

## **Sawbones 311: William Cunningham and the Ghouls of Cincinnati**

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**Intro (Clint McElroy):** Sawbones is a show about medical history, and nothing the hosts say should be taken as medical advice or opinion. It's for fun. Can't you just have fun for an hour and not try to diagnose your mystery boil? We think you've earned it. Just sit back, relax, and enjoy a moment of distraction from that weird growth. You're worth it.

[theme music plays]

[audience cheers]

**Justin:** Hello everybody, and welcome to Sawbones, a marital tour of misguided medicine. I'm your co-host, Justin McElroy.

[audience cheers]

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

[audience cheers louder]

**Justin:** I'd expect that from *you*, Cincinnati...

**Sydnee:** It's so great to be back!

**Justin:** Yeah. We were just here seven months ago and y'all came back. You're really nice. Thank you. Um...

**Sydnee:** I did a—I did a French tuck today, just for you all.

**Justin:** Just for Cincinnati.

[audience cheers]

**Justin:** Y'all love the French tuck.

**Sydnee:** In crème, Tan. Tan—Tan France is here, right?

**Justin:** Welcome to—

**Sydnee:** I assume.

**Justin:** Tan is usually at our shows.

**Sydnee:** I assume.

**Justin:** Um, welcome to the very first show of the... Twenty Funny: Fill Your Life with Laughter and Love Tour.

[audience cheers]

**Justin:** As you can see, we have tasteful stage décor. Uh, and—

**Sydnee:** Are those considered primitives?

**Justin:** They're primitives. It's a primitive look.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Those are those stores.

**Justin:** Yeah. The stores, yeah.

**Sydnee:** That's what they're called, in case people are like, "What are you talking about?"

**Justin:** Yeah, we are well accustomed to primitives.

**Sydnee:** We live in West Virginia. [laughs]

**Justin:** Yeahhh.

**Sydnee:** That's what the stores are called.

**Justin:** Primitive in more ways than one.

**Sydnee:** No...

**Justin:** Come on. I'm just havin' some fun. I live there. Shut up.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] It's okay.

[pause]

**Justin:** You can begin the podcast now.

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** You know what we're talking about. I don't.

**Sydnee:** Well, I know, but you had a whole thing you were gonna say.

**Justin:** Oh, I thought you were gonna say the thing!

**Sydnee:** No, you were gonna say—[laughs]

**Justin:** Y'know, Cincinnati...

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** We—we took a break—[laughing]

**Justin:** There's a—

**Sydnee:** We took a break from touring. It's not... it doesn't show.

**Justin:** Yeah. Listen, Cincinnati. You've got a lot of very impressive firsts. Especially in medicine. We were looking, like, what's a good medical topic

for... first, uh, heart, lung machine? From Cincinnati. Allowed the first heart transplant. Uh, first Jewish hospital. Right here, Cincinnati.

[audience cheers]

**Justin:** But also, Cincinnati... y'all get nasty.

[audience cheers]

**Justin:** So if you can guess which one we're going to speak on tonight... that's correct. It is the third. It is the final one.

**Sydnee:** It's not gonna again. We're gonna leave that alone.

**Justin:** No. Not another—

**Sydnee:** We did that last time.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Uh, no. I started looking into the history of Cincinnati, and what, medically, was relevant. What was interesting, what would you want to know... and I kept stumbling upon something that we've covered on the show before, but in greater depth, which is that Cincinnati has a rich history of grave robbing and body snatching. [laughs]

[audience cheers enthusiastically]

**Justin:** Like... like a *rich* history. You shouldn't cheer yet. You should wait for the end. Nasty! Do you see what I'm saying? Grave robbing! We love it!

[audience cheers]

**Justin:** Two things from us, our chili and grave robbing! That's Cincinnati!

**Sydnee:** I usually—so, I title my outlines for our shows, just something for me to like, know what I'm searching for in my own Google Docs. Like, not for anybody else. So I usually don't share the titles, but the title of this one was so good, I felt like I had to say it before I started the show. [laughs] So we're gonna talk about... William Cunningham and the Ghouls of Cincinnati.

[audience cheers]

**Sydnee:** Which is a great band, if your name is William Cunningham.

**Justin:** Sure.

**Sydnee:** So, if you're here, William Cunningham, you can have that. That's yours.

**Justin:** Also, put the bodies back. Nasty. And be dead again, 'cause you came back to life, I'm assuming.

**Sydnee:** For uh—yes. For a good bit of history – and we've talked about this before, but – you weren't allowed to dissect cadavers the way we do now in medical schools, to learn about anatomy, to understand the human body, so that you could, y'know, like, take care of it and try to keep other human bodies still alive.

And that was a huge problem for medical schools, because how are you supposed to do the right thing for somebody if you have no idea what, y'know, what their gooshy bits are inside there? You're just kind of guessing. You're looking at pictures. Some of them are wrong. Some of them are right. And there were very limited opportunities, even when it was legal to dissect somebody.

It was usually that somebody committed a crime that was considered so bad in the eyes of the law, that they would not only sentence you to death, but they would sentence you to dissection. And so, there were very rare opportunities where like, the court system was like, "Here you go. This is one you can have."

**Justin:** They're really bad. They were so bad. The big problem with that is... all their hearts are three sizes too small. So that's gonna give... the doctors, um, a misunderstanding of the size of the heart.

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** And—[laughs] In those cases...

**Justin:** Do you remember when the Grinch murdered those people?

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** That was weird. That's what it was implying, I guess.

**Sydnee:** [laughing] And then... I mean, I guess what you're saying is then, after that, he was put to death and dissected by medical students? Medical student Whos?

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** Um... I guess, yeah. They would be the Whos, doing the dissection of the Grinch.

**Sydnee:** That's a very dark—

**Justin:** There's not other Grinches around, so I guess, yes, Syd. If you want to get dark, the Whos down in Whoville would have to carve the roast beef.

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** Carve the—carve the roast beast, if you'll uh, forgive the expression.

**Sydnee:** Uh... okay. There were no Grinches involved in this story, originally.

**Justin:** There are now.

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** So... [laughing] If you were lucky enough to be at a school where a dissection, where an actual, human, y'know, cadaver was, and you could witness a dissection, it usually was pretty crowded. There were—if you were a young medical student, you weren't gonna get the opportunity to actually do anything. They might be done in a big theater where like, the bosses got to do stuff, and you just got to kind of crowd around and like, try to take notes.

So it was not great for medical education. So, put physicians and people training to become physicians in this really bad situation where... it's not that—I mean, like, they knew where there were bodies. They knew where they were. Uh, and they—they knew how to get them. It just wasn't legal.

And so, at this point in history, doctors got a really bad rap, and especially medical students, for going and robbing fresh graves for cadavers, so that they could do their anatomical dissections, and learn about the human body. So like, they had a... a good goal, but a very bad way of going about it.

And so, for a while, it really was the doctors and students themselves who were doing this, which really added to like, the mistrust of the public. [laughs] Like, doctors were not popular. Not that like, we're super popular now. But they really weren't popular at that point, 'cause it's like, "No, I know what you do! I don't want you touching me, you rob graves!"

And so, they were like, "Well, we need to outsource." [laughs] "We don't want to be doing this ourselves, 'cause it's not a great look. We need people who are willing to do this for a price." And that is where the Resurrection Men, or Resurrectionists, as they were known, came into the picture. And these were just people who were like... "Yeah. I mean, you pay me the right amount, and I'll go dig up a fresh grave and bring you a body."

**Justin:** Sure, no problem.

**Sydnee:** Yeah, no questions asked. And like, it became a very lucrative profession, and a very involved profession, where if you were gonna get a body... you had to get one that was pretty newly, y'know, dead, for it to still be dissectible and learn things. And you had to have like, a method of doing it really quickly.

And you would even do things, like, if you were gonna set your price, there were different prices based on how much learning you might get from that cadaver. So they would like... send people to the funerals, as like, fake mourners...

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** Nice. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** To like... case the joint. [laughing] And gather info. They would even like, send like... supposed grieving widows to like, the poor houses, to claim, like, John Does that nobody knew who they were, and be like, "That's definitely my husband." And... [laughs] So it was a very—

**Justin:** Whoa, that's intense!

**Sydnee:** Yeah. It was a very involved profession. They could charge, in their dollars, up to 80 dollars for a cadaver, which would be like... about two thousand dollars now. So, I mean, you could make a lot of money doing this.

**Justin:** [quietly] Um, hey, hold on. Quick time out. Quick.

[audio added in later] Now, at this point, I'm standing up from the table to remove some very precious Fill Your Life with Laughter and Love signs that our dear friend Paul had lovingly placed in the front of the stage, and obscured the view of some of our beloved audience members. So I'm standing up to rectify this situation.

[audience laughter]



**Justin:** Few people's view of the goods were being obscured. Get your full ticket price, my friends. My beautiful friends I'm beholding for the first time, now that our signage is moved. Paul, I was right about the signs, Paul! Write it down in your notebook!

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** "My friend Justin was—Dear Diary, my friend Justin was right. The signs blocked their view. But luckily, Justin saved my show. What a hero." Sorry, Syd. Go on, now that the view is no longer obscured by our signage. Continue your tale in your full visual splendor for the first row.

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** Thanks...?

**Justin:** You are, of course, welcome.

**Sydnee:** So you may be wondering, where were the cops? Why didn't anybody...

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** Yes, where were the cops when Paul said the signs were okay there, Sydnee? The man should be imprisoned! [laughing] We were all wondering it!

**Sydnee:** Where, also, were the cops, when all the grave robbing was happening? And the problem is that, there was this kind of, this conflict among like, the judicial system, the court system, and the legal system.

Like, we kind of understand why the medical schools need bodies. Like, we get it. We understand what they're trying to do. It's not nefarious, they just—they need to, y'know, understand how the human body works, and we get it. But at the same time, this is illegal, and this is not the way you should go about this. This is wrong.

So the penalties were actually not that bad. [laughs] It was just like a small fine if you got caught. Which, I know, it seems like it should be way worse. And they kind of... y'know, just didn't, like, pay attention to it, intentionally, because it just wasn't... it was like, "Eh, I don't want to mess with this. It's not worth our time and trouble, and it might be okay."

So, a lot of families took to trying to protect their loved ones on their own. And like, it could be as simple as just like, I'm just gonna stay graveside for the first few weeks to protect the grave. Two, there was actually a patent, at the time, on a coffin torpedo?

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Which was like, a spring-loaded bomb in the coffin that like, was loaded once you shut the lid. And so, if anybody tried to open it, it would just like, y'know, explode.

**Justin:** That's actually my favorite scene in Home Alone. It's weird that they stole it for that.

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** Uh, but these deterrents weren't working. There was too much money in the game, and people wanted that money. And so, by the time we get to like, the mid-1800s, into the late 1800s, there were tons and tons of people, like, Resurrectionists in this line of work. And it only grew, as there were more medical schools.

And by the mid-1800s, Cincinnati had five established, like, certified, actual, real-deal medical schools. And then, uh, about eight more sort of... loosey-goosey kind of? Like...

**Justin:** Like, fun ones!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** We'll take you in, and we'll get you a degree eventually, if you have enough money. But like, anyway, there was a huge demand, in Cincinnati, specifically, because of so many medical students. So many physicians in training. We need bodies to dissect. And so, you needed a resurrection man who could supply.

And that's where we meet William Cunningham. The history of William Cunningham is a little... we're not sure. Uh, we think he was born sometime around 1807 in Ireland, and then he came over to the US at some point. But we really don't know what he was up to until he started his – what would make him infamous – his grave robbing.

He was noted to be kind of like a tough, surly guy. He liked to drink whiskey. Him and his wife Mary even would kind of work together on these jobs. She was also noted to be like, a tough lady who liked whiskey. [laughs] That was kind of their—that was the main thing is, you read like, what did people know about them? They're like, "They were really tough. They liked whiskey."

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** So if you've always imagined grave robbers as genteel, uh, sorry to burst your bubble.

**Sydnee:** Uh, when he was—he was described in 1870, people talked about, uh, he had a ponderous yet gaunt frame, a villainous, bald head...

**Justin:** Come on!

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** A strong, marked face with age in crime. A canine mouth, from the corners of which slowly trickle the generous saliva, impregnated with the juices of nicotine. He had a—[laughs] He had one leg that was broken, and had been shot, and was like, full of buckshot. And so, he always kind of like,

limped on the one leg. [laughs] Which made it all impressive that he was very good at his job. He moved very quickly.

Um, and when you would ask him, as he was asked in his census, like, what do you do for a job? He would tell people, "I drive an express wagon."

**Justin:** Yeah. I mean...

**Sydnee:** Which is kind of true.

**Justin:** True. Didn't say what's in it.

**Sydnee:** Well, yeah. It had to be express, once you'd loaded your cargo. Um, he was said to have exhumed up to 100 bodies a year.

**Justin:** Whoa!

**Sydnee:** At the height of his career. He was—yes. He was very productive.

**Justin:** I bet there were individual people that weren't putting that many into the ground in a year. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And uh, and especially—this was a lot, considering that there was only a specific time of the year that you would do this. You didn't want to be in this business during the summer, so it was really just like, October and November. That was it. Those were the time—and that was actually the time of the year when medical schools would be like, "Now we will start the dissection lesson!"

**Justin:** The thermostat is dropping, so it's time to get some bodies.

**Sydnee:** Coincidentally, this is when we do dissection. Uh, and he also—he only charged about 30 dollars, as opposed to like, the high end, 80. So I guess he also offered you a deal.

**Justin:** Sure. Well, he's doing quantity. That's the profits, are right there.

[theme music plays]

[ad break]

**Sydnee:** Uh, he was very bold in his grave robbing, and this, of course, uh, resulted in a lot of stories. Y'know, myths, legends, true, somewhat true, that have arisen about William Cunningham, who was also known... So, at the time, Resurrectionists were also called Ghouls. So you may also just be called a Ghoul. Well, he was known as *The Ghoul*. If you said *The Ghoul*, you only meant one guy.

He also went by the name, Old Man Dead.

**Justin:** Good.

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** And that—they would use that. Actually, it was very common at the time in Cincinnati, like, if you were raising young children, and they were misbehaving... [laughs]

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** Yikes.

**Sydnee:** To raise the specter of Old Man Dead. [laughs] Like, "You better watch out, or Old Man Dead will get you!" It was a gruesome time.

And then, sometimes, they would just call him Old Cunny.

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** No.

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** Don't. Cincinnati. Tsk tsk tsk.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Uh, one of the stories—and I'll tell you a few stories about him. One of the stories that I liked is that, at one point, he was in the cemetery, mid-grave-robbing expedition. He always had like, some people helping him out. He didn't work completely alone. He was the boss, but he always had some guys working with him.

But he was in the middle of robbing a grave when the authorities showed up, and were like, "Come on, we're taking you in. You can't do this."

**Justin:** Come on.

**Sydnee:** Like, we caught ya. This is a pain, but we gotta take you in. And everybody else, like, absconded. They all like, took off, except for Cunningham. And he was like, "Okay, boys. You got me. Yeah, I get it. On our way to jail, though... do you want a drink? You wanna... there's like a pub right there. Do you wanna stop for a quick drink before we go?"

And the cops were like, "Oh, okay. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, we do."

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** "We're bad cops. Sure."

**Sydnee:** [laughs] So, they all went to the bar, and they had a few drinks, and y'know, relaxed. And after a while, they were like, "We really don't want to bother taking you in. Will you just promise us, like, don't do this again. Just promise. Please, Bill? Please, Old Man Dead? Don't do this anymore."

**Justin:** He's like, "You got it. I'm going to learn carpentry."

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** And whatever he said convinced them that he had turned over a new leaf, and was not gonna do this anymore. And so, they said goodbye.

They let him go on his way. Of course, he returned, immediately, back to the graveyard, finished his work... [laughing]

**Justin:** [laughing] He went like, round the block.

**Sydnee:** And sold a body. Um... [laughs] There was another tale where Cunningham was—he got a body, and he was delivering it to one of the medical schools, and he had to like, go through the city, through like, busy streets. And while it was night time, there was still a lot of people out and about. Y'know, partying and having a good time.

And so, what he did was, he dressed the body in some new clothes... and put it up in the wagon with him. Like, with his arm around him.

**Justin:** Yes!

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** The real Weekend at Bernie's?!

**Sydnee:** He totally—yes.

[audience laughter and cheering]

**Sydnee:** He completely Weekend at Bernie'd the guy.

**Justin:** Another Cincinnati first!

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** So he got him up right, got his shoes on him and everything, and they started riding down the street. And every time the guy would kind of slump over or fall, he'd straighten him up, and he would yell something like, "Sit up! This is the last time, by god, I'll ever take you home when you get drunk! You ought to be ashamed of yourself with a wife and children to support!" And just yelled this stuff. And everybody just thought like, "Ah, look at that nice friend."

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** Y'know, he may rob graves professionally, but he's a sweet person.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Uh, there was another story about Cunningham where he—so, the easiest kind of business to be in if you were a Resurrectionist was, y'know, local. [laughs] Like, shop local. Um... and that was how he usually did things, to just the medical schools in town. But because he was so good at what he did, he got a reputation that expanded beyond Cincinnati.

And so, physicians from outside the area, who needed to train medical students or who needed to learn something themselves... it was kind of like a self-taught era... would reach out to him and be like, "Can you somehow get me a cadaver? Is that possible?" And apparently, he said, "Yeah, sure, maybe. I'll figure it out."

So, at one point, he went to American Express, where you could ship things at the time. It wasn't a credit card. And... [laughs] And he had a big box that was marked, "Glass. Handle with care."

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And he brought the box, and addressed it to a Dr. Hardy in Leavenworth, Kansas. And he said, "Now, I want this... I want you to take this box, collect on delivery. I'm gonna need 30 bucks when they get it." And apparently, after he left, the employee at American Express was like, "Mmm... something feels wrong. That was Old Man Dead. And I don't feel good about any of this."

**Justin:** And we haven't invented glass yet.

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** So he opened the box. [laughs]



**Justin:** Eugh.

**Sydnee:** Yeah...

**Justin:** Well...

**Sydnee:** Do you want to know what's in it?

**Justin:** Is it a body, Syd?

**Sydnee:** What's in the box? [laughs]

**Justin:** What's in the box?!

**Sydnee:** Do you want to know what's in the box?

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** So there was a cadaver in the box.

**Justin:** Yeahhh. We all saw that comin'.

**Sydnee:** So the way they handled this...

**Justin:** Although, I could imagine, by the time it got there, someone would be like, "Y'know what? This is pretty stinky glass. Something's wrong."

**Sydnee:** So, the way they handled this is, the person who opened the box sent one of like, their porters out, and was like, "Go talk to this guy. And tell him like, we know there's a body." [laughs] "And tell him we don't want to deal with it." And that's exactly—so, this porter shows up, and Cunningham's like, out in his barn, and he goes and finds him, and he's like, "Hey... we opened your box. It's not glass."

And Cunningham's just like, "[sighs] Did you call the cops? Man, really?" And they're like, "No. Don't worry, we're not gonna do that. We just don't want

to deal with it. So will you come get it, please?" And he was like, "[sighs] Fine, fine." And then he tells them, "But you know, I've already shipped a hundred people this way."

**Justin:** Whoaaa! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** "So it really isn't that big of a deal, but fine. Just please don't call the cops." And apparently, at the time, they were like, "No problem."  
[laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Uh, he was known as someone who was not to be crossed, not to be messed with. He was like, a tough guy. Um, and some of the stories that, again, y'know how this kind of mythology spreads. Was it true or not? But he once, when some medical students had kind of cheated him out of some money that he felt he was due, uh, he gave them a cadaver that had died of small pox.

[audience gasps]

**Justin:** Wooooo.

**Sydnee:** So he was not somebody to be trifled with. Uh, and then, sometimes... and this was not just Cunningham – this was actually very common for the day. He would, uh, sell a cadaver to a medical school, and then wait until nightfall, and go steal it back.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** And go sell it to another medical school... and then wait until nightfall and steal it back again. And this was—

**Justin:** What are they gonna do, tell the cops?

**Sydnee:** [laughs] This was a very common problem that medical schools ran into, where they would like, have to buy the same body, like, four or five times.

**Justin:** He'd draw a little mustache on it with sharpie.

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** Now, Cunningham eventually met his end. I don't think he had a very healthy lifestyle. It was not a violent end.

**Justin:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** But I don't think he took very good care of himself, because he died somewhere between the ages of 50 and 65. Nobody's really sure. But it was in 1871. We know that. Because before he died, his last act was to preemptively sell himself...

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** Mm. Oh, that goes down smooth.

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** ... to the Medical College of Ohio. And so, upon his death, his wife got 50 bucks, because he had already donated his body. Or sold his body, I should say, ahead of time. And uh, Mary, as I said, his wife, was a tough customer, too. She said, "I know he negotiated 50... but I'm'a need 55."

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** And she got it.

[audience cheers]

**Sydnee:** And uh, like all the bodies he resurrected, he was also dissected by young medical students to further their anatomical knowledge. But they didn't just bury him at the end, unlike all the other cadavers. As a tribute, I guess... [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Depending on what you think the word 'tribute' means. As a tribute to him, his skeleton was displayed at the medical college after the dissection was done. And it was like, displayed on wires, like, propped into a sitting position in a cabinet. Like, in a glass cabinet. As you walked in, you could see, there was this skeleton of William Cunningham, with a pipe between his teeth...

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** And a big, wooden spade in his hand. [laughs]

[audience laughs and cheers]

**Justin:** Very cool.

**Sydnee:** 'Cause that's how he spent his life. I—I don't think he's still there.

[audience 'aww's, then laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Uh, as you may imagine, this practice of resurrecting bodies eventually came to an end. The most high-profile crime associated with this actually occurred in Cincinnati, and uh, it was when the body of a congressman from Ohio, John Scott Harrison, who was, in fact, the son of president William Henry Harrison, uh, was stolen after he died.

It's actually—the story is that, while his family was at his funeral, they noticed that the grave of a friend of their family, an Augustus Devin, the grave had been robbed. And so, after the funeral, they went about getting search warrants so that they could go look for this friend, because they knew he was a—everybody knew that these bodies were at medical schools.

And you can read lots of stories of families, like, searching medical schools, and like, cops searching for medical school—they knew that the medical students had them. [laughs]

And so, they get warrants to go search for Augustus Devin, and as they're searching for this other man, in the meantime... [laughs] The congressman's body is stolen, and that's who they discover. And because this gets these shocking headlines, and it's such a high profile crime, the penalties for grave robbing become a lot worse, at this point.

There are a lot of riots. We've talked about this on the show before. Like, riots of medical schools, and like, to go chase down doctors. Like, in the streets.

**Justin:** I want to take a moment for poor Augustus Devin, though. I doubt that fool ever had the thought, "If history remembers me for anything... I hope that my body is stolen, and that helps them find another, cooler body."

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** "And that is why my name shall be repeated in the year of our lord, 2020, anno domni."

**Sydnee:** They did find him eventually.

**Justin:** Goo—oh, cool. That's very chill for him. Excellent.

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** [laughing] I'm just saying.

**Justin:** Could you have—next time, if we ever do this exact episode again, could you learn like, one hobby that this guy had or something? [laughing] Just fill out the bio a little bit.

**Sydnee:** I can do that. I can do that. Augustus Devin. I'm sure he did something else.

[audience laughter]

**Sydnee:** Uh... but this—because of this, it also—

**Justin:** Augustus Devin the Fourth just walked out. I'm sorry! We didn't know!

**Sydnee:** He may still be in Cincinnati. I don't know, maybe the family. Uh, but because of this, people also realized that, one, like, this is terrible, and we need to put a stop to it. Like, this is not okay. And also, we do need a way, if we're gonna like, y'know, as doctors started to point out, if you're gonna sue me when I don't know how to do medicine, can you at least help me know how to do medicine?

Which is fair. We did need to teach people like, what was inside the human body, 'cause we had a lot of stuff wrong in the past.

**Justin:** Yeah. It's embarrassing.

**Sydnee:** Uh, and so, they also found pathways where you could legally donate your body to science, and then, y'know, obviously, nowadays, that's how we do it. There is no more grave robbing. I do not—I can tell you that I would not have gone to medical school if I thought this was part of the job description, and I hope other doctors would say the same.

**Justin:** You would be a grave robber.

**Sydnee:** That's what—I'm saying I wouldn't have gone to medical school if I—

**Justin:** No, you would be a grave robber *instead*, I mean. That seems like it would be up your... a good use of your skillset.

[audience laughter]

**Justin:** Uh, Cincinnati, thank you so much, beautiful Taft Theater, for having us here.

[audience cheers]

**Justin:** Um... as always, thank you to Paul Sabourin. Thank you to The Taxpayers for the use of their song, Medicines, as the intro and outro of our program. Um... thanks to Maximum Fun network as having us part of their podcasting family. And thank you to you for being here, or listening later, after the fact. We appreciate it.

So, until next time, my name is Justin McElroy.

**Sydney:** I'm Sydney McElroy.

**Justin:** And as always, don't drill a hole in your head!

[audience cheers]

[theme music plays]