

Trends Like These 224: 2020 Democratic Debate No. 1, Migrant Concentration Camps, Does CBD Cause Liver Damage?, Jake Paul and Tana Mongeau Engaged?, Trumptime, Mueller Subpoenaed to Testify, Tiffany Cabán, Eric Trump Spat On

Published on June 28th, 2019

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Travis: This week: Candidate debating, YouTubers mating, and protestors expectorating.

Courtney: I'm Courtney Enlow.

Brent: I'm Brent Black.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Courtney: And I'm... who?

Brent: With Trends Like These.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, Brent and Courtney.

Brent: Hello, Travis. However, hello, Courtney.

Courtney: Hello Travis? But if I'm being honest...

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Courtney: Hello Brent.

Travis: I get it. Y'know, that's fair.

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: That's fair. Hey, listen. This is Trends Like These, and as everyone who has ever listened to the show before knows, Trends Like These is a show where Brent and Courtney and I get together to talk about cute things Bebe is doing.

Courtney: Mm-hmm. [laughs]

Travis: And for some reason, recently, Bebe has started saying "baba booeey."

Courtney: [gasps]

Brent: Really?

Courtney: Oh my God.

Travis: Yeah. And the best part is, one, she says, "Baba boopey!" Which is great. And two, it cracks her up when she does it. One night we put her down to sleep, and we heard her for a solid half an hour, just laying in her bed going, "Baba boopey! [laughs] Baba boopey! [laughs] Baba boopey!" It was... amazing. Amazing.

No. This is a trending news show. [sighs] It is 5:45PM Eastern time. It is June 27th, 2019th. 2019th? That's not right. Y'know, whatever. It's 2019. We got a show. A show full of news. News for you, as we always say.

Courtney: That's the name of the podcast. News for you.

Brent: Yep.

Travis: [sighs] Listen. It's not a good week. [laughs]

Brent: No...

Courtney: No, it's not great.

Travis: There's lots to talk about. Uh, I wanted to start one off with the cute baby thing, because a lot of this is uh, whoa, just real sad.

Courtney: [sighs] Yikes on bikes.

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: Woo.

Brent: We've got a little bit of fluff at the top. Just like, y'know, me in college before it all went away.

Courtney: It's honestly like the... the... the trend gods said, "Y'know what? We need to create the perfect thing for this program, because everything else is sad." And then they did it.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Here's the thing. So we talked a little bit about this like, off, like on Slack before we did this, and we can't include it in the show, because it is visual. But I really urge you all to go to either my Twitter, Brent's Twitter... we'll share it on the Trends Like These Twitter. But there is a commercial?

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Brent: Jesus.

Courtney: That you guys need to watch.

Travis: You don't even need to say anymore. I know exactly what you're talking about.

Courtney: I literally... we are not gonna tell you the uh, the... what is being marketed in said commercial.

Travis: I saw so many posts like... posted with the caption of like, "Try to guess the brand. You will get it wrong."

Courtney: You literally cannot get it.

Travis: I actively said... I said aloud, "Oh, of course, it's blank." And then the end popped up, and I lost it. I lost it.

Courtney: Wait, you actually got it right?

Travis: No.

Courtney: I was gonna say, I was like, "You're a liar and I don't believe you."

Travis: Not in a million years.

Courtney: Yeah. Literally, you cannot.

Travis: I could've guessed the first thousand brands that came to my head, and I wouldn't have gotten it. It's bizarre.

Courtney: It's buck fucking wild.

Travis: Listen, before we get into the show. Talk about fluff. What's everybody drinking? I'm having a lemon sparkling water. And I think it's just like, Kroger brand lemon sparkling water. PurAqua? Belle Vie? Lemon sparkling water.

Courtney: Ooh.

Travis: I don't know, it's what Teresa bought.

Courtney: Belle Vie!

Travis: "Water is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle." That is true. "Replenish and hydrate your body. Pure water, pure taste, PurAqua."

Courtney: Pur.

Travis: It's just P-U-R. That's Pur.

Courtney: It's cat water. Water for cats. I just got my first shipment of a wine club. I'm not saying who it is, because I want someone to sponsor us and send me wine. I don't know how they have it. Um, but, it's Las Mulas Cabernet, and it has a donkey on it. And the donkey is carrying a big basket of something. I assume it's grapes. It could be anything.

Travis: Uh, correction, it is Aldi brand water.

Courtney: Ooh, nothing wrong with that.

Brent: Whoof. You just made sure you didn't have to do a retraction next week. Well done.

Travis: Yep.

Courtney: I will... I had a bev like these last night. Travis and Brent were watching the debate like good, smart humans, and I was like, "No, I choose alcohol." And so I went to my friend's, and we drank Aldi brand Winking Owl wine that is like three dollars a bottle.

Travis: Yeah you did.

Courtney: I'm sure that my body is full of arsenic right now, but it was shockingly delicious.

Travis: I will say, uh, and we'll talk about this more. I also chose alcohol, *and* the debate. But we'll get to that later. So Brent, what are you drinking?

Brent: I think, Travis, you and I are drinking things from two sides of the same token, because I am drinking 365 Everyday Value brand orange sparkling water.

Travis: Mmm.

Brent: So it's store brand, it's a citrus. We just picked slightly different colors, and who knows, they might honestly use the same tiny homeopathic bit of flavoring for both for all I know.

Courtney: We've got red, orange, yellow... we're on our way. To a pride flag in this month of the prides. I mean colors of our beverages.

[theme music plays]

Travis: It's beyond the tail lines! Wait. Beyond... the waistlines. No. Beyond the Headlines.

Brent: Hey, there you go. Had to go backwards from heads, shoulders, knees and toes.

Travis: Y'know folks... [sighs] Sometimes... some crimes... go slippin' through the cracks.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: Some crimes, when we touch, the honesty is too much.

Brent: But these two gumshoes... Sorry, go ahead.

Travis: Ohh, these gummy shoes. Ohhhh. Ohh, these gummy shoes.

Brent: Everybody under like, 25 years old has no idea what any of us are talking about right now.

Travis: This story makes me feel so many feelings. Let's just get into it. So, it has been confirmed that YouTuber Tana... I'm gonna say Mojo, 'cause I heard that recently, and that feels right.

Brent: It's not Mango?

Travis: I thought it was Manjo. But I think it might be Monjo? Mojo? Anyways, Tana—

Courtney: We talked about her for like, three hours. How do none of us know her name?

Brent: I was gonna say, wasn't it Mango at the time? Or am I just—

Courtney: I think we just called her Mongoose.

Brent: Ah, yes.

Travis: I think that's true.

Courtney: It never occurred to me... like, Mango seems like it would've been the first thing to come to Travis' mind, because "Mango likes candy."

Travis: I think it's Mongeau. That's what I think I said. But anyways, I think we just said Tana a lot, because it's Tana of TanaCon, who, as you said, we talked about for like three weeks in a row. And I... I have made the conscious effort not to talk about every time she has done dumb shit. But she has done a lot of dumb shit from then on. Like, she sucks.

Uh, but it's been confirmed that she got engaged to fellow YouTuber, Jake Paul, who also sucks. Uh, Jake Paul is Logan Paul's younger brother. Now I think maybe... here's the thing. I think Logan Paul overshadows Jake Paul in the realm of who sucks more. But I think that's only because the level at which Logan Paul sucks is so astronomical, not because Jake Paul's level is really low. Right? They both are not great.

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: So according to the tabloids, to the 'bloids, Jake proposed to Tana at her 21st birthday in Vegas, and she confirmed in on Twitter the next morning. [sighs] Once again. Listen, not that there's anything wrong with having your 21st birthday in Vegas. But Tana is just the living epitome of being exactly what she is, to the point where it's like, yeah, of course she did. Yeah. Where else was she gonna have her 21st birthday?

Uh, now, the pair has only been dating officially for two months, and Tana actually referred to Jake as her 'rebound' in one of her videos since the pair got together when she broke up with Brad Sousa, a Canadian whose claim to fame appears to be that he could impersonate Justin Bieber.

But, the question is, is hash tag #Jana, J-A-N-A. Maybe jayna? I don't care enough to find out. Is it actually real? No one has any solid evidence. Several sources suspect that due to both Jake and Tana's massive following, this is a business move to grow their numbers even more by posting joint content. Some of their vlogs this year have had headlines like, "I got matching tattoos with Jake Paul," and, "The secret behind our relationship," and, "Our first time making out on camera."

Courtney: Wuh.

Brent: The softest of softcore.

Travis: Yeah, all of that sucks.

Courtney: It's like a showmance, but extra douchey. I'm gonna call it a yolomance.

Brent: Nice.

Travis: Yeah, y'know, what it is... I've always had uh, what I will say... this is not a true—I don't truly believe this. Um, but I've always had a con—more, I would say, is more of a concept for like, a movie, where the celebrity relationship, all the break ups, drama, who's dating who, is all just like, handled entirely by publicists and managers and agents. And people are

told like, "Hey, you're gonna date this person now, 'cause you both have movies coming up, and then you'll break up a week after the movie comes out, so give us a..."

It's a movie concept I've had bouncing around my head in which a Romeo and Juliet-esque couple of characters then decide to date, even though it hasn't been sanctioned, and then they are like, hunted by the celebrity police. Anyways, TM TM TM.

But this is like... yeah, y'know what? Let's just do that. It's so blatant. It's like they themselves are both the celebrity couple and the tabloids. So those videos, by the way, are all dumb, and all have over a million views. Because we are all dumb.

Another reason it's hard to judge if this proposal is real is because uh, the pair themselves are basically pegged for being inauthentic, y'know, as people. Jake Paul's persona seems to differ, depending on if he's working for Disney or YouTube or the interview circuit or whatever. And while Tana is often celebrated for being outspoken and unfiltered, you can't deny that watching her videos... she kind of is doing it as a character? It's a branded kind of thing.

Anyways, stunts like this have worked before. We've seen it in like, Kim Kardashian's 72-hour marriage, and I didn't know about this 'til I was researching it, but earlier this year, 22-year-old Vlog Squad leader, David Dobrik, married his best friend's mom as a media stunt.

Brent: Jeeze.

Travis: They separated after a month, and it was obviously a stunt, but a video of the proposal got 8.2 million views.

Brent: But y'know, in today's YouTube dollars, 8.2 million views, depending on watch time... that can be like, five grand or less. So it's like, y'know...

Travis: It's a branding thing, y'know? Of saying like, "I'm wild and crazy!"

Brent: I guess, yeah.

Travis: 'Cause like, that's how Logan Paul got to be who Logan Paul is, whoever that may be. Also, there are those speculating that perhaps the huge-ass diamond ring might be fake. This from E! Online.

""Nothing is a sure thing without seeing the ring up close, but everything about the little clip says fake. You can see the exaggerated sparkling light reflecting off of something in the bottom right of the frame in the beginning of the clip," Ira Weissman, founder of The Diamond Pro, estimated to E! News. "This is exactly what you would want to use to try to enhance a sparkle of a simulated diamond to make it look more like the real thing. Plus, the glassy look of the very large center stone as its brought closer to the camera also points heavily towards it being cubic zirconia.""

Brent: Ira's on the case. [laughs]

Travis: Mm-hmm. "Jewelry and style expert, Lauren McCawley, added, "Whether or not Ms. Mongeau's engagement ring is real, a rectangular cushion cut center stone is always an excellent choice! However, the Kira Kira app can only add so much sparkle to a lifeless stone; this is very like a simulant (cubic zirconia), or a lab-created white sapphire, which retails around \$200."

Now, here's the thing. Let me just say. There is nothing wrong with having a cubic zirconia stone. There's nothing wrong with having a white sapphire stone. I think the reason people are discussing this is, if it is just a publicity stunt, with it being like, "First we'll get engaged, and then here in like a month, we'll break up, and that will be a whole thing," then they probably just didn't spend money, y'know. Whatever. You get it, right?

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: It's probably a prop ring. That's what people are speculating, at least.

Brent: [sighs]

Travis: But maybe the fact that no one knows if this proposal is real is exactly what everyone loves about it. [sighs] This is the problem I have with like, vlog culture as entertainment, is it goes from, "I'm going to tell you about my real life and a real thing that happened to me today," to this like Truman Show-esque manipulating reality to make storylines more interesting.

Brent: It's kind of become the new wrestling.

Travis: Yes. Yes! Exactly. Where it's like, listen, it might be fake, but it's interesting. It's like, then watch like, Star Trek! What are you talking about? If it's not real, it has no place. Like, if it's scripted, that's fine. That's called fiction. That's cool. Go enjoy that. There are better versions of that. Watch a soap opera. That's better than this. [sighs]

Brent: Yep.

Travis: It should also be pointed out that Tana has, because the world is unfair, a reality show called Tana Turns 21 that hits MTV on July 8th. And like... y'know, this proposal is probably marketing for that. Like, I'm not saying it, but like, everybody's saying it.

Brent: Y'know, the thing you were talking about earlier, about how people present themselves, I guess I feel like this is just a... kind of a transmogrification of a really old human thing. Like, y'know, you and I talked on a YouTube video years ago. You said something that surprised me, but was totally true, which was that in college, I would try to like, characterize myself. Be the guy that wears cosmetic glasses, or like, I'm the guy that does X-thing.

And I feel like if somebody's got, for whatever reason, a huge audience on YouTube... I mean, shit, I did this with YouTube, too. I found an attitude people liked, and I branded myself that way. Um, one thing I wonder about the Paul brothers and Tana is if they experience what I did, which is, after a while, if your persona's a little different than yourself, when you appear live, or even when you make videos, do you sort of forget which is which?

I remember going to conventions and feeling obligated to sort of embody this character, and it was very confusing. There was no rulebook for it. I was like 25.

Travis: Well, not only that, but it can also be really harmful to you psychologically. I mean, I'm not—

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: I don't want to speculate on anyone else's psychological, y'know, wellbeing, because that is not my place to do so. But I will say, you see this a lot with like, comics and comedians, and people who are known for being funny, the like, need to be on, because it's what people expect from you, can be really draining. And like, not... you need to have people around you in your life that it's okay to like, turn off around, just like, be mellow around, not feel the need to be entertaining.

And I have to imagine that, for a lot of these vloggers who build up a whole personality... y'know, streamers probably go through the same thing of like, I have to be on, this is what people expect from me. It can probably feel really isolating.

Brent: Sure. Especially—

Travis: This took a weird turn, but yeah, I think it's worth saying.

Brent: Totally. Alright, we ready to move onto the next story?

Courtney: Always.

Travis: Yes.

Brent: Okay, well. Another week, another study that suggests a thing. This time, the headline in Forbes was, "Marijuana study finds CBD can cause liver damage." The study was conducted by researchers at the University of Arkansas for medical science, and you could just feel the anti-legalization

crowd seeing this headline and going like, "See?! Weed is bad for you!" But let's zoom out.

CBD is short for—

Travis: Vwoooooop!

Brent: Thank you, Travis.

Travis: That was us zooming out, yes.

Brent: Yeah, now we can see the whole earth. CBD is short for—

Travis: Oh, sorry, let's zoom back in. Wooo.

Brent: Okay. Now we're just on one tiny vial of CBD. CBD is short for cannabidiol, and it accounts for 40% of the cannabis plant's extract. In over simplified terms, THC gets you high, and CBD can counteract that feeling of being high. So like, if a particular cannabis plant has more THC, you'll probably get more high. If it's got more CBD, you'll probably get less high. Again, super oversimplified.

But CBD, in isolation, is also used to treat anxiety, insomnia, and epileptic seizures, particularly in children. And in three separate placebo controlled trials, CBD has been shown to lower the frequency of seizures. Though, to keep it one hundred, it wasn't entirely clear from that whether it was CBD alone, or CBD in concert with concomitant medications, which is a medical term I learned today.

But, the fact remains that some people swear by it as a treatment for all of the symptoms I've mentioned and more. My first thought when I read this was, "Hmm, is this funded by big pharma to try to smear marijuana?" So far, I haven't been able to find any evidence that that's the case. But here's the real shit.

In the study we're talking about today, the lowest dose at which mice were found to have significant liver damage was 615 milligrams per kilogram of

weight per day. An average man weighs 80 kilograms, so to replicate that ratio in humans would require that average sized man to take nearly 50 grams of pure CBD in one day. That's around between 30 and 100 times the dose recommended by various CBD products.

So like, while the entire, y'know, the entire landscape of how this works is unclear, and maybe smaller amounts over time could cause liver damage, let's not get too worried. But y'know what? Let's say this study is too conservative, and CBD damages the liver more than that. Well, in that case, I think we'd be back to something kind of like the argument that weed isn't worse than cigarettes or alcohol, which are legal.

Here's what I mean – if you have more than the recommended amount of alcohol, it also causes liver damage, and is legal. Plenty of readily available pharmaceuticals can also cause liver damage. So I would say, don't take this headline or the study as a reason to ban CBD or to think of it as some kind of previously unknown poison. As time goes on, and hopefully weed becomes a descheduled substance, we'll see more studies.

And I want to see them. I do. If CBD causes cancer, for instance, like, people need to know. Let's research the fuck out of it. For all we know, something in marijuana could be a miracle cure. We just don't know, because most researchers in America are not allowed to thoroughly research it, because it's, y'know, a schedule-1 substance.

But right now, I'm just not ready to dock any points off of CBD based on this. Let's see more data and go from there.

[theme music plays]

Brent: So for this next segment, we have a lot of material for you. We often do a segment we call the Politics Roundup, and I feel like this is a day to bring back the classic Politics Roundup intro. Travis, could you hit me with that real quick?

Travis: I mean, I will, but... okay. Let me preface it by saying, I'm gonna do this, and then the first two Politics Roundup stories, big bummers. Here we go.

It's a pooooooooolitics roundup! Sorry about the next two stories, y'all!

Courtney: Honestly, I needed that. I needed that big politics energy to like, let me survive this.

Brent: That's what I was thinking. That's what I was thinking.

Travis: I do have big politics energy. I do have BPT. BPE? Yes.

Courtney: If you have BPE, please consult your physician. I am also going to be drinking heavily during this story. Um, last week on Instagram live, Alexandria Ocasio—

Travis: Oh, we should—hold on, we should say real quick. Content warning.

Courtney: [sighs] Content warning.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: It's... I... [sighs] Isn't it a bummer that we have to keep content warning the fuckin' news, because the news is bad, and the world is bad?

Travis: Yeah.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: And I'm just so tired? [sighs] Content warning for fuckin' everything. Content warning for like... everything. I don't even know what to content warn. Everything is bad.

Brent: I mean... I would say, violence and/or cruel mistreatment of children.

Courtney: [sighs]

Travis: Yeah.

Brent: And general bummers about parents and children and families.

Courtney: And content warning, white bullshit. Let's just call that what it is.

Travis: Yep.

Courtney: Last week, on Instagram live, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said, "The United States is running concentration camps on our southern border." And that is exactly what they are. Shockingly, the same crowd, deeply pro-life and protective of unborn children, clutched their pearls and rang their shame bells at AOC for using the scary words to describe these totally chill government happy camps.

So let's talk a bit about the term itself. If we're gonna get semantic on it, let's just talk about the words. Miriam Webster defines 'concentration camps' as, "A place where large numbers of people, such as prisoners of war, political prisoners, refugees, or the member of an ethnic or religious minority are detained or confined under armed guard." So... I mean, yeah. That's what this is.

Travis: Yeah.

Courtney: Um, as many people have pointed out, it is the far right. Not necessarily the far right, it's just the right right.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: That is absolutely losing it at this, because it's so disrespectful to Jews. Never mind the actual Jewish people saying, like, "No, I want to be excluded from this narrative, we agree." 'Cause it's very much like, the white Christian delegation that is saying like, "How dare you besmirch the

good name of these fine people?" Because it's not the same when we're talking about brown children, apparently.

Travis: Where—here—I will also say, that is so obviously a play at the reverse engineering of trying to say, "because it's not as bad as that." Like, you can say, because that's disrespectful to Jewish people. But what you're really saying is, because you're trying to apply that that was as bad as that, and come on, this isn't that bad.

Courtney: This is fine. This is totally chill.

Travis: It's so blatant as to being like... come on, what are you even trying to play at? Come on.

Courtney: It's not genocide yet.

Brent: Right.

Travis: Right.

Courtney: [sighs] Historian Anna Linn-Guzik... you guys think that word is Guzik?

Travis: Yeah.

Courtney: Yeah. Anna, we're sorry. Applying the term concentration camp to the indefinite detention without trial of thousands of civilians in inhumane conditions under armed guard and without adequate provisions or medical care is not just appropriate – it's necessary. Invoking the word does not demean the memory of the holocaust.

Because that's the thing. If people are looking at the holocaust as this one act of genocide, it... we're missing history.

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: There is more than that. We have to look at everything that led up to it. How people bought into it. How people vilified whole groups of humans.

Brent: Totally. And imagine—

Courtney: Because, guess the fuck what? That's where we are.

Brent: Right. Imagine the holocaust as the bar. Like, I'm not trying to be funny in a way that dismisses the horror of it. But like, you don't get to be like, "At least it's not as bad as that." Like, what the fuck are you saying?

Travis: Well, the thing is, what it really boils down to, I think what both of you are getting at, is like, if you treat... like, holocaust and Nazi concentration camps as this thing that is standalone, like, unrepeatable, how dare you, that was such a specific event, you are now doing discredit to the fact that it can easily happen again if you don't address it as being as severe as you see it.

Brent: Right, as it—

Travis: If you say like, "Well, it's not that bad," like, now you're letting that atrocity repeat itself instead of standing up to someone who is allowing children to die, or worse, killing children.

Courtney: Well, and the implication, too, is this is the only concentration camp in history, and nothing else ever happened when Japanese internment camps...

Brent: Took the words out of my mouth.

Courtney: ... came right after that. Yeah.

Brent: Yep. Exactly. Exactly.

Courtney: Essentially, this is semantic fuckery. Six children have died in custody that we know of. Four children were so sick that lawyers had to

demand the government hospitalize them, and I'm going to quote Huffington Post writer, Angelina Chapin. "The children, all under three with teenage mothers or guardians, were feverish, coughing, vomiting, and had diarrhea. Some of the toddlers and infants were refusing to eat or drink. One two-year-old's eyes were rolled back in her head, and she was completely unresponsive and limp."

According to Toby Giluka, a Florida-based attorney, "It's just a cold, fearful look that you should never see in a child that age," Giluka said. "You look at them, and you think, 'What have you seen?' Another mother at the same facility had a premature baby who was listless and wrapped in a dirty towel. The lawyers feared that if they had not shown up at the facility, the sick kids would have received zero medical attention and potentially died."

And in the midst of all of this, the Trump administration is testifying why they don't have to allow these children to have soap or toothbrushes. Footage of the justice department's Sarah Fabian, fighting in court about how they just don't have to do that, went viral. But the one thing that hasn't necessarily gotten a ton of play is this: if the judges rule that the government has to provide these things, Fabian said they plan to file a motion for reconsideration. They are going to fight to not take care of migrant children.

And I don't know about you guys, but have you guys seen the dipshit people on like, Facebook or in, y'know, various comment threads, where it's like, "Well, then, they shouldn't have come here illegally."

Brent: There are the people that are like... the same people like you said, Courtney, that would be the first to protest a Planned Parenthood for abortion, that are just like... I mean, okay. Even if we assume... let's assume that these... that a parent is not seeking asylum, and they're trying to illegally invade. They're still a kid! There's still a kid with them that is being dragged along. And the idea that it's like, "Well, fuck'em," is... I just... it just doesn't compute. It just doesn't compute, and it can't. It can't not be about dehumanizing them, and therefore, probably racist or worse.

Courtney: It's absolutely racist. Like, no one's even trying to hide that. Or there would also be these concentration camps at the Canadian border! Or

anywhere else that people come from other countries! It's specific the southern border where people are fleeing to save their families, to get away from the potential of death, and come here... and we just let them fucking die. It's horrific.

Travis: Y'know what... the thing about it is, we're gonna talk about this, too, in a second, in my Trumpdate. But the problem is, is like... [sighs] This is such a terrible term, but goddamn it, it's so accurate. Terrible I mean, because of the implications of it, but that is media fatigue. Which is, we have talked so much about the same kind of atrocities that, after a while, it's so easy to just stop talking about them.

Because like, of course, everyone knows about it at this... so like, at this point, what I'm about to say is so obvious, but I also think it needs to be said: this would be a completely different situation and be handled completely differently if these kids were white.

Courtney: Yeah.

Travis: It just... it just... is. Like, and here's the thing – I'm not saying that in my opinion.

Brent: Of course.

Travis: It is objectively true. Like, if they... let's just be honest, the US of A. If they showed you footage of these kids in this concentration camp, and they were blue-eyed, blonde hair, white kids, there would be people marching on... there would be an army of people marching on the facility.

Courtney: One hundred percent. And that's—there's 2,000 children in custody that we know of. And imagine if it was just like, a group of children in any other country, and we heard they were living in these same conditions, that they were being kept by this country. We'd declare fucking war. Like, that's—but this is—this is an atrocity, and people... to see people defending it in any way, shape, or form, or being so concerned about the words, more so than the lives of children? Like, fuck that.

Travis: Uh, so, here's another content warning. Uh, we're going to discuss rape, sexual assault, and just some assault in general in there. So, E. Jean Carroll, writer and advice columnist, published a story in a New York magazine on June 21st called 'Hideous Men: Donald Trump Assaulted Me in Bergdorf Goodman Dressing Room 23 Years Ago, But He's Not Alone on the List of Awful Men in my Life.'

Many news stories only talk about her accusation that Trump raped her in the dressing room of Bergdorf Goodman, almost a quarter century, but that leaves out so much of what the article is actually about. Carroll has been writing the Ask E. Jean column in L Magazine for 26 years, and the article is about how she can't help but notice that every problem that drives women crazy, "Their careers, wardrobe, love affairs, children, orgasms, finances... There comes a line in almost every letter when the cause of the correspondence quagmire is revealed, and that cause is men."

She goes on in the article to discuss that she has crafted a list of 21 of the most hideous men in her life, and she's using this article as a chance to tell you about some of the situations that landed those men on that list. And Trump is on there, yes. But he's just one. She holds up these situations, looking you dead in the eye, and daring you to try to see her as a victim. Before detailing an assault, she's quoted as saying the assault happened "during one of the happiest times in my happy life."

She says incredible things like, "One or two situations may not be pleasant for you to read about. I apologize. But if we all just lean over and put our heads between our knees, the fainting feeling will pass. No one needs to be carried from the room." Now, just repeat, 'cause I want to be 100% perfectly clear, this is not an article focused on Trump. Yes, he is part of it, but he doesn't even come up until well into the article, and his name is barely mentioned.

So what does the article say? I'm gonna tell you. But I just want to reiterate the content warning before I do, 'cause I'm gonna describe it in a little bit of graphic detail. Uh, so please skip that if that is not something you want to hear. We totally understand.

So in the 1990s, Trump caught Carroll as she was walking out of Bergdorf's. He recognized her as "that advice lady," and she recognized him as "that real-estate tycoon." They had met briefly before, but he wanted her to come back into the store to help him buy a present for a woman. She suggested hats and purses, he suggested lingerie, and then asked her to put on a lace body suit. He asked how, I guess, asked her to try it on so he could see it, or tell him how it fit.

Um, he asked how old she was, and when she said 52, he teased her for being old, even though he, at the time, was about 50 himself. She protested and joked with him, telling him to try it on himself, because it was his color, but he convinced her that she should do it. So right then, Carroll did not believe she was in danger. But when she closed the dressing room door, Trump came at her and pushed her up against the wall of the dressing room. He pulled down her tights, and stuck his penis inside her.

From Carroll's account, the entire event lasted maybe three minutes, and she managed to push him off and run away. Carroll told two of her close friends, who have since come forward publically to corroborate her story. The first told her to go to the police and report the rape, and the second told her to never tell anyone, because Trump had over 200 lawyers, and they would bury her.

When asked why she didn't come forward until now, she says, "Receiving death threats, being driven from my home, being dismissed, being dragged through the mud, and joining the 15 women who have come forward with credible stories about how the man grabbed, badgered, belittled, mauled, molested, and assaulted them only to see the man turn it around, deny, threaten, and attack them never sounded like much fun. Also, I am a coward."

I disagree, but... Uh, this harrowing and thoughtful account has barely made front page news. The New York Times ran it in their 'books' section, far from the front page, and most of it was overshadowed by news about Iran, which, more on that in a second. So on the whole, Carroll came forward with this story, and the media went, "Yeah, that sounds about right. Anyway..."

Brent: I mean like, imagine any other president. To be fair, actually, I think this happened to Bill Clinton, and it was a different time. But let's just go to Obama. He wore a tan suit, and it was a week's worth of news, y'know?

Travis: Even... here's the thing. Even though I don't think Bill Clinton necessarily ever actually faced any kind of justice or actual punishment for what he had done, it was a big thing that he ended up, y'know, subsequently being impeached as a result of the discussions about it. So at the very least, it was a bigger deal than any... anyways.

Brent: Yeah, the irony being that he was impeached over ultimately a consensual relationship, despite the power differential, and not what may have been assault many times over. But I'll let that go right now.

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: Well, and it's—it's also—it's kind of its own weird thing where those women all got their... at least like, the attention was bad. They were punch lines. It was horrific. But this is like, not even a blip. It's so... like, the news is so concentrated now, that like, this is just being ignored. And it's that normalization—

Travis: Or worse, I would say.

Courtney: Yeah. Where it's just like, accepted, where it's like, "That's Trump." And then you have the people who are like, willfully ignorant, saying things like, "Wow, this would've been helpful to know two years ago." Really? Fucking really? We needed one more person for everyone to just fucking ignore and vote him in anyway?

Brent: One more person than Trump himself with the 'grab them by the pussy' remark? Like, y'know, you don't really get to play that game.

Courtney: Fucking Christ.

Travis: And y'know, what I've also seen on... y'know, I think the reason I said 'or worse' is because, ignoring, I think, is at least better than the people

who I've seen like, conspiracy theorize that they're coming forth because the 2020 elections are coming up, so they're making it up.

Courtney: Oh, or that like, right-wing... uh, I think it's Newsmax was like, "The woman who accused Trump has previously supported Obama and Hillary..." Like...

Travis: Yeah.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: You mean she didn't support her rapist? My stars and garters. Like, fuck you.

Travis: Um, so, Trump first denied it by saying that he had never met Carroll, which has been disproven with photographs of the two together. Uh, he then said she was "not my type."

Brent: Fuck me. Jesus Christ.

Travis: And this is horrifying for a lot of reasons. First, and not by any means most important, but it is definitely something, like, a creepy thug in a police procedural says when shown a photo of a victim, right? Like, it is not something an innocent, good person says.

Brent: Right.

Travis: Second, it implies that he *does* have a type that he *would* rape.

Brent: Exactly.

Courtney: Well, he's all but said that in the past, or has said that. Like, he has basically stated like, this woman was too ugly for me to sexually harass. Like, he has said this kind of thing before.

Travis: Uh, Trump has also accused Carroll of just trying to promote her book. It's called 'What Do We Need Men For?' It releases July 2nd, and you

should buy it. And then went on to say, "The world should know what's really going on. It is a disgrace, and people should pay for such false accusations."

And we'll just let that last line really sink in.

Brent: For the record, so, Trump has like, a couple words that are always the opposite of the situation. Or like, 'disgrace' means he doesn't know enough about it, but he wants it to seem bad. Also, for the record, 'phony' is a thing he describes things as when they're totally true. He's just got—

Travis: No, for me, I think the part about that that makes my blood run cold is, "People should pay dearly for such false accusations."

Brent: Yeah, it sounds like a Putin line. Or fucking Stalin.

Travis: It sounds like a call for violence.

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: It sounds like somebody saying like, it's very dog-whistley of like, y'know, it would be a shame if something happened to her. Like...

Brent: Yeah, that's a good point.

Travis: 'People should pay dearly for such false accusations' is... that's like, fuckin' mobster speak, and it's terrifying.

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: So the White House released a statement denying Carroll's accusation, and Carroll is the 22nd woman to come forward about Trump's sexual misconduct, which ranges from unwanted kissing to straight up assault. Once again, this is another thing where I saw people saying, like, isn't it convenient that so many women... and it's like, hey, maybe 'convenient' is not the word, and like, 'true' is the word.

Um, it says a lot that something like this can be said about the president, and like Courtney said, it's not even a blip. Like, none of the things it says are good. It's just... it's disgusting that we exist in a time where somebody can say that this happened and have a large majority of people go, "Yeah, that sounds like something that he would've done. Anyway, back to him being president."

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: It's disgusting. Uh, one more piece of Trumpdate. So tensions with Iran have been rising in the past few weeks when surveillance footage was released from the US Military of, supposedly, Iranian people removing an unexploded mine that was supposed to be used to attack Japanese-owned oil tankers in the gulf of Oman. Several countries have said they need much more proof to prove that this video is actually of an Iranian attack, including Japan, whose ship it was.

Um, Germany eventually agreed with the US that Iran might have been responsible for the attack; however, also told Trump to proceed with caution, because lots of people pointed out that like, there's no proof it was actually the Iranian government. It could've just been like, a small extremist group, or someone trying to frame Iran. Like, it just... there's no conclusive proof.

Most foreign governments were not supportive of war. Then, Iran shot down one of our drones, our unmanned drones, and the US claimed that the drone was flying over international waters, but Iran says it was in their airspace. So long story short, last Thursday night, the US almost went to war with Iran.

Uh, President Trump was ready to launch missiles, but at the last minute, said no. He Tweeted, "We were cocked and loaded to retaliate last night on three different sites when I asked, "How many will die?" "150, sir," was the answer from a general. Ten minutes before the strike, I stopped it. I stopped it. Not proportionate to shooting down an unmanned drone. I am in no hurry. Our military is rebuilt, new, ready to go. By far, the best in the world." Which makes it sound like we have an army of robots, by the way.

Brent: Also it makes it sound like our army was, at one point, not built, or broken, as if it's not the best funded thing in the... anyway, keep going.

Travis: So, many point out, though, that the president wouldn't find out about the potential casualties just ten minutes before a strike. He would meet with advisors long beforehand to get a briefing on the site, potential numbers of casualties that would be caused. I could've told you that, 'cause I've watched West Wing. You get briefings long before it happens. It's not... no one comes to you and says, "Hey, we're gonna do this," and then you're like, "Wait, whoa, whoa, whoa. Just before we do, tell me anything about it."

Brent: Well, but see, just real quick, though... I've heard speculation on this, but I've also read a lot of books, uh, that are tell-alls by people that worked with Trump. Now, I'm not saying you're wrong. Obviously, that's how a president going through presidential procedures would do it.

But Trump is kind of this like, "Honey, I blew up the baby," like, toddler, just going around, talking about how, y'know, like, rambling about his election wins. And the thing is, lots of things get done around him. Lots of things that he wants to be done get forever red taped, because nobody wants to tell him you can't do that.

But it makes me wonder if possibly they ran this by him, or they didn't really run it by him, because he's got advisors that kind of do stuff for him. And is it possible that he did? Maybe not ten minutes, but he did find out not long before, because he actually asked about it for the first time?

Travis: That's the thing. It's one of two things - either he is lying, or he's really bad at his job and bragging about it.

Brent: Yes. Yes.

Travis: Um, now, there is a third option that, what could've happened is that the president might've been presented with two different casualty projections. National security advisor, John Bolton, and secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, both favored strikes on Iran, but outsider advisors reminded

Trump of his promise to get the US out of wars and not into them. So it's possible that some people were like, "It'll be fine," and other people were like, "Hey, if you do this, that's a war, dude."

Brent: Yeah, make no mistake – John Bolton was the architect of the Iraq war. He's a neocon. Never met a war he didn't like, and now he's in Trump's ear, and that is so much of the issue here. Iran is not really a threat to us. Not really.

Travis: Yeah. And Pence was supportive of whatever Trump wanted to do, because Pence is... well, he's Pence, isn't he? So, it doesn't seem like we're out of the woods. The president supports talks to try to keep Iran from getting nuclear weapons, but still says that if tensions were to escalate, they will "obliterate Iran."

It seems as though Trump, at the end of the day, doesn't actually want to go to war with Iran, much like every time he's ever bloviated about war. He just doesn't want to continue Obama's nuclear deal. So Pompeo and Bolton remain big fans of invading Iran, which could lead us into a situation that mirrors what happened in Iraq during George W. Bush's presidency. Which—

Brent: I would have to think people would flip shit. Like, there's a few things that I'm kind of always ready to go protest in... like, if Trump didn't leave after he was, y'know, fairly and squarely voted out, I would pack a bag, go down to Washington DC, and just yell. But to me, like, I feel like we all did the Iraq war. So many people that are now a little bit more established in the world that are adults remembered what it was like to just sit there and be like, "Why the fuck are our friends deploying and dying in this thing?"

That I mean, it wasn't quite like Vietnam, but it wasn't not. It's like, what the fuck are we doing over there? Um, I don't think people would let it happen again, but I will say, imagine... let's just imagine... if another country, who was something of an enemy to us, sent an unmanned drone across the border. Imagine.

Like, I just feel like it's such... there's such American exceptionalism all over this, and they are trying to find a way to lie us into a war with Iran and... I really hope the average American isn't too asleep, or isn't just so bombarded with news that they're numb, 'cause many people will die, and a lot of them will... I mean, not that—everyone is a person, but like, our soldiers will die. Young men and women who are, y'know, like, somebody's kid. I don't know. Anyway. I'm rambling. Y'all ready to shift gears a little bit in tone to the big story?

Courtney: God. For the love of fucking God, please.

Travis: Yes.

Brent: Okay, here we go. Let's just kind of towel off out of the—

Courtney: Tell me what I missed while I was drinking Aldi wine.

Brent: So, uh, last night, America saw the first pair—or rather, the first of a pair of debates between the top 20 democratic candidates for president in 2020. Remember now, we're recording this before the second debate, so we'll cover that next week. But last night's dais, the first debate, included Elizabeth Warren, Julián Castro, Cory Booker, John Delaney, Tulsi Gabbard, Tim Ryan, Bill de Blasio, Amy Klobuchar, Beto O'Rourke, and Jay Inslee.

Travis: Now, it's very possible that you heard that, and you recognized, let's say, four or five names, and the rest you were like, "Who, who, who?" Don't worry. You won't have to remember them for long.

Brent: Correct.

Courtney: Some of these people were made up.

Brent: It's true. And I think—

Courtney: There is no John Delaney. He threw that one in to make sure you were paying attention.

Brent: True. And Tim Ryan was actually assembled at Ikea. Anyway, at the end of the night, I tweeted my conclusion, which was that Warren made the best showing, surprise, surprise. Tulsi Gabbard distinguished herself despite a flawed performance. Booker's passion will play well; he'll probably stay on at least 'til the next round. Castro put himself on the map. Beto was surprisingly unimpressive. And frankly, I think the others will never be heard from again.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Brent: Just real quick, though, remember that the three of us have had less than one day to analyze two hours of constant, breathless speech among ten candidates who all have complicated histories and records. So we're going to inevitably fail to mention everything you personally know about your favorite and least favorite candidates. So like, let's keep the conversation going on social media, but please be nice – we can't know everything about every candidate, but we can try our best to give you solid reporting and analysis.

So...

Travis: I would also like to say, real quick, I would also like to say, 'cause I think this is more context that we need for this discussion. When you talk about somebody winning a debate like this, especially when there are ten people on the stage, that can be a really relative term. Because I would say that, going into last night, people expected Warren to do well, and she did. And so, it's really easy to, then, discount that as like, "But did she do well enough?"

And then there are people who I think, like, suddenly leapt ahead, but not ahead of everyone, but just ahead of where they were expected to, y'know what I mean? So it's easy to see them as winning, because they looked better than expected. So I think that it's important... I think, to Brent's point about Warren, objectively, her answers were constructed and delivered the best.

It might be that you disagree with the message that she said, and I understand that. But I think like, for someone to say, "Yes, that is a problem. I will fix the problem, and here is how I would fix the problem," is something that really no one else was consistently doing.

Brent: Right. I think the notion of winning a debate is much more to the extent that it's even applicable or important. Like, when there's three or four, or even two people on stage, okay. Now... and again, we have a shallow definition in America of winning, 'cause it's like, who got lucky enough and was prepared enough and feeling the right way enough? I mean, it's a lot like sports. Y'know, what if a boxing match was on another day? Would the same thing happen?

But anyway, anyway. That was a good point by Travis. I'm gonna say, right out of the gate, Warren established herself as strong, prepared, and progressive. Here was her first answer.

Speaker 1: You have many plans. Free college, free childcare, government healthcare, cancellation of student debt, new taxes, new regulations, the breakup of major corporations. But this comes at a time when 71% of Americans say the economy is doing well, including 60% of democrats. What do you say to those who worry this kind of significant change could be risky to the economy?

Elizabeth: So, I think of it this way. Who is this economy really working for? It's doing great, for a thinner and thinner slice at the top. It's doing great for giant drug companies. It's just not doing great for people who are trying to get a prescription filled. It's doing great for people who want to invest in private prisons, just not for the African Americans and Latinx whose families are torn apart, whose lives are destroyed, and whose communities are ruined. It's doing great for giant oil companies that want to drill everywhere – just not for the rest of us who are watching climate change bear down upon us.

When you've got a government, when you've got an economy that does great for those with money, and isn't doing great for everyone else? That is corruption, pure and simple. We need to call it out, we need to attack it head

on, and we need to make structural change in our government, in our economy, and in our country.

[audience applause]

Brent: Now, the framing of this question is actually conservative, and many of the questions were framed in a pro-corporate way over the course of the night. Surprise, surprise, NBC is a corporation. But Liz kicked the framing of the question in the teeth, used the word Latinx, and seemed both polished and real. I found myself comparing her to Hillary Clinton, who was always very polished, very prepared, but like, didn't always come across with real passion.

Courtney, you pointed out before that the rules are different for women in politics, and that's true. That being said, I am hoping Elizabeth Warren can sort of seize this moment where more and more people are listening to and validating voices of all power minorities, including women. And that she can shake off a lot of the assumptions about what women can do and say in this space.

Travis: Can I just say real quick... My takeaway whenever I see Warren in a town hall, or a debate, or anything where she is allowed to speak, is – and I think that there is a very good reason for this – but she makes me, like... to me, she is like a really inspiring professor. Like, the kind of professor that you want to do a good job in their class, and like, that you would want to be your mentor when you're like, planning your career and stuff.

Like, she really comes across as being engaging, and inspiring, and like, present. Really present and passionate.

Brent: Yeah, and you really buy it.

Travis: Yes! Yes.

Brent: Speaking of women, next up was Amy Klobuchar, who I'm not gonna spend much time on. She came off as bland, weirdly shaky, and just too moderate for the climate we're in, just period.

Travis: It felt like she was playing a different game. Like maybe she was running for mayor?

Brent: Well, y'know, yeah. It's like, certain people, you can tell that they have a certain kind of corporate influence, because they come in with a mission to stick to the boundaries of what they've been told they can say, while trying to imply things they can't say, which people like.

And not only did that seem to be her game, but I don't know, I just... y'know, a lot of this discussion is gonna be about optics. It's gonna be about, are you telegenic? And I don't just mean with like, your looks. Do you come across with charisma? Unfortunately, that is a huge part of the game, and people, like for instance, Bernie Sanders, like... he doesn't have that. If he's gonna overcome that, it's gonna be with everything else. But Amy Klobuchar is not really overcoming her lack of charisma.

Um, so then Beto started in with vague platitude, like, "We all need to come together," which is the same shit we've been hearing since the '90s, and it never happens. No president is going to make you stop arguing with your family at Thanksgiving. But when universal healthcare comes across a president's desk, or it's time to nominate a new supreme court justice, a president *can* make a decision that leads to better outcomes for everyone and bring people together in that way.

Anyway, after like one sentence of word salad in English, Beto turned over to Spanish. Booker kind of shot him a look, and my theory is that Booker's look was like, "Oh, I was gonna do Spanish," 'cause then he did later. Um, and on the one hand, it kind of felt like pandering when it wasn't actually done by Hispanic people. On the other hand, the debate was carried on *telemundo*, and at a time when we're facing an immigration crisis, it's also refreshingly inclusive. So, I was conflicted about it.

In general, feels like Beto's trying to transition from fresh, young, Ted Cruz beater to presidential material, and he just kind of came off as like, boring, stilted, vague, and weirdly much older.

Travis: Yeah. I was texting Brent and Courtney about it like, it felt like he had gotten rid of all of the like, engaging, like, fired up guy that I think made people interested in him in the Texas race, and was trying to be like, "And now I'm presidential," or whatever. But it just—

Brent: Yeah, there was not even a whiff of... there was not even a whiff of the guy that would be like, "Yeah, I was in a punk band and I skateboard!" Gone is any flavor of that.

Travis: Ooh, no.

Brent: And he kind of, uh, not for nothing, he kind of has Obama's cadence. Like, when I close my eyes and hear Beto speak, I feel like he's kind of... I wouldn't say mimicking, but there's a very Obama-esque thing, except that Obama really talks like that, and it seems like Beto just... I don't know, it doesn't feel real.

Travis: Like he studied it.

Brent: Yeah, exactly. Now onto Cory Booker. Cory Booker started out with a good, progressive answer about the badness of corporate consolidation. Then, he took a shot at big pharma. Um, fact check – at one time, Booker had a huge amount of corporate donations from big pharma, and just two years ago, he voted against lowering drug prices by importing drugs from abroad that would've helped vulnerable Americans.

But like, let's put two and two together. Had a bunch of corporate donations from big pharma, then didn't vote for a thing that would lower drug prices for vulnerable Americans. And he came out with an almost non sequitur shot at big pharma in an answer, so he's clearly trying to shake that skeleton in his closet.

But for me, it's basically a deal breaker, because it shows that he has done the um... he has courted massive corporate influence before, and I guess I just feel like some people say, once a cheater, always a cheater. I say, once you've corrupted yourself in that way at a senator level... sorry. You're a hard sell.

Um, then, Julián Castro was asked about the gender pay gap. He established himself as coming from an underprivileged home, which will play well, but he gave some pretty standard answers about women being given equal pay for equal work. And I guess sometimes, there's an answer we've been hearing for years, which is the correct answer, but it kind of feels stale, because it still hasn't happened. So like, I'm not docking him points for that. It just was kind of a question where it's like, there's an obvious answer here. Not really gonna be able to give this much of my own flavor.

Travis: Was it later... I can't remember if it was de Blasio or Inslee, where there was some other question, and he was like, "Well, I'll tell you what's important – a woman's right to choose!" And he kind of like, took to the audience. Like... alright.

Brent: Yeah. Very like, "Eh? Are you buying it?" So, then onto Tulsi Gabbard. She actually was initially asked to sort of give her take on the question Julián Castro just answered about the gender pay gap, and y'know, she kind of did what a lot of them do, which is start it out with her pitch. She just pivoted straight to it, and said the president should put "your interests ahead of the rich and powerful."

She pointed out her military background, including two deployments in the middle east. And that's a strength of hers, but she definitely repeated it throughout the night. like, she was trying to brand herself and characterize herself as, "I've been in the military, I know the cost of war in a crowded field."

Um, and y'know, I think that she took the opportunity to pitch herself, rather than answer an easy wage-gap question, because it wouldn't tell us much about her. Uh, and y'know what, like, she's... as I'll mention later, she has got some big skeletons in her closet. But I just like most of her politics, I like the way she expresses herself and her policy positions, and I'm glad she's trying to rise above the rest of the clown car.

Um, at one point, Warren said, "I'm with Bernie on Medicare for all," which I think is a great move. 'Cause if Warren's gonna win, she's gonna have to

bring over, uh, the Bernie die-hards, at least some of them. She has slightly equivocated on what her version of Medicare for all looks like earlier in the year, but if she shores up her policy on that, I think she'll be in good shape on the healthcare issue, at least for progressives.

So, we can talk about every little moment. It would take six hours. So let's go to highlights and overall themes. Um, Warren occasionally prayed to the vague platitudes gods, but in general, she felt head and shoulders above the rest, and she didn't have to interrupt or fight to be heard, and she didn't go over time. And apparently, I read a tweet – this is anecdotal. I read a tweet that said she's never gone over time in a debate, which I really respect. If you can fit what you're trying to say into the time allotted, it's classy, it's disciplined, and you don't look like an asshole.

Um, but she also probably didn't try to be too extra, because she's polling at either number two or number three, depending on the poll.

Travis: Y'know, I will also say, another interesting thing. I tweeted about uh, about Elizabeth Warren doing a good job, as did many people. And I saw many tweets, both in response to mine, and just out in the wild, about, well, of course she's doing a good job. She's getting the most time.

And what's really interesting to me about that is, one, she did not. There are numerous articles where people like, gauge the amount of time each candidate got, and Booker and Beto both got like, much more than she did. And she only got... like, she was in third, and only slightly above, I believe, Klobuchar. And actually, in one, just like four seconds above Chuck Todd, one of the moderators.

But what's interesting about it is then, I was talking to Teresa about it, and she clued me in to a study by Dale Spender in Australia. Although, not like... the study is great, but it's not like, done in a super clinical setting, so it's hard to gauge the, y'know, how bulletproof it is.

But, the study basically concludes that in mixed gendered conversation, if a woman speaks 15% of the time, male counterparts will say that she got

equal amount of time. And if she speaks 30% of the time, she will be seen as dominating the conversation.

Brent: Do you think it's 'cause of interruption? Like, it's like they're counting the number of times she attempted to speak, and then was cut off? Like, that's a really interesting... I'm trying to wrap my head around why that is. Other than like, patriarchal bullshit and arch sexism. Y'know what I'm saying. Psychologically.

Travis: I think it is probably to do with like, well, she got to talk.

Brent: Right. Right.

Travis: Speaking of, what do you think, Courtney? Sorry. We've been talking a lot.

Courtney: No, you guys keep talking, because I didn't watch the debates. I'm listening to you tell me what happened on the debates. I have opinions about the people that I'm going to share for the end when we do our gut check.

Travis: Cool.

Brent: Awesome.

Courtney: This is not—this quick check, and this is not the men silencing me. [whispers] I didn't watch the debates.

Brent: Okay. I appreciate you saying that, 'cause earlier, I kind of mentioned you, and I was like, "Oh, alright. Ugh. I hope it doesn't seem..." But yeah, okay, cool.

Courtney: [laughs] In the words of Courtney, who cannot speak herself, because she is not allowed to by law...

Brent: God, Courtney's been talking more than us this whole segment! Um, anyway, that was a joke based on what Travis just said. Moving on.

Julián Castro started strong on reproductive rights, saying he believed in “reproductive justice.” But then, he had a swing and a miss when he attempted to include the trans community, but implied that a “trans female,” is what he said, could have a baby, which is incorrect, because by definition, at least to my knowledge, trans men are able to do that, anatomically.

And I look at that and go, that was a... that was in the moment, a mistake, a flub. I'm not holding it against him, but it was wrong. John Delaney—

Travis: I will say, to his credit, not that I don't know what partial credit we give, and I wouldn't even begin to speak for the transgender community. But, I do appreciate that he was the only one in the entire debate, I think, to even say the word ‘transgender.’

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: So like, some credit there.

Brent: Yeah, that was my initial tweet as well. It's nice to hear the word in this context, and not like Caitlyn Jenner.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Brent: So John Delaney, AKA “Who?” kept interrupting, and honestly, so much of his message was about how we can't do or afford these “impossible policies.” And he was just so like... it was just so annoying. And like, okay—

Travis: Yes, like someone's kid brother.

Brent: Yeah. Yeah. Um, he... so like, look. On the issue of impossible, quick soap box. A black president was “not possible.” Gay marriage being the law of the land, or rather, marriage equality I should say, “wasn't possible.” Marijuana being legal in over half the country “wasn't possible.” Female nominee of the major party “wasn't possible.”

So I do not want to hear shit from this guy nobody's ever heard of about what is and isn't possible when the majority of the American people want a big mathematically doable change as soon as possible. And y'know, like I said earlier, American voters can be kind of shallow, and some of these candidates just don't look or feel presidential, like Delaney, Ryan, Inslee, de Blasio.

Travis: Mm-hmm. Delaney does *not* have a... and here's the thing, he started off, like, his big swing was, "Listen, I'm different from these other candidates. I'm a business man."

Brent: [laughs] Yeah.

Travis: And it's like, whoa, I think you might've misjudged what democrats might be looking for in a president.

Brent: Right. Like, it's not like we need a business man to defeat another business man. We just don't ever need another business man. Can we have someone who has been in the government or knows something about something?

Travis: Right.

Brent: Uh, Julián Castro said the recent tragic photo of the two drowned migrants should "piss us all off." I think that played well. Distinguished him as a guy who's gonna get real about stuff, rather than being too polished and robotic. His point was that the American system for processing asylum seekers is broken and cruel, which we've already talked about this episode.

Travis: Uh, I will say, though, real quick. To that point, I can't remember if it was Castro or not, but there were a couple different candidates who mentioned the father and daughter, their words, who died trying to reach America, instead of actually saying Oscar and Valeria. I think Beto was the only one who actually said their names.

Brent: I can't verify that, but I know someone did... I wanted to say it was Castro, but—

Travis: I know it was Beto. I know it was Beto who said it. Um, but I don't think Castro said "that husband and father," which I believe... I think it was... it's so hard to tell, 'cause it's either Inslee or de Blasio or Ryan or Delaney. One of them said...

Courtney: 'Twas one of the whites!

Travis: Yeah, said "that father and daughter" instead of naming their names. And that, to me, was just like, you're trying to score points off their backs, and you don't even know their names. Like, I did not care for that at all.

Brent: Yeah. Speaking of Tim Ryan, or maybe I wasn't. Oh yeah, a paragraph ago. Holy shit, did he get his ass handed to him. This guy... like, he occasionally made decent points, but he came off as shaky and just like, minor leagues, y'know? And this was apparently particularly in an exchange with Tulsi Gabbard, when he gave a so-so answer, and she called him out on it. Let's listen to that. Uh, this is Tim Ryan—

Travis: I'll also say, real quick before we listen to it, not called him out on it like one might a debate competitor. But called him out on it like somebody schooling a fool. [laughs] Like...

Brent: Oh, yeah. And for the record, this is Tim Ryan answering about why presidents can't just pull out of these endless middle eastern wars. Let's listen.

Tim: And the lesson that I've learned over the years is that you have to stay engaged in these situations. Nobody likes it. It's long. It's tedious. But right now, we have... so I would say, we must be engaged in this. We must have our state department engaged, we must have our military engaged to the extent they need to be. But the reality of it is, this president doesn't even have people appointed in the state department to deal with these things.

Whether we're talking about Central America, whether we're talking about Iran, whether we're talking about Afghanistan, we've got to be completely engaged. And here's why: because these flare ups distract us from the real problems in the country. If getting drones shot down for 130 million dollars, because the president is distracted, that's 130 million dollars that we could be spending in places like Youngstown, Ohio, or Flint, Michigan—

Tulsi: Congressman Ryan—

Tim: Or rebuilding—

Speaker 1: Congresswoman Gabbard, I'm gonna give you 30 seconds, actually, to jump off what he said. He described, engagement is the problem.

Tulsi: Is that what you will tell the parents of those two soldiers who were just killed in Afghanistan? Well, we just have to be engaged. As a soldier, I will tell you, that answer is unacceptable. We have to bring our troops home from Afghanistan.

[audience applause]

Tulsi: We are in a place in Afghanistan where we have lost so many lives. We've spent so much money. Money that's coming out of every one of our pockets; money that should be going into communities here at home. Meeting the needs of the people here at home. We are no better off in Afghanistan today than we were when this war began. This is why it's so important to have a present commander in chief who knows the cost of war and who is ready to do the job on day one. I am ready to do that job when I walk into the oval office.

[audience applause]

Travis: It should also be pointed out – his answer was bad.

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: Even before the flub about like, Taliban versus Al Qaeda. Like, his answer was not good.

Brent: Well, the problem being, it's one of those things that sounds active, but means nothing. 'Stay engaged.' What the fuck does that mean? We've been engaged in endless wars for like, coming up on 20 years, to say nothing of other conflicts that are ongoing.

And at the time, uh, that that... y'know, that that happened, what we just heard in the clip, I tweeted that Gabbard just ripped off Tim Ryan's dick and tossed it like a bouquet. [laughs] He looked like a kid in the principal's office. He looked so squashed, and I loved it.

Um, now, Gabbard was also confronted about one of the biggest skeletons in her closet, which is that early in her career, she was opposed to LGBTQ equality. In her answer, she said, "Maybe many people in this country can relate to the fact that I grew up in a socially conservative home, and held views that I no longer hold today."

And y'know, I mean, I think she dug herself out of that hole just fine. I think it was an honest, vulnerable answer, and let's not forget – Obama, at one time, opposed full marriage equality, as did Hillary Clinton, who opposed marriage equality at one time. I believe she also supported DOMA, so like, glass houses.

Courtney: Okay, so, here's the thing about that. I understand that people's views change. I was... I mean, I understood Hillary and how her views from like, y'know, marriage equality evolved over the years. I do think that there are some issues with Gabbard that are... that go deeper, I think, that her ties—not ties, like, she was part of an alliance that literally, um... I'm actually pulling up a thing.

So she worked for The Alliance for Traditional Marriage, which is an anti-gay pack run by her father, and it worked to pass an amendment banning marriage equality, but also promoted conversion therapy. And in official documents, stated, "There is no such thing as a homosexual."

So I... to me, like... in that way that there are layers and levels to things, and there are things that I can kind of see shifting and ebbing over the years, like... conversion therapy is kind of in its own box of "ew." So yeah. There's also—there's one article, too, that like, per an interview that she did, and God, I literally can't find it right now. But like, it said that her personal views have not changed, but she knows that she can't force it on people, which... that, I mean, that's... I don't like it, but like, that's how I feel about like... that's how I feel about abortion. Like, that kind of thing. Where it's like, you can be personally against it, but like, I don't give a fuck.

And my other like, unnerve-y concern with her is that Breitbart really likes her in a way that makes me uncomfortable. I don't understand.

Brent: The reason for that is that she is, um... so she and Steve Bannon, for instance, have something in common, which is they're both kind of anti-interventionist. And anti-interventionism can sometimes be kind of like, y'know, there are alt-right people. There are even white nationalist people that are anti-interventionist. And while I'm not exactly... like, I'm not trying to sell Tulsi Gabbard to anyone, but I like... and cover up these issues.

But the thing is, anti-interventionism is sort of a political idea in isolation from any particular political side. I'm anti-interventionist. If we never started a war, or never put our troops anywhere in the world, and brought them all back from all the bases, I'd be great with that. Maybe if I said that louder, Breitbart would like me. I guess I just feel like that's the main connection with Tulsi Gabbard.

Travis: Here's what I will say about Tulsi Gabbard. If you just go off of the debate, right? If you just look at what happened between nine PM and eleven PM Eastern time last night, I thought she really, uh, distanced herself from the rest. Like, I—I think that just based off the debate, right? A Warren-Gabbard ticket would look real enticing. But—

Brent: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: Once you scratch the surface a little bit, there are not just one and not just about one topic, things in Gabbard's closet of like, yes, anti-

LGBTQIA. Also anti-Muslim at one point. Also... y'know, like, there's a bunch of stuff.

Brent: Well, the anti-Muslim is a tough one to figure out, 'cause she also secretly met with the Syrian president Assad and speculated on whether he was actually responsible for the Syrian gas attack in 2017 that led to Trump bombing Syria. Like, she's got some stuff in there. Certainly has it, but like, it's... it's confusing. I guess I just feel like I... I don't think she's gonna win the nomination.

But anyone that has a lot of ideas I agree with, especially um, if, y'know, like... I just do think a lot of people can relate to coming around on stuff. God knows, I was never a homophobe per se, but I was certainly a Christian churchy kid that would've told you a lot of things about abortion. And I don't know how far into my life I was still, essentially, pro-life, even after I wasn't churchy, y'know what I'm saying? Like, it's...

Travis: My feeling on Gabbard is that she has probably started the first like, steps towards redemption in that way. But I think you got a long way to go, besides just like, saying, like, "Yeah, y'know what? I've come around. You get it." Like, there's probably a lot of behavior from this point that I would say, the people who she has actually wronged would want to see before they would be okay with having her in a leadership position in the White House.

Brent: To speculate that her congressional record, though it is very pro-LGBTQIA, was actually a ruse, and she's secretly a homophobe while always voting for and with people trying to further equality for that community, is just... I mean, again, it sounds like I'm stanning her. I'm not trying to. But I just am trying to stick to certain facts, because I feel like she gets weirdly maligned in ways that others don't. But anyway, let's drop it and move on.

A moderator asked, "Who here would abolish their private health insurance in favor of a government run plan?" Surprisingly, the only two who raised their hands were Elizabeth Warren and Bill de Blasio. Now, in a way, I'm proud of Warren for doing that, but the question was vague. Like, personally? I feel there should be universal government run healthcare, but I don't mind if people who can afford it want to get additional private health insurance on top of that.

For instance, I know a man who is a surgeon and an accomplished pianist. His hands are insured for a high dollar amount, both in case of injury or dismemberment. That shouldn't be disallowed just because the government is providing a base level of healthcare for all Americans. But again, abolish... The question was, who would abolish *their* private health insurance? Which is like, you could interpret that many ways.

Um, and so, to the naked eye, it might have been a bad move for the candidates who didn't raise their hands, 'cause it makes them look friendly to exploitative corporate insurance companies, and that will not play well in progressive and leftist circles. But it's... that's a complicated one, and I really hope that nobody pays too much in the end for that, because again, the framing of the question.

Travis: There is also a lot of factors there to be considered that were not discussed, where it is a very layered issue regarding like, the price of medical treatments, and the price of medical equipment that is astronomically high at hospitals because insurance pays for it.

So like, there is a... that medical prices have increased, because the expectation is that insurance companies are gonna pay for it, so the hospitals want more money from the insurance companies, but it has made medical care, overall, way more expensive in our country. So would it be better if it... y'know, there's all of that, y'know? Of like—

Brent: I just feel like it's—

Travis: It's a very layered issue, and you can't just really say like—

Brent: And again, poorly phrased.

Travis: Would you, yes or no?

Brent: That's the thing. If they said like, "Could you stop believing in your God?" It's like, wait, wait, wait. What? Y'know, and anyway, we'll see where

that goes. I think it's interesting, and I wonder if they're gonna ask it again tonight. Probably not, though.

Um, and so, in the end, Elizabeth Warren had, I thought, the most solid final statement, establishing herself as a candidate who understands regular, everyday Americans. She tied that to the fact that government has the power to help those Americans, and she looked strong as passionate as fuck. So let's listen to that.

Elizabeth: Thank you. It's a great honor to be here. Never in a million years did I think I would stand on a stage like this. I was born and raised in Oklahoma. I have three older brothers. They all joined the military. I had a dream growing up, and my dream was to be a public school teacher. By the time I graduated from high school, my family... my family didn't have the money for a college application, much less, a chance for me to go to college.

But I got my chance. It was a \$50 a semester commuter college. That was a little slice of government that created some opportunity for a girl. And it opened my life. I am in this fight, because I believe that we can make our government, we can make our economy, we can make our country work. Not just for those at the top – we can make it work for everyone, and I promise you this: I will fight for you as hard as I fight for my own family.

[audience applause]

Brent: Okay, so real quick. Co-hosts, let's just do a super short gut check of each candidate now that we've seen this debate. Let's go Courtney, Travis, Brent. I mean, like, a matter of a few words. Ready?

Courtney: Yes. I think it's best that I go first, because I am not you. I don't have knowledge.

Brent: But at the same time, you represent a lot of the American public who is getting it second hand.

Courtney: I represent the real America.

Brent: That's right.

Courtney: Okay, let's go. Let's do this.

Brent: Here we go. John Delaney.

Courtney: Who? I don't know who he is, so no.

Travis: Am I next?

Brent: Yes.

Travis: Okay. I say he needs to get on out of there and leave room for the people who are actually running to be president.

Brent: I would say there's a sitcom that's not very good that needs him to play the neighbor. Okay, next one. Amy Klobuchar.

Courtney: Girl, no. Bye.

Travis: Uh, I would say that she is not going to be president, and should not.

Brent: I would say, I'm just so bored and unimpressed by your moderateness. Okay, Beto O'Rourke.

Courtney: I would say... [laughs] No.

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: I would say that he is an Icarus who has flown too close to the sun by going for president so quickly without distinguishing himself beyond others.

Courtney: And then his dumb bird corpse went through like, all of the layers of the earth. How far he did fall.

Brent: I would say it's time for him to skateboard on outta here. Alright, Bill de Blasio.

Courtney: Like, no. Like, no, though. No.

Travis: Uh, I... [sighs] It's a tough one. That one? Real quick. This is outside the gut check realm, but he definitely had some answers that I liked.

Brent: Mm-hmm.

Travis: But he didn't always deliver them in a way that I liked, and he also spent a lot of time talking about like, how much he's changed the police of New York City. But I also saw lots of people talking about on Twitter like, that that maybe is over exaggerated, if not false. And like, I don't know, it's just one of those things of like, this falls under a bigger point that I'll make at the end. Let's put it that way.

Brent: Cool. Um, so for me, Bill de Blasio, as a New Yorker, a former New Yorker, what is it with New York mayors feeling like they have to run a presidential campaign that will fail? Blumberg, Juliani, de Blasio. It's a disease. They've all caught it. Okay, next. Cory Booker.

Courtney: Um, so there are some people that I am just going to say the words, and by that I mean letters, "VP." Solid VP.

Travis: Uh, yeah. Same. I am... I am interested in what Cory Booker has to say, and I wish he would've said more of it.

Courtney: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And that's talking about the person who, by all calculations, spoke the most during the entire debate.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: You can say a lot without actually saying anything. It's amazing.

Brent: Yeah, true. I would say, I would love a person of color in the White House, but you lost me with that corporate big pharma corruption situation, probably forever. Okay, Tulsi Gabbard.

Courtney: Hell fuckin' no. I'm sorry. I'm just not.

Travis: Yeah, I agree. I'm interested to see where her political career takes her in like, 15, 20 years, but I don't think it's... I wouldn't support her now.

Courtney: I will go back and say, if she has good things to do, she should do that in a lower role. But if she, based on what she has done thus far, she needs to just not do this.

Travis: She's got more work to do.

Courtney: Yeah.

Brent: My thought is, I don't think she's nomination material, but kind of along the lines of Andrew Yang, the things she's saying, at least in the debates to your point, Travis, the things she's saying publically and in this forum, I like them being aired out, and the American people hearing them, even if I think she's probably not gonna make it past the next few rounds.

Okay, next. Tim Ryan.

Courtney: Who? That's not a person.

Travis: No.

Courtney: You made him up.

Travis: No.

Courtney: He is a car dealer in fuckin' Wichita. I don't think he's a real person.

Travis: His answers were not good, and he said them in a bad way, and uh, the... the moment... God, it shouldn't be a big deal. But the moment of him like, confusing the Taliban with the Al Qaeda wasn't like, a bad answer that I disagree with, it was just a really big gaff that didn't need to be made. Like, he was making a point that didn't need to be made, and like, it just was a real bad look.

Brent: Yeah. I just think that in no way is he prepared for either the uh, PR side of this or the actual execution side of doing this job.

Travis: Yeah.

Brent: Period. Okay, next, Julián Castro.

Courtney: Okay, so, if honestly... if like, I had to vote right now, my pick would be a Warren-Harris ticket, but barring that, Warren-Castro.

Travis: Yes. I agree. I came out of this debate, and I was telling Teresa, just based off of what I saw last night and what I know about the candidates now, Warren-Castro would be a good ticket all around.

Courtney: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Like, it is both a good pairing, something I would totally support, and an energizing ticket.

Brent: Yeah, I would totally... I would absolutely vote for Warren-Castro. I do think Julián Castro is very good at rhetoric. He's got demographic advantages in the democratic party, and on the left. I will say – I need to hear more policy substance and policy specifics before I'm sold. He is very good in what he's saying. Made some good choices, presented themselves well. But I am not sold yet on him as a possible nominee.

Okay, next. Jay Inslee.

Courtney: Literally actually who. That's not a person. This is one of those things where it's like an anagram of a real name, and he's a villain, because I have read comic books.

Brent: And Harry Potter. [laughs]

Travis: He, more than any other candidate, strikes me... that was on the stage last night, is doing either running for a book deal, or hoping to get a cabinet position. Because I noticed, and I told Brent this. I noticed that everything he said and answered was about what he had done in the past, not about what he was planning to do once he became president.

Like, he kept talking about how he has worked with the unions. About how he has made sanctuary cities. About bills he has passed. Like, he basically was just, got on stage to be like, "I want you all to know my name and know all the things that I've done. Thank you very much."

Brent: Yeah, he just smacks of an 'also ran' to me. That's all I'm gonna say. And finally, gut check Elizabeth Warren.

Courtney: Give me my fucking president, Elizabeth Warren. I have already bought two Elizabeth Warren shirts. I am *in*.

Travis: Yeah. Same. I... and not just because of the debate last night, but watching her on stage—

Courtney: Just generally speaking. Generally speaking.

Travis: Watching her on stage really—basically, the way she has run her democratic nominee candidacy so far, if she were to funnel all that same energy with like, full blown DNC support in a presidential campaign, I think it would be impressive to watch. Like, she has done like, a hundred town halls. She does like, streaming videos. She posts to like... she's not necessarily good at it, but she posts on social media all the time. Like, she is a good candidate for this right now. And her answers were really great.

Brent: Yeah. I think in terms of this debate, knocked it out of the park, head and shoulders above everybody else. I would absolutely vote for her for the general. I need to see the rest of the field, but I think she's an amazing candidate. I like everybody else, and I'm sure this is even true of Bernie. I want to hear more policy specifics, I want to see how they do when it starts getting ugly. But, she was amazing last night.

Courtney: If anyone has given more policy specifics... it's Elizabeth Warren.

Travis: Mm-hmm. Now, I will say—so, here's the bigger point I wanted to make about the gut check.

Brent: No, hold on, hold on, hold on. She actually has equivocated on exactly how she would do Medicare for all. She is saying she has a plan for that, and that's good messaging. But the thing is, some of the plans are more about, "this should happen" and "here's what we should do" as opposed to "here's the exact plan, here are the numbers."

And I think she's amazing at articulating those plans, and they're good. But I'm just saying like, it's not all the same. When I say policy substance, I really mean like, here's how we're gonna roll it out specifically and not just, here's where I'm coming from. That's all I'm saying.

Travis: So that plays into what I was going to say, which is that, if you look down this list, right? Delaney, Klobuchar, Beto O'Rourke, Bill de Blasio, Cory Booker, Tulsi Gabbard, Tim Ryan, Julián Castro, Jay Inslee, Elizabeth Warren. Four, maybe five of those are actually could even possibly be contenders. And like, the rest... and this is what I kept thinking. The phrase that kept coming to mind is, "You should know better."

Because what I want is, I want to hear from Warren, Castro, Booker, um... uhh... let's see. Warren, Castro, Booker, Gabbard, only because the things that she's saying, I think need to be said. And like, I think that's it of the people who were on stage last night.

Brent: Yeah, for sure.

Travis: Of like... and the problem is, when you actually look at the time breakdown of how much time everyone got, it's like, ten minutes out of a two hour debate. Like, there was so much wasted time on people who will not be, like, president.

Courtney: I mean... [laughs] Shockingly enough, the least mattering people got the least time.

Brent: Okay, but let's be clear about that, though. Even though you're absolutely right, here's the thing with that. If we imply that only the popular ones that everyone cares about and knows should be heard, then what you're saying, unfortunately, there, is the ones that have either had the money or the name recognition from other ways, which are sometimes ill-gotten, Joe Biden, are the ones that should be heard.

And y'know, like, a lot of these clown car folks did not distinguish themselves and aren't worth a shit, and that's a big part of why they're not that popular. But I feel like, once you get into a certain kind of... um, I mean, of course we want to hear less of them. We want them to be able to talk more, and there's a lot of these, y'know, people that we're never gonna hear from again. But I feel like the philosophy behind it, I do want to at least give them all a chance, y'know?

Travis: I understand. I was not saying the people polling the highest, with the highest name recognition. I'm saying, people who really should look in their heart of hearts and have Delaney think, "Will I be president? No." Y'know what I mean? Bill de Blasio, Jay Inslee, Delaney, Ryan, Klobuchar, like... I could say O'Rourke thinking he could be president, right? That's why I said four out of five.

Courtney: Oh, that dude thinks he is going to be the president.

Travis: Right. Of those five? Like, come on, Jay Inslee. Are you gonna be president? And like, there are actual people who will actually be on the ticket come the primary, and I would like them to be pressed a little bit more on their policy. I would like to hear them answer more questions. I would like to actually know what they plan to do instead of having Delaney keep trying to

interrupt everyone to say, "By the way, like, I know about business." Like, cool, dude, get off the fucking stage.

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: That was the frustrating thing to me, is there are candidates up there who I would like to hear more about, because I would like to decide if I would like them to be the candidate for president, and there was a bunch of, as my family would say, ham and eggheads up there just wasting time.

Brent: Yeah. But we've got another about nine months of this, so, we'll see for sure. We'll see.

Courtney: I guarantee we do not have nine more months of Ryan, Delaney, Gabbard, de Blasio, and Inslee. Like, we do not.

Brent: No. No, no. It'll be... I think this field will be half as big in a month.

Courtney: Klobuchar seems... she's got that crazy energy where she's gonna stay in as long as she can. [laughs]

Brent: God.

Courtney: But I don't think it's gonna last.

Brent: That Carly Fiorina energy.

Courtney: Yeah.

Travis: She is going to... here's my prediction I'm at.

Courtney: She's gonna kill us all with salad forks.

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: I think Klobuchar will be like, campaigning in like, Iowa and only Iowa to see how that goes in the primary.

Courtney: She's gonna stand there on a balcony, singing, "You must love meee..."

Travis: Ow! Oh, ow!

Courtney: Oh, no, what happened?

Travis: Something bit my tid.

Courtney: Oh, shit. You're gonna need a shot.

Travis: Tidbits!

Courtney: You're gonna need a shot.

Travis: Luckily I've already had them, because I believe in vaccination.

Courtney: Did you get your tid temperament shot?

Travis: I did. So, Robert Mueller has agreed to testify publically, following a subpoena from the house judiciary and intelligence committee on July 17th. It will be an open session, which is big, because Mueller didn't want this to be public. Mueller has said several times that his work speaks for itself, and that there will be a lot of ongoing investigations that the committee must be sensitive to.

The chairman of both the house judiciary and intelligence committee wrote him to say that they will work with him to preserve the integrity of his work, but that nevertheless, the American public deserves to hear directly from Mueller. And I don't know about you, but I am pretty excited.

Brent: One more bit of political news from me. Tiffany Cabán is a progressive attorney who has been running for the district attorney of Queens in New York City, and she basically pulled an AOC. She's young,

she's queer, she's in favor of decriminalization of sex work, and a lot of other awesome progressive positions.

In this past week, she won the election. And that's the kind of person who is going to be the district attorney of Queens. It's a huge upset, which as a... Queens, as a borough, by the way, has more citizens than some whole states. It's yet another win for the progressive movement. It's a sign that AOC wasn't a fluke, and people with these views can win, because people want these policies. So like, let's hope it'll happen more around the country.

Courtney: So, Eric Trump went to The Aviary in Chicago. The Aviary, if you do not know, is a very fancy bar. It's one of those like, fancy ass like... here is just like, some fuckin' smoke. This is your experience. Maahh! It's one of those bars. And he went there, and a waitress spit on him.

Travis: Nice.

Courtney: And there are people who are like, "This is impolite. This is wrong. Why can we be not less than them?" I just want to tell you. No matter what, always, I will be on the side of punching Nazis and spitting on Trumps. And as someone said on Twitter, it is a sign of how very expensive The Aviary is that they were like, they *could* throw a drink at him, but they were like, this place is fucking expensive. I'm just gonna spit on him.

Always spit on Trumps. Do it.

[music plays]

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.

And then, that's how my day starts.

Biz: Yeah.

Theresa: Come on. I'm so sick of it. When is that gonna be over?

Biz: [laughing]

Theresa: Like, I want it to stop.

Biz: Theresa, you're hurting my ears. [laughs]

Theresa: I mean, that's it!

Biz: Yeah, no, that—

Theresa: I just hate it!

Biz: Yeah, I don't blame you.

Theresa: [censor bleep]

Biz: It sucks.

Theresa: It really sucks.

Biz: 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 Podcasts, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[music plays]

Renee: Well, Alexis, we got big news.

Alexis: Uh oh.

Renee: Season one, done.

Alexis: It's over.

Renee: Season two, comin' atcha hot.

Alexis: Three years after our season one.

Renee: Three and a half. Three and a half. Technically, almost four years.

Alexis: Alright.

Renee: And now, listen, here at Can I Pet Your Dog, the smash hit podcast, our seasons run for three and a half years. And then it's season two.

Alexis: We can match you with new, hot co-hosts named you. Hi, I'm Alexis. We also have a field trip, dog tech.

Renee: Yeah?

Alexis: Dog news...

Renee: Dog news.

Alexis: Celebrity guests...

Renee: Oh, big shots. Will not let them talk about their resume.

Alexis: Nope, only their dogs.

Renee: Yeah, only the dogs. I mean, if ever you were gonna get into Can I Pet Your Dog...

Alexis: Now's the time.

Renee: Get in here!

Alexis: Every Tuesday...

Renee: At MaximumFun.org.

[music plays]

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

[slap sound]

Brent: So, let's start with some stuff you probably already know. Way too many Americans are in jail for non-violent drug offenses. The war on drugs has served as a tool to arrest and jail minorities disproportionately, and law enforcement, in many places all over the country, is entangled in the interests of big pharma, big alcohol, and the private prison industry.

But in the face of that, the state of Illinois just passed a bill making it the eleventh state to legalize recreational marijuana. And dang it, Courtney, I'm jealous of where you live. But it's not just about legalization and recreational weed – more importantly, the criminal records of 800,000 people will be expunged if they possessed 30 grams of marijuana or less, which is just over half a pound.

It's not perfect. I'd rather it be any amount of weed. But that is a huge leap forward for this kind of legislation, and a great example for other states to follow. It's not about watching Adult Swim and eating Doritos. It's about justice for people who have been treated unfairly in a system designed to treat them unfairly.

So, to the state house and governor of Illinois, Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Thanks, everybody. That's gonna do it for this week. Real quick, I want to give a special thank you to Alex. Alex, you helped me write and

research my copy this week, because I needed it, and you did great, and I couldn't have done it without you. So thank you, Alex, and of course, thank you Mustin. Mustin, who helps produce and edit the show. Check out Mustin's work at Mustin.net.

Uh, I also really quick want to plug, we got The Adventure Zone graphic novel, book two book tour coming up pretty soon. It starts, uh, July 16th. Myself and my dad, Clint, will be in Portland, and my brothers, Justin and Griffin and the artist, Carey Pietsch, will be in New York City. And then on July 17th, Dad and I will be in Los Angeles, and Justin and Griffin will be in Austin, Texas.

And just real quick... that Los Angeles show? There's lots of tickets left for that one. Los Angeles just doesn't seem to be selling the way we would like it to, and uh, at all these shows, we've got some really amazing guests, and I'm excited about all of them. But let me tell you – the Los Angeles one is really good. And then, we're doing a show at San Diego Comic Con on July 19th. Book tour show where all five of us, me, Dad, Justin, Griffin, Carey Pietsch will be together, as well as just a whole bunch of incredible guests.

Um, and then, the following day on July 20th, we'll be doing an Adventure Zone show at San Diego Comic Con, debuting a brand new game. A whole new game rule set we have never played before. Uh, so, uh, if you want to come to those, you can go to McElroy.family, click on 'tours,' and get your tickets now. Uh, and for the book shows, the tickets include a signed copy of the second graphic novel.

So, McElroy.family, click on 'tours.'

Courtney: For literally no reason, I also want to thank Travis' assistant, Alex, because Alex is awesome. I just really like Alex.

Travis: Agreed. I very much agree.

Courtney: She's great. Um, so, I have a lot of stuff coming up in terms of like... SYFY Fangrrls is going to be doing stuff at Comic Con. There's gonna be a lot of it. I don't 100% know what it is. But like, stay tuned. I can tell

you that I am going to be interviewing people that you care about. One of them is on this show. The other people are his brothers and his dad. It's fine. Don't fucking worry about it.

Travis: That could be anyone.

Courtney: That could be literally anyone. I'm interviewing Brent and all of his brothers. Um, it's gonna be a lot of that. I'm gonna have like, a bunch of stuff. Honestly, I'm gonna have a bunch of McElroy related stuff coming up, because I have like, literally said to my bosses, I am on that McElbeat, and you can't stop me. So like, do that.

I also have been doing other stuff where I... so, on SYFY Fangrrls, I went back and revisited the board game, Nightmare. If you ever played that as a '90s child, it's a fuckin' nuts game. I have done a lot of like, I just, uh, explained the musical, Starlight Express. So go to SYFY Fangrrls. It's wonderful.

Also, Strong Female Characters, the SYFY Fangrrls podcast, it comes back next week after the Spiderman: Far From Home premiere. We are going to be covering that movie, including one of my co-hosts, Preeti Chhibber, who is the author of the Spiderman: Far From Home tie-in novel, Peter and Ned's Awesome Travel Journal. It's gonna be really good stuff.

I really want everyone to like... if you like me on this podcast, and some of you don't. I have seen your messages. But if you like me on this podcast, I'm the same way on Strong Female Characters. If you like me at all, like, subscribe to that. You're gonna like it. It's three of me.

Brent: As for me, I want everyone to know that my comedy party game, Use Your Words, which I co-created, is on sale right now on Steam, which is a place you can get games for PC and Mac. Right now, it's only \$5.99. That's 60% off for the next few weeks. But grab it while it's hot. Use Your Words. More information at UseYourWords.lol, but just get on Steam.com, or your Steam app on your desktop app. Check out Use Your Words. \$5.99. Thanks.

Travis: Uh, and we also want to say thank you to MaximumFun.org, our podcast home, and thank you to you for listening. You can tweet at us @TrendsLikeThese to keep the conversation going. Courtney, am I forgetting anything?

Courtney: Yes, it's that if my Tanaconda don't want none, you... you... know. That's it.

Travis: Okay, that's gonna do it for us.

Courtney: I got excited about the Tanaconda and forgot the rest of the song.

Travis: No, you did great!

Courtney: Woo-hoo!

Travis: We'll be back in a couple days. See you next time.

Courtney: See you next time.

[theme music plays]

Courtney: No? Okay. Alright.

Brent: Great segue.

Courtney: [laughs]

[chord]

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