

Trends Like These 235: Shane Gillis, Dem Debate Round 3, FDA Banning Vaping?, Biden's 'Corn Pop' Story, Trudeau Brownface Photo, School Shooting Bullet Hole Hoodies, Kavanaugh AGAIN, Nick Carter's Restraining Order vs Aaron Carter, Dictionary Adds Non-Binary 'They'

Published on September 20th, 2019

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[theme music plays]

Travis: This week: Corn poppin', vape stoppin', and Gillis droppin'.

Courtney: I'm Courtney Enlow.

Brent: I'm Brent Black.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Courtney: And I'm cancelled.

Brent: With Trends Like These.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, Brent and Courtney!

Brent: Hello, Travis, and hello, Courtney!

Courtney: Hello, Brent, and hello, Travis!

Travis: We're all here, and I'm including you! And if this were like a 3D thing, you could see my hand like, coming out of the screen and pointing at you. But I'm including youuu! Welcome!

Courtney: Ahh! Hand in my face!

Travis: Yeah, y'know what? Now that I say it, I apologize. I'm gonna do the two finger Disney point. You! Welcome. 'Cause one finger is a little aggressive. Okay. Hi! Welcome to Trends Like These. It's real life friends talking internet trends. We debunk, rebunk... all that stuff. I can't remember our whole thing. But it's uh—we're recording this at September 19th, 2019, about 5:40PM eastern time. And oh, I'm so excited. I feel like it's been forever since all three of us have been on the show!

Courtney: I know. It's been many moons.

Brent: True. Yes.

Travis: Yes. How is everyone? Brent? I hear your Philadelphia show went well of the Star Trek musical?

Brent: Yes, yes. It went gangbusters. I feel very lucky. The cast was very good. We got two glowing reviews, and uh, a producer came down from New York to see it, and wants to have lunch. So like, y'know...

Travis: Ooh!

Courtney: That's amazing!

Brent: No Tonys on the table yet, but uh, just sayin', it went pretty well. And I feel, as I said before, extremely grateful and lucky for the experience.

Courtney: Yay.

Travis: And Courtney, I understand that you had a very impactful piece about Jennifer's Body that has changed the way everyone sees media. Is that true?

Courtney: Um, y'know what? Yes.

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: Yes.

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: Yes. I think. I think that is the... yes.

Travis: I've just taken a bunch of really good naps over the last week. So we've all got big things going on.

Brent: Wow. So brave.

Travis: Uh, no. I had a very positive, uh, baby scan appointment at the doctor, in which the doctor kept saying like, "Everything's perfect." And in fact, also said that the baby's legs were uh, like, in the 90th percentile for length. I'm gonna have a tall ass baby, y'all!

Courtney: Yeah, girl! Get it!

Travis: Yeah! She's gonna be like, probably, I don't know, basketball player? I was about to name a basketball position, but I would've embarrassed myself. But I have, uh, many athletic friends who have promised that if either one of my kids is interested in learning sports, that they will teach them, so it's very exciting.

Courtney: Thoughts and prayers to Teresa having a long baby legs all up in her rib cage.

Travis: Oh, baby's already kickin' the shit out of herrr.

Courtney: Yeah.

Travis: Oh yeahhh. Uh, so... I am drinking—I'm very excited, because I think Brent is going to be very interested in this. It's the Target brand sparkling water, Simply Balanced. And the flavor is ginger peach.

Brent: Mmm! Does the ginger really come through?

Travis: Uh, the ginger is very subtle. Uh, but I enjoy the flavor immensely. It's definitely peach forward, as one might say.

Brent: I do like multiple kinds of peach essenced bubbly waters, for sure.

Travis: I also got one from them that was a uh, pineapple coconut flavor that is also very good. Very good. What about you? What are you guys drinking?

Courtney: I'm drinking a uh—it's a cabernet sauvignon, and it's called Embrazen. And it's got Nellie Bly on it.

Travis: Wow!

Courtney: And I bought it because I was like, "Yeah, I'll drink that Nellie Bly wine! Nellie Bline!" And it's—I like it a lot.

Travis: Nice. Well, good. What about you, Brently?

Brent: Well, the cast party of the Star Trek show, I lost some seltzer, but I gained some seltzer. And one of the spoils of war is a plastic bottle of Polar seltzer, raspberry... sorry. [clears throat] [in a British accent] Raspberry lime. And it's pretty good.

Travis: Ooh. Ooh! Well, okay. Hey, that's what we're drinking. I'm so excited to do this episode with you all, and the topics we've chosen. Can we please get right to it?

Brent: Let's! Do! It!

[theme music plays]

Travis: Listen, I don't even have time to stop at the headlines. That's how excited I am about this episode, so it's time to go... beyooond the headlines! Okay.

Brent: And here we are. Beyond them.

Travis: Yes. We've made it. [makes a car noise] I just put it in park. So.

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: We've discussed fashion many times on this show. Sometimes, folks on the webs like to discuss what color a dress is, or whether pants covered in fake mud is really dumb, or really super dumb. And when it comes down to it, though, we just aren't fashion experts. But do you reaaally need to be a fashion expert to know that a line of clothes based off of *school shootings*, complete with *fake bullet holes*, is a terrible idea?

This from PaperMag.com. "Bstroy, a self-described neo-native post apocalypse street wear brand, unveiled their spring 2020 menswear collection through a series of images on Instagram, which show models walking a runway wearing the brand's new clothes. Four of the looks, however, received instant backlash for depicting mass school shootings, including Columbine, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, and Stoneman Douglas."

So basically, uh, if you haven't seen them, they are uh, sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts, with the names of those schools across the sweatshirts. And then, fake—well, I mean, y'know, artificial bullet holes in them. So, the brand countered with a statement, the basic gist of which boils down to them trying to bring attention to the issue of gun violence, and the painful irony of school shootings. Buuut... does it?

Uh, as so often happens, I think this week shaped up to be unintentionally themed. Y'know, this happens sometimes when you see like the stories who are catching people's attention, and you realize like, huh, these kind of share a connection. So what we're really talking about right now is using art to make a point, and I think that that can be a noble endeavor. And in fact, I think every artist, no matter what their medium, should strive to have resonance in their work beyond the surface level.

But also, sometimes people aren't doing that, and they're just being provocative. And when I look at these designs, it's reaaally hard for me to look past the surface level shock value. I talk about this more later on, but

basically, when I see these, it really—it doesn't... y'know, they talk about like, bringing awareness to it, but really, it's just... the shirt. Like, all it's doing is saying, "School shootings." Period. Y'know what I mean?

Brent: Yeah. And I think about this... y'know, recently, someone I consider a friend, who is 23, made kind of like a low-key... I won't say a joke, but like, a light reference to 9/11 on Twitter.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Brent: And I thought, holy shit, that is so insensitive. Oh my god, you're so young. Oh my god, it's a whole different thing for you. Reminded me of the South Park episode, that I am in no way ascribing to, but where they say that AIDS is funny, 'cause it's been 20 years. It's now like, past the statute of limitations.

And so, I'm wondering if the generation that has grown up with this just being a part of their lives... I don't know the age of the people behind this stuff, and I'm not defending it. But it's like, I'm wondering if the reason they think it's okay is because, whereas we saw it happen part way through our lives, it's all they've known in their—in their mind, this is acceptable as a form of that expression, whereas it's more shocking to us in our mid-30s.

Travis: I would actually say that it might be, um... okay, from my point of view, just in researching this and reading what the company said about it, and what has been said about the company in the past, I think that they have made a name for themselves by being provocative.

Brent: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And I think that the problem is, when you make a name for yourself by being provocative, you have to keep being more provocative each time. And eventually, you will hit a level of provocative that ceases to be interestingly provocative, and starts to be like, upsettingly provocative.

Courtney: I think that's—

Travis: And I think that that is what has happened here.

Courtney: That's kind of going to be a theme of this episode, I think. And I will just get it out of the way now. Uh, things that exist solely for the purpose of being provocative are real fuckin' annoying.

Travis: Yes. I agree.

Courtney: Really, really annoying.

Travis: 'Cause it just ends up being... y'know, you can't say like, well, it's to increase—here's the thing, right? There is a difference between getting a reaction, versus making an impact. Right? And this is like... you can get a reaction, and then have the person not think twice about it, y'know, the next day. If you make an impact, they might not even have a reaction to it, but think about it for a long, long time, and actually have it change the way, y'know, that they think about the subject.

And this is just reactionary. It doesn't really—like, looking at these designs, you don't go, "Huh, I've never thought about it like that before." You just look at it and go, "Gross." Like, it's just in such poor taste... y'know, here's the thing. This is a fine line. Like I said, I'm not a designer or a fashion expert or anything. But if you just had sweatshirts with the names of the schools on it, that might be something. But then you add artificial bullet holes to it, and that's indefensible to me.

Like, that is so disgusting that that is not like, "We want people to talk about this subject." That is, "We wanted to be shocking." Pure and simple. There's no other way. There's no—you can't convince me there is another motivation other than shocking.

Brent: [sighs]

Travis: So, uh, they should not sell these sweatshirts.

Courtney: Boring. It's just like—it's annoying and boring. Like...

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: Ugh.

Travis: And this is—we're gonna talk about it more, right? Because there will be people who like... god, this has been like the last eight years, who are like, "Oh, you're triggered? Oh, you're upset?" And I want to be like, "No, it's just not good." Like, it is not good. Like, it is—it is objectively uninteresting. It is objectively cheap. It is just not good. It's not that I am offended by it – though I am – it's more like, I am offended by it because it's such a cheap—it's, to me, the same as like, when you see really dumb t-shirts that are like, so specifically targeted to maybe one person who will ever buy it.

Courtney: Mm-hmm.

Travis: That you're like, that's not... that's not... like, if you wear that, no one's like, "Oh my god, that t-shirt is amazing." Like, it is a cheap thing to get attention for that one thing. That's what this is. It's just bad. It's objectively bad and doesn't deserve attention.

Courtney: It's cheap and lazy, and when people say things like, "Wow, you're so easily triggered and offended," and it's like, you're boring and basic. You're not do—imagine thinking you're doing something right now. Imagine thinking that you're brave.

Brent: The edgelords who like, think the word 'triggered' is funny, and like, y'know, "I'm gonna trigger the libs! I'm gonna trigger the SJWs!" are triggered by something. I promise you.

Travis: Yes.

Brent: Their group overlaps with the people that can't—

Courtney: They're triggered by people being triggered. [laughs]

Brent: Those people are the ones that often overlap with the group that can't deal with a Starbucks cup not having, y'know, a fucking Bible verse on

it for Christmas. Like, different things trigger different people, and sometimes it's political, and sometimes it's like, y'know, if you had a bad relationship where X happens, you can have a microtrigger that you go, "Oh, I don't like that."

Travis: Yes.

Brent: That's happened before. Triggers happen. And the thing is, it's absolutely this thing is going to re-traumatize many people who have been in the situation, or even been just afraid of the situation. How many kids have nightmares after having, like, a gun drill? So yeah.

Travis: One of the most painful things was reading parents of school shooting victims, like, responding to these images. And like, saying like, "This is disgusting." And it's like, yes. I cannot imagine. Y'know? Like, it's— and it is also, uh, though this is not at the heart of discussion, but Brent, you have made me think about this, is also a very frustrating kind of deluding of the word 'trigger.'

Which like, for some people, in cases of like, for example, PTSD, right? A trigger is a very real thing. People who have gone through trauma, people who have had, y'know, who have depression. People who are actually like, medically, psychologically triggered by things.

And then, uh, like, jerks and edgelords have come to use it to just mean like, upset. Meaning like, "Oh, you're displaying emotion? You're getting so emotional." As though that is somehow weakness or losing. Y'know? Like, oh, if you get upset, you've lost. And that's just—

Brent: Reminds me of those people like, growing up, the ones that like, will pretend to punch you, and if you flinch, they make fun of you.

Travis: Yes. Yes.

Brent: It's like, oh, am I supposed to train my body not to flinch at things that move fast so that like, I'll get hit by something in the face and not close

my eye one day? Like, it's just dumb. It all stems from, I think, often a toxic masculinity perspective, but also just, um...

Travis: Yes.

Brent: A certain kind of casual heartlessness that grows out of that kind of culture.

Courtney: And zero irony.

Travis: Also, bullying. Yes.

Courtney: In not even noticing, like... they're upset that people are upset. You're offended that people are offended. You are a snake eating itself, and I would very much like if you did, in fact, eat yourself. Because then you'd be gone. Bye.

Travis: Yes. I mean, it's the quintessential moment of like, in any movie or TV show or anything, where like a bully is picking on someone, and loves when everyone's laughing at the person they're picking on. But the second anyone like, laughs at the bully, they get like, super pissed off. It's that, right?

This is—what we're gonna talk about a lot is like, bullying. And bully humor. And like, I think it all ties together, and we will talk about it more in our middle segment. But for now, that's those stupid dumb sweatshirts that should not have existed.

Brent: Alright. Well, moving onto the next headline. Many of you have seen headlines this past week like, "Trump will ban e-cigarettes!" Or, "FDA to ban e-cigarettes!" Uh, there have also been reports that six people, or seven people, depending on which headline you read, have died from vaping.

One of the trending headlines to come out of this was Trump's weird description of his son Baron, as if Baron were only Melania's son. Let's listen to that real quick.

Travis: Yeahhh.

Trump: Uh, vaping has become a very big business as I understand it. Like a giant business in a very short period of time. But we can't allow people to get sick, and we can't have our youth be so affected. And I'm hearing it, and that's how the first lady got involved. And she's got a son together that is a beautiful young man, and she feels very, very strongly about it.

She's seen it, we're both reading it, lot of people are reading it. But people are dying with vaping. So we're looking at it very closely, and y'know, if nothing else, this is a conference that's gonna let people know about it, 'cause people are gonna watch what we're saying, and parents are gonna be a lot tougher with respect to their children.

Brent: Okay. Anything y'all want to say about that clip before we move on?

Travis: It's just so... [sighs] This is... I think what it comes down to is that president Trump just simply cannot speak off the cuff, and also, cannot stop himself from attempting to speak off the cuff.

Courtney: He can't...

Brent: Well, he can't speak off the cuff unless it's self-serving, or bragging, or arrogant, or racist, or terrible. And when he has to be presidential, it just sounds... he says something dumb, or sounds dumb.

Travis: But I mean, even then, even when he's being self—it usually comes out as being this weird, like, gumbo of words.

Brent: True.

Courtney: He doesn't know how to talk words. Like, he doesn't know how to word talk. Like, he's bad at everything.

Brent: I mean, if you listen to him at his rallies, the weird thing is, that's when he can create complete sentences. They're just bad.

Courtney: They're dumb, bad sentences though.

Brent: And he's been saying them over and over again. And then he—to be fair, he also comes out with shit like the Tallahassee Trail when he was like, talking about Mark Sanford and meant the Appalachian Trail. And the thing is, the emperor has no clothes. Nobody challenges him. Anyway.

Courtney: She's got a son together. What the fuck does that mean?

Brent: [laughs] She assembled him from parts. Sewed him right up. Um, okay. So, as far as vaping, let's go over some basics. Firstly, traditional cigarettes have helped kill *millions* of people, possibly billions over the course of the last century. I don't know. Both in terms of cancer, respiratory disease, emphysema, and to a smaller extent, starting fires.

If you're gonna get upset about a tobacco product being harmful and dangerous to people, including children, you'd probably want to tackle cigarettes first? Now, to be fair, tobacco cigarettes have been curtailed in terms of advertising bans, prohibitions on terms like 'lite' being attached to brands, uh, syntaxes, and uh, even some cigarette companies being forced to fund advertisements that show the risk of smoking.

That being said, almost two years ago, the commissioner of the FDA announced a plan to begin regulating nicotine vaping at large while investigating the unanswered questions about the health consequences and potential side effects of various ENDS, which is their term for all nicotine vaper delivery systems, as well as nicotine liquids, which they call e-liquids.

But the FDA has barely regulated the nicotine vaping industry in the time since. So you're seeing these headlines about how six or seven people have died from vaping. Now, a few of them have died from vaping THC products, which are not federally regulated. It's unclear if any of them have died from nicotine vaping, and one of the things that pisses me off about this is that, just as a reporter, the word 'vaping' means a lot of different things.

Anyway, in the stories about these seven deaths, you also see reports of nearly 500 cases of mysteriously vaping-related respiratory illnesses which

span over 30 states. But again, I can't find details or stats about what liquid were they vaping, and what device were they vaping with?

Now, that being said, teen vaping is on the rise. So while the actual cause of these deaths and illnesses is unclear, it is reasonable for parents who don't know much about vaping, or even those who do, to simply be scared for the health of their kids.

Uh, meanwhile, the FDA has sent a stern warning to the company, Juul, which is the largest e-cigarette brand in the US, telling them to stop advertising the product as a safe way to quit smoking. And while I and many people have succeeded in using vaping products to quit, we don't know exactly how safe vaping is. So, that's probably false advertising to pretend to know that it's safe. Um, now, I felt much healthier vaping than smoking, but again, that doesn't mean anything. That's anecdotal.

So last week, Michigan became the first state to prohibit the sale of flavored e-cigarettes; though, the exact rules haven't been set. Now, New York governor Andrew Cuomo has announced an emergency executive action to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarette products – though, menthol would still be fine, begging the question, how is mint not a flavor, and how do you know menthol is okay to inhale via vapor?

With that being said, a paper was published this week in the American Medical Journal's JAMA Internal Medicine Journal this week that investigated the risk of a chemical called pulegone, which is a combination of oil extracts from mint plants. Turns out, it's a carcinogen that cause all kind of bad shit in the lungs of lab rats. And the FDA has banned synthetic pulegone as a food additive. According to this paper, the CDC detected amounts of pulegone in some vaping liquids that were way higher than the amounts of natural pulegone allowed in foods by the FDA.

And the traditional tobacco industry has even limited the use of the chemical for that reason. But, because the FDA hasn't really regulated vaping very well, the e-cigarette industry hasn't felt the need to universally curtail the use of pulegone. My point is to say, yeah, we should investigate all of these things, because it very well may be that all kinds of nasty, harmful stuff lurks in vaping liquids and devices.

There's also a peer-reviewed article, edited by the staff at the University of Texas Medical Branch that says exposure to various nicotine liquid aerosols creates inflammatory responses in the lung cells and tissues of lab mice. So there's more investigating to do into the specifics. It comes down to what our goals are. I would say, if people like vaping and they're hooked on it, and they like it more than smoking, and smoking is legal, how do we make vaping safe? Not necessarily, how do we eradicate the world from vaping? Or rather, vaping from the world.

Now, um, y'know, I've had my struggles with nicotine. And in doing that, smoking, vaping, y'know, a vaping rig, as well as a vaping pen, and also what I consider to be e-cigarettes that are cigarette sized... what I think is missing in all this reporting is the difference between all of these things. Calling them vaping, I think, as if they're all under the same umbrella is a problem, because it's kind of like saying drinking. Like, there's a lot of ways to drink. Everclear's not the same as communion wine.

Anyway. That being said, let's put this in context. Alcohol, for instance, can kill you if you have too much. A handle of liquor could kill you if you drink the whole thing in an hour or two. You smoke five packs of cigarettes a day, serious consequences or death are basically imminent. And while flavored cigarettes have been seriously curtailed by the government, flavored alcohol products are on the rise. Like, every brand from Jack Daniels honey to like, Natty Light lemonade. It's all like, sweeter, more candy-flavored versions.

And if we're worried about teens having access to vaping, why not just raise the legal age of vape products to 21? Or intensify the punishment for selling these products to someone under whatever the legal age is? It just, y'know, with all of this, especially with Trump's statement about, "Oh, think of the children!" Let's be real – how you gonna be up in arms about vaping, but not guns?

In 2016, firearm related injuries were the second highest cause of death in people 18 or younger. That number has kept going up for the past six years. And yeah, there's an amendment or whatever, but like, we're upset about, oh, think of the children, after six or seven deaths? Couple hundred mysterious illnesses, maybe related to nicotine vaping?

Um, and while we're on the subject, nicotine is not necessarily harmful in isolation. Anne McNeal, a professor of tobacco addiction at King's College London argues that nicotine itself need not be demonized, and by itself, could be compared to caffeine.

Also, has no one considered the fact that this would create a black market of vape products? Has there ever been a prohibition of an addictive, mind-altering substance that didn't lead to more crime, and thus, violence, and probably more harm to the public than seven deaths that maybe were caused by nicotine vaping?

Also, I think vaping... y'know, I've caught flak for saying I like to have a cigarette when I drink, because cigarettes can really, y'know, be harmful for people with allergies or asthma. I don't think vaping does the same thing. I think vaping, y'know, doesn't lower the quality of life of people that are around, y'know, vaping vapor, especially outside, in any way near the way that cigarettes do, unless you really don't like the smell of, y'know, gummy worm vapor or whatever.

Anyway. So, to conclude, Trump's administration is planning a ban on so-called flavored e-cigarettes. And his health and human services secretary recently said that the FDA would be outlining a plan to remove all but tobacco and menthol flavored e-cigarette products from the market. The CDC is now stepping up its probe of vaping-related deaths, as well it should... but here is my take.

If traditional cigarettes and alcohol are legal, and users of those products know the risks, then slap a warning on vape products saying the risks aren't fully known, this may be harmful to your health. And let people get on with their lives. And if you don't, if you just ban them, people will inevitably find a way to harm themselves with substances or products that are self-destructive, but also fun.

Courtney: I mean, there's a million, y'know, quote unquote vitamins and other like, fakey, y'know... what are those like... what are the things called—

Brent: Supplements, and all kinds of like—

Courtney: Yes, supplements. I couldn't remember the word 'supplements.'

Brent: Homeopathic bullshit, and...

Courtney: Yeah. And it's like, those are just as potentially harmful and made up and nonsensical. Like, what's the difference. It doesn't matter. Like... let people—let people do their weird, dumb, unicorn milk vapor. It doesn't matter.

Brent: Yeah, and it makes me wonder, like—

Courtney: Please don't do it in my face, but do it like, in your home. I don't care what you do in your house.

Brent: Right. Like, I'm always a little bit skeptical of anything that could challenge the really big industries in this country. Oil, tobacco, pharma. And y'know, like, at what point is this maybe connected to the fact that, if you own a tobacco company, and you've got a shit ton of lobbyists, are you maybe trying to squash the e-cigarette industry?

I'm not trying to be Alex Jones here, but y'know, if you're following the money, it wouldn't be so farfetched.

[theme music plays]

Brent: This week, Trends Like These is supported in part by Dashlane. Now, we all use the internet. Clearly we do, or else you wouldn't be listening to us, unless you have some kind of carrier pigeon podcast delivery system, in which case, mazel tov to you. But...

Travis: You could have it where somebody records the podcast to a cassette tape and hands it to you. I could see that being tedious.

Brent: Can you imagine? Can you imagine getting a cassette tape podcast? Um, but if you don't, you probably have a lot of passwords for the internet.

Or, you probably dangerously just have one. Well, Dashlane is a password management app that keeps all your online information safe, secure, encrypted, and easy to access.

Dashlane remembers all your passwords so you don't have to. If you can't remember the special characters, capitalization, length requirements, and all that stuff for every single website you've ever visited in your entire life, Dashlane can. Dashlane seamlessly autofills all your login information, syncing automatically across your computer, phone, and tablet. It even stores payment details.

So you can go ahead and get weird with your passwords, or let Dashlane generate a real stumper for you. They'll keep it safely stored in a password vault only you can unlock. So, check out www.Dashlane.com/Trends and get Dashlane free on your first device.

As a special offer for Trends Like These fans, they're even offering a 30-day free trial of Dashlane premium, including VPN, dark web monitoring, and more. And if you like it, use code 'Trends' at check out to save 10% on your premium subscription.

Travis: Do you ever see in like, old movies and old TV shows and stuff where someone's like, looking for a job, and they're going through the newspaper and like, circling, like, wanted ads?

Brent: Yep.

Travis: That, to me, seems like perhaps, uh, the most inefficient way of doing that ever. Y'know? And do you want to know what the most efficient way is? Why, friends, that is LinkedIn. 'Cause when you're juggling hiring with everything else it takes to grow your business, you need something that connects you to the right candidates when you need 'em, and that's where LinkedIn comes in.

It's right there. Everybody's looking at it. Everybody's using it. You don't just like, post it in some paper and hope somebody notices. They have over 600

million members, and they visit LinkedIn to connect, learn, and grow as professionals and discover new job opportunities.

LinkedIn can make sure your job post gets in front of the people you want to hire. People with the right hard and soft skills you're looking for – things like collaboration, creativity, and adaptability. And a hire is made every – get this – a hire is made every eight seconds on LinkedIn. It works, people.

With LinkedIn jobs, you can pay what you want, and the first \$50 is on them. Just visit [LinkedIn.com/Trends](https://www.linkedin.com/trends). Again, that's [LinkedIn.com/Trends](https://www.linkedin.com/trends) to get \$50 off your first job post. Terms and conditions apply.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Shane fuckin' Gillis. Hoo boy! Okay, so first, the facts, then the discussion. On September 12th, Saturday Night Live announced their new hires for their 45th season. Now, before we get into anything else, let's first congratulate Bowen Yang and Chloe Fineman.

I think one of the most frustrating parts of this story for me, from a performer standpoint, is that I cannot even begin to imagine the pain and anger for them. To achieve such a momentous career milestone, like getting cast on Saturday Night Live, and have it overshadowed by all this other bullshit? This piece of shit bullshit?

So, now, onto that other bullshit. [sighs] Let's talk about the other new SNL hire announced, one Shane Gillis. Now, Shane is a standup comic and a podcast host, and even a cursory search of his name reveals that his brand of comedy is what many would call 'edgy.' So, Shane got announced as a new cast member, and that very evening, comedy reporter Seth Simons posted clips from Shane's podcast, in which he used slurs and spoke disparagingly of Asians and Jewish people.

It should also be pointed out – these slurs and y'know, shitty behavior? This wasn't from like, 2008. This was from 2018. This was from September, 2018.

Brent: Hmm.

Travis: Okay. There were other clips that subsequently posted in which Gillis and co-host Matt McCusker ranked comedians by gender, race, and sexual orientation, and also used homophobic slurs. So on September 12th, Gillis posted a statement saying, "I'm a comedian who pushes boundaries. I sometimes miss. If you go through my ten years of comedy, most of it bad, you're going to find a lot of bad misses. I'm happy to apologize to anyone who was actually offended by anything I've said. My intention is never to hurt anyone, but I'm trying to be the best comedian I can, and sometimes that requires risk."

Courtney: [sighs]

Travis: More on that bullshit in a minute. On September 16th, SNL announced that Gillis would not appear in the upcoming season. They also apologized that their vetting had not been thorough enough. And now it's time for a break down.

[sighs] Okay, now, I was gonna talk a lot... I have a lot written. I'm gonna get to that in a second. But I would like to just break down that statement for a minute. So, I'll get to like, the boundaries and risk statement in a minute. But first, "If you go through my ten years of comedy, most of it bad, you're going to find a lot of bad misses." This was from a calendar year ago. This is not from a decade ago. This is like... this is within the last year.

And then he says, "I'm happy to apologize to anyone who is actually offended by anything I've said." Period. Full stop. Where's the apology, then? People were offended. People were upset, and no apology came. And to include that 'actually,' by anyone who is 'actually' offended, implies that all of everything everyone's saying about these things he's said is just like, smoke screen bullshit hubbub to get him in trouble, and no one's actually offended.

And then to say, "My intention is never to hurt anyone." You're saying homophobic and racist slurs. In what way is using slurs not intended to hurt someone?

Courtney: Well, and the 'but' right after too is just like... "My intention is never to hurt anyone – but it's more important that I make people laugh by like, saying the other F word, and like, calling Asian people horrible slurs. So like, that's really more important to me personallyyy, sooo..."

Travis: It also implies that saying, "I don't want to hurt anyone, *but* I'm trying to be the best comedian I can," is that in order to be a comedian, you have to be offensive and hurtful. That there's no way to be a good comedian without using slurs and being sexist and racist and y'know, all kinds of different phobics. Like... [sighs]

Courtney: Also, he's 38. Just FYI. Because I saw a couple people like, "Y'know, you're trying to ruin the lives of young comedians!" He's 38.

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: He's 38. Calm down.

Travis: Okay. So, I know that comedy, like any art, is subjective. And even if Shane Gillis didn't use racist, sexist, homophobic and otherwise shitty terms, I still wouldn't like his comedy. I think it's low hanging fruit bully comedy, and frankly, I think it's mean and cheap. At least, the things I have seen.

Maybe he has some real amazing gems out there that I have not been made aware of. But if you look at the clips in question, and other clips that are circulating, they're not jokes so much as they are... like Brent was saying earlier, like, the kind of bully humor of like, pushing someone down so everyone will laugh, or like, going to punch someone and making them flinch. Like, that's it.

[sighs] So, I am not going to look at this from a personal standpoint. I'm going to attempt to remove that part of my feelings about it and talk about it from a professional standpoint. Um, I'm willing to try to talk about it objectively, right? Because there are lots of people saying, "Oh, his comedy

is just edgy, or you don't get it." Right? So this is not about me not 'getting' the joke, or being, y'know, offended by it or whatever. Right? Okay.

So, the comments and jokes showcased in the clip are not good. There is no unique observation to them. There are no twists and turns in the delivery. He's just using shocking words to try to get a laugh, the way one might say 'fart' to a four year old to get it to giggle. Right? That is it. And that's not about me being offended by it. That is the structure of joke he is using in these clips. Right? Shocking term, racist voice, whatever, just to make you like, "Oh, I can't believe he said it!" Right? Not that he said anything of substance or value.

If you even listen to it, even if you remove the like, racist terms and voices and shit, all that they're saying is like... "I don't like, y'know, the architecture in Chinatown." Or, "I don't like Chinese food." Like, that's it. It's the equivalent of like, "What's the deal with plane food?" It's terrible.

Okay. This is why his statement about pushing boundaries and risks is so laughable. Because being shocking just to be shocking, and pushing boundaries are not the same thing. The example that keeps coming to mind for me is that Cameron Esposito filmed a special called Rape Jokes. And in it, she discusses and makes jokes about the topic of sexual assault. And she's able to do so in a way that is both respectful and thought provoking.

Now, compare that to a comedian that makes an actual rape joke with no deeper intention than to shock. Simply saying the words isn't thought provoking. Let's return to the example of the school shooting sweatshirts. They're basically just saying, "Gun violence in schools." Period. Without any additional commentary. It's not insightful. There's no take on it. It's just saying the words to get a reaction.

One of the jokes Gillis made on his podcast is that Asian people trying to learn English is annoying. What could the commentary be there, other than racist? What... what... what forwarding of the discussion is that having? Except for people who think Asian people trying to learn English is annoying to agree with that.

Courtney: He pushed those boundaries so far.

Travis: Right. He's pushing the boundaries backwards.

Courtney: So risky.

Travis: This is the thing that I was thinking about. Let's talk about pushing boundaries, right? This is the way comedy evolution works. Right? For example, let's say back in the '50s, right, there's a comedian who makes jokes about how sex should only be confined to marriage. Right? People who agree with that find that perfectly normal.

The next generation, who is upset by that, find it offensive. Right? So then, comedians who want to grow and evolve and grow an audience start looking for ways to make jokes that are more inclusive of their new audience, right? So now they start talking about the sexual revolution in the '60s, and how people should be able to—y'know, a man and a woman should be able to have sex whenever they want outside of marriage.

Now, that current generation agrees with that. But the future generation in the '80s is upset that it is so heteronormative to men and women, right? So now, in the next generation, we start seeing jokes about how, y'know, gay sex between a man and a man or a woman and a woman, totally cool, super awesome, from that point of view, moving that conversation forward.

Then, that generation accepts that, but the future generation sees that as being gender binary, and that they need to expand that. And so, like, it goes on and on, right? Because that is how you grow an audience while you grow the conversation, and advance social commentary. And trying to maintain the status quo of, "I should be allowed to say offensive things and upset people because I like upsetting people and saying offensive things," that's not pushing boundaries or being risky.

I've seen people compare this to like, George Carlin and Lenny Bruce, and frankly, fuck you if you do that. Because one, Shane Gillis ain't George Carlin or Lenny Bruce in any way. And two, Lenny Bruce and George Carlin were

saying offensive things to point out how fucking ridiculous that they weren't allowed to forward the conversation because of censorship.

Actual like, government censorship. Not like, people don't laugh at these jokes, or people think these jokes are bad, or these jokes stopped me from getting a job, but actual government censorship where they were fined for saying things.

Brent: Right. And Carlin and Lenny Bruce were like, pushing against an establishment. So to the extent that—I mean, like, I've watched a lot of Carlin. And if you go back far enough, there's stuff that you're like, "Ooh, that wouldn't play today." But the thing is, he was never playing to the lowest common denominator, and everyone is in their own time. Y'know?

Like, when Jerry Lewis died, we talked about how he said some shitty stuff. He has, but you cannot not consider the fact that he was in his 90s in context. That doesn't make what he said good, but it is part of the context. The difference here is I think Shane Gillis is playing to the worst part of what still might be in the bell curve of the mainstream, and not trying to move things toward a better place.

And the thing is, that's your prerogative within free speech, but you can't do without catching shit from people with the right idea. And now you have.

Travis: Right. And also, man, they'll never say it, right? But I wish that these comedians that like, ascribe to this kind of like, hateful rhetoric to grow their audience, would just be honest and say, "Yeah, that's what I'm doing. Because there is a certain kind of audience member that, when they see a liberal person get upset, likes me more."

Courtney: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Right? So whether, like, I've seen people say like, "Oh, he's just playing a character," or whatever. Also, fuck you for that.

Courtney: Oh, gross.

Travis: But even if that's the case, like, he's literally trying to upset people so that other people will like him more, and that's called a bully. That's what a bully does. Like, that fuckin' sucks. Because that is not... y'know, that's playing to the lowest common denominator, as Brent said, and not actually trying to grow your audience or your craft or anything. It is shitty. It's a shitty way to do it.

And also, here's the thing – let me be—I'll walk back the professional for a second here, and say professional—or personally, I don't think that like, being quote unquote 'edgy' or 'offensive' or whatever is inherently bad. My favorite movie in the world is Blazing Saddles, which even to this day, there are parts of it that like, are like, "Ooh, I don't know how I feel about that now."

But it was offensive and edgy to make people, like, actually... the point of it was, "Racism is dumb," and there is a commentary in it. There is a point of view in the movie that the people who say the racist bullshit and the racist rhetoric are the dumb ones, are the wrong ones, are the bad guys. Right? There is a commentary to it.

Brent: Well, this is coming from Mel Brooks, who has a history of making fun of groups which marginalize minorities.

Courtney: Well, and written with Richard Pryor, who obviously like, that was his whole deal, was y'know, was talking about that. There is a big difference between that and this fuckin' white dude who is just like, "Asians are dumb!" Like, that's... there's...

Travis: And honest to god, man, if you haven't watched the clips that surfaced, he's doing the most—he and his co-host do the most, like, low hanging fruit, racist, like, accent. Like, Chinese accent. It is—

Courtney: It's like, next level like, Mickey Rooney Breakfast at Tiffany's bullshit.

Travis: Yes. Yes. Yes. It's like—it would be offensive in the '40s! Like, oh, Jesus Christ!

Courtney: Well, and in his other statement, after he got let go from SNL, he said, like, "Well, I was always more of a Mad TV guy anyway!" It's like, even the character of Miss Swan on Mad TV, which was absolutely racist, is somehow like, more respectful than what he was pulling in this. Like, they're both bad. But it's like, this was—this was not comedy. This was just like, "I don't like Asians." That's not comedy.

Travis: Yes. And he—I couldn't find the article, but I know that this—I had numerous people cite this to me as I discussed this with them, that he said in an interview that he did this because he knew that it was the kind of racism his audience liked. Like, he's doing it on purpose. This wasn't... ugh. Okay. He sucks.

So, everyone fucks up. God knows that there are things that I have said on podcasts and tweets from years past that I am ashamed of. I like, for whatever reason, I got retweeted a couple months ago, and people like, went through... a certain kind of person went through my tweets from like 2009 and find things I said that, frankly, I am disgusted that I said them. Right?

The difference is, I am ashamed that I said them. I was wrong. And I one thousand percent owned that, and have worked since then to not only be better, but make my comedy better. Not just more inclusive, which is good, but better. Not just saying the easy punch line, but thinking about like, what's the best version of this joke I can make that everyone will enjoy?

So, Shane Gillis' so called apology is like, the most nothing thing I have ever seen, and it made the situation worse. I truly, in my heart of hearts, believe that if he had apologized sincerely, that he would've kept his job at SNL. Like, he fucked it up. So no matter what he said in his not-apology, he agreed with the things he said – or at the very least, cares more about appearing to agree with them than he does working on SNL.

This is why it's so absolutely ridiculous when people start yelling 'cancel culture' when something like this happens. Because Shane Gillis did not get cancelled because he said something that hurt people's feelings. Shane Gillis got fired because his employers realized he was a bad employee. If rather

than a performer, Shane Gillis was a truck driver, and after being hired, his employers discovered that he had been fired from his previous jobs for stealing from the back of the truck, I think we could all agree that he should not work there. Right?

So, let us enter the world of imagination for a moment. Because I am imagining that this is how this scenario went. Right? So, SNL hires Shane Gillis. Now, maybe they know about the stuff he said. There are many people who have said they knew about it and just ignored it, or maybe they don't. But either way, they know he is divisive, and hired him to cater to a different audience than they normally do. They have said as much in stories.

So, the stuff he has said gets major media attention. SNL then realizes that in courting a new audience, they are risking alienating their current audience, and tell Shane he needs to make a public apology. Now, I don't know that they told him to do it, but if you read his completely non-apology apology, that doesn't seem like a guy who was like, "Y'know what? I need to say something." That seems like they made him do it. His apology sucks, and people get even madder.

Now, maybe SNL tries to get him to apologize again. Maybe they decide to wait, uh, y'know, wait out the weekend and let it blow over. I'm not sure. But, realizing that there is no apology coming, and it's not blowing over, SNL realizes that their play didn't work, and they cut him loose.

Now, if you look at it that way, but reverse the scenario, let's say a show that usually has a conservative audience hires a comedian and clips of them mocking gun owners and Christians surfaces? It would play out the exact same way. It's not about like, "Oh, PC culture and he used terms that triggered people." It's that the audience that SNL has does not like Shane Gillis, so they fired him.

Like, that—that's how business works, and TV shows are a business. That's why it's so ridiculous to me when people say like, "Ohh, cancel culture, bluh bluh!" It's like, no. Having this person in the movie or TV show or whatever made it unmarketable because they suck. [laughs]

Because they have made no effort to like, cultivate an audience, or like, make themselves marketable, and like, they suck. And so, they would be unmarketable in this thing, so we fired them. Like, hiring Shane proved to be bad for business, so they fired him, end of story.

Courtney: [sighs] So... honestly, this week has been like, exhausting. Like, this whole thing was just... it grated on me in a way that like, I don't quite know how to explain. Because it is the... the most annoying people in the world were standing for this guy. And I know that, y'know, SNL, like... apparently they wanted him to kind of draw in more conservative viewers. And... this is, y'know... do with that what you will, people.

Um, but it seemed like most of his most ardent supporters seemed to probably think themselves quite progressive. They had roses in their Twitter names, which tends to see themselves, as least, as—they see themselves as quite progressive. I always see a rose in your Twitter name, and I think of saying, "M'lady." And tipping your fedora at me.

I actually asked on Twitter at one point, "Has anyone who has ever been part of cancel culture ever actually been cancelled?" And someone said, "The Dixie Chicks." And I was like, holy shit, that is actually the only person. [laughs] Like, the only group actually quote unquote "cancelled." The cancel culture is coming from inside the house!

Travis: Yeah.

Brent: That's true.

Travis: And y'know, for me, the most frustrating thing about this... now I may speak personally, as Travis McElroy, is the people who were saying like, "Oh, you just don't get it." I want to be like, I'm a professional funny person. I am a performer who like, makes jokes and makes things. I get it. *You* don't get it. You don't know how it works. You don't know anything about comedy. You don't know what makes comedy good. Like... [sighs]

Also, if Rob Schneider comes out in your defense, you should just be like, "Oh, y'know what? Okay, I was wrong."

Courtney: Oops, I fucked up bad. I fucked up so hard.

Brent: This reminds me of when a family member, who I will not identify, heard another family member make a black joke, and I was like, "Yo, that's not cool," and then, y'know, the non-joke telling one goes, "Hey man, I'll laugh at anything." And it's like, no you won't. I can think of three things that would trigger you. You just think you laugh at anything, because it reflects—this joke reflects something that you're okay with.

I don't know. I just think—and I wanted to pull out like, I am some kind of comedy professional, but in these conversations, it just... it's like, you can pull that out, but it doesn't do any good. If somebody's gonna be that kind of ignorant, then like, it doesn't really matter. You could have a degree in comedy, and they'll still be a dick in the way they are.

Travis: Yes. The word—the phrase I kept thinking of was "willfully obtuse." The people who are like, "Listen, some people don't like some humor, and some people don't like other humor. That's just how humor—" And I was like, you know that's not what's going on. You know that that's not it.

You know he didn't get fired because his joke wasn't funny. Like, you know that, right? Like, you didn't—like, he didn't get fired because someone like, didn't think his joke was funny. He got fired because he was unmarketable. [laughs] Like, you know. You know that's not what's going on here. Stop it.

Courtney: That is the shit that sets me off more than anything else in the world. When someone is making like, a very like, rational, logical argument, explaining something that is very clear cut, and someone else is just like, "No. No. No, you're wrong." And it's like, okay, well, fuck you! Like, I don't know what to tell you. Like... 'kay. And it's just been a lot of that. It's just been a lot of that.

And speaking of which... [sighs] Content warning. This story contains discussions of sexual assault, and no consequences for men ever. I wish we never had to hear about Brett Kavanaugh ever again. And also that he'd

never been elected to the Supreme Court, and also that people could come to some kind of unified belief that rape is bad. And yet, here we are.

The New York Times ran a preview of the upcoming book, *The Education of Brett Kavanaugh* by reporters Robin Pogrebin and Kate Kelly. In addition to more details about Deborah Ramirez and Christine Blasey Ford's accusations, a new story was included.

"We also uncovered a previously unreported story about Mr. Kavanaugh in his freshman year that echoes Ms. Ramirez's allegation. A classmate, Max Stier, saw Mr. Kavanaugh with his pants down at a different drunken dorm party, where friends pushed his penis into the hand of a female student. Mr. Stier, who runs a nonprofit organization in Washington, notified senators and the FBI about this account, but the FBI did not investigate, and Mr. Stier has declined to discuss it publicly."

The Times later ran an update to the piece at the end that read, "An earlier version of this article, which was adapted from a forthcoming book, did not include one element of the book's account regarding an assertion by a Yale classmate that friends of Brett Kavanaugh pushed his penis into the hand of a female student at a drunken dorm party. The book reports that the female student declined to be interviewed, and friends say that she does not recall the incident. That information has been added to the article."

Conservative media has jumped on this correction as a means of dismissing all accusations against Kavanaugh, and proof that the Times has that liberal bias that you've heard about. In actuality, it's not that cut and dry. The woman alleged to be the victim in this most recently reported Kavanaugh episode, Tracy Hartmann Joyce, in a written statement, described Ramirez as a person of integrity and character who is honest to a fault. Which isn't exactly the slam dunk, "this didn't happen, Kavanaugh is innocent, check the day planner," shut down that they seem to think it is.

Of course, conservatives weren't the only ones the New York Times pissed off with this story. In a tweet sharing the article, some disaster hole in the Times social team decided this was the best copy to accompany the post. "Having a penis thrust in your face at a drunken dorm party may seem like

harmless fun. But when Brett Kavanaugh did it to her, Deborah Ramirez says, it confirmed that she didn't belong at Yale in the first place."

Travis: Might it seem like harmless fun?

Courtney: Harmless fun.

Travis: Might it? Might it?

Brent: And also, when people are saying, including the president, that this is made up, it's like, if somebody wanted to make a thing up to like, really harm Brett Kavanaugh... this is just so specific. Like, it just—I don't know. I don't know who... the idea of like, "Ahh, we're gonna get him in this dark hall of like, feminist masons!" What's that Simpsons group? The Stone Cutters? We're gonna get him with this random story that like, is terrible, but like... I don't know, to me, the specificity of this alone is like, yeah, this probably happened. Why would this come out of nowhere?

Courtney: And the pro-Kavanaugh and anti-people-who-don't-like-rape contingent made another questionable decision to take reports of Christine Blasey Ford's father supporting Kavanaugh's nomination and palling around with Kavanaugh's father at the golf club to be proof that Blasey Ford was lying, rather than, y'know, that dads can be real piece of shit assholes.

Rich old white men are gonna rich old white men. And when Blasey Ford came forward with her story, her family was publically silent. And that doesn't tell me that she was lying – that tells me that her family sucks. And god bless that brave woman.

Uh, these two stories have taken a fuckin' toll on me this week. Because while people fall over themselves to defend Shane Gillis and Brett Kavanaugh, as though these fuckwads are worth the effort, brain power, or typing muscles, the people that they hurt, the farther reaching impact on the rest of us watching this shit show... we have to suffer. Gillis is fine. Kavanaugh is fine. Christine Blasey Ford? Not fine.

Bowen Yang, the first east Asian cast member ever to be on SNL, the first openly gay man to ever be on SNL... he got his moment completely snatched by this man who insulted his culture, his family, him. It's infuriating. [sighs] I'm tired.

Travis: That like... [sighs]

Courtney: And Chloe Fineman? Like, poor Chloe Fineman. Like, not even part of this story. Also, did y'all see, when the Hollywood Reporter tweeted an article about like, y'know, "Get to know Bowen Yang, the new SNL cast member!" They did not include his picture – they included one of Joel Kim Booster!

Brent: Oooh.

Travis: Oooh.

Courtney: They couldn't even get their Asian guys right! Meanwhile, everyone's like—

Brent: Yikes.

Courtney: "Shane Gillis didn't do anything wrong! It's fine! It's just a joke!" Like, what are you talking about?!

Travis: This is the—like, this is what I'm talking about with 'willfully obtuse,' right? Of like, you know that he did. Right? Like, there—you know that he did. Like, you defend it, and like... but no one—no one defended it by saying like, what he said is alright. What they said was like, "Well, he's edgy, and he's pushing boundaries, and yeah, his comedy's offensive!" So like, you know that he did something wrong. You just don't think he should get in trouble for doing something wrong. Right? That's what it really comes—

I saw a great, uh, a great tweet that, I'm so sorry, I did not get the name of the person who tweeted it. But that basically said like, "Ah, cancel culture. Or as some might call it, consequences."

Courtney: Yeah.

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: That's what it comes down to is, it's not that you don't think they did anything wrong. You just don't think they should be punished for it. And that's—that's really what this is. I mean, at this point, with as much stuff as people have said about Brett Kavanaugh, like, I'll never forget the people who were saying like, "Even if it is true, does that mean he shouldn't be a Supreme Court justice?"

Courtney: Yes! Oh my god, yes!

Travis: Yeah! Because like, that should be—this is the thing I also think about when people are like, "You're ruining these people's careers!" Right? Unfortunately, I also feel this way about the president, and we see how that turned out. But when you have these things that are like, the upper level career goal of these people... like, to be a performer, to even get to audition for, let alone be cast on SNL, is like, something I've dreamed about since I was like a kid, right? Like, this is a thing that people work their whole careers to get to.

And so, yes, I do think that only the best of the best should get that honor, and not some piece of shit who, within the last calendar year, was making a living by doing racist jokes. Like, yeah. And I also think that being a Supreme Court justice maybe should go to someone who has had like, I don't know, impeccable morality throughout their life. Like, yes, I do think that these people who are getting these amazing opportunities should be held to a high standard.

I don't think that's unreasonable.

[theme music plays]

Brent: Alright. This next segment is a segment we've done before, and we will again. There is so much politics news that goes around in trending news-

o-sphere, and almost every week, we round up the most viral, the biggest, the baddest, sometimes the ugliest politics stories into a segment we call... hey, uh, Courtney, Travis, what do we call it?

Travis: Uh, it's a politics something.

Courtney: Uh uh uh... poli—pal—Paul Ryan.

Travis: It's a Paul Ryan.

Brent: If only. Actually, no, fuck that guy. He's dumb.

Travis: It's a Paul Rudd Roundup! A Paaaul Ruddup!

Courtney: That's that new show where there's two Paul Rudds. That's a Paul Ruddup.

Travis: Yep. That's a Paul Ruddup. A Billy Crudup?

Brent: That would be so—you're really raising the expectations for the fun level of this segment a little too high with the idea of multiple Paul Rudds, so if we could just bring it down a little bit.

Travis: That's true. We could probably get... we could probably get Billy Crudup, though.

Courtney: I think that I hit the—

Brent: You'll be lucky to get one Paul Rudd and an Amy Klobuchar in this segment.

Courtney: I think I hit the fun level pretty well with Paul Ryan.

Travis: That's fair.

Brent: [laughs] That's about exactly right.

Courtney: I did not oversell anything. [laughing]

Brent: I can't wait 'til that guy is a, "Who?" He's getting there.

Courtney: I lowered those expectations.

Brent: Fair. Um, well, this past week saw the third round of 2020 Democratic primary debates – or should I say, debate. Because this was the first one where it was just one night with only ten people. The lineup was Biden, Warren, Sanders, Harris, Buttigieg, O'Rourke, Booker, Klobuchar, Yang, and Castro – and a partridge in a pear tree.

Off the bat, it's clear that, barring a major upset between now and the actual primary elections next spring, this is basically a three person race between Biden, Warren, and Sanders. And most of the polls reflect that. Um, so I'll be honest – I'm not gonna do a full five page deep dive like I've done for these past couple debates, 'cause we're into the phase where the likelihood of a random candidate having a surge is getting lower and lower, unless we see one or more of the top three topple from a scandal or a gradual decline in poll numbers.

Um, Elizabeth Warren had an okay night. Played it pretty safe, stuck to her play book. I think she realizes that everybody else is gonna duke it out amongst themselves, so if she just sort of, y'know, coasts on her very good poll numbers, that they might cannibalize those of Joe Biden, and if she doesn't mix it up too much, she probably won't take a hit.

Speaking of taking a hit, Bernie took a shot at Biden, because Biden voted for the Iraq war, and Bernie didn't. Castro took some serious shots at Biden, including a moment where he seemed to imply that Biden is forgetful in his old age. Hint – he is. And pointing out that Biden likes to take credit for the good stuff Obama did – also true.

But for my money, Castro's kind of taking Joe down with him as he garners between zero and two percent support on various polls. It reminds me of 2015 when Chris Christie took a serious bite out of Marco Rubio, pointing out

how Rubio just repeated the same canned line over and over again. Christie didn't really have a very good chance outside of a possible vice presidential nod, but he took Rubio down just the same.

Castro, I think at this point, might be running for VP. Might be running for book deal. Might be running for, y'know, cabinet secretary of some kind. Um, Biden said he stands by everything Obama did. Um, I feel like that's a pretty dumb statement, because... I mean, just to lay it down so like, hands down across the board, 'cause now a reporter is gonna ask, "Hey, how did you feel about Obama's drone strikes?" or something like that.

Like, Obama, we all miss him, but... I miss the symbol of him more than every detail of his policies.

Travis: Hey, pobody's nerfect, y'know?

Brent: Exactly. But at the same time, don't say you stand by everything a president did. [laughs] That's... that's gonna just make you look like a hypocrite when you walk it back.

Um, Beto O'Rourke tried to break through, especially when he said, "Hell yes we're gonna take your AR15 and AK47!" That was a cool moment, since you rarely hear Democrats being so bold about gun control, but it will probably not help his teeny poll numbers, and it's like this really 180 contrast from his like, super polished Disney animatronic word salad that he usually does. Um, so it just kind of looks like an act.

Andrew Yang's campaign promised before the debate—I know y'all speculated about what it would be. Um, his campaign promised before the debate he would do something no candidate had ever done. Turned out to be an offer to give a monthly thousand dollar dividend to ten people to show how it affects their lives and how it might affect everyone's lives for the better under a Yang presidency.

Pretty bold tactic, but again, I just don't think we're ready as a country for any type of universal basic income plan. I think it's really interesting. I think

that automation and various other things could make it much more feasible as a mainstream idea, but I just think it's a liiittle bit futurist for 2020.

Travis: What's so weird about it is like, it's not... it is a bold, y'know, headline making move, right? But like... that doesn't really... like, work in politics. Like, I'm gonna give ten families a thousand dollars a month for a year... ooh! And then his like, numbers spike up to 15% or something like that. That's not gonna happen. So...

Brent: I just think he wanted to break through and make some headlines, honestly.

Courtney: Yeah.

Travis: But to what end?

Brent: To... get higher poll numbers and stay in the game. I mean, at this point, every time they have a new debate, they are gonna tighten the rules of how you get to be eligible for it. So if he can just keep leveling up, his chances of staying in for the long haul go up even though they are, as we can all agree, pretty slim.

Travis: But that's what I'm saying is, like, staying in the game... to what end? Like, his poll numbers haven't increased dramatically over the past debates. I don't know if they've increased at all. It's the kind of thing of like, at a certain point, I do not understand the lack of realism of some candidates to be like, "Yeah, y'know what? Gettin' out."

Brent: Book deal, TV show, radio show, political correspondent on TV. I mean, not to be cynical, but that's exactly the landing pad of anybody that does well, but not well enough. And the 2012 and 2016 Republican campaigns have absolutely shown that. Chris Christie should've been laughed out of politics forever, but because he was a known face after 2016, he gets to be an ABC political correspondent, even though he's a corrupt piece of shit.

So y'know, I mean, I think at this point, Andrew Yang... I mean, y'know, I like a lot of his ideas. I just... I think to your point, like, he's not probably in it to be president. At this point, he's just gonna see what he can get out of it after all this investment of time and effort.

But uh, so Biden took a swing at Bernie's Medicare for all plan, saying it would cost 30 trillion dollars, whereas Biden's would cost under one trillion. And I just want to remind everybody, the libertarian Koch-funded Mercatus Institute found that Bernie's Medicare for all bill would actually save money, since the cost of our current healthcare system would actually be more over the same time period.

Now, Bernie, despite his sore throat, which increased the stereotype that he's a loud, wacky old mad scientist wizard, made the case that a candidate pays half of what we do for healthcare and has better health outcomes. Which I feel like the cool kids have known for a while, but he said it pretty plainly.

Now, Pete Buttigieg, whose poll numbers are generally down around five percent lately, decided to come swinging at Bernie's Medicare for all bill, and he roped in Elizabeth Warren in this criticism. And I think this is a... not great argument. He said, of the Medicare for all bill, he said, "It doesn't trust the American people. I trust you to choose what makes the most sense for you – not my way or the highway." And he proposed a plan called 'Medicare for all who want it.'

Y'know, that's one way to do it. This is basically a public option. If we ended up with a public option, that would be better than what we have. But my problem with that is, we're never gonna have a healthcare system that turns people away at the emergency room and lets them bleed out. So if someone hasn't chosen to opt into the healthcare system, and they still go to the ER, they're going to pay something. And if they don't choose to pay it, the American taxpayer will.

It's a real sign that Buttigieg is being courted by donors who want to preserve the private insurance industry. And he seems to like, put choice above all, but what's our choice? To take a job we don't want, because it simply comes with benefits that could help keep us alive? Or like, I don't

know about you two – I think we all three perhaps have to get individual plans, which are the most bullshit. Like, in Pennsylvania, I get to choose between like, a surprisingly expensive bronze PPO, or a ridiculously expensive silver PPO that still has like a high deductible.

And so, he and more centrist candidates frame it as Medicare for all taking away people's insurance. But like, who likes their insurance? The answer is people who are already doing very well. And if those are the ones you're prioritizing, you're not listening to the vast swath of American voters who just need change, some of whom went, "Trump sucks, but at least he's different." Like that's the mood more than, "Let's preserve your right to choose from the private health insurance industry."

And y'know, Bernie pointed out that 50 million Americans per year lose their health insurance, too, when they quit their jobs, they get fired, they get laid off, or their employer just changes plans regardless of what the employees want. It's a really disappointing framing on Buttigieg's part, and again, it just largely pleases people who are already able to afford decent health insurance.

But Biden, who I have said over and over again is a gaff machine, had the biggest, weirdest gaff of the night, which is now being called the record player line. Um, apparently about 44 years ago, Biden shrugged off any complicity in the ongoing effects of slavery on the black population, by saying, "I don't feel responsible for the sins of my father and my grandfather." And then he also went on to say, "I'll be damned if I feel responsible to pay for what happened 300 years ago."

So that's a tough question. But perhaps the fact that it's been 44 years could allow him to just say he was wrong, he's grown. That's a, I think, kind of a softball when it's been that long. Here's actually what he said at the debate.

Biden: If you look, there's institutional segregation in this country. And from the time I got involved, I started dealing with that. Redlining. Banks. Making sure that we are in a position where, look, you talk about education. I propose that what we take is those very poor schools, the title one schools. Triple the amount of money we spend from 15 to 45 billion a year. Give

every single teacher a raise, the equal raise of getting out of the \$60 thousand level.

Number two, make sure that we bring in to help the student—the teachers deal with the problems that come from home. The problems that come from home. We have one school psychologist for every 1,500 kids in America today. It's crazy. The teachers are recon—I'm married to a teacher. My deceased wife is a teacher. They have every problem coming to them.

We have make sure that every single child does in fact have three, four, and five year olds go to school. School, not daycare. School. We bring social workers into homes and parents to help them deal with how to raise their children. It's not that they don't want to help – they don't know quite what to do. Play the radio. Make sure the television—excuse me. Make sure you have the record player on at night. Make sure the kids hear words. A kid coming from a very poor school, a very poor background, will hear four million words fewer spoken by the time they get there.

Brent: So like, it started off okay... but the wheels just... totally came off toward the end. Saying the phrase 'record player' is like, when the fuck are you? When the fuck is your brain? And I just feel like, if the public wants another president who like, embarrasses himself rambling into incoherence, here's your guy.

So, ultimately, I don't think this debate moved the needle much, aside from making Biden look bad. Which he's good at by just being in debates. Warren will likely continue going up, Biden will continue going down. I don't know, Bernie's a tossup. Um, and we may see minor bumps with Castro and Beto. Harris could have a Newt Gingrich type rise and fall later on in the campaign, but I gotta say... barring a big, unexpected upheaval, I think it's a Warren, Sanders, and Biden debate. Up through the primary elections.

Could be wrong, but that's where I stand today.

Courtney: Okay, y'all, let's talk about Corn Pop. A video circulated this week featuring Joe Biden telling a story, one he's told before, about a 1960s altercation when he was "the only white lifeguard" – we will get back to that

– in a predominantly black public pool, a job he took to “learn more about the black community.” While there, he got into it with a gang member named ‘Corn Pop’ that involved straight razors and chains, and then they found a mutual respect and solved racism.

Naturally, everyone was like, “No. That didn’t happen.”

Travis: It does read like something straight out of like, the Outsiders. Like, even the name. [laughs]

Courtney: But like, shock and awe – like, there actually appears to have been a person named Corn Pop. William “Corn Pop” Morris. And he was a real person. He was a member of a “gang” called the Romans, and there are those who corroborate that he did know Joe Biden. Now, we don’t know that this happened with chains and straight razors, necessarily. But like, Corn Pop’s a real guy. So, Biden’s not... not losin’ it. Corn Pop. Who knew.

Now, there is some clarifications here. Journalist Robert Samuels wrote a piece for the Washington Post, clarified that gangs meant something different in the ‘60s. It was a term for neighborhood cliques who would get into fights, and they would play pranks, and they had fun nicknames like Corn Pop.

Brent: Like West Side Story a little bit.

Courtney: Yeah, very Sharks and Jets.

Travis: Yes. Or, uh, or Grease.

Courtney: Yes.

Travis: With the T-Birds.

Courtney: With the T-Birds and the Corn Pops. And also, Biden was not actually the only white lifeguard. Though he was very popular. And according to some of the people that he spoke to, Samuels tweeted that Joe

Biden was the first white person that they knew who really listened to and had a heart for them.

Now, when it comes to the getting a job at a pool to get to know the black community, that... y'know, people—that's—that's a—that's a thing. That's a real choice. And uh, Michael Harriot in a piece for The Root, which is an excellent piece and you should all read it, did find that part very strange, and uh, there's an excellent part of the piece that I will read right here.

"To be clear, I don't think Biden is racist, nor do I believe he had any ill intent by telling the ballad of Corn Pop the thug. Whether or not Corn Pop existed or the incident happened the way Biden claims it did is irrelevant, because to many white people, Corn Pop is real. In fact, every black person in America is someone's Corn Pop. He represents the quintessential black friend who is repeatedly cited as a footnote, white people's assurance that they understand the black experience. He is, "I would've voted for Obama twice." He is the black guy they dated in college, and the underprivileged youth they mentored at the after school program."

So, Biden has... y'know, he's done some good things. But, he's... he's... y'know, he's not great on some racial stuff. And he is very much, uh, in a specific time period when it comes to handling... dealing with race.

Brent: Yeah, I just... I feel like it's—now, first off, one thing that gets left out of a lot of coverage is, this is actually from two years ago. You may have just said that, Courtney. I'm sorry if I...

Courtney: I meant to. I don't know that I did.

Brent: I mean, the thing is that like, I personally like, started tweeting about it, and then people were like, "Oh, you know it wasn't part of the campaign!" And first I was like, "Oh, yikes, I was wrong." But then I went, well... [laughs] He's been getting ready to run for president for a couple of years. So like, it's not exactly *not* part of the campaign.

But to me, it's just like... it's just so weird! Like, it makes me think of the game, River City Ransom. Who are you trying to impre—oh, you got a chain.

Like, this is a thing that you want us to be picturing you doing? I don't know. It's just strange. It's a strange topic to bring up. It's a strange, like, um, image that he apparently is fine with people imagining of him. It's just weird.

Courtney: It like... [sighs] I mean, 'cause I think about the fact that he's like, really riding on... 'cause it's from his book as well. And he's really riding on this, and y'know like, y'know, "I did this so that I could—" And y'know, he did. Apparently like, there are people who say like, y'know, he was a white person who was... who was kind to us. And that's great.

But there are... I think that like, that's a big thing that's very relevant to right now is that, racism is not just like, not being nice to people of color. It is... it is actually like, getting into what systemic pieces are in place that you actually need to look at.

And also, every time he talks about his role in kind of doing something about racism, I just think about Anita Hill. And like, okay, great. You and Corn Pop had just a real cool pool time, but like, what about like, the black woman that you helped destroy? Think about that. Like, fuck you. I don't want him to be president. I really don't want him to be president. He's bad. He's a bad man.

Brent: Agreed.

Courtney: More like Joe Badden! Guys. Up top.

Brent: Ooh! Gottem!

Courtney: Yup. Should we bit?

Travis: Let's bit into these tids.

Brent: Please. Let's bit.

Travis: Let's take a bit out of tid. Uh, so, Backstreet Boys member Nick Carter announced Tuesday that he and his sister Angel had fired restraining

orders against their brother Aaron, due to his “increasingly alarming behavior.” Aaron, you may remember, had his own music career in the early 2000s, with songs like Aaron’s Party, and That’s How I Beat Shaq, and his version of I Want Candy.

In his announcement, Nick claims that Aaron had expressed thoughts of killing Nick’s pregnant wife. Now, Aaron denies the claim, saying, “Astounded of the accusations being made against me, and I do not wish to harm anyone, especially my family.” Aaron spoke to the LA Times, saying that this was retribution for supporting the woman who accused Nick of sexual assault.

Aaron also took to Twitter to accuse his brother of abusing Paris Hilton in 2004, when Nick and Paris dated, also saying that Nick broke his nose when he pied him in the face at the Nickelodeon Kids’ Choice Awards.

Courtney: Uh, so, images are now out there of Justin Trudeau in brown face at an Aladdin-themed party. Uh, because, here’s the thing – you can't trust anyone. There are no good ones. Everyone is varying degrees of terrible.

Uh, and the thing is like, he was 29. He was 29 when he did this. He also said he can't be definitive on how many times he’s busted out the blackface.

Brent: Oh, wow.

Courtney: He knows of at least two.

Brent: I didn’t hear that part. Yikes.

Courtney: Yeah. He knows of at least two. [laughs] He cannot be definitive about more. So...

Travis: Now, I will say, he did release a statement today – and this is not to defend him whatsoever—

Courtney: It was a good—it was a good apology.

Travis: It was a good apology.

Courtney: But! Here's the thing – I think that there are... now, we just did this whole thing about fuckin' Shane ass Gillis. And his zero apology. And it's important to do any apology, and to be sorry, and Justin Trudeau is sorry. But here's—I mean, it's also... an apology, even a good apology, is not therefore, like, "Oh, you're forgiven now."

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: Like, now you can have—you can just keep your job. Like, that's not necessarily how it works. Especially when your entire job is making people like you and believe in you.

Travis: It's a thing that I have been trying to teach Bebe, which is like, okay, I appreciate that you said you're sorry, but next time, just don't do it. And I know you can't go back in the past and change it, but we talked about people being held to a higher standard, and I think that that holds true whether you like the person or not.

Courtney: Yeah. It's like... when Jules is bad in the mornings, it's like, okay, we still can't go to Starbucks this morning. You said you're sorry. Thank you. So yeah, Justin Trudeau, we still can't go to Starbucks this morning. I'm sorry. Like, thank you for a very good apology, but I don't know that you're gonna go to Starbucks this morning.

Brent: [laughs] I love that framing.

Courtney: He doesn't need a cake pop this morning. He just can't have one. Maybe tomorrow. We'll try it again.

Brent: You're not gonna get the nitro cold brew with the cold foam. Which, by the way, real hard left here – they add sugar to the cold foam! The fuckers.

Courtney: I know. I noticed that. I'm glad they put the calories on there, because it's like, ohh, you sons of bitches.

Brent: I'm so betrayed! I was like, this cold foam just must have natural milk sugars in it! No.

Courtney: Nope.

Brent: Tryin'a fill me with the calories. Ya dick holes. Anyway. Um, so, really quick tidbit here. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary added a new definition of the word 'they,' as a singular pronoun for nonbinary people. It's a small thing, and it's a huge thing, as now late adopters and bigots can't say, "Well, that's not grammatically correct!" Uhh, look in the dictionary, bucko.

Travis: Man, I saw that when Sam Smith announced that they use, y'know, they/them pronouns, I saw people say, "So what am I supposed to say? I saw Sam Smith, and they were great?" Like... yeah. [laughs] Yeah, my dude.

Brent: Yeah. You figured it out. Good job.

Travis: That makes total sense. That sentence you just said, like, aside—a ridicu—like, I saw their show, and they were great, is a completely reasonable thing to say.

Courtney: That's a thing people say all the fuckin' time. My friend Betsy actually, uh, we were talking about this recently, and she was like, "People do it all the time, they just don't realize they're doing it in a nonbinary way." It's like when someone says like, "Hey, someone left their backpack." No one says, "Someone left his or her backpack." You say, "Someone left their backpack."

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Like, you're *a/ways* using the nonbinary they. Like, you're always using the singular they. Calm the fuck down.

Brent: Yeah. And I mean, it can be a little—I'm not gonna lie, I was... basically, I didn't know a nonbinary person 'til 2016. And like, I fucked up a couple times, even not meaning to. But the thing is like, to resist it or to like, on grammatical grounds, say it's not correct? You're really just finding a way to not accept somebody being the gender or non-specific gender that they feel they are.

So like, get with it.

Travis: So, one last tidbit. In recent years, former Blink-182 guitarist, Tom DeLonge... DeLonge, right?

Courtney: I believe so.

Brent: Sure.

Travis: Has gained a reputation as a strong believer in UFOs. In 2017, even formed a UFO research group called To the Stars Academy of Arts and Science. Now, To the Stars even released some footage that they claimed was proof of UFOs. Well, in an interview on Motherboard, posted on the 17th, Navy spokesperson Joseph Gradisher said that, "The Navy considers the phenomena contained/depicted in those three videos as unidentified."

Now, I know that that doesn't seem like much, but the fact that they are saying, it is unidentified... we're talking about, y'know, the Navy. Rather than saying like, "That is a phenomenon that is this." It's saying like, "Yeah, we don't know." He went on to say that they were being investigated, but that the findings would not be released.

"The information obtained from each individual report of any suspected training range incursion will be investigated in its own right. The information obtained in these reports will be catalogued and analyzed for the purpose of identifying any hazard to our aviators. Any report generated as a result of these investigations will, by necessity, include classified information on military operations. Therefore, no release of information to the general public is expected."

So, even though they have been confirmed as unidentified, we'll never hear about it again.

Brent: Y'know, this is one thing that like, uh, Hillary said that – Hillary Clinton that is – that didn't get much coverage. She was like, "I'm going to unclassify some UFO shit, y'all." Which I was like, "Okay! Tell me more." That being said, as somebody who has dipped a toe into UFO stuff, the thing to keep in mind, as much as like, I think there's definitely, y'know, the truth is out there... 'unidentified' doesn't mean aliens. It just means we don't know what the fuck it was.

And if it's like, the Navy doesn't know that the Air Force has like, some super mega laser magnetic spinning disc thing... well, yeah, the Navy can't identify it. But of course, I want it to be aliens. I want Star Trek to happen. A post-scarcity environment with no money? Great. Let's do it. But until then, it's just simply unidentified.

Courtney: [whispers] Or it's aliens.

[beeping]

Ben: If you like MaximumFun.org podcasts, chances are, you are an enthusiastic consumer of good media.

Adam: Which is why we're here to tell you about the outlier show on MaximumFun.org...

Ben: [laughs]

Adam: The one that just doesn't fit.

Ben: The Greatest Generation is a Star Trek podcast by a couple of guys who are a little bit embarrassed to have a Star Trek podcast, and that MaximumFun.org is probably a little bit embarrassed to call one of its show.

Adam: And that, more than anything, should inspire you to subscribe and download The Greatest Generation. What is this thing?

Ben: Why is it here? [laughs]

Adam: Who listens?

Ben: All of these answers can be found if you subscribe to The Greatest Generation, using your pod catcher, or by going to MaximumFun.org.

[music plays]

Jesse: Going into a Bullseye interview, I know that it's somebody who does amazing work. I don't know what's gonna happen.

Speaker 1: Oh. That's interesting. I never thought about that.

Jesse: Is that possible? Is that true?

Speaker 1: That's possible, yeah.

Jesse: Should I check with your therapist? [laughs]

Speaker 1: [laughs] No, but I will be.

Speaker 2: Who are you, dude? You're all over the place. I got a lot of respect for you, man. That's dope.

Jesse: Bullseye. Creators you know. Creators you need to know. Find it at MaximumFun.org, or wherever you get podcasts.

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.

[Wi-Five slap]

Brent: As you probably know, the private prison industry has gotten way out of hand since its rise in the 1980s. President Reagan's war on drugs led to harsher sentencing policies and higher rates of incarceration, and then that caused a huge influx of inmates beyond the capacity of the country's prisons of that time. So corporations were all too happy to step in and take advantage of the situation.

But, just like the private health insurance industry, the profit motive creates a situation where money is made when bad things happen to people, or good things don't happen to people. Corporations are beholden to shareholders, and sometimes they can only deliver if they cut costs. For instance, lower food quality, or even prisons with no full time medical staff. The list of those things goes on and on.

Um, and the money saved by the government, which was one of the main selling points early on, isn't even clearly happening in all cases. According to the New York Times, privately operated prisons in Arizona cost more to run than government run prisons. And at the end of the day, these prisons and their parent corporations make money when more people are imprisoned. That's fucked up.

Well, the state of California is trying to blaze a trail away from that whole thing with its new bill, AB32, which bans private prisons in the state of California, including ICE detention centers. And until I did research on this today, I didn't even know there were privately run ICE detention centers, which in my mind, somehow makes them even more fucked up than they were before.

The bill is being handled as a major victory for criminal justice reform, and personally, I'm hoping the example set by California will be followed by other states, and even eventually the federal government. There are just some things that shouldn't be governed by the profit motive, and incarceration, in my opinion, is one of them.

So, to Governor Gavin Newsom, and the state legislature of California, Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Alright, folks, that's gonna do it for us this week. Thank you so much for joining us. Coming up, I am going to be at New York Comic Con. Uh, coming up here in the first weekend of October. I will announce all of those dates, and all of the events I'm going to. Just keep checking TravisMcElroy.com. I will also be tweeting it, but I'm so excited to see you there. What about you, Courtney?

Courtney: Well, I'm also gonna be at New York Comic Con, and I'm also excited to see you there! I don't know what I'm doing yet. I hope to see you soon. Um, you can listen to my other podcast, Strong Female Characters. Also, our sub podcast that we did, Forgotten Women of Genre, where we did 31 days of basically monologues about various women in genre history who were behind some of the worlds and the books and stories that you know and love whose due was never given.

We did stories on them for 31 straight days. That is now its own podcast. We are going to be bringing that back for the spooky times next month, and then we are going to be doing it again in March, so please subscribe to Forgotten Women of Genre. And... yeah!

Travis: What about you, Brent?

Brent: Um, as for me, I am the co-creator of a really funny comedy party game called Use Your Words. You can get more information about that at UseYourWords.lol. But if you live in Montreal, or you can get there, I'm doing, uh, basically one of my few Brental Floss performances of the year. This is Brental Floss, my snarky internet video game parody alter ego from my YouTube days.

And so, I will be doing a show in Montreal, Saturday, November 30th at seven PM. You can get all the information on it, and even a link to buy tickets, at BrentalFloss.com/Live-Appearances. I would love to see you there.

Travis: Okay, folks, well, I think that's gonna do it for us. Make sure to check out all the other amazing shows on MaximumFun.org, our podcast home. Follow us on Twitter @TrendsLikeThese. Uh, and y'know what? Uhh, let's see... Courtney, am I forgetting anything?

Courtney: Just gonna do a quick vape. [dramatic inhale] Oh! I'm dead.

Travis: Oh. Well. That's gonna do it for us. We'll be back in a couple days.

Brent: Some of us. See ya next time!

[theme music plays]

Brent: Because of his, um, two As in his name, and because of the fact that my songs are organized by artist on my iPhone, whenever I accidentally just press play out of nowhere, um, Aaron's Party by Aaron Carter does play. So... come get it is all I'm saying.

Courtney: I said boom. Hit it through the roof like slam. That's how I beat Shaq.

Brent: Oh, I see.

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