

**Trends Like These 232: Trump Wants to Buy Greenland, Spider-Man out of the MCU, The Matrix Will Get ANOTHER Sequel, We May Be Heading Toward Recession, Obama Won't Endorse Biden, Democratic Field Shrinks, Ocean Floor is Swallowing the Titanic, ABC Fined \$400K by FCC**

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[theme music plays]

**Travis:** This week: Spider-Man splitting, Jay Inslee quitting, and a lot of talk about shitting

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

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

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

**Courtney:** And I am the chosen one.

**Brent:** With Trends Like These.

[theme music plays]

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

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

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

**Travis:** And hello, folks at home!

**Courtney:** So...

**Travis:** Yeah, do you see them?

**Courtney:** I see them.

**Travis:** Oh, there they went! Oh, sorry. They are very fast. They're very quick. They're hiding behind their claw-footed armchairs. Their wing-backed chairs.

**Courtney:** I see them in—

**Brent:** You may not know this, listeners, but actually, every podcast listener listens at home. So if you aren't, you're doing it wrong, I'm sorry to say. That's not the rules.

**Travis:** If you're listening in your car, that's illegal.

**Brent:** Yeah. Yeah. I would be careful with that. In many states.

**Courtney:** When I move too fast in the mirror, I see them behind me.

**Travis:** Ooh, the podca—oh no, we're starting to skew into Welcome to Night Vale.

**Courtney:** Oh no! [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Oh nooo! Aw, that would be a good crossover, huh?

**Courtney:** That would be a really good crossover. Cecil, if you're ever available to guest host...

**Travis:** Yeah! We'll cover the trending news of Night Vale.

**Courtney:** Yes.

**Travis:** They could talk about Donald Trump. [laughs]

**Courtney:** [laughs] I would love if *they* could talk about that for a week.

**Travis:** That would be their scariest episode.

**Courtney:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Hey everybody. It is August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. We started about five PM eastern time. So we're finishing up summer. Roundin'... roundin' the bend into the autumn. I'm very excited. It's one of my tied for first favorite seasons. That and spring. I like the transitional seasons, where it's cool enough to wear a jean jacket.

**Courtney:** I love fall. Fall is my favorite season. Spring... can fuck itself. I am—

**Travis:** Oh.

**Courtney:** You want to know my hot take?

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Courtney:** And everyone hates me, and I'm okay with it. Fall... and winter.

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Brent:** Yeah, y'know what it is for me? I agree with you, Courtney. It's a wardrobe thing.

**Courtney:** I like sweaters!

**Brent:** Yeah. I look best in my—like, I've cultivated this strange, like, lumberjacky, woodsy kind of style, even though that's like, could not be further from anything about me. But it's kind of what I look good wearing at this point in my life. And so, the second fall hits, it's like, none of this shorts business. Give me plaids, give me flannel, and give me light jackets.

**Courtney:** Or give me death.

**Travis:** That's why I like the transitional ones, right? Because fall, you're busting out your flannels and your jeans, right? But then you get to spring and you're like, "Ooh, I get to wear some flower pattern stuff, and some—ooh, maybe a short sleeve if I want to..." I don't like the extremes. Too hot, too cold. Don't care for it. I like to be comfortable. I'm a comfortable boy.

**Courtney:** Spring is very rainy though, and I don't like...

**Travis:** Ooh, I like that.

**Courtney:** I don't like wetness. Do with that what you will. Do with it what you will. This is not Question Box. But I don't like being spritzed upon. I've made it worse.

**Travis:** Mmm.

**Brent:** Oh. So you went away from—you went away from—you were like, "I'm not gonna talk about wetness, but I am gonna talk about being spritzed upon. Okay."

**Travis:** I would like to just completely, uh, skid out of this one, into what are y'all drinkin'?

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** [laughs] I'm double-fisting pamplemousse LaCroix, and coffee. Because I don't know about y'all... y'all, the people who live in the mirror, and you and you two, but when I get very, very stress-ed, I get... I have trouble sleeping, and I get very, very tired during the day. And I am drinking coffee, because if I don't do that, what's gonna happen is, I'm gonna fall asleep mid-Trumpdate.

**Travis:** Yes. See, I have hit this position now where I both have a late summer cold, um, and, uh, as I announced on the social meeds, uh, we've

got a second baby coming. Second baby on the way. We're about halfway to second baby.

**Courtney:** [quietly] Yaaay!

**Travis:** Thank you. And then, also, getting ready for, uh, getting ready for DragonCon, as well as big family vacation, as well as live show tour, all in the same like, seven day period. And then also, uh, like, 18 thousand different projects all kind of coming to a head at the exact same time.

So uh, I am, as you might imagine, sleeping so good. Um, except not that.

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** My body tends to take on the shape of a strung bow. Uh, 'cause of the stress and the tension. So I'm having a, uh, a, uh, old fashioned... a cocktail, a chocolate old fashioned with chocolate bitters that I made myself.

**Brent:** Whoa!

**Travis:** As well as a biiiig thermos of water.

**Brent:** Nice. Well, I am gonna be under two influences during this episode. I just got a CBD inhaler. I'm gonna see if it helps with... not—I mean, not particularly show anxiety, but I was like, "I'll just take it and see how the show goes. That'll be a good measure." But also, I'm drinking a cocktail of my own creation. It is peach Perrier, but the booze is Kettle One botanical peach and orange blossom. It is not sweetened with sugar, it just like, kind of infused with those things. So it's like, peach Perrier, peach orange blossom vodka... I'm gonna call it a sex on the peach.

**Courtney:** I like that. Real good stuff.

**Travis:** I like that too. Hey, I like that too. Um, real quick... I got two media recs. Uh, and one isn't really a new show. It's uh, Glow, season three. I watched it all in two days. Uh, it is very good. It goes some places. There are big character developments. Uhh, it's... if you want to hear me talk about

it in detail, I just went on, uh, Max Fun's own Tights and Fights to discuss it with Hal and Danielle, where we talked about Glow season three, and Glow in general, for like 45 minutes. But it's very good if you haven't watched it yet.

If you haven't watched all of Glow, it's only, I think total, like 30 episodes. You could watch it all in like a week. It's very good. Highly recommend. And also, Amazon's new series, The Boys? Uh, that's about a world—

**Courtney:** So good.

**Travis:** Uh, yes. That is—it's kind of a takeoff on uh, like, DC's Justice League, except they're all pieces of shit. And corrupt, and spoiled, and uh, all the superheroes are just kind of detestable, save a couple of them. And uh, there is a group of just normal human beings trying to put a stop to all of it, and it is very dark, very dark humor at times, and at times, very, like, gritty realism. Listen – 'tis not for the faint of heart. Lots of trigger warnings on the show.

But, if that sounds like your cup of tea, run, do not walk. It is a very good show.

**Courtney:** It is gory as fuck.

**Travis:** Oh yes. Oh, indeed.

**Courtney:** And I also have some media recs, and they are also in the gory kind! Glow's not gory. Glow is delightful.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Courtney:** But I—last night... so actually, yesterday, I watched two films. One for work, and one kind of for work, but also just 'cause I really wanted to see it. So first, I'm doing an interview—I'm doing a series of interviews with the cast of a film called Satanic Panic.

And it is a, uh, an indie horror comedy, and it stars Rebecca Romijn and Jerry O'Connell, as well as some upcoming fresh faces. So Ruby Modine, the daughter of Matthew Modine is in it. That girl is going to be a goddamn star.

**Travis:** Oh!

**Courtney:** She is outstanding. But it is a super, super fun horror comedy, and so I'm gonna have some interviews coming out about that. But it's like—it's like a super feminist, like, not for the male gaze, like, slasher comedy, and I love it. Recommended.

And then last night, I saw Ready or Not, and I cannot recommend this movie enough. It was... like, I was just like a human jumpy clap the entire movie.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** It was so good!

**Brent:** [laughing] A human jumpy clap!

**Courtney:** It was so good! I loved it! It was wonderful! I have—okay, I've talked about this on social media before. But when I was, um... when I was pregnant with Jules, one of my old work colleagues said, "Y'know, once you have kids, you're not gonna like those horror movies and gory movies anymore. You're just not gonna like them."

And what happened instead was, I like them so much more now. And I get like, super giddy. And I was just like, every time there was like, some kind of like, really graphic, violent, like, y'know, body explosion, I was like, "Yaaay!" So like...

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** Enjoy it. It's super fun.

**Brent:** Well, gosh. I didn't get the memo that we were gonna be doing media recs. But while I have, uh... recommended her videos before, I can't

stress enough – you're missing out on a lot of interesting thought, uh, if you are not watching ContraPoints, AKA Natalie Wynn on YouTube. She is a trans woman going through an ongoing transition, but she basically, y'know, the idea of watching YouTube videos about philosophy is not really for everybody. 'Cause philosophy can be a very dry, abstract, and at the same time, overcomplicated field.

But she is a philosophy... I believe philosophy graduate student drop out that remembers enough to make questions about things like, "What is the west? What is up with Jordan Peterson? What is up with Ben Shapiro? What is up with the trans aesthetic?" There's a lot going on on her channel, and she's very popular for a reason. Again, it's ContraPoints on YouTube. Check it out.

**Courtney:** She's awesome. No one explodes on ContraPoints. I will say that's the one, um, knock against it.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** [imitating an olde timey villain] Well, well, well. Brent and Courtney, you've fallen right into my trap! You see, you have stumbled... beyond the headlines!

**Courtney:** Would you—

**Travis:** [maniacal villain laughter]

**Courtney:** Would you say, Travis, that we have fallen into your... web?

**Travis:** Yes, of course. I would say that, and thank you. Uh, we're gonna talk about, uh, the spidered man. He was once a man, and then he got spidered, and now he is the spidered man. And after months of negotiation of their film franchise partnership, Sony announced on Tuesday that Kevin Feige, the producer who helped create Disney's Marvel Studios and its Avengers series into the behemoth it's become, will no longer be working on the next live action Spider-Man movie.



Sony seems to be blaming Kevin Feige's departure solely on Disney. The company tweeted this: "We are disappointed, but respect Disney's decision not to have him continue as a lead producer. We hope this might change in the future, but understand that the many new responsibilities that Disney has given him, including all their newly added Marvel properties, do not allow time for him to work on IP they do not own. Kevin is terrific, and we are grateful for his help and guidance and appreciate the path he has helped put us on, which we will continue."

So why do we care, right? A producer is not working on a thing. It's not like, the biggest deal, right? It's not like a star left the franchise, or like, a director, anything like that. But, like fans of the Marvel Cinematic Universe know how much Feige and, y'know, Marvel's guidance has kind of made the whole thing feel very cohesive, that's a thing about the Marvel Cinematic Universe that cannot be overstated.

Even as different movies... like, if you look at the difference between like, the vibe of Ant Man versus Black Panther versus Spider-Man: Homecoming, like, they are all very different movies with very different scope and tone.

**Brent:** Yeah. They find a way to do different genres in the same universe, which is really cool.

**Travis:** Right. But they feel... they feel cohesive, right? Like, you believe that this—like, there's no weirdness when this character appears in this movie, where you're like, "Ooh, that's weird that that character's there." Y'know what I mean? There's no friction in that.

And so, fans of the MCU fear that like, it'll start to be kind of weirdly weakened and like... it will feel weird as Spider-Man starts to drift over this way, y'know? Because the thing is, Sony still owns the rights to Spider-Man, and Disney owns the rest, right? So a lot of that crossover that's happened won't happen so much.

Like, for example, in the next Spider-Man movie, Nick Fury's probably not gonna be there. Right? There's like... they probably won't even be able to

like, reference Iron Man. At least, not as explicitly or blatantly as they have in the past.

Like, I saw somebody say, uh, that Hap... basically Hap and Aunt May have broken up. Like, Hap won't be able to be there. Like, all of these characters that we now have just gotten so used to there being references to... it's probably not gonna be a thing anymore. And the question is, why is this happening? The answer's pretty simple. I mean, it seems to be... money.

And ownership to some degree, but like, that comes back to money. Because Sony owns the rights to Superman, right? Or—sorry, the spidered man. They made the Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield movies before MCU was a thing. And under an expiring agreement, Disney formerly received five percent of first day, dollar gross box office revenue, and Sony owns distribution and screen rights to Spider-Man's solo films.

I don't know if you all remember how in touch everyone was, but when they were able to get Spider-Man for, uh, Captain America: Civil War, it was a *huge* deal. Like, it was not going to be a thing, and then it suddenly was a thing, and it was amazing. Because anyone who knows the comic book Civil War knows that like, Spider-Man is the hinge point of the Civil War series.

So, uh, Disney's recent push, uh, was for a 50/50 co-financing agreement, and they wanted Kevin Feige to continue as the guiding hand of the ongoing Spider-Man movies. So basically, they would split financing and split revenue, and Sony was just like... no.

So, it's a confusing move on Sony's part. Uh, especially since Feige was essential in rebooting the Spider-Man franchise, and uh, bringing Tom Holland into the title role, and has made it... I would say... I don't know if it's more, like, bigger, as far as recognition. But like, bigger as far as popularity goes.

Like, there is... it—I—I never saw the Garfield, which I believe was the Amazing Spider-Man, but I know that the Tobey Maguire ones, especially by like, Spider-Man three, the bloom was off the rose, and they were not the kind of powerhouse movies they previously were before. But if you look at

the Spider-Man movies of the recent MCU iteration, they have been extremely popular.

Um, however, it should also be noted that Sony produced the Spider-Man: Into the Spideverse movie completely separate from Marvel, and that was also hugely successful, and Oscar award winning. Uh, so, it's understandable that the studio wouldn't want to give up ownership of its most profitable franchise.

And then Stan Lee's own daughter spoke out about the split, in defense of Sony. Joan Cecilia Lee's comment was, "Marvel and Disney seeking total control of my father's creation must be checked and balanced by others who, while still seeking to profit, have genuine respect for Stan Lee and his legacy. Whether it's Sony or someone else's, the continued evolution of Stan's character and his legacy deserve multiple points of view."

Um, so, needless to say, fans are not happy about this, right? Several articles and social media posts have taken Twitter by storm, including the hash tag #SaveSpidey, which is weird. 'Cause I don't think Spidey's going nowhere. Uh, arguing that removing Spider-Man removes the heart and humor of the entire MCU, which... I disagree with... ehh...

And it's also really hard to make that argument. I mean, here's the thing – if you look at the announcement of the next iteration of the MCU, it seems pretty clear to me that Marvel and Disney were not counting on having Spider-Man. Like, there was no Spider-Man movie mentioned in there, and... I mean, they're bringing back Blade, they're bringing, like, back Thor with Natalie Portman as Thor... like, it seems to me that they were not banking on Spider-Man.

And the fact of the matter is, like... I don't know. Okay. Let's talk about this. How do you feel about this? Because I know how I feel about it. But Brent and Courtney, how do you feel about it?

**Courtney:** Well... okay, so... I feel... weird? Like, it's...

**Travis:** Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**Courtney:** It's a—it's a power move on Sony's part that I don't think Sony has the actual power to back it up. And...

**Travis:** Hmm, okay.

**Courtney:** But they do... own the property. So... I mean, as bargaining chips go, they've got it. But... the fact is, Into the Spiderverse is a very unique, specific outlier.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Courtney:** Where very frankly, outside of the MCU, Marvel properties... just keep failing, in various iterations. Into the Spiderverse—

**Travis:** Oh, I see what you're saying. Yeah. I see what you're saying. Yes. If you—

**Courtney:** Into the Spiderverse is like the one non-MCU entity of the last, y'know, several years that—

**Travis:** Oh, I would say—I would also say Deadpool.

**Courtney:** Yeah, Deadpool. But Deadpool was very unique in its... like, it was such a unique property. And so was Into the Spiderverse. But Into the Spiderverse is genuinely, legitimately, like, fantastic and excellent. And also, Deadpool did that kind of thing where like, the second one wasn't... very good.

**Travis:** Mmm... errr...

**Courtney:** Fridged a lady. Like, it hasn't had the—they haven't had to learn the lessons that the MCU had to learn over the course of, y'know, 21 movies.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** But... It's... [sighs] I also think that the, uh, the MCU Spider-Man movies are excellent. I love them very, very much. I also think there is more to the MCU than I think that... if going forward, they don't necessarily require Spider-Man, I think that they have opened the door for, y'know... other characters beyond a white male to have, y'know, big roles and big leadership in the Avengers initiative, and so on and so forth.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm. Yeah, that—my worry—I saw a lot of people worrying about the effect on the MCU, right? Like, I think the MCU's gonna be fine without Spider-Man. And y'know, also, the other thing is like, the... believe you me, folks, the money's there. If there is a chance for Marvel to say like, "We will pay you eight million dollars to let us have Spider-Man in this movie for ten minutes," like, they'll figure out a way to make that happen. Right?

I think what we're really looking at is, when we're talking about solo movies, Sony is taking the reins and taking it on full-time. I'm sure if it really came down to it, they'd be able to work something out to have him cameo in other movies. But my main worry is... Spider-Man, this iteration of Spider-Man is like, the best I've ever seen.

**Courtney:** It really is. It's so good.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** And I actually—

**Travis:** I love what they do with him, and... yeah.

**Courtney:** I have a hot take, here. The Amazing Spider-Man movies are very bad. Andrew Garfield deserved better. Andrew Garfield was actually an outstanding Peter and Spider-Man, and that's just—I just want the—I just want to get that out there for the world. 'Cause he did a very, very good job with the very, very bad movies.

**Brent:** He—in terms of the acting, yes. I kind of felt like... I don't know, like, Tobey Maguire and Tom Holland both have the right combination of like, you see cuteness. They are an attractive protagonist. But you also see how they could be like, the nerd in school.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Brent:** And Andrew Garfield, I'm like... this guy... [laughing] Come on.

**Travis:** But see, I think that's the thing is, even going back and watching them now, like... Tobey Maguire seems way too old. Like, they basically played him as like a high school student in the first one, and by the third one, he's like 38 or some shit.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Like, they're playing him as like, "He lives on his own in New York!" I'm like, wait, wasn't he just like, what... how old is this... um, but so, with Tom Holland, it's also the rare exception of like, a good execution of a high stakes superhero that also has low stakes normal human, like... can I go on a date with this person? And I care about both of them equally, in a way that's like, really hard to pull off sometimes.

Um, but like, I just think they seem to have the best understanding of when Spider-Man works best, which is like... the kind of like, great power, great responsibility, finding a balance in life, wanting to still live his own life, but at the same—and that he's a kid. Y'know? And that's what I also really like, is they didn't try to make Spider-Man quippy in the same way that like, Deadpool is quippy. They made it kind of like, he just rambles, and is a little bit hyperactive, and can't seem to stop talking.

And like, that, to me, is like, yes. This is exactly how I picture Spider-Man. So that's my worry. I just don't want them to fuck up Spider-Man, when I think it's running better than it like, as far as I'm concerned movie-wise, ever has. Except for Into the Spideverse.

**Courtney:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Um... so, uh, jumping back. At this time, Tom Holland and director Jon Watts are still signed on for future Spider-Man movies, which I think is a good sign. And Feige is taking on the X-Men universe next, including Deadpool, so it's not like he'll be hurting for work. Uh, so the only real losers here might be MCU fans, who probably don't get, uh, who won't get to see Spider-Man mixed up with their favorite superheroes anymore.

But I also, like... with Tony out of the picture, and like, a new set of Avengers coming in, I always liked Spider-Man best in the Avengers movie, interacting with Tony Stark. Like, that's when it made the most sense to me. So it's not like, "Oh, I won't get to see Spider-Man hanging out with Falcon." Like... I don't care.

**Brent:** Yeah. And I mean, like, as much as I like to keep a set together... y'know, any moment where Disney doesn't get to own fucking everything, like... I think is a small victory.

Um, shall we move on?

**Travis:** Yes please.

**Brent:** Alright. So this Beyond the Headlines headline is vaguely political, but I thought it belonged here instead of the politics roundup, because it is chiefly about economics. So one of the favorite things to talk about in the bubble that loves and defends Donald Trump is that the economy under his leadership has improved, and is better than it's ever been.

First off, it's really only better for those at the top. That's due in part to the 2017 tax reform bill that almost entirely benefits the rich, and the fact that some people think the stock market doing well equals the entire economy doing well, which... nnno.

Again, it's good for the rich and powerful, but not really moving the needle for the average or low income American. And Trump would ostensibly get to crow about his economy as a reason to keep him around for another four years during the 2020 campaign.

Well, looks like that may not be in the cards for him, because many, many signs are pointing toward a coming recession. Um, I'm gonna start talking about three major ones.

First is the inevitable shock from Trump's trade war with China. This past May, Trump said that the 10% tariff that currently exists on about 200 billion dollars' worth of Chinese goods would be raised from 10% to 25%. Like, Trump—if you go back and watch videos of him in the '80s and '90s, he's been saying for decades that the United States is being screwed by other countries.

His solution as president is tariffs, and I'm sure everybody knows this, but a tariff is like... if a country wants to send us a product they made, they have to pay a certain amount just to get it here. And that's a tariff. The problem is, if China has a product that costs \$100 to an American consumer at the current tariff rate, and the tariff China has to pay increases by 150%... well, China's gonna charge more for it to offset that.

So now, instead of \$100, maybe it costs the American consumer \$120 or \$130. It's a boneheaded idea that—

**Travis:** The idea there, right, is that if it costs more to buy from China, you'll buy American. Right? Isn't that—

**Brent:** Well, that's the idea, but like, we rely on China for so many things. And like, I like the idea that—

**Travis:** Because it's 2019 and everyone relies on everyone else for everything!

**Brent:** True.

**Travis:** The idea of like, the problem is, we're not buying American is like... no, the problem is we're not paying people a fucking living wage.



**Brent:** Right. And you kind of have to pick one or the other. It's like, well, do... I mean, yeah, no, you're right. I could go into that, but I agree with you. And the thing is like, um... it's—even elected Trump defenders often dodge or pivot away from defending his tariff idea. And China has announced they're gonna raise tariffs on 60 billion dollars' worth of American goods, so that's gonna cost our businesses more on top of the increased cost to our consumers, because of Chinese imports to America. Double bad.

Now, Trump has walked back from the threat of 25% tariffs. But he still wants to increase the tariffs, and China's government has now ordered their state-owned businesses not to buy American agricultural products, which is a 20 billion dollar industry. So like, bad things will happen because of Trump needing to feel like he's worthy of daddy's love by sticking it to China. Sorry, "Jina."

Um, the second also has to do with China. The US is basically in an arm's race with China when it comes to, uh, industries of the future, like robotics, cellular data technology, AI... this is basically a cold war that escalates tensions. And like, let's be clear – China is kicking our ass when it comes to green technologies, because our politicians are bought by the fossil fuel industry, also known as, "the jury is still out on climate change" people.

In China, solar is actually the cheapest form of energy because they've been working on it and integrating it. It's all part of a—and by cheapest, I mean like, most efficient. It's all part of a growing cold war between us and them that could eventually result in their refusal to import or export certain tech components that could further hurt the US.

And third, oil. If Trump decides to continue the pointless confrontation with Iran, global oil prices could spike, which would also contribute to or outright cause a recession.

What else? Okay, well, about a week ago, the DOW plummeted 800 points. Had its worst day all year after the federal bonds market had what's called an inverted yield curve. Now, stick with me – this is a bunch of words. Here's the point.

The inverted yield curve, you don't need to know what it is. I'm not gonna explain it. I barely understand it. But it's a phenomenon that has happened before every single recession we've had for the past 60 years, all nine of them. Trump and his cronies are on the defensive, saying reports of a coming recession are being greatly exaggerated, and that some forces are actually trying to create a recession, which is like, the dumbest fucking thing I've ever heard.

Now, the Washington Post, which is certainly not a conservative paper by any stretch, is running a piece arguing that a recession wouldn't be Trump's fault. But typically, a president gets blamed by their opposition for any bad economic downturns that happen. Remember when Obama inherited a recession that started a few months before he was inaugurated, and Republicans jumped on his ass about it within a few months of his inauguration.

So, on the one hand, we should not root for a recession. Recessions hurt the most vulnerable among us. They're not good for anyone, except maybe like, y'know, companies that sell cheap stuff like Dollar General or something. But at least if a recession does occur, it could help in the uphill battle to beat Trump in 2020, despite the electoral college.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** Trends Like These is sponsored this week by Dashlane. Dashlane is a password management app that keeps all your online information safe, secure, encrypted, and easy to access. Now, I don't know about you out there, listeners, but managing passwords sucks, and every day, we hear about another data leak, another breach of some huge company, Equifax, some bank, some this, some that.

I recently had to cancel one of my credit cards, because apparently... well, I won't tell you exactly how it happened. [laughs] Um, but y'know, basically, there was... someone figured out a password from one thing or another thing and ended up buying stuff with my card.

Well, Dashlane remembers all your passwords so you don't have to. And it seamlessly auto fills all your login information, syncing automatically across all of your devices. It even stores payment details. So like, you can go ahead and get weird with your passwords, or let Dashlane generate a real stumper for you. And they'll keep it safely stored in a password vault only you can unlock.

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**Courtney:** Trends Like These is also brought to you in part by Hello Fresh. So, last night, I made... oh my goodness. It was a creamy mushroom ravioli, and it was a... oh my god, guys, it was so good. And so, the thing is... so Hello Fresh is for two people. But I'm just one person. So I ate two people's worth of this ravioli, and it was... delicious. And it had, uh... it was like, a mushroom fontina ravioli, and the sauce was like, mushroom stock and sour cream and grape tomatoes and shallots... oh my gosh. It was so. Good.

And here's the thing – I've talked about before, I love cooking, and that's what took me so long to get on the, uh, y'know, these meal plans like this. But like, not only did I, y'know, chop and get to cook and all this, but I'm not gonna make my own ravioli. I'm not doin' that. That's a lot of work. And Hello Fresh did it for me. And it was delicious, and it was easy, and everything was perfectly measured, so there was no waste. There's nothing that's just gonna sit in my fridge and get slimy and nasty.

It was wonderful. And you probably could've had leftovers and eaten it the next day, if you weren't a food monster like myself. With step by step recipes and premeasured ingredients, Hello Fresh makes cooking delicious meals at home a reality, regardless of comfort in the kitchen. There's something for everyone, from family recipes to calorie smart, like I got. Yes, that giant bowl of mushroom ravioli, granted, if I had eaten the portion for one person, was calorie smart. And vegetarian.

And fun menu series like hall of fame and craft burgers. Easily change your delivery—

**Brent:** Can I just real quick—sorry to interrupt. I want to talk about the craft burger I made.

**Courtney:** Oh yes. No, talk about this craft burger.

**Brent:** I got the meat... the carnivore option, and I made melty Monterey jack burgers with baked zucchini, like, panko baked zucchini on the side. And like, I am not someone who cooks. I just baked one of the first non-pancake... I guess pancakes aren't baking. But like, I've just started baking recently. I don't know how to do anything.

And here I am, making an onion jam, ladies and gentlemen, and enbys, and whoever else, and whatever else. Guys, onion jam! On a burger. With uh, Monterey jack cheese. Made my own patties. Panko'd my own zuccs. Folks. Uh, Hello Fresh is—

**Travis:** Hey, don't talk about that in public, sir! This is a family show!

**Brent:** [laughs] Sorry. Didn't mean to get you all into my pankos.

**Courtney:** Basically, you too can go panko your own zuccs at your own convenience. You can easily change your delivery days, your food preferences, and skip a week whenever you need to. For a total of \$80 off in your first month – that's \$20 off your first boxes – visit [HelloFresh.com/Trends80](https://HelloFresh.com/Trends80) and enter promo code 'Trends80.'

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**Brent:** Go do it! Panko your zuccs! For me.

**Courtney:** Wow. Wow. Wow.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Uh, Brent, just a quick, before we go on, I've a quick kind of show note here. Um, I hate to call you out. I don't want to make a big deal out of it. But like, your politics are like, everywhere. There's politics in my drink. There's politics, like, all over my desk. Like, you need to do something.

**Brent:** First off, waiter, there are politics in my soup. But that may be because we are doing a segment we often do where... we round up the big politics stories of the week, into a segment that we call... Courtney, what do we call it?

**Courtney:** We call it Politics, Putting Them in the Dishwasher, because it's your week, *Brent*.

**Travis:** Yep. Yeah, Brent. Hey, look at the chore wheel, Brent. It's your time. You need—

**Brent:** Sorry.

**Travis:** Hey. I did the laundry. Courtney cleaned up all of the loose dog poop in our house, even though we don't have a dog. It's a mystery. And it's your turn to round up the politics.

**Brent:** But I cleaned up after making Hello Fresh, so...

**Travis:** That is true, you did do that, but that's after I scrubbed down the toilet after you know what you did. I don't know why both of mine had to do with poop.

**Courtney:** So many poo-related things.

**Brent:** The fact that Travis and I were roommates for three years in college makes this hard for me not to just stop and discuss things. But yeah, let's do the politics roundup. [laughs] Okay.

**Travis:** Do you all want to hear something cute? Hey, here's a little thing for our listeners. This is a little cute thing, in case you didn't see it on

Twitter, 'cause I was talking about bathroom stuff. The other night, my daughter, uh, Bebe, almost three years old. She was sitting on the potty, trying to make a deuce, and it just wasn't happening. And I kept checking on her, like, "Hey, are you done?" And I checked on her, and I was like, "Hey, are you done?" And she looked at me, very seriously and said... "Squish me."

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And she wanted me to squish her like a toothpaste tube to try to get the poop out of her.

**Courtney:** I mean, did it work, though?

**Travis:** It did not work, but she wouldn't drop it until I went over and tried to do it. [laughs] She is the funniest. I love her so much.

**Courtney:** I've tried everything else, frankly.

**Travis:** Hey. Squish me. Dad. Dad. Can I trust you? Are you there for me? Squish me. Okay, now we can talk about politics.

**Brent:** Alright. Well, this first story is about the continuing fall and probably inevitable demise of Joe Biden's 2020 campaign. I've said before... before he even announced that, somehow, we've forgotten that he's kind of a gaff machine. He's the guy who, back in 2007—

**Travis:** Mm-hmm. He's your embarrassing uncle. We knew that! We knew that!

**Brent:** Exactly! He was asked in 2007 about this new, hot Obama character, and he said that Obama was "clean and articulate."

**Travis:** Some of the most dog whistle shit you can say. [laughs]

**Brent:** Well, the thing is, it's kind of like recently he said, uh... he goes like, "Poor kids are just as smart as white kids." And like, he's... a lot of times, it's

not like, bad intentions, but it's like, bud, you're trying to be, uh, *the president*. You're trying to say you can beat Trump and be better. You've got—anyway, I could go on.

**Courtney:** Everyone somehow forgot that he used to just do nothing but say bad, dumb shit all the time.

**Brent:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Yes.

**Brent:** I mean—

**Travis:** And, and, and! Like, somehow, people have forgotten, like... did we all forget that like, Joe Biden was the vice presidential nominee to make it more okay for people who just wanted at least one old white dude in the house? Like—

**Brent:** Yeah. I'm gonna detail that here in a second, but you're totally right. Like, he basically became vice president from a coin toss. It was a somewhat cynical choice by the Obama campaign at the time to court a certain kind of white voter, and a certain kind of voter who would want a seasoned vice president to counter balance Obama's lack of experience, which was one of his big weaknesses as a candidate.

Now, Obama, who was 46 at the time, is quoted as telling a staffer that "I want somebody with gray in his hair." So, to your point, Travis, like, yeah, exactly. He's no great statesman, Biden, and lately, he's made mistakes that just make him look too old culturally, and his debate performances have made him look too old mentally.

Apparently, even in 2016, Obama quietly advised Biden to sit it out, partially because of his preference for Hillary Clinton, and partially because Biden was coming right off the death of his son. But the New York Times reported this past week about more recent conversations Biden has had with Obama.

Before Biden announced his current 2020 bid, Obama has had several conversations with him, clearly casting his doubt about it. He's quoted as saying, "You don't have to do this, Joe. You really don't." And Obama has said he won't make any endorsement in the primary, which is indistinguishable from saying he won't support his own vice president.

**Travis:** Yep.

**Brent:** Aside from that—

**Travis:** And—and I will also say... man, sometimes I really miss that dude. It's a really, like, diplomatic way of saying, I will endorse whoever gets the nomination.

**Brent:** Right.

**Travis:** Because like, I want Democrats to win.

**Brent:** Yeah. Yeah. And I mean, the thing is, it's the safest thing for Obama to do, but it's... again, he's choosing not to endorse his own VP, who we hear that like, for eight years, they had lunch every week, and y'know, had their own discussion, and became real good pals.

**Travis:** Man, I got lots of best friends who should not be president.

**Brent:** Well, that's the thing. They were pals, sure. But to yeah, exactly. To your point, it's like, that is not the same as somebody who should be president.

Um, and aside from that, apparently Obama has urged Biden to include younger people in his campaign's inner circle, because his closest advisors are too old and out of touch with the current political climate. Duh. And the Time's piece ends this way, "When they were done, Mr. Obama offered a pointed reminder, according to two people with knowledge of his comments. Win or lose, they needed to make sure Mr. Biden did not "embarrass himself," or "damage his legacy during the campaign.""



So, my question... and it's unclear from the way it's written... is this. In the phrase "damage his legacy," are we talking about Biden's legacy, or Obama's legacy? And in light of the fact that the average pro-Biden voter is really just waxing nostalgic for the Obama presidency... is there really a concrete difference between the two?

**Travis:** No, I think that you are pretty dead on. And I—my gut is it was Obama. I mean, even if that wasn't it, then it should've been that, because just watching the debates, he could not, like, stop referencing what Obama had done, as what "we" did.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Like... yeah.

**Brent:** Y'know what? If like... I keep wanting one of the other candidates in the debates to point out the following. And I've tweeted it, and I've said it on this show, I'm gonna say it again. That in 2008, Biden accused Rudy Giuliani of just saying a noun, a verb, and 9/11. Because Giuliani just kept trying to remind everybody he was the mayor of New York during 9/11.

And now, Biden says a noun, a verb, and Obama. If somebody found a way to frame that in a context that didn't seem like it was too prepared, it'd be a slam fucking dunk.

**Courtney:** I also think that it's gotta be Obama talking about Obama, because Joe Biden's legacy... beyond Obama, is questionable at best. And if anyone is knowledgeable enough to know the impact of Anita Hill, it is most definitely the Obamas.

**Brent:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Courtney:** So. Yeah. Sit down, Joe. Go. To. The. Knitting circle. Why is no one going to the—these scarves aren't going to knit themselves! God. So, I looked back through the docs, and I realized, I haven't tagged to do a

Trumpdate in a while. So it's probably my turn. And boy is it ever a turn.  
Jesus fucking Christ.

**Travis:** I'm so sorry. You must walk this path alone, where there is but one set of footprints. That's where Brent and I dove out of the way.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** Okay, so first...

**Travis:** "But Jesus, why is there only one set of footpri—" "Oh, I fucked off. I went and got a latte, my dude. I'm so sorry about that."

**Brent:** Just took ten. Sorry about that, bro.

**Courtney:** Going down the only road I've ever known.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** Like a Trumpdate, I was born to walk alone.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs] White Snake! Topical!

**Courtney:** I already talked about hot snakes. Now I'm gonna talk about white snakes.

**Brent:** Hot snakes, white snakes... all kinds of snakes.

**Courtney:** Aw, so many snakes.

**Brent:** Wait, was hot snakes on the...

**Travis:** No.

**Courtney:** No.

**Travis:** People must not know.

**Brent:** Okay, we'll put that away and just go to the lukewarm snake that is our president.

**Courtney:** Goddamn it, stop! No more snakes!

**Travis:** [laughs] Why did it have to be snakes!?

**Courtney:** Why did it have to be snakes?!

**Brent:** [laughing]

**Courtney:** You're all a bunch of snakes. Okay, so first... it was Greenland. [sighs] After Donald Trump posited the idea of buying Greenland, Danish prime minister, Mette Frederiksen, was said to have referred to the deal as "absurd." Per Reuters in an interview with—

**Brent:** "Roiters." Sorry, "Roiters."

**Courtney:** Oh, okay. Okay.

**Brent:** I'll give—I'll flub it. Sorry.

**Courtney:** Y'know those words that you only ever see written? Like how—

**Brent:** I do. I'm just wanting to help you.

**Courtney:** Thank you. Like everyone thought his name was "Bon Iver" for like a real long time?

**Travis:** I thought it was.

**Brent:** I didn't know it wasn't.

**Courtney:** It's "bone-ee-ver."

**Brent:** What?! It's like Uwe Boll.

**Courtney:** That's his name. That's how you say that? It's "oovah?" I thought it was "ewie."

**Brent:** No, it's "oovah bowl."

**Courtney:** Like Huey, Dewey, and Louie.

**Travis:** Wait, is it?

**Courtney:** [laughing] Jesus.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I thought it was "you bowl." Okay.

**Courtney:** Goddamn it.

**Brent:** Uwe Boll, as in, it rhymes with "DVDs of the Hulk are not movable."

**Travis:** Okay.

**Courtney:** We're great. We're thriving. Um, per Reuters in an interview with a local newspaper in Greenland, Frederiksen said, "Greenland is not for sale. Greenland is not Danish. Greenland belongs to Greenland." I strongly hope this is not meant seriously. Because isn't that pretty much batshit bananas that this is a conversation you have to have, like, seriously? Like, as a human?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Courtney:** Now, in the interview that I was watching, the translation did not include the word 'absurd,' so I don't know if that was the same interview or if something had been lost in translation. But what I saw in that video, um, included, uh... "By the way, Greenland is not Danish. Greenland is Greenlandic. Kim Kielsen said it quite clear, Greenland will not be sold. Thankfully, the time where you buy and sell other countries and populations is over. Let's leave it there."

Another weird thing to have to say out loud.

**Travis:** Right?

**Courtney:** [sighs] Now, beyond that, she was quite diplomatic, discussing the hope of working with the US on the importance of Greenland and the Arctic. She referred to the US as an ally. Presumably, that work will involve preventing people like Donald Trump from stripping Greenland of its resources for commercial gain.

But Trump didn't hear that part. He decided to bust out his favorite word for women who don't just let him take whatever he wants... 'nasty.' He also said, "I thought it was an inappropriate statement. All she had to do was say, "No, we wouldn't be interested." She's not talking to me. She's talking to the United States of America. You don't talk to—"

**Travis:** Oh—wha—

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Oh—I don't like that!

**Courtney:** I don't care for that.

**Travis:** I don't like the insinuation of that!

**Courtney:** "You don't talk to the United States that way, at least under me."

**Travis:** What?

**Courtney:** Which is... that part is a funny statement, because it's like, "She's not talking to me, but you don't talk to me like that when you're talking to us under me."

**Travis:** Yes.

**Brent:** It's his like, Judge Dredd, like, "I am the law!" Like, that's basically what's going on there. I don't like it.

**Courtney:** He also cancelled his trip to Denmark, taking his ball and going home, saying, "Denmark is a very special country with incredible people. But based on prime minister Mette Frederiksen's comments that she would have no interest in discussing the purchase of Greenland—" What the fuck is happening?!

"—I will be postponing our meeting scheduled in two weeks for another time. The prime minister was able to save a great deal of expense and effort for both the United States and Denmark by being so direct. I thank her for that, and look forward to rescheduling sometime in the future!" Exclamation point.

**Travis:** It's one of those things where, listen, folks. We're... what, three years into this?

**Brent:** Four. Oh, wait, sorry, sorry. Not our show. Trump's presidency. [laughs]

**Travis:** Yes. And still, I get reminded of like, what a petulant child he is of like... he said a weird, dumb thing, that then somebody had the gall to say, "That's a weird, dumb thing." And then he responded like, "No, fuck *you!*" Like, hey. That thing you said on Twitter, where they're like... you just need an adult to stop you from saying weird, dumb shit. You said a weird, dumb thing, and somebody pointed out that it was a weird, dumb thing, and now you're acting like they're being weird and dumb... [sighs]

**Courtney:** So, according to the New York Times, Trump actually joked in the past about trading Puerto Rico for Greenland. So guess what, Trav? You nailed it last week! Turns out, this guy might be racist!

**Travis:** Yes. Yeah.

**Brent:** Whaaat?

**Travis:** Listen, that was our first—that was our first indicator.

**Brent:** You don't say?

**Travis:** Up 'til now, we've had no kind of a whiff of racism from this dude! But that, I—I thought, "Oh, what's that? Just a little taste? Hmm."

**Brent:** He's finally broken the seal.

**Travis:** Yep. Just a little taste o' racism.

**Courtney:** Speaking of racist! Speaking out once again against Democratic congresswoman, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, Trump said, "Where has the Democratic party gone?"

**Travis:** Where have all the cowboys gone?

**Courtney:** "Where have they gone when they're defending these two people over the state of Israel? I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat, I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge, or a great disloyalty."

**Travis:** Mmm.

**Courtney:** He doubled down on this Wednesday saying, "In my opinion, you vote for a Democrat, you're being very disloyal to Jewish people, and

you're being very disloyal to Israel. And only weak people would say anything other than that."

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Courtney:** Now, this concept of disloyalty is an old, old anti-Semitic trope that has affected Jewish people for centuries with this idea that Jews are inherently untrustworthy, and it has festered in every sense. It is core to anti-Semitism, as it has always existed and still exists to this day.

But guys, Trump can't be anti-Semitic, because he's apparently... the *king of Israel*, and the *second coming of Christ*.

**Travis:** Well, hold on, Courtney. That thing you just said... that's bonkers! What kind of human being could possibly espouse such a bonkers thing?

**Courtney:** From Donald Trump's actual Twitter: "Thank you to Wayne Allyn Root for the very nice words. "President Trump is the greatest president for Jews and for Israel in the history of the world. Not just America – he is the best president for Israel in the history of the world, and Jewish people in Israel love him like he is the king of Israel. They love him like he's the second coming of God.

But American Jews don't know him or like him. They don't even know what they're doing or saying anymore. It makes no sense. But that's okay. If he keeps doing what he's doing, he's good for all Jews, blacks, gays, everyone. And importantly, he's good for everyone in America who wants a job." Wow! @NewsMax @FoxandFriends @OANN"

He wanted to let all of his friends know about this very nice thing that this insane man said about him.

**Travis:** I also should note, in that tweet, he begins *his* statement, "Thank you Wayne Allyn Root," uh, with quotation marks for some reason? So it looks like he's quoting someone who is quoting Wayne Allyn Root. Except, hey, it's the first ever confusing Donald Trump tweet.



**Courtney:** Can you believe it?

**Brent:** Yeah. Well, I'd also like to point out, um... "The greatest president for Israel in the history of the world"? Um, Israel is 70 years old, bro. Whatcha talkin' about there, dude?

**Courtney:** And then... while discussing his trade war with China, Trump said, "This is a trade war that should've taken place years ago. Somebody had to do it." And then he looked heavenward and said, "I am the chosen one." [laughs]

**Travis:** Hey, y'know what? I'm gonna go out on a limb and say this dude's a piece of shit.

**Courtney:** This fucker is banana pants bonkers ridiculous awful *bad*. [whispers] And I hate him.

**Travis:** Yeah. So let's tid some shits.

**Courtney:** Oh my god.

**Travis:** Um... what?

**Courtney:** Take me away.

**Travis:** Tidbits, take me away!

**Brent:** [snorts]

**Travis:** Um, I am of an age, just as a side note, uh, Brent and Courtney, please chime in. For a long time, I had no idea what Calgon was a product for, or what it did. But I knew that it took you away.

**Courtney:** I knew it predominantly from the Space Mutiny episode of Mystery Science Theater, 'cause there was a character named Calgon, and they just kept saying, "Calgon, take me away."

**Travis:** Yes.

**Courtney:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yes. What is it?

**Courtney:** I think it's body wash?

**Travis:** Ooh, see, I would've said it was dish—

**Brent:** It is a water softener.

**Travis:** I would've said it was dish, uh, soap.

**Brent:** It's a water softener used in both bath and beauty products. Um...

**Travis:** Okay.

**Brent:** But uh, yeah. I mean, I think it also may be used in like, detergents of certain kinds.

**Travis:** Okay. Back in October, during a bit making fun of the president, Jimmy Kimmel live used the emergency alert tone in a sketch on their show. Y'know, the like... [gibberish that slightly resembles beeping] You know the one. This is a test of the emergency broadcast sys—that one.

And it wound up costing ABC 395 thousand dollars. So, FCC rules state that the use of emergency tones can legally only be used in true emergency situations, and that misuse of the tone for entertainment is a public safety concern. Now, I totally get that. This is one of those times where, sometimes we talk about like a uh, a rule or a law or whatever, and it seems really like, pedantic and piddly and stuff.

But when you think about it, like, you wouldn't want a War of the Worlds kind of panic to ensue. I get that. But now let's go on. AMC and Discovery

got hit with fines, too, after AMC used the tone in a February episode of the Walking Dead, I think which I think would be hard to think was real. But even more so, Discovery happened to capture a real emergency alert in an episode of Lone Star Law on Animal Planet. So like, it was just playing in the thing they were watching on the show.

AMC will pay 104 thousand dollars, and Discovery 68 thousand dollars. That's when it starts to get a little bit too... serious for me. Uh, a representative from Disney, who owns ABC, had this to say. "ABC is entered into a consent decree with the FCC that results in the termination of an inquiry into the October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 episode of Jimmy Kimmel Live. ABC takes regulatory compliance seriously, and we are pleased to have resolved this issue."

Each of the companies has agreed to create and implement a compliance plan so they don't accidentally do this again.

**Brent:** Well, quick update on the 2020 Democratic race. Jay Inslee is out. He was the guy who ran mostly on climate change. But like I said, when he announced a viable 2020 candidate will have to tackle climate change, but also have to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time. Maybe Inslee ran mostly to just raise awareness of the problem, which would be totally noble or whatever. But in any case, all the remaining people who have volunteered as tribute will have until August 28<sup>th</sup> to qualify for the next debate, which will be on September 12<sup>th</sup>, and possibly 13<sup>th</sup>, depending on how many of them qualify.

By the way, in order to qualify, a candidate has to get 130 thousand individual donations from at least 400 unique donors in 20 or more states, and be polling at a minimum of two percent in at least four polls approved by the DNC. So far, only ten candidates—

**Travis:** Whew!

**Brent:** Yeah, I know. It's pretty specific. Um, only ten candidates have done that so far, including Biden, Booker, Buttigieg, Castro, Harris, Klobuchar, Beto O'Rourke, Sanders, Warren, and Yang. And as much as

like... look, I have a weird, controversial, not everybody likes it, uh, appreciation for Tulsi Gabbard. I'd be... [inhales] So, so fine with these ten being the only ten to debate next time, and then less of them the time after that.

**Travis:** Y'know what would rule? Y'know what I would love to watch? Two nights of debate with the same ten people back to back, where they have a debate, like, night one, and then they get to go away and like, process the things and prepare statements in response to the thing that people said the night before, and then come back and actually like, rebut with facts, and like, with actual statements and everything.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** That would be so cool, instead of everybody in like, a two hour long thing, getting four and a half minutes to talk.

**Brent:** Right. I would just like to fast forward to Biden, Buttigieg, Harris, Sanders, Warren. That's me, and I might—that might not be how it shakes out, but like, that debate, I'd be much more excited to watch than just ten of them, or god, who knows how many.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** I just want to keep watching Biden getting dunked on. It makes me happy.

**Brent:** [laughs] Yeah.

**Courtney:** It's like my joy juice.

**Brent:** Text Joe to three... oh... oh three... three oh... oh.

**Courtney:** Call 1-800-588-2300 Empire to vote for Joe.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** Um, it was announced this week that Lana Wachowski is going to write and direct a fourth Matrix movie. Keanu Reeves and Carrie-Anne Moss are also back. They are going to be Neo and Trinity again. This is a big fuckin' deal! This is amazing. This is awesome. This is very exciting.

Um, Lilly Wachowski has not been announced as being part of it yet. She is working on a new show for Showtime. I believe it is called Work in Progress. But with this, uh, Lana will be the first out transgender director to helm a blockbuster film like this. And that is a really fuckin' big, big deal. So yay, I'm very excited. Also like, maybe Sense8, another season. Maybe? That's not—I'm just putting it out there in the universe.

**Travis:** I will say, the only thing is like, I am very excited about it. Especially – listen, if you all want to revisit the Matrix series, check out Blank Check. The Blank Check podcast with Griffin Newman and David Sims. They talk, they go a deep dive into the entire Wachowski series, which, their talk about Speed Racer completely changed my—I rewatched it, loved it.

But they talk a lot about the Matrix movies. But my question is, what is it gonna be? What's the fourth movie gonna beee?

**Brent:** I'll tell you this – just don't be a prequel. Please, god.

**Travis:** Oh, I agree. But how could it be a sequel?!

**Courtney:** I don't think it would be a prequel, though. They're older now.

**Brent:** Time will tell.

**Travis:** I know.

**Brent:** That's a good point. I'm just saying, you know how when there's nowhere to go with a movie, they're like, "Ooh, what about backstories?!" And it's like, everyone's got a backstory! Do you want to hear the backstory of the guy on the subway? Like, no! Backstories are boring! Do front stories! Jesus.

**Courtney:** They release the Matrix 4, and it's just Jupiter Ascending, because everyone needed to give Jupiter Ascending another shot. [laughing]

**Travis:** Ooh.

**Courtney:** 'Cause that movie is fuckin' bananas.

**Travis:** And then they block the doors. [laughs] "Ahh, sit down. Just sit down."

**Courtney:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Uh, so! This month, the site of the RMS Titanic was visited by divers for the first time in 14 years, and the remains of the luxury liner seemed to be getting rapidly swallowed up by the ocean floor, and ravaged by metal-eating bacteria. Which that, in and of itself, is the takeaway for me.

**Brent:** Did not know that was a thing.

**Travis:** I know. Uh, the wreck's decay is incredibly important for marine science. Not only did the team observe how the ship was returning to its elemental form while also sheltering a diverse number of animals, but the team of experts used specially adapted cameras that produce 4k footage of the 107 year old wreck. These cameras make it possible to see the site in augmented and virtual reality technology.

The footage is currently being utilized for a new documentary to show effects of salt corrosion, metal-eating bacteria, and deep current action on composition. Uh, CEO of Caladan Oceanic, and chief submersible pilot, Victor Vescovo – sorry, Victor, if I mispronounced that – noted that the dives are a wild success. We now have a proven—this is a quote from Victor. "We now have a proven system that can easily and repeatedly visit any ocean wreck at any depth, anywhere in the world, and study it in detail. We're seriously thinking about where to take her next."

**Brent:** Cancun!

[music plays]

**Rileigh:** I'm Rileigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Taylor:** And I'm Taylor Smirl.

**Sydnee:** And together, we host a podcast called Still Buffering, where we answer questions like...

**Rileigh:** Why should I not fall asleep first at a slumber party?

**Taylor:** How do I be fleek?

**Sydnee:** Is it okay to break up with someone using emojis?

**Taylor:** And sometimes we talk about butts.

**Rileigh:** Nooo we don't. Nope.

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Find out the answers to these important questions, and many more, on Still Buffering, a sisters' guide to teens through the ages.

**Rileigh:** I am a teenager...

**Sydnee:** And I... was... too.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] And I... was... too. Butts. Butts, butts, butts butts.

**Rileigh:** Nooo. [laughs]

[music plays]

**Janet:** Hi, I'm the JV Club podcast's Janet Varney, and I used to suffer from indecision. I couldn't choose between Star Wars and Star Trek, whether to call or text, or the best way to cook my eggs. But now, thanks to my weekly dose of We Got This on Maximum Fun, my decisions are made for me! Thanks, Mark and Hal!

**Speaker 1:** Warning: We Got This may cause shouting, phone throwing, the illusion that the hosts can hear you, laughter on public transit, and death.

**Mark:** We Got This with Mark and Hal. We know what's best.

[music fades out]

**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 the internet, or rather, an internet high five, or... Wi-Five.

This week's Wi-Five is admittedly more of a feel good story than a story of a person going above and beyond, unless you count service dogs as people. Training service dogs is a long and arduous process. Many of them who start out being trained for it just don't make the cut. The dropout rate for organization trained service dogs can be as high as 70%.

So, the ones that are gonna make it are truly going above and beyond, considering all the things they miss out on by being a service dog, and the amount of time they have to be on standby to help their human. They generally have to potty on command, focus on their human and ignore distractions, and learn specific tasks to help with the specific challenges that their particular human deals with.

Well, this past week, a group of service dogs was being trained to accompany their future handlers in the theater environment. So there's this amazing picture of all these dogs dutifully sitting in an auditorium, watching a Canadian production of the musical, Billy Elliot, as part of the Stratford Festival. No humans, by the way. It looks kind of like that shot in the



original Muppet Movie where all the Muppets are in chairs in an auditorium. The dogs are just sitting there, watching a musical.

Uh, I guess it was better to do Billy Elliot than Cats. A-ha-ha. Anyway, that's it. Service dogs. They're great! And unlike a wide variety of humans, they're able to sit attentively during a two hour musical. So to those theater-going service dogs and all other service animals... Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Alright, folks, that's gonna do it for us. First, uh, as always, a big thank you to Mustin. Go check out Mustin's work at [Mustin.net](http://Mustin.net). I also want to say thank you to my researched, Alex Rouse. Thank you, Alex, for your work. I would not have been able to get this week together in time if it weren't for you.

Uh, this weekend, Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>, my father and I are going to be in Bridgeport, West Virginia, doing a fundraiser for Extra Life for Kids. If you come to the Four Horseman Comics and Gaming in Bridgeport, West Virginia – it's near Morgantown, West Virginia – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, we're doing a Q&A panel at 11:00AM, and a signing at 12:30. Uh, the signing is \$20 donation with all proceeds going to support suicide prevention as well as children's hospitals. So come to that.

And also, I'm going to be at DragonCon next weekend, doing stuff Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. If you go to [TravisMcElroy.com](http://TravisMcElroy.com), you can find the details there to see where all I'm gonna be, including photo ops, uh, a bunch of stuff. So go check that out at [TravisMcElroy.com](http://TravisMcElroy.com). And if you want to see everything all the McElroys are doing, [McElroy.family](http://McElroy.family). You can find it there.

**Courtney:** You can read my stuff at SYFY Fangrrls, and you can listen to my other podcast, Strong Female Characters, wherever podcasts are found.

**Brent:** Speaking of other podcasts, I have recently launched a second podcast in the Brent Black family of podcasts...

**Travis:** The Brent Black universe?

**Brent:** Yeah, the Blackiverse. Ooh! No! Not that! Not that.

**Travis:** The BBU.

**Brent:** Anyway. It's called... [laughs] It's called Question Box, the game show podcast of shockingly personal questions. Travis has been a guest, as well as our UK correspondent on Trends Like These, Dave Bulmer. Courtney Enlow is a future guest. And basically, we ask extremely rude, personal questions, and if people can't answer them, then they are risking losing the game.

It's super fun. It's a different vibe. Y'know, when I get TMI on Trends Like These, it doesn't always feel like the news. But it is a show all about TMI. So, uh, you can check out anywhere that podcasts are found. Again, the show is called Question Box, or you can just go straight to our website, [QuestionBoxShow.com](http://QuestionBoxShow.com).

**Travis:** Uh, and let's see... go to [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org), check out all the other amazing shows there. And y'know, just be like, cool and chill to each other. Uhh, and I think that's gonna do it for us. Courtney, am I forgetting anything?

**Courtney:** Did y'all know that Greenland isn't Danish?

**Brent:** Whaaat?

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

**Brent:** See you next time!

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** Okay. [laughing]

**Courtney:** I would love if like, Ben Shapiro exploded. Like, that would be a really good...

**Travis:** Yeah, that would be fine. I'd be fine with that.

**Brent:** I would be suuuper fine with it.

**Travis:** Or just explosive diarrhea. I'm fine with that too.

**Brent:** Which is also called hot snakes!

**Courtney:** Ew. I don't care for all that.

**Travis:** Is it?

**Brent:** [laughing]

**Courtney:** I don't care for any of all that.

**Brent:** Yeah. Yeah, hot snakes.

**Courtney:** Ewww.

**Brent:** Comin' out of ya.

**Courtney:** Stop saying it!

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** Ya nasty.

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