, so appreciated. Also want to say, real quick plug for myself. Next week, we are going to, My Brother, My Brother, and Me is going to be in Cleveland on the 15th, and Cincinnati on the 16th. Oh, and the Cleveland show, Paul and Storm is going to be opening for us, which we're very excited about. You can get tickets for that by going to McElroy.family, and clicking on tours. And then, you can also see all the

other shows we're doing in like, all the rest of the months for the rest of the year.

Also, the graphic novel of the Adventure Zone, book two, is coming out. You can preorder that at TheAdventureZoneComic.com, and preorder book two which comes out in July. I'm very excited about it. I think it's very good. I think you will enjoy it.

Courtney: It's very good. I just got my advance copy. Not even as a friend, but as a journalist, and it's very good.

Travis: Let's see, what else? Oh, and also, there's... I'm going to be, next week, streaming D&D live with the Wizards of the Coast. I think I go on at like, eight PM on Friday, but I think that's Pacific time. Sorry, east coasters. But yeah, search for that. You can search, you know, D&D Live 2019 to see it, and I'll tweet all about it.

But as such, I don't think we'll be doing an episode next week. Sorry about that. It's my fault. I'm traveling too much. I'm sorry, y'all.

Courtney: He busy. You can read my stuff at SYFY Fangrrls, my other podcast, Strong Female Characters, that is through SYFY Fangrrls, we are on hiatus until July, when we will open with the release of Spiderman: Far From Home. The companion piece, a novel that is being written by my co-star on that podcast, Preeti Chhibber, everyone get that book, it's so cute. But, so you can catch up with that, you can listen to that Forgotten Women of Genre: 30 Day Podcast that we did in March. And then, you can also come see me in Chicago, when I'm gonna join Jordan, Jesse, Go for their live show in Chicago. And that's June 13th. Please come see me.

Brent: And if you have a halfway to Halloween party coming up, which is a trend I see more and more, I'm going to one.

Travis: Really?

Brent: Oh, yeah.

Courtney: I mean, who among us has not celebrated half-half-o-ween?

Brent: Look, that's what... There's two of them in a row. Last week, I went to a half-o-ween. This weekend is halfway to Halloween. And at the half-o-ween party, they had little hot dogs cut in half. They were little half-o-weens.

Courtney: Man, I, too, have had half a ween, and you know what...

Brent: Oh, hey. You know. It happens to a lot of guys. So, real quick, I am... If you want a game to play at any party coming up, I am the designer and co-creator of a comedy party game for consoles and Steam called Use Your Words. It's real fun. Unlike Cards Against Humanity, it doesn't force you to use seriously problematic cards. You can write your own punchlines, and it's a lot easier than you think. It's a game for funny people and their unfunny friends, and you can get more information about it at UseYourWords.lol.

Travis: Okay, and I think that's gonna do it for us. Go check out MaximumFun.org, all the other amazing stuff there. Courtney, am I forgetting anything?

Courtney: Um, I was trying to find something funny, but I couldn't find anything funny. So uh, just like, if you're in Georgia, you have until January 2020 to get an abortion. Call your senators. Call your congressman. Call everyone! [yells]

Travis: And we'll be back in a couple days.

Brent: See you next time.

[theme music plays]

Brent: Oh, this is weird. My Microsoft Word is frozen? Just one second, sorry. Gotta have my docs.

Courtney: Why are you using Microsoft Word? How many docs you got?

Travis: You got doxxed?

Brent: Just one, actually. I use my old laptop for... oh, this isn't going well. Let me see if I can open up text edit.

Courtney: What long ago, beforetime is it that you're on there like, doing the Microsoft Word? We have Google Docs.

Brent: Oh, but Microsoft Word is still what all of my personal, you know, files are on.

Courtney: I'm not gonna judge you for your Word.

Travis: Microsoft Word is what Jesus would do.

Courtney: The W in WWJD is for Word.

Brent: Look, I just like Clippy, okay?

Courtney: The holy trinity is the Father, the Son, and Clippy.

Travis: I am the Microsoft Word, the Way, and the Light.

[chord]

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