

**Trends Like These 222: Straight Pride Parade, YouTube vs Steven Crowder, Man Steals Kamala's Mic, Creepy Pastor Kenneth Copeland, Trump's Week, Joe Biden vis a vis the Hyde Amendment, Co-Host Media Recommendations**

Published June 7, 2019

[Listen here on themcelroy.family](https://themcelroy.family)

**Travis:** This week: preachers' private planes, straight folks complain, and Dems torpedo campaigns.

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

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

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

**Brent:** [southern accent] And I'm makin' way for ducklings.

**Courtney:** With Trends Like These!

[theme music plays]

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

**Brent:** [singing] Hello Travis, and hello Courtney!

**Courtney:** [pauses] Hi.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Nice.

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I—you know what? If I could go back and do it all again, I would have just said like, "Hey." You know? Like... Let's try it again. Le—let's try again.

**Courtney:** Let's start—okay, let's start over.

**Travis:** Hey.

**Courtney:** Hey.

**Brent:** 'Sup.

**Travis:** Nice. [laughs] I like it.

**Courtney:** What's funny is that every now and then, like when we actually start the Skype call, rather than this like, adorable like [peppy voice] "Hello Brent, and hello Courtney!" [normally] Like, Travis just starts like, "Hello, fuckers!" And I respect that energy. That's a good energy that I like.

**Travis:** Yeah. What's up, assholes?

**Courtney:** 'Biyatches.'

**Travis:** Listen. We have a lot to talk about. It's June 6th, 2019, 5:20 PM Eastern Time, uh, and we're gonna talk about something super topical. So I just watched Say Anything for the first time.

**Courtney:** Topical and timely.

**Travis:** And I have so many feelings about this movie. I had never seen it before, but it's one of those, uh, very culturally aware of. You know? I think everyone has seen some reference to the boom box over the head scene.

And first and foremost, let's reference that scene: it happens way earlier in the movie than you think.

**Courtney:** I—I feel compelled to jump in quick, because Travis knows this, but y'all might not. Say Anything is my favorite movie of all time.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Brent:** Hmm!

**Courtney:** I love this movie so very much. I love it so very dearly, and I can look at what people have determined to be problematic aspects of it, and I can say, "I hear you, I understand you, I get you, but also, fuck you."

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Well, so here's what's—here's what's very interesting about it. Uh, the problematic aspects, I think, while they are there, I think that the movie doesn't reward them. Like—

**Courtney:** Thank you.

**Travis:** —when he is trying to be—

**Courtney:** That is how I feel as well.

**Travis:** When he is trying to be kind of stalker-y and pressure-y, it seems like a turnoff to her, and when he's just himself, making her feel comfortable being herself, that's the part that wins her over.

**Courtney:** That's the thing. I stand by that, because like, his, like—the Lloyd bullshit that people seem to like, really have responded to over the years, that's not the stuff that like, gets Diane. She's not part of that. She's not rewarding that. It's literally like, she realizes like, "My life is falling apart. I want to be with this person, and he's a sweaty fuckin' mess of a kickboxer—"

**Travis:** Right!

**Brent:** Yeah, and the movie's 30 years old.

**Travis:** Right.

**Brent:** So I mean, like, if you wanna—if people wanna get angry about movies that old, it's like, well, there are a lot of movies since then. I mean, obviously there are irksome parts, but, you know. Not to completely excuse—like, "It was of it's time!" but like, it was a different time.

**Courtney:** He has two female best friends who spend the movie saying, "Don't be a piece of shit!"

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Courtney:** "Be better."

**Travis:** I would also argue that I think, having seen it through fresh eyes, uh, [singing] in fresh eyes, [normally] that there—that like—for example, the boombox scene—um, I thought he won her back by doing that, and so I've always talked about how creepy that is, right? But she ignores that!

**Courtney:** Yeah, this—this moment has actually been, like... Because it's been so, um, iconic, like as this big film moment, it's also been, like, narratively altered.

**Travis:** Right.

**Courtney:** This makes no difference to Diane, because she doesn't know that it's happening. She's laying in bed, in the daytime. It should be noted.

**Travis:** It's completely ignored.

**Courtney:** But she—she's not part of this. She's excluded from this narrative.

**Travis:** Yes. Anyways, I just saw it and I really wanted to talk with Courtney about it—

**Courtney:** Yeah.

**Travis:** [laughing] —in front of our audience! Uh, just a shout-out to Blank Check podcast, with Griffin Newman and David Sims and producer Ben Hosley. Um, they watch a film director's career, um, as they go from first film to their blank check film, and then the other side of that, whether that is continued success or then the other side of the curve.

Um, they started with M. Night Shyamalan, and then they did... Oh, how was after that? Um, and then they did the Wachowskis, and now—well, at least—I say now. I'm way behind, so like, in 2016. The next one is Cameron Crowe, so I'm watching that. Anyways, it's not important. It's a great podcast. You should check it out.

**Courtney:** This—this did make me decide that maybe our next, uh, Max Fun Drive bonus episode should be The Sure Thing.

**Brent:** Hmm!

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Courtney:** Because I fucking love that movie?

**Travis:** I think our Max Fun... I was thinking about this. Um, we should each pick our favorite movies, um, and then discuss them/defend them.

**Courtney:** I like this, I like this. I mean, I just did that.

**Travis:** Yes, because mine would be Blazing Saddles, and there is a lot of misconception—

**Courtney:** Literally just the fuck right now. Yeah.

**Travis:** Yes. There's a lot of misconception about Blazing Saddles that I'd like to clear up. Um, anyhow, I'm drinking a glass of Angel's Envy bourbon on the rocks, and a big glass of water. It is my favorite bourbon. It's so, so good. What are you guys drinking?

**Courtney:** I'm drinking a pamplemousse LaCroix.

**Travis:** Ooh. Your pronunciation was impeccable. Brent?

**Courtney:** I know. I'm very good at pronunciation.

**Brent:** I am having an extremely boring double fist of drinks. One is, uh, tap water. The other, due to a misdelivery of groceries, uh, is just Perrier with nothing else in it—

**Courtney:** Ew.

**Brent:** —and I'm fine with it. One's for fizziness, the other's to make it where I don't burp the whole show, so.

**Courtney:** At least squeeze a lemon in there or something!

**Brent:** Oh, I don't keep produce in the house. [laughs]

**Travis:** Welcome to Trends Like These: At Least Squeeze a Lemon!

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs] I do have an orange, actually. That would've been yummy, but I didn't think of it. Ah, well.

**Courtney:** There is one thing that I wanted to um... I mean, this has kind of been, like, recommendation corner for, like... 1989 edition. Uh, but there is a movie that came out in this year, the Lord's year of 2019 on Netflix, and it is a little film called Always Be My Maybe.

**Travis:** Well, we're gonna talk about it in Tidbits.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** N—I—I put it in the intro.

**Travis:** Oh, we moved it, because we didn't have any Tidbits.

**Courtney:** [quietly] Why did you do the thing? Okay. [singing] Nevermind!

**Travis:** Yeah, I'm gonna talk about Aladdin. We're gonna cut this, don't worry.

**Courtney:** [singing] I'll talk about it in Tidbits!

**Travis:** Hey, we're gonna cut this. Don't even worry about it.

**Courtney:** Let's just the cut the fuck—

**Brent:** Are we? You sure?

**Travis:** Yeah—

**Courtney:** I mean, are we? Are we, though?

**Travis:** He—oh, no. Wait, aren't we?

**Courtney:** Are we gonna cut the "Courtney's a goddamn mess?"

**Brent:** I can—

**Travis:** Wait, aren't—

**Brent:** —I can write it down, but we could also keep it for authenticity.

**Courtney:** I don't give a whole entire fuck.

**Brent:** Let's keep it!

**Courtney:** Take me as I am, world!

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs]

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hey, listen. It's, uh— [scatting] [singing] B-b-beyond The Headlines!

**Courtney:** I liked it.

**Brent:** Wow, the Scatman's really fallen far. But it was all right. It was—

**Travis:** Well, I was—I was trying to think of a joke and nothing came, so I just made noise!

**Courtney:** Travis "Scatman" McElroy!

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah, you know, I was called that for a long time in co—different reasons.

**Brent:** [snorts] Oh, boy.

**Courtney:** Oh...

**Travis:** I was always chasing animals away.

**Brent:** Mmm!

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Brent:** Good save. Good save. Well, let's talk about a real scat man. Um, our first story involves YouTuber and non-political thinker, or rather political non-thinker, there we go, Steven Crowder. You may know him from the meme that started with him sitting at a table on the sidewalk in front of TCU in Fort Worth Texas with a sign reading, "Male privilege is a myth. Change my mind." The guy has a vast library of bad takes—

**Travis:** Which—can I just say, uh, real quick, is the most self-proving thing I've ever seen.

**Brent:** [laughs loudly]

**Courtney:** Yeah.

**Brent:** Exactly. So, he's got a vast library of bad takes, and his YouTube videos, which get millions of views, have included homophobic content, and he even sells shirts depicted Che Guevara holding out a limp wrist, and the shirts read, quote, "Socialism is for," followed by the other F word, which is a long-standing and shitty slur against gay people. And this design is also on an infant sized onesie!

**Travis:** Phew!

**Brent:** Yeah. Real spicy. He also recently made homophobic and racist comments about a journalist for Vox, calling him a, quote, "lippy queer," and a, quote, "gay Latino." Um, YouTube reversed its previous decision not to penalize Crowder for his actions. The quote—

**Travis:** Which, I will say, to that point, they originally said in like, a four tweet response, that he didn't break any of their, uh, Terms of Service. Even though they acknowledged in the tweets that it was hurtful language about a person, which is specifically listed in the terms of service as being something that breaks—

**Brent:** Yeah, we're gonna get to that. We're gonna get to that.

**Travis:** Yes, okay.



**Brent:** You're totally right. Um, so to quote YouTube's hateful content policy, quote, "We don't support content that promotes or condones violence against individuals or groups based on race or ethnic origin, religion, disability, gender, age, nationality, veteran status, or sexual orientation/gender identity."

Uh, YouTube's harassment and cyberbullying policy reads, quote, "It's not okay to post abusive videos and comments on YouTube. If harassment crosses the line into a malicious attack, it can be reported, and may be removed." So to me, between those two things, it's pretty clear that he crossed that line, and YouTube would have been right, as well as making good on their own policies, to just shut him down.

Instead, their final decision, or their latest decision, was to demonetize his videos, meaning he can't make any revenue off of them, though he can still link to merchandise and accept a third party brand deal, Alex Jones style. YouTube's statement said that it suspended monetization because of, quote, "A pattern of egregious actions," that, quote, "Has harmed the broader community."

The story continues to develop, but this is yet another example of a large social media organization making arbitrary decisions based not so much on following their own policies, but more public outcry.

**Travis:** Wha—can I—can—hmm. Okay, I'll let you finish your point, and then we'll discuss.

**Brent:** I was gonna say, I feel like one solution... not to everything, but a step forward, might just be laying out more specifics of what will get you banned, but I feel like no major company... And this is not in their defense, it's just me trying to understand.

No major company wants to say, "You can't use this word," because maybe it feels like Orwellian forced newspeak, but it really seems like if YouTube did that, they'd just have to suddenly play Whack-A-Mole with a bunch of videos and they're just not willing to go to the trouble.

**Travis:** So, here's my thing. This is something I've thought about a lot in regards to, uh, social media in general, and like, the Internet in general, is... I think that if you want to make millions of dollars from being a website on the Internet, you need to be willing to deal with the shit that happens on the Internet. And I think that... Like, that's like saying, "I want to open an amusement park,

but I don't wanna have to pay for safety equipment. How about everyone just is safe?" Like, No, no, no, no, no.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** If you want to make your living, if you want to make millions of dollars or even billions of dollars, you have to do the responsibility things that go with it, and that's what makes it different from, "I'm going to have a street corner that you're allowed to stand on and say whatever you want," versus a revenue based business that should limit the harmful shit that it says, 'cause the fact of the matter is...

We talk about this over and over again, and the thing that we keep coming back to, and I mean both this show and society, is that YouTube has become—and I'm not saying it's just this, but it has become a platform for hate speech, that people use to do targeted harassment towards people, and the fact of the matter is, if you look at the way that YouTube responded to the claims from... I'm sorry, but I can't remember his name, but the journalist, the Vox journalist that was targeted, um, is—originally it seemed like their response was based on, "If we call out Steven Crowder, we're gonna catch shit for it." And then they caught shit for it, for being wrong and not penalizing him in any way for breaking their Terms of Service.

And that's the thing that's very frustrating to me, is they acknowledge that he broke their Terms of Service, but had chose to do nothing until people said, "Hey, that fucking sucks," and then they were like, "Uhh, okay then now we'll do something."

So what they ended up doing was the worst of both worlds, and I feel like that's a thing that YouTube does constantly. A refusal to hold accountable the powerful members while repeatedly penalizing LGBTQIA+ members for making content that they deem inappropriate for discussing stuff like, you know, gender and sexuality and that kind of thing.

**Brent:** Right. By the way, just so that we say his name, because it wasn't in my copy, the Vox reporter-

**Courtney:** I was actually about to say it, yeah.

**Brent:** Yeah. Carlos Maza.

**Travis:** Thank you. And that's the thing, is like, it was targeted. Like, Steven Crowder wanted people to give him shit!

**Courtney:** What we—what we continue to face, specifically from this very specific contingent of, um... How shall I—dumb racists, is this notion that our freedom of speech is being dismantled, because they're not allowed to use a private company to spread their hate speech.

Now, granted, I wish that it was way harsher. I agree with Brent where like, I wish that there was a clearer set of rules in place, but I'm never honestly going to have a problem with people being publicly bullied into taking down, like, racist, hateful media. I'm only going to be upset that that is what it took, but in a world where that's what it takes, like, fuck, sure. Sure, why not? I'm glad that people speaking out about something got something done.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** But there's this thing, like when that happens, it's not just the alt-right, but also like, centrists and people who are just, frankly, ignorant, saying like, "Wow, YouTube silenced this person! Our free speech is at stake here!" And it's like, that's not what free speech is.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Courtney:** And I get very angry every single time this happens, because there is such a refusal to understand what free speech means, and YouTube doesn't have to put your fucking video up, Chad! Like, you don't need to be on YouTube. You're fuckin' fine.

**Travis:** Here's what I want. In a perfect world, what I want... And it will never fuckin' happen... Is some representative of YouTube to come forward and say, "Hey, listen. If you look at the content that's on YouTube, and you look at the stuff that gets millions and millions of views, at best, it's neutral." Like, at best, it's someone sitting in front of a camera talking about their day, and that person gets millions and millions of views for some reason.

But most of it? Most of this is controversial. Not necessarily that it's, like, harassment like this, or it's like, offensive like this, but that it's like, "Let's talk about this drama thing. Let's talk about—" You know what I mean? Like, there's

not a lot of "I made a web series on YouTube these days that's getting, like, 23 million views." Like, that just isn't—

**Brent:** Right. And the irony being that so much of it—at least I think—so much more of it since Trump was elected is political, or political news, or news analysis. And so much of that gets demonetized or gets less monetization because it's considered not advertiser friendly.

And I mean, like Kyle Kulinksi, who can be a pain in the ass but I like him as a lefty analyst, sometimes will put like, different versions of letters in the titles of his videos, like an E with an accent, just because the bots are looking for certain terms. And the fact that somebody has to do that to report news... It's—it's a weird, weird—I mean, I haven't been in the YouTube game for a few years, but it has gotten real wacky out there.

**Travis:** Well, that's the thing. Drama and controversy generates YouTube money, but they don't—yeah.

**Courtney:** That's honestly the thing that concerns me, is that like, we... And I don't know what to do about it. I don't know if there's anything to do about it, other than like, for people to be not bullshit, but I think that it's very easy for some of us to think, "Well, people who think these hateful things, who spew this hateful rhetoric, they're the minority."

But, they're enough to make these companies money, and I think that's why ultimately they're not just shutting them down.

**Travis:** I mean, I realized this, I just—

**Courtney:** That is what it is.

**Travis:** Yeah. I realized this many years ago, which is, in the world that we live in today... And I don't just think it's the US, but I especially notice it here, that if you want to build an audience by being... You know, by trying to make the world better, and by trying to be nice and trying to be positive and trying to not punch down and all those things, I think it's very rewarding. I try to do it. I'm not saying I'm the pillar of it, but I try to do it, and I find it very rewarding, and I really like the audience that I have.

But I also know, if tomorrow I was like, "You know what? I want more money." I could just start being, like, thinly veiled racist and sexist and shitty, and I would instantly pick up this like, audience of shitheads, and—and I would get attention from people like, giving me shit, that then I would get defended by those shitheads and they'd like me—I've seen—I have seen, like, mostly white male comics... Like, I have seen them make that heel turn into like, "You know what? I'm gonna quote-unquote "stop trying," which is shitty in and of itself, "and just start being shitty, and people will love me." And like—

**Brent:** And yet they think male privilege is a myth? Interesting.

**Travis:** Right. Yes. Okay. Hey, you know what? Let's keep this ball of, uh, privilege, of entitlement rolling. Hello, my name is Travis McElroy and I am a former Southern Baptist devotee. I was baptized not once, but twice. My mom was a church secretary. My father was a deacon. At one point, I thought I was being called to the ministry.

Why am I bringing this up, you ask? Well, if you look at the clock, you'll see that it's time to discuss mega-televangelist Kenneth Copeland. Kenneth is one of those mega preachers who has a lot of money. His net worth is estimated to be about \$760 million dollars.

Now, I believe, I truly do, that there are lots of religious leaders out there who do it for the right reasons. I also believe that there are plenty of shitbags out there who realize that they can get away with some monstrous behavior while hiding behind a pulpit, and I would also argue that there are those who maybe started in the former, but over time, convinced themselves that God wanted them to be rich and powerful, so it's okay. And in fact, there's a name for it, which I did not know until researching this story, and it's prosperity gospel, or prosperity theology, um, and it's not even used derisively.

People like Copeland, Creflo Dollar, Joel Osteen, or 'Ohsteen', I don't fucking care, and Robert Tilton will proudly refer to themselves as prosperity gospel preachers, and basically it sums up to, "If you do good, God will take care of your health and wealth."

**Brent:** And often it's said as, "If you plant a seed of giving us money, then that'll come back to you X-fold."

**Travis:** So, back in 2015, Copeland and Jesse Duplantis, who is another televangelist, did an interview of sorts where they defended their ownership of private planes, and it begins in a weird fuckin' way.

**Jesse Duplantis:** Well first, before I read this scripture, Amos Chapter Six. Brother Copeland, I was flying home from a meeting, and I had come out of a glorious meeting. I had just—me and Creflo Dollar were preaching. Had a glorious meeting.

So I was, for lack of a better way to say it, I was spiritually high. People were saved, touched, and blessed. Got in the plane that God so graciously gave us. We're flying home. As I was going home, the Lord—real quickly he said, "Jesse, do you like your plane?"

You know, I thought, "That's an odd statement." I said, "Well certainly, Lord."

He said, "Do you really like it?"

And I thought, "Well, yes, Lord."

Then he said this: "So that's it?"

I didn't know how to handle that for a minute. I went, "What?"

He said, "You're gonna let your fate stagnate?"

And when he said that, that shocked me. I went, "Whoa, wait." I literally unbuckled my seat belt in my plane. I stood up.

My pilot looked back. He said, "Do you need something?" I said, "No, no, I'm talkin' to God right now." [laughs] And he went back to flying.

I said, "Lord, I don't think I was letting my fate stagnate."

He said, "So this is all I could ever do?"

I said, "You're wanting to—you're trying to tell me something."

He said, "Go to the book of Amos." So, if you have the book of Amos, I want to read the scripture.

**Kenneth Copeland:** May I interrupt you there for a second?

**Jesse Duplantis:** Yes, sir.

**Kenneth Copeland:** You couldn't have done that on an airliner.

**Jesse Duplantis:** No sir, no way.

**Kenneth Copeland:** Stand up and say, "What'd you say, Lord?"

**Jesse Duplantis:** No.

**Kenneth Copeland:** "Okay, no, yeah." And the guy sitting over there saying, "What the hell's he think he's doing? You can't do that!"

**Jesse Duplantis:** "You can't do that."

**Kenneth Copeland:** No, no. This is so important. And those of you that are just now coming in to these things, um, in the first place, Jesse and I and others, Keith Moore and Creflo and all of us—the world is in such a shape, we can't get there without this.

**Jesse Duplantis:** That's right.

**Kenneth Copeland:** We've got to have this. We would have—the mess that the airlines are in today, I would have to stop... I'm being very conservative. At least 75 to 80—more like 90% of what we're doing, 'cause you can't get there from here.

**Jesse Duplantis:** It's impossible.

**Kenneth Copeland:** So we have—and this was in such a good illustration. I just the Lord impressed me. That's why we're on that airplane. We can talk to God.

We can—it's—when I was flying for Oral Roberts, the—Brother Doiuse, my boss on the airplane, he said, "Now, Kenneth, this is sanctuary. It protects the anointing on Brother Roberts." and he said, "You keep your mouth shut. Don't talk to him unless he talks, because when he's on a meeting, he doesn't talk to anybody but God."

Now, Oral used to fly airlines, but even back then, it got to the place where it was agitating his spirit. People coming up to him, he had become famous, and they're wanting him to pray for 'em and all that. You can't—you can't manage that today. This dope-filled world, and get in a long tube with a bunch of demons.

**Jesse Duplantis:** That's exactly the truth.

**Kenneth Copeland:** And it's—it's deadly.

**Travis:** [sighs] Okay. Where—where to even start. First off, that is not how talking to God works on any level. First, if you hear a voice specifically ask, "Do you like your plane?" It might just be your own voice inside your head.

If you are getting direct, literal, word for word messages from God, you might be unwell, and I don't say that flippantly. That is not—that's not good. Or you're lying. Second: did you stand up to get better prayer reception?

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Did you need to get your brain higher to hear God better? 'Cause that's sure as fuck what it sounds like.

**Courtney:** He had to get his brain like, kind of moving around and like, wiggling, and like, trying to find the right spot for that brain reception.

**Travis:** "I've only got two bars, God. Could you say that again?"

**Courtney:** That God-ception.

**Travis:** Third, Kenneth Copeland compares being asked to pray for someone to being beset by demons, and that is without a doubt, 100% un-Christ-like behavior. This is, uh, for those of you who don't know—in the Bible, Christ goes and hangs out with the sinners. Hangs out with the quote-unquote "bad people," because those are the people that need his help.

Um, also when he says without his private plane he'd have to stop, in this clip 90% of his work, you know that there are people out there who do work flying



commercial right? Like, I do lots of tours and conventions and stuff. I fly commercial. They'll get you—the planes go a lot of places.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** So, here's the thing. Why not just say, "My church owns a plane 'cause it's easier." Right? Like, famous people take private planes all the time. We get it! You know? Like, there are—musicians rent tour buses, right? Like, we get it. You're traveling all over the place to perform. Okay, great!

Now, that doesn't help—I mean, when you realize that Duplantis just bought a private plane... Well, so private planes, for those of you who don't know, because I looked for this story, can start as low as \$3 million dollars, especially if you buy one secondhand.

Uh, and so Duplantis, paid for by his congregation, of course, just bought a plane that cost \$54 million dollars, and he's got 4 private jets, as of 2018. So that does... That does take a lot of weight from the argument of, "We need this to get the job done," because maybe, just maybe, you're not just doing, uh, what you afford, and still give lots of money back to those who need it. But that was talking about 2015 and 2018, which isn't exactly trending now, is it? So, stick with me.

So, Inside Edition caught Copeland this week and interviewed him specifically about, like, this 2015 thing about the demons and the planes and all that, because they just bought a new plane from Tyler Perry, and boy, howdy, oh goodness is it hard to listen to.

Um, and I'm not just talking about how he keeps calling the reporter "baby" and talking about how pretty her eyes are. Gross. So, let's take a listen to some of the cringiest parts.

**Interviewer:** Isn't it true that you want to fly commercial so that you can fly in luxury? How much money did you pay for Tyler Perry's Gulfstream jet, for example?

**Kenneth Copeland:** Well, for example, that's really none of your business. But—

**Interviewer:** Isn't it the business of your donors?

**Kenneth Copeland:** Listen, I paid... [pauses and laughs] You kind of caught me off guard here, okay?

**Travis:** Uh, so, hoo boy. Just—well—man. Just that "It's really none of your business." Okay, cool. Uh, and then there's this little clip that I just love.

**Interviewer:** Do you ever use your private jets to go visit your vacation homes, for example?

**Kenneth Copeland:** Yes, I do.

**Interviewer:** Okay.

**Travis:** That—I would say that takes a lot of wind out of your sails to the argument of "I need this to do the Lord's work." And then, there's this one.

**Interviewer:** Again, getting back to the comment. You said that you don't like to fly commercial because you don't want to get into a tube with a bunch of demons. Do you really believe that human beings are demons?

**Kenneth Copeland:** [angrily] No, I do not. And don't you ever say I did. [pauses] We wrestle not with flesh and blood, but principalities and powers.

**Travis:** Now, on that last one folks, if you haven't seen that video, he gets real mad. And that long silence you hear? He goes from fuming to smiling, only his eyes don't change, and it's creepy as fuck. 'Cause like—

**Brent:** It—it makes me feel like, um—just a musical theater villain.

**Travis:** Oh, yes.

**Brent:** Like, it's so—and when he says that, "Don't you ever say that I did," he wags this menacing finger in her face, and then like, keeps it there, in the—it's—it's awkward. He doesn't—I don't know. It's a lot of stuff at once.

**Travis:** It's arch as fuck. It is like—he's doing this thing where his eyes a, "Don't you ever say I did," and then, like his lips curl up in like, a 'Grinchian' smile, is like—and then quotes scripture. Which—here's the thing. This is not a judgment on all religion. If you quote scripture angry, it's terrifying.

**Brent:** Yeah, it's—

**Travis:** Phew!

**Brent:** It's three things really fast in succession. It's like, angry, angry, pointing the finger, then it's creepy smile, and then he gets real serious at the end. And it's like, you're just on demo mode, dude.

**Travis:** Yes. And now there's another clip, including some powerful misogyny.

**Interviewer:** Can you explain what you meant by that term, then? Just explain—because it's really simple. You said you didn't want to get into a tube with a bunch of demons. What did you mean?

**Kenneth Copeland:** The—well, let me ask you.

**Interviewer:** Do you think that people that fly commercial are demons?

**Kenneth Copeland:** If you give me a chance to talk, sweetheart, I'll explain this to you. But it's a biblical thing. It's a spiritual thing. It doesn't have anything to do with people.

**Travis:** So, he goes on to explain that he meant alcohol, and violence and stuff?

**Brent:** [muffled laughter]

**Travis:** Yeah. He—so, he talks about like, there's alcohol on the plane, so can't expect a preacher to be around that and then go preach, which is baffling. And he even goes so far as to reference the videos of like, people being dragged from planes, for—you know, we've talked about those on the show before. Like, as reasons why he would need a private jet.

He says like, "Yeah, and a lady being dragged down the aisle, like, oh—" It's like, what? Um, and then there's this clip, that is so, like, Lex Luthor level archvillain that it blows my mind. Just listen.

**Interviewer:** You have how many planes?

**Kenneth Copeland:** We have the Gulfstream, and we still have our Citation X. And then we have a little small airplane, but those are the two ones we—and we use 'em all the time.

**Travis:** Can you imagine? "I've got these two private jets. Oh, another private jet, but that—does that even count? It's small!"

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "It's a small jet! I don't even know—oh, yeah, we have two. Oh! And a third, but—"

**Brent:** It's the kayak of private jets.

**Travis:** "Yeah, does that even count? Does that even count? As a private plane? C'mon." So, real quick, I want to take a moment to praise the report, Lisa Guerrero. Guerrero sticks with it, and doesn't let his weird ramblings distract from the questions. Like, it—watching it is—okay.

If you can bear to watch the clip, and like I said, it is uncomfortable. She, like, is so deft and like, does this like, perfectly measured... What it is, if I may, and I'm coming at this as a dude, but I look at it and I think it's like, a person who, as a woman, has spent their whole life crafting this ability to be able to speak to men in power in a very, like, disarming way, where she is so very clearly smarter and more powerful than them.

**Brent:** And he keeps doing things, whether instinctual or calculated, to like, try to rile her up, perhaps to throw her off into an emotional state as unstable as his. Calling her these misogynist names, telling her—and I hope... Are we about to get to the one where he says "I love your eyes"?

**Travis:** No, but that—that's in there. Ugh. I couldn't even clip it. It creeped me out so bad.

**Brent:** Yeah. At one point he just stops and smiles and goes, [southern accent] "I love your eyes." [normally] And it's like, are you trying to be charming, or are trying to just rile her up and like—wagging his finger in her face in this extremely intimidating way, and she is unflappable.

**Travis:** Um, and like I said, she manages to ask these really pointed questions in such a way... Like, with such a perfect delivery that it's clear, like, Copeland doesn't know how to respond.

Like, he either wants to get angry or he wants to be charming, but she like, keeps him from landing on either one of those, and he's caught really off guard, like this:

**Interviewer:** So, final question is, a lot of people maybe have the misunderstanding then about what you do and prosperity preaching. So, the final question is this: to those critics that say that a preacher should not be living a life of luxury, what is your response to that?

**Kenneth Copeland:** They're wrong.

[extended pause]

**Interviewer:** That's it?

**Kenneth Copeland:** That—it's a misunderstanding of the Bible, that—if you—if you go into the Old Covenant, do you think the Jewish people believe you should be broke?

**Travis:** Whoa!

**Brent:** Damn... Like—

**Courtney:** Yike-sicles!

**Brent:** —grasping at every straw, and none of the good ones! Fuck.

**Travis:** [loudly] Kenny?! What did you just say?!

**Courtney:** Kenny Coco?

**Travis:** Oh. Oh. Oh, boysie. Well, but surely he explains it in such a way that it's better, right?

**Interviewer:** Are you saying that Jewish people appreciate money more than—

**Kenneth Copeland:** They believe in wealth.

**Interviewer:** Some people would find that offensive.

**Kenneth Copeland:** Wait a minute, now. I'm not talking about some people. I'm talking about the Bible. The blessing of Abraham. Abraham was extremely wealthy, and he had a covenant with God. It's not the Jewish blessing, it's the Abrahamic blessing.

**Travis:** [loudly] Fuck you, Ken!

**Brent:** Yeah. And—and all of it is—aside from the obvious, like, completely unfiltered antisemitism, it's creepy to see him go from, "Uh-oh, I'm in trouble!" To, "Now I'm in preacher mode."

This is a thing I find creepy about all televangelists. They just have this character that feels like a musical theater character that you could not possibly have a conversation with, because it would just be too flamboyant and too ridiculous, but somehow, up on that stage, that altar, whatever it is, it, I guess, works. But I just think a lot of times it gets ridiculous, and it's so weird having him up close in this setting, going into that, fluidly in and out of it.

**Travis:** Well, here's what it is, right? This is what it boils down to. And remember, I established my bona fides at the beginning of this. What it comes down to is when you have a—any figure like this, be it political, be it religious, be it scholarly, whatever. If the people you are talking to are bought in, right? You can say anything that sounds like it justifies your point, and they'll nod, because they want to believe that your point is correct.

So I guarantee that Kenneth Copeland has stood in front of a congregation and said, "Well, the reason I'm supposed to have this is because of the Abrahamic Covenant." And they're like, "Oh, okay, cool. Makes total sense."

But the thing is that, with so many of these people who are either saying things they don't believe or saying things that might believe but are inherently patently wrong, that if someone then goes, "What does that mean?" They are then completely flummoxed. Like, we—

**Brent:** Yeah, and just to be a little bit theological here, I think it's fair to say, as somebody who grew up Lutheran and played in a praise and worship band, the

"That was the old covenant" is a good way to explain away anything that they don't like, like combining fabrics, you know, is a sin.

But then, notice how he, to get out of hot water, goes back to the old covenant. It's inconsistent. And I'm not trying to get into a whole, like, you know, Amazing Atheist style thing here, but it is a—it is a tactic I've seen, that if people aren't paying attention or haven't actually read the text it's like, well, kind of gotta pick one or the other, with that.

**Travis:** Well, that's the thing. So, just real quick, 'cause this occurred to me as I was listening to the 2015 discussion between Duplantis and Copeland, and then in this interview. And I was reminded of the Pharisees.

And the Pharisees were like, the people who hated Jesus for like... He was hanging out with the sinners and the poor people, and he was the one saying like, "Hey, listen. This should be all about love." And they were the ones who were like, "No, no, no. Church, you pay tithes and you pay money, and we need money, and that's what Church is."

And that's how these, like prosperity televangelists, mega-evangelists, that's how they preach.

**Brent:** Yep.

**Travis:** And it's just one of those things of, like, I do not fault anyone who believes in their religion. I have nothing against that. I'm not gonna tell you you're wrong. But, I will say, I can look at these people who... The way they are doing their religion is wrong.

Not that their religion is wrong. The way they're doing it is wrong. And that original conversation between Duplant—like, the thing that really stuck in my mind was Duplantis trying to use the justification of, "God wanted to show how powerful his influence is by giving me multiple planes." Like, that's...

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Listen. I don't claim to know the mind of God, and no one possibly could, but the fact of the matter is, if God wanted to show his power, that ain't it. Such horseshit.

**Brent:** Yeah, and the whole deal with Jesus and the Pharisees was also like, if I'm not mistaken... And I know I will get corrected if I'm wrong, but the idea of like, don't make a big, public show of prayer. It's between you and God, and I can't imagine a figure who makes a bigger show of public prayer than Kenneth Copeland.

**Travis:** So, here's the thing, folks. The interview is 11 minutes long, and it is cringeworthy from beginning to end. Not for Guerrero's part. Guerrero's doing great. For Copeland's part.

So, this dude sucks. Not only is he obviously a shitty person, he seems to be really bad at the Bible. To prove it, one last clip, where he does a way bad interpretation of scripture, and Guerrero nails him with an actual Biblical point, and his response is to deliver an even worse interpretation of scripture.

**Kenneth Copeland:** And Abraham was very, very wealthy man. Galatians Chapter 3: If you belong to Christ, then are you Abraham's seed, and heirs according to his promise. And his promise was great wealth.

**Interviewer:** The Bible also says that it's more difficult for a rich man to get into heaven than it is for a camel to get through the eye of a needle, correct?

**Kenneth Copeland:** Read the rest of the scripture. But he said, "All things are possible with God."

**Travis:** Double fuck-you, Kenneth!

**Courtney:** In the continuing adventures of "The white straights are not okay," um—

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** This week, the possibility of a Straight Pride Parade in Boston went viral. It was first announced in a Facebook post that read as follows:

"It looks like the Boston Straight Pride Parade will happen. We filed a discrimination complaint, and it appears the city of Boston understands they would lose in litigation. The city is now working with us on the parade! We will have the street closed and be allowed floats and vehicles! The tentative date is 8/31, but will be finalized in the next few weeks. The proposed parade route is



below. If you would like to come as an individual, march as a group, or bring a float or vehicle, then get in touch! This is our chance to have a patriotic parade in Boston as we celebrate straight pride."

That was by a gentleman named Mark Sahady. Spoiler alert: he fuckin' sucks.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** He is part of an—

**Travis:** And you know what? Can I say—it pisses me off, just looking at this parade route. It's going through Boston Common. I love that place!

**Courtney:** I know!

**Travis:** No! No, you fuckin' asshole! Don't do that! There's literally a place, looking at this picture, that's labeled, "Make way for ducklings." You don't get to have a straight pride parade there, you piece of shit!

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** They're going through the garden, the ducks—

**Travis:** Make way for ducklings! No!

**Courtney:** The fuckin' movie theater!

**Travis:** You don't get to be an asshole in front of ducklings. That should be in the constitution.

**Courtney:** I—I mean, ducks are—I claim them as gay. I've been to the Museum of Sex in New York. There was a whole—a whole big thing devoted to gay ducks!

**Brent:** Hmm!

**Courtney:** This was a bad gay duck. This duck does not speak for all the gay ducks. It's a—you know what? It's a bad comparison that I've just made. This is very specific, niche content for people who have been to the Museum of Sex in New York.

Uh, but the event is being put on by a group called Super Happy Fun America.

**Travis:** [flatly] Fuck you.

**Courtney:** Subtitle: It's great to be straight!

**Brent:** [laughs] Aye aye aye.

**Courtney:** They have adopted Brad Pitt as their mascot—

**Travis:** What's next? Freedom molecules?

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** Brad Pitt was adopted as their mascot, and he said, "No thank you, please." The website describes the event as follows:

[loudly] "Finally, straight people will have their voices heard!"

**Travis:** [snorts and laughs loudly] So— [laughs] Okay, wait. I take it back. Uh, this is the most self-proving thing I've ever seen.

**Courtney:** Yeah.

"Super Happy Fun America invites you to celebrate the diverse history, culture, and contributions of the straight community!"

**Travis:** [sarcastically] Finally!

**Courtney:** "The straight pride parade—"oh, I'm sorry. "The straight pride event will be held to achieve inclusivity and spread awareness of issues impacting straights in greater Boston and beyond. It is a one day event, consisting of a parade, followed by a flag raising ceremony. Celebrate being heterosexual!"

**Travis:** What's really great about that is the use of the word "Straights," plural like that, will always, always make me think of Ghostbusters.

**Courtney:** Oh yeah, one hundo percent.

**Travis:** You're scaring the straights. I think about that—

**Courtney:** [quietly] You're scaring the straights!

**Travis:** —all the time.

**Courtney:** Because the anti-LGBTQ and antisemitic and racist overlap is a circle, the organizers... And I use that word lightly, because there's no way these clownshoes could organize a potluck, and I refuse to believe that they could organize an actual parade... Um, they are part of and have ties to The Proud Boys—

**Travis:** Huh!

**Courtney:** —white supremacist groups, and neo-nazi groups, because huzzah! Mark Sahady, the one who posted the initial Facebook post, grabbed a trans woman at the Women's March this year in Boston, because neat! He also advocated for throwing, quote, "Anti-American communists," out of helicopters, because swell!

**Travis:** Hmm.

**Brent:** Yeah, but they're always about free speech, aren't they?

**Courtney:** Free... speech.

**Travis:** But now, here's the thing. Here's the thing.

**Courtney:** Yeah?

**Travis:** Here's the thing. Not to be this person, but the government of Boston allowing them to have whatever shitty event they want... That is free speech! That is free speech. Yeah? Right?

**Brent:** Yes. My point was that if somebody happens to be a communist, of which I have known a few, then their right to express that is free speech, whereas advocating for killing them I don't think is protected.

**Courtney:** I mean, I feel like no one has the right to like, throw someone out of a helicopter.

**Travis:** But that's what I'm saying. That's what I'm saying, is this misunderstanding of free speech where it's like, you get to have your shitty parade or whatever. Cool, that's free speech.

**Courtney:** You can have your dumb fuckin' parade! You still can't throw people out of helicopters.

**Travis:** You don't get to threaten people's lives! That's not okay.

**Brent:** Right.

**Courtney:** Where are you going to get the helicopters?

**Brent:** [laughs quietly]

**Travis:** Well, yes.

**Courtney:** Helicopters are deeply gay. I claim them, for the community. Um, on her streaming show First Thoughts, so aptly named, because this fecal dust individual does not give anything a second thought, Tomi Lahren, whose name I still don't know how to pronounce but I'm goin' with Tomi Lahren because I don't fucking care said:

"You can be proud of anything these days, so long as it's not straight, white, male, or, god forbid, conservative."

But as it turns out, the city of Boston may not be so tolerant and accepting of a straight pride parade, either. This is of course hot on the heels of Lahren or Lauren, whatever the fuck. That—that blond monster.

**Travis:** Larry.

**Courtney:** Uh, touting some pro-choice rhetoric, leading some to welcome her to the revolution. That's a bad thing people do when they're wrong and bad. She has no place among this fight. She sucks. Anyway.

So, I guess let's do this. I guess let's just fucking do this. Do you know why there's no straight pride parade, or white history month? Because we're fucking fine.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Courtney:** I'm not dying for being white. Straight people are not dying for being straight. Pride—

**Travis:** I've never had to hide the fact that I'm a dude.

**Courtney:** No!

**Brent:** Right.

**Courtney:** You're fine! Pride started—

**Travis:** I've never had to come out as a straight, white dude to anybody.

**Courtney:** Trust me, these people do not hear that and understand that. They're like, "I'm coming out as straight!" They're great. They're cool. They're neat.

In 1970, Pride started one year after the Stonewall riots. Riots wherein police officers began a raid, ostensibly about liquor licenses, but was very clearly about the clientele of the establishment, who had faced non-stop police brutality and scrutiny.

Among others, trans activists Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera were the first to fight back, and it recently was announced that they will be honored with statues for their work fighting for the LGBTQ community, specifically trans people.

**Brent:** Nice.

**Courtney:** Um, straight people haven't had to fucking deal with that.

**Travis:** No.

**Courtney:** It's just not a thing. It's not a thing. And it's that very famous quote that I'm going to mess up right now where it's like, "When you are privileged, equality feels like oppression." It's literally just a matter of other people getting something that makes these people feel like, "But what about me? What of me?"

**Travis:** There's that great illustration... I wish I could think of what it was titled or whatever, but the like, kids trying to like, look over a fence to watch a baseball

game, right? And it's like, without any help is like, one kid's tall and can see over it, and one kid's kind of like medium height and can't see, and one kid's shorter. And then like, all of them on equal boxes, and the shortest one still can't see, and then some get taller boxes than the others, 'cause they need higher boxes to see, and it being about like, this is what you need until it's balanced.

**Courtney:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And it's like, equality doesn't mean everyone gets the same thing. It means that everyone gets what they need to be on equal footing.

**Courtney:** Exactly.

**Brent:** Right. Equality of opportunity.

**Travis:** Right.

**Brent:** And you know, I interpret this as sort of a backward-ass, bizarro version of the Satanic temple, which is actually a non-theistic religious and political activist group, that almost acts as a satire of a religion in order to point out the ways in which, particularly Christianity, but religion can be dominant and oppressive and America.

So like, I think the difference is, especially in the past, but certainly in certainly in different denominations, Church and religion can tell you what to be, whereas the LGBTQ community, they're just telling you, they want to be who they already are. So it's—even as a satirical thing, I don't think it has any equivalency or validity.

**Travis:** Well, so what I get from it is it reminds me very much of like, six-year-old Travis, where six-year-old Travis is a middle child who gets very upset when his parents pay attention to either his older brother or his younger brother, um, and in that very moment aren't paying attention to him, because he doesn't understand that there is other people in the world, and that is very much what I feel these people are doing.

Of like, "How dare you not be specifically looking at me, right now, in this moment?" And in fact, even as I say it out loud, I think that's a generous interpretation of it.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Because the other side of it is, they're straight up fucking monsters.

**Courtney:** Oh, yeah.

**Brent:** Straight up indeed!

**Courtney:** No, like, they are monsters. But it's also—and that's actually the weird, difficult thing, when people do this kind of like, nonsensical bullshit. They're evil, and they're bad, but they're also fucking silly.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Courtney:** And like, not in a—so like, you can mock them and laugh at them, and in some way that like, takes their power away, but it also takes their insidiousness away.

**Travis:** Right. You know—

**Courtney:** Because like, you look at this dumb fuckin' thing... And actually it's funny, because I... The first thing I thought of was like, this is like, two siblings have the same birthday and the other sibling gets a present. That's what this feels like. So that is actually very, like, relevant to your family. [laughs]

**Travis:** That's literally what happened. Justin and I have the same birthday, so Griffin got presents on our birthday. That is literally true, yes. That is exactly what happened.

**Courtney:** And I—I did not wanna compare this to like, blessed Griffin—

**Travis:** No, but you nailed it.

**Courtney:** —who did nothing wrong here, but that is what this is. Where it's just like, "Why are the gays getting presents? I want a present! I don't get any presents, other than [whispers] all the presents!"

**Travis:** I wasn't intentional, I think it was subconscious, but if you look at all three of these stories, right? In Beyond the Headlines, I think they have a common thread.

**Brent:** Yes.

**Travis:** Which is entitlement, privilege, and that kind of thing, because like, when you look at it, right? It's this idea of, "Well, how come I don't get to do what I want?" And it's just people making the choice to willfully, like, be monsters. You know? Because that's the thing is like...

Okay. For example, you look at the Steven Crowder thing and you're like, "So what?" Like, I saw somebody on Twitter—you know, they tweeted about Steven Crowder and somebody responded to it, like, "Oh, so he said mean words." And it's like, okay, but can you not see the difference between me saying you're acting like a jerk, or you're a piece of shit, and you targeting someone for not how they're acting, but for who they are, and turning your audience onto them.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Like, the fact of the matter—here's the thing. If you're listening and you're unsure of this, I have an audience. If you go on Twitter, objectively, inarguably, I have 220,000 followers on Twitter. There is a big difference between like, you calling someone a jerk if you have like, 200 followers, and me, with 220,000 followers saying, "Fuck this person." Right? And like, me directing hatred towards them.

And it's a very big responsibility that should not be taken lightly, and the way that someone chooses to use that influence, should it be to request money from their congregation to spend on private jets, to target harassment towards people, or to, I don't know, attack trans people or belittle pride parades or anything like that. If you have influence, if you have privilege, and you use it to attack people, you shouldn't be allowed to have it.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** This week, Trends Like These is brought to you in part by Quip. Now, I have used my Quip toothbrush within the last hour because I'm going out right after this and I wanted my teeth to be extremely clean.



But this time of the year, you know, you're celebrating your new grad, or maybe you're getting ready to check off that annual gift for Dad, or for other people whose names rhyme, and you can just easily make a choice here. Instead of getting them something that you're gonna have to spend a lot of time thinking about, just treat their teeth to an electric toothbrush from Quip, and help them build good habits for the future.

I have used my Quip since late 2017, and it's pretty cool. The Quip features sensitive sonic vibrations, a built-in two minute timer that pulses, because if you ever are sitting there going like, "Am I brushing long enough?" You know, the dentist tells you what to do, but like, what do you do, have a timer in there? This thing tells you when to change sides. It also has a multi-use cover that doubles as a mirror mount, and the brush heads are automatically delivered on a dentist-recommended schedule every three months for just five bucks, and now they have a kids' version, called the Kids' Brush. The new brush is the same as the original, just sized down for smaller mouths.

So, look. Over 1 million happy, healthy mouths love Quip, and Quip starts at just \$25, and if you go to [getquip.com/trends](https://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://getquip.com/trends).

**Courtney:** Trends Like These is also brought to us this week by LinkedIn. Hiring isn't as simple as putting an ad in the paper or posting to a job board. When you're juggling hiring with everything else it takes to grow your business, it's important that you reach the right candidates at the right time, and that's where LinkedIn comes in.

More than 650 million members visit LinkedIn every day, to make connections, learn and grow as professionals, and discover new job opportunities. In fact, LinkedIn members add 15 new skills to their profiles and apply to 35 job posts every two seconds. That's a lot of things in a very tiny time! And that's how they make sure your job post gets in front of people with the right hard skills and soft skills to meet your role requirements.

LinkedIn does the legwork to match you to the most qualified candidates. To get \$50 off your first job post, go to [linkedin.com/trends](https://linkedin.com/trends). Again, that's [linkedin.com/trends](https://linkedin.com/trends), to get \$50 off your first job post. Terms and conditions apply.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** [quickly] All right, Courtney's been introducing this segment lately so I'm just gonna jump in, it's the Politics Roundup!

**Courtney:** Okay, okay!

**Brent:** [exhales] I did it.

**Travis:** Whoa!

**Brent:** Ugh. Look—

**Courtney:** Oh!

**Travis:** Whoa!

**Brent:** Look, guys, I never get presents, okay?

**Courtney:** [crosstalk] Was this—was this misogyny? Was this patriarchy?

**Brent:** I never get presents.

**Travis:** Whoa.

**Brent:** It turns out. So, uh—

**Courtney:** Pa—Patriotics, it's Roundup?

**Brent:** [laughing] Pat—patri—

**Courtney:** Patriotic? Patriarchy, patriotic, oh my God, did I just blow my own mind?

**Travis:** Oh, shit! You blew mine!

**Courtney:** Shit!

**Travis:** Oh, shit.

**Courtney:** [whispering] Shit...

**Travis:** [whispering] Shit...

**Courtney:** [whispering] Shit...

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** It's Pol—it's 'Poli-shits' Roundup.

**Brent:** [laughs] Well—

**Travis:** [laughs loudly]

**Brent:** —and how appropriate.

**Travis:** [laughs] Ya got me.

**Brent:** How appropriate, with our, uh, starting out with a quick recap of Trump world, which I call the Trumpdate. Trump traveled to the UK this week, starting off on the right foot by tweeting from Air Force One that Mayor Sadiq Khan Is a, quote, "Stone-cold loser."

And in an interview with fellow doucheputtles Piers Morgan, he said his increase in military funding makes up for his absence in the Vietnam war. Um, not noting the fact that he dodged the draft for some, you know, bullshit bone spurs excuse.

Trump also made it clear that he neither understands nor believes in climate change, and he was greeted by protesters upon his arrival with great signs like "We're British, we're polite, but fuck off!" And "Feed him to the corgis!" And "IKEA has better cabinets."

**Courtney:** Feed him to the corgis is a very, very, very good sign. It is also a way he doesn't deserve to—

**Travis:** No.

**Courtney:** —to—to meet his end. His adorable end at the hand of corgis. Eaten by corgis is how I'd like to go. [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** It's very slow. I have thought about this. Uh, my dog Lily, who is about 50 pounds of just, just rambunctiousness, has taken to apologizing for everything by just licking my legs, especially because I wear shorts now in the summer. She just licks my legs repeatedly, and I have thought, if I die around her, it'll be 0.3 seconds before she consumes me.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Travis:** I'm looking over right now. She's licking the arm of the chair she's sitting on. She is a huge goober. Anyways, talk about a different goober.

**Brent:** So, yeah. Speaking of different goober, Trump was also greeted by a giant balloon that depicts him as a baby, which as we know he has said dozens of times on record that he's not a baby! Kind of makes you wonder who in his life called him a baby early on, but that's conjecture.

He even had a chance to look at a field on the outskirts of the London area that was mowed so that from a plane it read, "Oi, Trump!" with a gigantic penis pointing towards Trump's name. It also read, "Climate change is real." His daughter Ivana was in tow and got ruthlessly booed too, in a public appearance. True to form, Trump claimed that there were no protesters. Um, next, Trump's son-in-law—

**Travis:** Wait, did I confuse it? I thought his daughter was Ivanka.

**Brent:** Oh, you're totally—

**Travis:** Or is that his wife?

**Brent:** No, you're totally—nah, you nailed it. You nailed it. It is Ivanka. I—

**Courtney:** Ivana was the wife.

**Brent:** Correct.

**Courtney:** Ivanka is the—the—you know.

**Brent:** Yeah. And I think I've heard—

**Courtney:** The complicit one with the center part.

**Brent:** I think I've heard that her name is Ivana, too, but Ivanka is like a Russian diminutive, like—

**Travis:** Like, nickname?

**Brent:** Yeah, like, you know, Ivan can become Ivanushka. It's kind of like a little nickname-y thing.

**Travis:** You only know that 'cause of Mystery Science Theater 3000.

**Courtney:** Ivanushka!

**Brent:** That's true. Ivanushka! Yeah, but watching 50 other Soviet—

**Travis:** [falsetto] Ivan?

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Brent:** Watching 50—

**Travis:** God, I love that. I gotta go watch that movie right now.

**Courtney:** It's on Netflix literally as we speak.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Courtney:** Um, Ivanka is garbage. Ivana's probably, like, also garbage, but only one of them was in first wives club, so.

**Brent:** True.

**Travis:** Speaking of—by the way, um, just if you want to have some fun, find anybody tweeting captions to the photo of Ivanka and Jared Kushner, like, standing.

**Courtney:** Oh, they're very—that's a very good photo.

**Travis:** There's one of them standing in a window with like, a weird—they look weird. Um, and then there's—

**Brent:** [laughing] Oh, yeah.

**Travis:** —and then there's another one where it's like, all the Trump kids... And, here's the thing, I challenge you to look at the photo of all the Trump kids in like, tuxes and fancy dresses, and not think about the fact that they clearly have no idea what to do with their hands. They are all, no joke, ev—[laughs] there's like, seven of them holding their arms and hands at the weirdest—like, [strained noise]

**Brent:** And they must—

**Travis:** [laughing] It's great, they don't— [strained noise]

**Brent:** It must run in the family, 'cause Trump—

**Courtney:** That picture—

**Travis:** [strained noise]

**Courtney:** —of Jared and Ivanka in the window, though. That is some powerful V.C. Andrews energy—

**Brent:** Yes.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Courtney:** —coming out of that photo. It is dark, at best.

**Brent:** So, speaking of Kushner... Jared Kushner, who is Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, did an interview with Axios, in which the big trending news to come out of it was Kushner squirming about whether the President is racist. Let's listen to that.

**Interviewer:** Have you ever seen him say or do anything that you would describe as racist or bigoted?

**Kushner:** So, the answer is, uh, no, absolutely not. You can't not be a racist for 69 years, then run for President and be a racist, and what I'll say is that when a

lot of the Democrats call the President a racist, I think they're doing a disservice to people who suffer because of real racism in this country.

**Interviewer:** Was birtherism racist?

**Kushner:** Um... Look, I wasn't really involved in that.

**Interviewer:** I know you weren't.

**Kushner:** Mm-hmm.

**Interviewer:** Was it racist?

**Kushner:** Like I said, I—I wasn't involved in that.

**Interviewer:** I know you weren't.

**Kushner:** Mm-hmm.

**Interviewer:** Was it racist?

**Kushner:** Um—look, I know who the President is, and I have not seen anything in him that is racist, so again, I was not involved in that.

**Interviewer:** Did you wish he didn't do that?

**Kushner:** Uh—like I said, I was not involved in that. That was a long time ago.

**Interviewer:** The other issue that often gets brought up in this conversation is that he campaigned on banning Muslims. Would you describe that as religiously bigoted?

**Kushner:** Look, I think that the President did his campaign the way he did his campaign—

**Interviewer:** He did.

**Kushner:** And I think—

**Interviewer:** But do you wish he didn't—do you wish he didn't make that speech?

**Kushner:** I think he's here today and I think he's doing a lot of great things for the country.

**Brent:** Simultaneously unsurprising and yet revealing. And finally in the Trumpdate I'd like to point something that I bet everybody knows, but it's nice to have it confirmed.

The congressional research service, which is basically an in-house think tank for Congress, has released a new paper analyzing the effects of the Trump tax cuts. What it found is that growth hasn't increased, wages haven't increased, and after a brief bump, the cash brought back into the country from abroad has leveled off.

The main idea is, the tax cuts, while to be fair they were passed by Congress and only signed by the President, have mainly benefited the rich at the expense of the middle and lower classes, and will continue to do so more and more as the secondary phase unfolds.

Um, in my opinion, the next President should work hard to make sure the rich and corporations pay their fair share, and on that note—

**Travis:** Whoa, Brent! Whoa!

**Brent:** I know, I know.

**Travis:** Whoa, wild!

**Brent:** I know, a real spicy take. Look out for this habañero take, but if you're listening out there, please do not believe the malarkey about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez saying she wants to take 70% out of your taxes. That is a deliberate lie. A 70% marginal tax rate, in her plan or her suggestion, means 70% of income would go toward taxes for every dollar over a yearly income of 10 million dollars. Once you've made 10 million, they start taxing you more for the dollars above that.

And when, like, an astounding number of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, living with their parents, straight up starving, whatever, 70% above 10



million dollars is fair, and could go a long way toward balancing wealth and equality out. That's a little soapbox from me.

**Travis:** Senator Kamala Harris was in San Francisco Saturday, speaking at the MoveOn Big Ideas forum. She was speaking on her plan to close the gender pay gap when a bearded white guy came from the audience onto the stage and took her mic. He then talked about, I don't know, his own shit.

The protester is quoted as saying, quote, "I live in Oakland, and I am one of Kamala Harris's constituents. I came to the MoveOn Big Ideas Forum today because there's one big idea that all of the 2020 presidential candidates are ignoring, which is that by raising and slaughtering billions of animals every year, not only are we completely undermining our values as a nation of compassionate animal lovers, but we are literally preparing to drive our society off a cliff." [lowered voice] You mean figuratively. [normally] "Animal agriculture is one of the leading causes of climate change." End quote. He was then dragged off the stage.

Um, first of all, I would like to put forward a motion that we, as a planet, stop using the phrase "animal lovers." [laughing] I think it is inappropriate.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I do not care for the imagery it evokes. Animal enthusiasts, um, that's fine. Animal carers, maybe?

**Brent:** Animal rights activists—

**Travis:** Sure.

**Brent:** —I particularly could lean towards, over animal lovers.

**Travis:** Sure. So, uh, hey y'all, real talk. This fuckin' sucks! I have no issue with the concept of protesting. It doesn't bother me, but leaping onto a stage and approaching the speaker is threatening behavior, and totally uncalled for, especially when the person onstage is a political figure in the current political climate.

Add to that that the speaker is a prominent woman of color, and the threat level is off the charts. Not only that, but it reeks of privilege and entitlement. It is the

protest form of someone cutting in line at a store, saying, "Oh, I just need to pay for this real quick." And we all need to pay for stuff real quick! It's why we're in line at the store!

The protester interrupts her talking about equal pay for women of color with a, quote, "much bigger idea," end quote. He literally said, out loud—and I'm using literally correctly there—he literally said, out loud with his mouth, that the reason he needed to cut off a woman of color talking about equal pay for women of color was because his thing was more important.

**Brent:** [groans quietly]

**Travis:** So, many people are criticizing the event for apparent lack of security, and frankly, I have to agree. While the protester is eventually removed, it takes way too long. Only moderator Karine Jean-Pierre is there to put herself between the man and Harris, and he has way too long onstage in close proximity to Harris before he's taken offstage. And, one of the people taking him offstage is her husband, so like, it's not like security stopped him from getting clo—anyways.

The man, who I will not name, belongs to an animal activist group, which I also will not name. He was removed from the premises, but was not charged with anything. When asked if he had considered the optics of him taking the mic away from a woman of color, he attempted to justify his actions, saying, "I tried to show my profound respect for each of the people onstage."

**Brent:** [muffled laughter] Clearly...

**Travis:** End quote. Yes. It's so hypocritical that it's painful. He also claimed that the reason he interrupted Harris and not one of the other speakers was because she was a California Senator. So, for her part, Harris kept her cool, walked offstage, and when it'd all calmed down, returned, saying, "I'm good. I'm good. All good. No worries."

**Brent:** Yeah... The thing about this to me is, like, I think on the one hand there is a history of brave, risky protest in this country, and so like, the idea of like, interrupting a politician at the mic, like, as a concept, I don't think is always wrong, but optics, optics, optics, optics. And just the fact that like, he clearly had no thought of that.

**Travis:** Well, this is the thing, right? 'Cause like, when it comes down to it, this was a circumstance in which I would say nuance is involved. He was not protesting something Harris had done or said or believed in—

**Brent:** That's a good point. That's a good point.

**Travis:** —or anything.

**Brent:** It was a non-sequitur.

**Travis:** It was literally hijacking her platform to talk about something that was more important to him.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And like, that—that is not... I'm reminded of this one time—I went and saw a musician named Mike Doughty in concert. Uh, Mike Doughty formerly of Soul Coughing, but has since had his own very prolific and wonderful solo career. Um, but I saw him in concert here in Cincinnati, and he was in the middle of playing a song, and a guy starts walking down the center aisle, kind of like, doing like a, you know, tentative wave to get Doughty's attention.

And Mike Doughty stopped the song and said, "Yeah? Can I help you?" And the guy said, "Well, I'm here with a very special woman tonight, and I have a question for her." And Mike Doughty said, "No." And the guy kind of looked at him, and Mike Doughty said, "There is a way to do the thing that you are trying to do."

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** "And this is not it." And then Mike Doughty said something that has stuck with me for a while, which is like, "You are making this all about you, and for everyone else here, this is a moment for them too, and there is a way to go about doing this, and you are not doing it correctly. Go sit back down."

And then started playing his song again. And that's the way I feel about it is like, there is a way to do this, and this wasn't it. This is fucked up.

**Courtney:** Joe Biden has come out in support of the Hyde Amendment, or more accurately, as not in favor of repealing it. Frankly, there is no difference between those things.

The Hyde Amendment prohibits federal funding of abortions, the current version of which includes exceptions that allow Medicaid funds to be used for abortions in case of rape, incest, or the health of the mother, but all other federal taxpayer money that would go towards abortion is banned. Biden—his team told Politico, "The Hyde Amendment does not prevent organizations in the US that provide life saving healthcare services for women from receiving federal funding they need, but given the current draconian attempts to limit access to abortion, if avenues for women to access their protected rights under Roe V. Wade are closed, he would be open to repeal."

Which, that is very wishy-washy at best, but it's essentially saying, like, "If we go full Handmaid's Tale, then yeah, I'll repeal the Hyde Amendment." And that's not okay. Because as we've talked about—

**Travis:** Maybe not enough.

**Courtney:** —as we talked about a couple weeks ago, like, this... For one thing, Medicaid disproportionately is used by women of color. Like, when—so, the people that would need access to these services are, like, low income women, women of color, people who fucking need it. And it's just... Ugh, God.

Most 2020 candidates—you know, the Dem ones. I don't know if there are any other Republican ones. But they've come out in favor of repealing Hyde, including Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, Julián Castro, Pete Buttigieg, Bernie Sanders, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Amy Klobuchar. Biden has been pro-Hyde since the '70s, consistently voting to keep it, and actually fighting efforts to add the rape and incest exceptions. He is not our savior.

**Travis:** No!

**Brent:** No.

**Courtney:** [quietly] He's not gonna—he's not gonna do the thing.

**Brent:** No. He's stuck in this earlier era where Democrats—so like, as I see it, Reagan and then George H.W. Bush made it seem like the world—or rather the

country had really gone Republican, so the 1992 election campaign season had a lot of Democrats trying to run to the right, and basically be more centrist and more compromising, because the Democratic Party was scared that was their only way to get back in power, and I think Joe Biden stuck there, and running to the right is not gonna help anything, because the energy in Democratic voters...

Basically, anyone who calls themselves a Democratic voter is gonna vote against Trump. Any of them. For a can of soup. But, the energy in the party is on the Left and with young people, but only if candidates can see where they're coming from and acknowledge it with policy, and Joe Biden is gonna fail at that, and I'm really interested to see how that plays out in the debates.

[static]

**Courtney:** Hey, everybody. It's Courtney, your dungeon master, your best friend. That's a different podcast. Uh, not two hours after we finished recording, Joe Biden actually reversed his position on the Hyde Amendment at a DNC gala in Atlanta.

He said, "If I believe healthcare is a right, as I do, I can no longer support an amendment that makes that right dependent." Dependent, of course, on things like income, accessibility, all the other big, big things that get in the way of a right to any kind of reproductive healthcare, so score one for shame. It works. Show me a better system! Shame 2020.

[static]

**Brent:** Shall we do some tidbits?

**Travis:** Yes, please.

**Courtney:** Yes, please.

**Brent:** All right. So... Not really in need of a segue, 'cause this is just an extension of Politics Roundup, but we got a new indication that Democratic voters in 2020 aren't interested in centrist, status quo stuff, offered by, for instance, Joe Biden and Howard Schultz and others.

So, Maryland congressman and largely unknown Democratic candidate for President John Delaney spoke at the California Democratic Convention this past week, and probably ruined his campaign in a matter of seconds. Let's listen.

**John Delaney:** We need, as Democrats, to build an economy that works, but it's gotta be with smart policies. Medicare for all may sound good, but it's actually not good policy, nor is it good politics.

[audience boos loudly]

**John Delaney:** I'm telling you—

[booing continues]

**John Delaney:** I'm telling you—

[booing continues]

**John Delaney:** A hundred—

[booing continues]

**Brent:** They booed him for over a minute straight. My favorite part of the video version is the interpreter for the hearing impaired doing a big thumbs down to reflect what the crowd was doing. Classic. Meanwhile at the same convention, additional collectible Pokemon candidate John Hickenlooper made a similar mistake.

**John Hickenlooper:** If we want to beat Donald Trump and achieve big, progressive goals, socialism is not the answer. I was re-elected—

[audience boos loudly]

**John Hickenlooper:** I was re-elected in a purple state in 2014—

[booing continues]

**John Hickenlooper:** —one of the worst years for Democrats in a quarter century. We shouldn't try to achieve universal coverage by removing private

insurance from over 150 million Americans. We should not try to tackle climate change by guaranteeing every American a government job.

[audience boos loudly]

**John Hickenlooper:** Hold on, hold on.

[booing continues]

**John Hickenlooper:** As the Democratic Party, we have to create a vision for this country.

**Brent:** Now, to be fair, this happened in California, but historically, as California Democrats go, so eventually goes the Democratic Party. I—like I was just saying, I think appealing to the Left is what's gonna win the nomination, 'cause people are tired of the status quo offered to them by candidates who would run to the Right. And like I just said, I realize that my off the cuff commentary on the last thing was what I was about to read in the copy, but I am already popping the corn for the first Democratic debate, and that's coming up in just a few weeks.

**Courtney:** Wow, that really is coming up in just a few weeks.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** Are you popping the corn, or popping the cork?

**Brent:** I will—I will pop corns. I will pop corks. I will—I gotta have my Pops, so Corn Pops will be there, and some—

**Travis:** I'm gonna pop some tags.

**Brent:** Well, why don'tcha?

**Travis:** Well, the problem, Brent, is only have \$20 in my pocket.

**Brent:** [laughs] All right, shall we do some media recommendations?

**Travis:** Yes, please.

**Courtney:** I'm gonna like, put on my skates and do an all skate to that song that Travis was referencing.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Courtney:** I believe it's called My Name Is by Eminem.

**Travis:** Yes, correct.

**Courtney:** Um, I—so we decided, like, we're gonna do some media recommendations.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Courtney:** Because we have got some media, and we've got some recommendations for said media!

I watched a delightful fucking film called Always Be My Maybe. This film is written by and stars Ali Wong who, if you have not seen her incredible stand-up specials on Netflix, like, you are missing out. She is wonderful.

**Travis:** A treasure!

**Courtney:** A treasure. And Randall Park, who is also a treasure. He's on Fresh Off the Boat, he's just wonderful. And it is a romantic comedy with a predominantly Asian-American cast, and I don't know that there's any... I'm like actually—I'm thinking of it as I say it. Like, I don't think there's any, like, white people in major roles. Good job, movie!

It's delightful and wonderful, and it's about two best friends who, you know, grow up together, and then they kind of like, you know, separate a little bit, and then they come back together, and guys? Spoiler alert, they fall in love.

It's a rom-com. It's exactly what you're hoping a rom-com to be. But, it is hilariously funny. It is wonderfully, like, representative of the—like, the Asian-American community. Like, my friends who are Asian-American really, genuinely, like, love this movie, felt seen by it. Also, it features Keanu Reeves.

**Brent:** Hmm!



**Courtney:** As himself.

**Travis:** Oh!

**Courtney:** And holy shit. He is so goddamn good in this blessed angel precious gift of a movie. He punches himself in the face. It's fine. He cries listening to his food be killed. Like, he—it's—it's a very good movie. I recommend it. Enjoy, please.

**Brent:** So, I wrote down a choice for my media recommendation, and even wrote copy, but I've changed my mind—

**Courtney:** It is the opposite of Always Be My Maybe! [laughs]

**Brent:** I've changed my mind mid-stream. I wrote Chernobyl, the HBO miniseries. It's sad, it's gory, it's very well done. But if any of you out there are a fan of the "so bad it's good" genre, I keep finding myself watching this movie that I would say is basically the animated equivalent of The Room.

Um, it's called Foodfight. It was supposed to be a 2003 computer animated film with Charlie Sheen, Eva Longoria, Christopher Lloyd, Harvey Fierstein, a bunch of like, legit names, but for reasons I won't go into, it wasn't completed until 2012, and it is a piece of shit, but it is a beautifully, exquisitely bad piece of shit.

And if you're into that, you know, not that I ever smoke marijuana in this country, where it's not legal, but if—if I were that kind of person, to sit down and watch something ridiculously bad with friends that enjoy a similar kind of thing, Foodfight, all one word, is it.

It's available... I think in like, SD on YouTube, and then also Vudu, which is one of the many obscure streaming apps, but, um... If you can get your hands on it, it is a dumb, terrible, fun time.

**Travis:** Uh, so I real quick wanted to throw out a recommendation for Aladdin, the—the live-action version, uh, that has just come out in theaters. I know we talked about it before, uh, when the preview came out.

I took Bebe to see it. It was Bebe's first movie in theaters, um, and it is great! It is a visual romp—now, I will say—okay. First, the good: it's a visual romp. Uh, the guy who plays Aladdin and the woman who plays Jasmine are great. Uh, they

gave Jasmine a lot more to do, which I felt was wonderful. Also, the dude who plays Jafar fuckin' nails it. Um, and they—I don't know. Just what they do with Apu is great, what they—or, Abu—Abu? Yes, the monkey.

**Brent:** Abu.

**Travis:** Abu, and what they do with Raja and with Iago. Just the way they animate the—it's great.

**Courtney:** Also, Nasim Pedrad is in it, and I love her. I love her.

**Travis:** Their take on the sultan is very good. Um, now, here's the thing, 'cause we talked about this, right? So, the Will Smith genie is much different from the Robin Williams genie. I think that's unavoidable.

**Courtney:** I think that's good.

**Travis:** Yes. And I think that he really makes it his own, and like, I will say he does an excellent job. They do some tailoring of the part to, uh, to Will Smith, that like... For example, Brent talked about in the preview they're like, "Brush up your Friday salaam," where he like, brushes his shoulder.

There's stuff like that where he's including his own, like, personality and attitude. But you know what? After a very short while, I embraced it and enjoyed it immensely.

Bebe had a great time. Bebe—there was a part—like, basically during Whole New World, she sat on the arm of the—the chair, and held her arms out to either side, and flew with the carpet.

**Brent:** Aww...

**Courtney:** Aww!

**Brent:** Okay, that's great.

**Travis:** It was fucking great.

**Courtney:** Oh, I love that small tiny baby.

**Travis:** Um, now, I will say that I have seen some people tweet about that there's... I don't know if it's confirmed or if it's just rumor or what, that Disney, uh, employed some white actors for like, background work, because of, quote, "special skills," and then like, put them in brownface? I don't—like I said, I haven't confirmed that or done independent research on that, but I did want to point that out in case there is some, uh... That there's a problematic element I don't want to ignore.

Um, but on the whole, I feel like this movie has gotten a really bad rap from, like, the previews making it... The previews don't do it justice. Let's put it that way. I don't think... I mean, we discussed the preview, and I don't think we jumped to conclusions based off of it, but whoever cut together the preview did it either with limited information, or trying to preview a movie that it wasn't.

**Brent:** And I think that clip of Prince Ali was not really a best foot forward.

**Travis:** It is not. The rest of that scene is so good. The like—and that's the thing, is what you often forget is like, Friend Like Me, Prince Ali, and Whole New World, are all within, like, the same 20 minute chunk of that movie, and it is like, banger, banger, banger. It's—it's great. Highly recommend.

[music plays]

**Speaker One:** Welcome!

**Group:** Thank you.

Thanks.

No problem.

Thank you.

**Speaker One:** These are real podcast listeners, not actors. What do you look for in a podcast?

**Speaker Two:** Reliability is big for me.

**Speaker Three:** Power.

**Speaker Four:** I'd say comfort.

**Speaker One:** What do you think of this?

[loud clanging]

**Group:** [groans]

**Speaker One:** That's Jordan, Jesse, Go!

**Speaker Two:** Jordan, Jesse, Go?

**Speaker Four:** They came out of the floor?

[thud]

**Speaker Four:** And down from the ceiling?

**Speaker Two:** That can't be safe.

**Speaker Four:** I'm upset.

**Speaker Three:** Can we go now?

**Speaker One:** Soon.

Jordan, Jesse, Go! A real podcast.

**Speaker One:** Ah, there's nothing quite like sailing in the calm international waters on my ship, the SS Biopic.

**Speaker Two:** Avast! It's actually pronounced "Bio-pick."

**Speaker One:** No, ya dingus! It's "Bi-ah-pick!"

**Speaker Two:** Who the hell says that? It's "Bio-pick," it comes from the word--

**Speaker One:** It's the words for biography and picture!

**Speaker Two:** If you--

**Dave:** All right, that is enough. Ahoy, I'm Dave Holmes. I'm the host of a newly rebooted podcast, formerly known as International Waters, designed to resolve petty but persistent arguments like this. How? By pitting two teams of opinionated comedians against each other with trivia and improv games, of course! Winner takes home the right to be right.

**Speaker One:** What podcast be this?

**Dave:** It's called Troubled Waters, where we disagree to disagree!

**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.

[high-five sound effect]

**Brent:** This week's wi-five goes out to the state legislature of New York. Now, these cats haven't always been the best about corruption or progressive legislation, but even a broken clock is right once a day, and I consider this to be one of those moments. As you may know—

**Travis:** Now—sorry, Brent, sorry, I hate to interrupt. Is it a, like, 24 hour military clock?

**Brent:** That's a great point. Places where they do 24 hour time, those broken clocks are only right once a day.

**Travis:** Then it would only be right once a day.

**Brent:** Yes.

**Travis:** But you said once a day, so I just wanted to jump in and say—

**Brent:** Oh! Oh, that's a great point. Maybe twice a day is the saying and I just wrote the copy too fast.

**Courtney:** Twice a day is the saying, but—

**Brent:** Now that's it's 18—

**Courtney:** —if we're going off of this general time...

**Brent:** Now that it's 18:40 in the early evening, I think we should—

**Travis:** Okay.

**Brent:** Um... [laughs quietly] But, uh—so, okay. As you may know, the practice of declawing cats is a cruel, unnecessary procedure that robs cats of an essential part of their body and affects their ability to navigate the world in the way their instincts tell them to. The claws are attached to bone, so the operation requires slicing through muscles and nerves. If you decide to adopt a cat, you need to adopt every part of the cat, not just the parts that are convenient to you. But it's still perfectly legal everywhere in the US, except a few municipalities.

However, the legislature of New York State just passed a bill that would make it illegal to declaw a cat. It hasn't been signed by Governor Cuomo yet, but it is expected to be signed into law soon. And it's a small but important step, and it sets a good example for other states, who should follow suit. Hopefully there will be a domino effect, but for now, to the state legislature of New York, wi-five.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** All right, folks, that's gonna do it for us. Um, let's see... If you are in the Nashville or Indianapolis area, might I recommend going to [mcelroy.family](http://mcelroy.family), clicking on tours, and getting some tickets to come see My Brother, My Brother, and Me, and The Adventure Zone.

Uh, we're doing MBMBaM and The Adventure Zone in Nashville, and then we're doing MBMBaM in Indianapolis. Tickets are running out. I think we're at, like, 95% sold on both of those, so like, if you haven't gotten your tickets, don't wait for the day of. Go ahead and get 'em now.

Um, same with in mid-July, to celebrate the release of The Adventure Zone Graphic Novel Book Two, Murder On The Rockport Limited, we're doing some book appearances. Portland is already sold out, but we're also going to be in Los Angeles, Austin, Texas, New York, and San Diego.

Um, if you go to mcelroy.family and click on tours you can get your tickets there, or if you're not able to go to those places, you can go to theadventurezonecomic.com and preorder your edition of the second graphic novel there! It comes out, I think, July 16th? Or somewhere very close to that.

**Courtney:** It is July 16th, because I just learned today, there's gonna be some great content surrounding this—this upcoming book on Syfy.com. Maybe you're heard of it.

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Courtney:** Written by this chick right here!

**Brent:** Well, as for me, I'm the designer and co-creator of a comedy party game called Use Your Words. It's, uh, really fun, if you're a joker or if you're not. We call it a party game for funny people and their unfunny friends, and it is available on all the current generation consoles, as well as PC and Mac. For Steam, it's 14.99 USD, different prices in different countries. But you can find out more about at useyourwords.lol.

**Courtney:** Um, you can find my stuff at Syfy Fangrrls, uh, you can—my other podcast, Strong Female Characters, is on hiatus at the moment, but that is the perfect time for you to catch up and listen to our 31 days of forgotten women of genre, from March. I will also be at San Diego Comic Con. I don't know what all I'm doin' yet, but I'm gonna be doing some stuff! I'll see you there!

**Travis:** All right, folks! Uh, go check out all the other amazing shows on maximumfun.org. Uh, you can tweet at as @trendslikethese. Um, I think that's gonna do it for us! Courtney, am I forgetting anything?

[theme music plays in the background]

**Courtney:** I am so glad [shouts] that finally straight people will have their voices heard!

[pauses]

**Brent:** See you next time!

**Courtney:** [loudly] Celebrate being heterosexual!

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** [quietly] Hickenlooper. That's fun... to type.

**Travis:** [thoughtfully] It's fun to say.

Maximumfun.org.

Comedy and Culture.

Artist Owned.

Audience Supported.