

Trends Like These 254: Oscars, New Hampshire Primary, #BroomstickChallenge, Airplane Seat Puncher vs Rude Recliner, New 'Soapbox' Segment, Bloomberg Racist Audio Leak, Trump's Post-Impeachment Revenge, Birds of Prey Review, New 'Honey I Shrunk...' Movie, Weinstein's Terrible Lawyer, Asteroid Coming Toward Us?

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Courtney: This week: Asshole punches seat, Bloomberg takes heat, and Birds of Prey can't be beat.

Brent: I'm Brent Black.

Courtney: I'm Courtney Enlow.

Brent: And I regret to inform you, and please don't be mad – the kids, once again, have been shrunk by me.

Courtney: With... Trends Like These.

[theme music plays]

Brent: Hello, Courtney!

Courtney: Hello, Brent!

Brent: Happy almost Valentine's Day, but Valentine's Day for our listeners!

Courtney: Happy Galentine's Day to us. Happy Valentine's Day to the listeners!

Brent: Indeed. Galentine's Day. I almost took a picture, 'cause I—okay, so I saw a thing on Twitter that was like, a hash tag Galentine's post with all the Golden Girls, which is like... not only my show, but a show I'm currently going back through entirely. And I really wanted to share—I might just do it later.

Courtney: I believe, if I recall, that was, in fact, my boss, Cher.

Brent: Ahh!

Courtney: You were gonna share from Cher.

Brent: That makes sense. Pressin' that Cher button. Yeah, so, I was given a poster as a gift that has all the four Golden Girls, but they're all made up with the same makeup that Kiss has. Like...

Courtney: Oh, nice.

Brent: Each of them has a different version of the—y'know, one of the Kiss makeup guys, and it's just one of my favorite things ever. So, who knows.

Courtney: That's great. That's great.

Brent: Maybe I'll—I mean, I don't know if like... am I allowed to say happy Galentine's Day? Is it like, "Hey dude, get out of our tree house." 'Cause like, I can get down with that. I can get down with a thing that men aren't invited to.

Courtney: I think you can—I think you can offer it. You can offer it as a well-wish to others.

Brent: Okay. 'Cause I mean, I have celebrated whatever you might call not-Valentine's, but the day-is-happening day. You and I are both, uhh, uh, partnered up with a person to have Valentine's Day with. That's cool.

Courtney: So, yeah! And I'm so happy for us with that, because today... [laughing] Today someone pulled into my driveway, and I was like, "Who is this stranger?! What do you want?!" And then he emerged from the vehicle holding a big bouquet of flowers, and I was like, "Oh, I have a boyfriend! I get flowers today!" [laughs]

Brent: [laughs] Yeah. I uh—one thing that I really like about my current partner is, she doesn't—just like me, she doesn't like compulsory gifts. And so, it's great, and it makes me want to get her a gift even more than, perhaps, a partner that thinks compulsory gifts are compulsory. I'm not gonna do it – I just want to.

Courtney: For what it's worth, I don't require—like, anything that I get, I'm just like, "Awww!!" Plus, like, and the thing is, I—like, if someone sent me... like, just red roses – not that I wouldn't be grateful, of course I'd be grateful – but like, that's not my favorite flower. Dan made a point to send me a bouquet that had like, purple roses and purple hydrangeas, 'cause purple's my favorite color, and I love purple flowers, and it was very, very sweet of him and very thoughtful.

Brent: Amazing. Well, I still got Sarah a card, but it's one of those super generic cards with like, a big block of very generic kind of Hallmark text. Instead, though, I'm crossing out a lot of the operative words and writing funnier things.

Courtney: It should say, "Happy birthday, Grandma!"

Brent: Y'know, I've tried to do the joke card thing before. Sarah would probably get it, but I... one time... [laughing] I got an oversized Justin Bieber birthday card for my now ex-girlfriend's mom, and she didn't—she almost like, deliberately did not get it. And it was like, "Well..."

Courtney: Well that's not a mom gift, Brentalman!

Brent: It was funny! Here's the thing – take me as I am.

Courtney: [laughs] You are who you are. That's the—

Brent: I am.

Courtney: That's the tea.

Brent: That's right.

Courtney: Hey, speaking of tea... what are you drinkin'?

Brent: Well, funny you should ask, because... I am moving in just about two weeks, and I have a bar cart with like, all these like, leftover, y'know, a bottle of liquor that, because I had a party, has like, one shot left. And I was like, well, gosh. It's almost Valentine's Day. Not that I need an occasion.

There's one shot of tequila left in the tequila thing... so I am literally – you may be able to hear it – grinding – oh gosh, I can't do it this way – I'm trying to grind salt onto my hand to do the lick thing. I've got a lime leftover by a friend of mine. I'm doing a live radio tequila shot, the right way! Are you ready?

Courtney: Oh my. Let's do this.

Brent: Okay, here goes. [swallows and exhales] The worst ASMR you've ever heard.

Courtney: It's—that—here's—

Brent: Sorry to Mustin.

Courtney: Okay, I'm gonna do a quick pretend ASMR of me doing a shot.

Brent: Okay.

Courtney: Alright. Here, I've got my glass. I'm like... [cartoonish swallowing sound, followed by dramatic fake vomiting] I don't like shots.

Brent: [laughs] My friend Rachel, who has been on the show before, Rachel Stein... I hope this isn't telling tales out of school. She really can't take shots, but she likes to join in when everybody's doing shots. So she has to, basically sip, like the wind. [laughing] Like, she sips super fast. It's extremely funny. Sorry, Rachel. Happy Valentine's day.

Um, also, I'm double fisting with a, uh, grape essenced sparkling water, which is the Waterloo brand. I said that all out of order, but...

Courtney: Does it actually taste—does it taste like grape? Did we already have this conversation? I feel like we already had this conversation when we were talking about the bananas.

Brent: I think we did. It's—well, Waterloo is—yeah. It's sort of the grape soda of sparkling water, which, I'm more into that than like, "Oh, it's sort of just a hint of rose. Oh, it's a little bit of..." Y'know what I mean? Like, when they're just really, really light.

Courtney: Ooh, I would fuck with a hint of rose.

Brent: That's the thing. Don't drink my flowers. But, a little grape soda Waterloo sparkling water? I say yes.

Courtney: I really appreciate all the very nice people who sent us articles about how the banana flavor actually was based on a real banana that no longer exists.

Brent: Boy, and that was a week where—

Courtney: And I will tell you, that banana sounds disgusting to me. So, I mean, it is what it is. Your mileage may vary.

Brent: That was a week where I was so happy that people tweeting about the show were just informing me about banana candy. Um... so, 'cause sometimes, y'know, sometimes you just find out something you didn't know. In fact, as long as we're—

Courtney: Well, y'know what? Sometimes we fuck up on this show. And people tell us.

Brent: That's true. That's true. As long as—

Courtney: And sometimes, they just want to tell us about bananas.

Brent: It's true.

Courtney: And it's like, "Yay, I didn't fuck up, and I'm learning banana facts!"

Brent: [laughs] Hash tag banana facts. Um, as long as we're here, I did tweet something that was like, well-intentioned, but kind of a swing and a miss, about the coronavirus. Uh, I tweeted just what a small percentage of people on earth have died from it, to sort of comfort our anxious listeners, but I guess I did kind of... not really honor the fact that it's a tragedy anytime anyone... what am I trying to say? Boy, that tequila's workin'.

A tragedy anytime someone dies from an illness, and I wasn't trying to minimize that. But the point is, I know we have people with anxiety in our audience, and we have people with anxiety cohosting the show.

Courtney: [laughs] Yeah.

Brent: So the point—

Courtney: I will admit, it was a moment I was really—I'm really glad you sign your tweets. [laughs]

Brent: Well, yeah. Yeah. If I go a little bit rogue, I don't want people to come after y'all. And y'know, there you go. In my mind, it wasn't a joke, but I think the fact that I asked Siri and screen shotted that made it seem a little tongue in cheek. Anyway... I'm not a perfect tweeter. I won't pretend I am.

Courtney: Y'know what? We're all growing. We're learning. And... we're doin' tequila shots. Not we. The royal we.

Brent: Not we, but me.

Courtney: By royal we, I mean Brent. The royal Bre.

Brent: Did y'all know that the royal we just means 'me'? Um, like, one does not wish to—no, they're just talking about me. Um, so, yeah. By the way, for a timestamp, it is just about five... well, we started just about 5:20PM, Eastern time, on Thursday, February 13th.

Courtney: 4:20 for me. Niccce.

Brent: We—[laughs] We do that every time, just like certain other sort of news and politics podcasts, but like... I've—I mean, we're gonna keep doing it. I like doing it. But we've never really been called out by someone for saying like, "Hey! You didn't know that one thing!" And us going, "Ah, but our timestamp came out before that was reported!" Like, it's just sort of a... good for you to know. Especially for the people that inexplicably go back and listen from the beginning. It's not that kind of a show.

Courtney: That is legitimately wild to me. Because that is the past. The past is over, but the past is also prologue, so maybe they're the right ones.

Brent: True. I will say, if you want my takes to just get dumber and dumber and less informed, and more white straight guy, go backward. 'Cause that's what they do! Um... [laughs] I mean like, goin' back to—

Courtney: We are meeting you at your finest.

Brent: I mean, goin' back to 2015, I mean, look. Long time people that know me from the internet... they know where I come from. I'm doin' my best, but it's a journey.

Courtney: We're all out here doing our best on the journey.

Brent: And that is to say, I have learned more about how to be an inclusive, good, sensitive, listening person – not that I always pull it off – but I've learned more about how to do that from this podcast audience than any other source in my life. And it's been... very uncomfortable, but also, like, a huge blessing. So, thanks for that, folks.

Courtney: I think we've all learned a lot from each other, and from our listeners. And one thing, uh—Travis is still on paternity leave, just in case you're wondering, like that one person on Twitter, if things are ever gonna get back to anything of substance. [laughing]

Brent: Okay... never mind. I won't take a tone, but I was—

Courtney: [laughing]

Brent: I was like, I cannot... I need there to be an official—

Courtney: I was like, I'm sorry, that is way harsh, Tai.

Brent: I need there to be an official sarcasm punctuation so I can know how this sounds on the other end, 'cause I don't know what you're saying, but... [inhales] Okay. [laughs] Anyway. That's okay. Y'all tweet whatever you want at us.

Courtney: We—I mean, we—yeah. Seriously. We can handle it. I just feel like, if... I feel like we've been substantial?

Brent: Mm-hmm.

Courtney: It's not like... we have been gettin' into it for clearly no reason, if it's not of any substance to anyone. [laughing]

Brent: To be fair, Travis' deep dive on the etymology of various... I'm just kidding. I'm not even gonna make that joke. He's wonderful and lovely and we miss him.

Courtney: We love him. We miss him. He's snuggin' with that baby Dot.

Brent: He is indeed. What a house full of love. Two kids, two dogs, and one cat.

Courtney: And two parents.

Brent: That just sounds... like a lot to me. But probably not a lot to...

Courtney: Two parents, and a big, fluffy, white, like... poofball in the basement that's fun to lay on.

Brent: I was not sure where you were going, but now I get it.

Courtney: [laughs] And a big, fluffy, white Travis McElroy!

Brent: Man, a big, fluffy, white dad with purple hair. [laughs]

Courtney: [laughs] That's a good way to describe Clint, actually. Big, fluffy, white grandpa! [laughs]

Brent: That's very true. That's very true. I—he's the quintessential grandpa. This is a name drop, but...

Courtney: The Clintessential?

Brent: Clintessential!

Courtney: I did it! Guys, I did it!

Brent: Y'know, Travis invited me to brunch with Lin Manuel Miranda before he really super blew up, and by that time, though, Lin Manuel was still—or, was rather, already good friends with the McElroys. And Clint just sort of like, volunteered to hold Lin's then baby. And I was like... [laughing] And I'd seen Hamilton the night before, and I was like, "This is wild." But like, Clint is the quintessential, like, paternal force in the universe. That's what I think.

[pause]

Courtney: Oh, I'm drinking wine.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: [laughs] I realized I never—I'm never the one that asks.

Brent: Well, and let's be clear, I'm never the one that shuts up, so... you had your work cut out for you.

Courtney: Hey, y'know what? If you come here for substance...

Brent: It's a podcast.

Courtney: You're in the right-ish place. But if you come here for two nonsense people, sometimes three nonsense people, talkin' nonsense, don't you worry. We got you covered.

Brent: Yeah. That entire sentence was almost the title of the podcast. But it turns out, we thought maybe Trends Like These was slightly more succinct.

Courtney: It's just a little long. It's just a little long.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Do we have anything else to say for this segment?

Brent: I think we're good. Happy—happy, uh, Valentine's Day everybody. Let's get into all things not that. Whee.

[theme music plays]

Brent: Ugh. Courtney, we are starting this segment, and I must admit... I do not know how to improvise my way into it, so I'm just going to tell you... that... we call this segment... Beyond the Headlines. Why? For reasons that are self-explanatory. There. There's my weirdly aggressive way to get us into this segment. You're welcome.

Courtney: I just want to say, only one person recognized that, last week, when I did the beep-ba-bee-ba-ba-beep-bee, was a reference to Saved

by the Bell, and beep-ba-bee-ba-ba-ba-beep-bee, beep-ba-bee-ba-ba-ba-bee, go Bayside! Only one person. You all failed me.

Brent: Ohh. Wow, I did not—and I watched a fair amount of that show, but I... did not remember that.

Courtney: I've seen every episode one hundred times. [laughs]

Brent: Can we talk about how weird it is when they—when they did, like, the TV movie, and it was like, shot like a movie without a laugh track?

Courtney: It was like, shot on film and shit? Yeah.

Brent: It was veery strange.

Courtney: It was weird. It was real weird. Both movies. There were two.

Brent: Fun fact – the Golden Girls spinoff, The Golden Palace, which I feel like I'm the only person that knows about... yes, it did have—

Courtney: Oh, don't you worry. Don't you worry, girl, I was with you.

Brent: Alright, 'cause it does have Don Cheadle and Cheech Marin. It does not have Bea Arthur, and when it didn't do well, it was replaced by Saved by the Bell: The College Years. Anyway. Um...

Courtney: Saved by the Bell: The College Years used to be on at the same time as Full House, and when I tell you, that was like, my Sophie's Choice.

Brent: [laughs] Before TiVo.

Courtney: It was... it was so hard. I was like, "I have to tape one, but I'm so loyal!!"

Brent: Ugh. Taping. We're gonna talk later in the show about how, uh, video tape, uh, was a thing. Alright. You wanna get into this first story?

Courtney: [inhales] Guys, the Oscars happened!

Brent: That's what they did.

Courtney: They sure whole entire did! And here's the thing – these were very low rated Oscars. I didn't watch 'em.

Brent: Me neither.

Courtney: I was busy recapping Doctor Who. That's what I do. That's my—I get paid to recap that. I'm not gettin' paid to watch the Oscars.

Brent: I was literally—this is peak me. I was playing Mario Kart on my phone with the music off, while watching Mame, the musical film on Vudu, 'cause I like to... I guess – this is weird. I feel like I've suddenly gotten too vulnerable. But also, like, refreshing Twitter in between Mario Kart races to see if Parasite won, but not watching the Oscars, 'cause I don't have cable. [laughing]

Courtney: And can we just say... Parasite won so many things!

Brent: Holy shit! It's so rare—

Courtney: It never occurred to me. It never occurred to me that it would win. I knew it was gonna win, obviously, best international film. I'm so glad they changed that from foreign language, by the way. Um, I knew that it would win that. I knew that it would win other stuff. It never occurred to me that it would win best picture! I was so happy!

Brent: Me neither, and I'm so happy about it. 'Cause it's frankly, the only, uh... or maybe one of two best picture nominees I saw, and my lovely and very smart girlfriend, Sarah, was like, "Everybody's talkin' about this Parasite movie. Let's go see it at the Art House Theater." And I was like, "Okay!" But then it was like, sooo good. Like... ugh.

Courtney: It truly is. If you haven't seen it yet, it really is a genuinely spectacular film, um, for so many reasons. And it's amazing how they had this great movie, and no one acted in it. That's a joke about how no one was nominated for acting from this goddamn movie.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: But the acting is superb. The writing is superb. It's—I mean, he—I saw—oh my god. I saw a tweet, like, just before we started recording, that basically, it showed two back to back shots from Parasite that... they look like, y'know, fairly simple shots. They're not – they're composite shots in split screen so that Bong Joon Ho could get all of the actors in one frame, and then, one to create more movement. It's actually a second person's hand.

Brent: Oh.

Courtney: It was like, fascinating! The amount of thought that goes into every single shot of this movie... it's spectacular.

Brent: And the thing I liked about it most... y'know, two of my favorite movies are The Fly, 1986, Jeff Goldblum, and Cabin in the Woods. And what I like about both of them is that they successfully... they don't genre-bend – they genre blend. The Fly is sci-fi horror romance tragedy, and yeah. Cabin in the Woods, like... honestly, there are moments that are horror-movie scary that had me, like, a little bit pretzeled up. But it's also a comedy, and...

Without giving too much away, 'cause y'all know I'm very anti-spoiler... let us just say that Parasite combines genres in ways that are surprising, and...

Courtney: It truly does. It exists in multiple realms. Like, the beginning of the movie is very funny. Like, it's—it—I've never, like, laughed more, been more scared, and then had myself, like, punched in the gut at various times, like, off and on, and then still managed to laugh.

Brent: Well, door slamming farce. Door slamming farce is very hard to do in a grounded kind of world. Like, even Fraiser, which so often became door

slamming farce... all the characters were all a little bit heightened, y'know what I mean? Like, Niles and Fraiser were just a little larger than life.

These characters, you kind of buy as real people, even if they're making comic choices in their acting. But like, you buy the farce of it, too. I don't know. And then, like, stuff happens that we won't spoil, but like, it really is a ride.

Courtney: And it's also purposeful, because there are moments that are very funny, and then, that same moment is mirrored later in a totally different tone. And it's essentially the same moment, but it's so different. This movie is—it's just—it's so good. And I love that like—well, 'cause one tweet went viral, where it was this one... look, I'm not gonna call him a journalist, 'cause he's fuckin' not. But basically saying like, "I can't believe a foreign movie, bluh bluh bluh!" And it's like, why are we care—he's from The Blaze. Calm down.

Brent: Oh, yeah. I mean, my tweet—

Courtney: Like, we don't care what this dumb twat things.

Brent: My tweet making fun of him was like, something like—

Courtney: Oh no, I believe that we should totally dunk on him. But like, when people were just like, "Ahh, raagh!" Like, y'know? Like... yes. Everyone dunk. Dunk so hard. I'm just saying, we don't care what he actually thinks, 'cause he stinks.

Brent: No, and it just—it's the same kind of thinking that leads people to be like, super anti-immigrant and super shitty to anyone who's not basically a white American. Which, there's an irony, because I believe this was a black man. But like, that's not business. I'm just saying, like, hey dude, what are you contributing to, here?

But like, I tweeted, "Right-wing media be like: I'm outraged that best picture went to foreign people of color instead of the liberal Hollywood elites who I despise!" Like, make up your mind, y'know? Make up your mind.

Courtney: And I mean, there was other stuff, too. Like, Taika Waititi won best adapted screenplay for Jojo Rabbit, and he is the first, uh, Maori person to ever be... he is the second Maori person ever to be nominated, the first to win. He is the second indigenous person to ever win, and he's the first indigenous person to ever win in a writing category.

Brent: Nice.

Courtney: So, I fuckin' love Taika. I love him so much. And he used his—he used his speech to talk about land acknowledgement. Like, he acknowledged the tribes from the land on which the theater is. Like, he's so—I just love him.

Brent: Wow!

Courtney: I love him.

Brent: That's cool. Now, I did see... [laughs] Um, a tweet that just made me laugh. Like, okay. So then I went back and saw—you and I both watched the movie, Cats, which had Rebel Wilson and James Corden. And they both did a bit where the mic was kind of on like, a bouncy, flexible, metal rod, so they could like, play with it like cats play with cat toys.

Courtney: Mm-hmm.

Brent: And that was cute, but then... [laughs] I guess they actually handed off an Oscar, and then just stood there in their actual, like, Cats furry...

Courtney: [bursts into laughter]

Brent: Maybe furry is not fair, but like, those full body... they literally are furry cat outfits. Just... [laughs] Like, with their hands crossed. It almost feels like they realized in the moment, like...

Courtney: [laughing] Standing there, being respectful.

Brent: “Oh, this is not... we have not contributed to a respectful moment to honor these artists.” [laughing] “Who just won an Academy Award.”

Courtney: Also, like... `cause the joke was... I believe it was a visual effects award, and they said, basically, like, “We of all people know that visual effects are important.” Here’s the thing. I... imagine thinking that the visual effects are the only problem that movie had. [laughs]

Brent: Yeah. Yeah.

Courtney: The visual effects did the best they could. [laughing]

Brent: But y'know, as a person who appreciates “so bad, it’s good”, and like, really ambitious movies that are just this weird, singular experience... I think it’s going to have kind of a Rocky Horror life. I'm already hearing about what are being called rowdy Cats screenings, I.E. with people singing along, with them, like, having things that they yell during certain lines. And I gotta say, having gone to a screening of *The Room*, multiple times, uh... I'm for it.

Courtney: Oh yeah. That movie never stops being fun. And it really hates women, so like, you know that it’s a really fun movie if I'm like, “I fuckin’ love *The Room*!”

Brent: Oh god. I watched it—oh! Fun fact! Okay. People that like *The Room*... humble brag. Uh, I tweeted about the fact that I'm meeting my girlfriend’s parents this weekend, and what I should say to impress them. Bill Corbett, who I'm already proud the fact that he even tweets at me, from *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, said that I should say to them, “I can defeat you in any form of combat.” That was funny.

But you know who liked that tweet? The woman who played Lisa in *The Room*. I can now die. Farewell, Midsommer style, walkin’ off the cliff. I'm good.

Courtney: She used to follow me, and then she stopped following me. [laughs] So y'know what? Like, that’s okay. She’s been through enough. She doesn’t need to follow me. That’s fine.

Brent: Did she tear you apart?

Courtney: But I love the fact that she follows Bill.

Brent: [laughs] Yes.

Courtney: I think that's honestly what did it. I think Travis and I got into a back and forth about The Room, that she got tagged into, and she was like, "Please disinclude me from this narrative."

Brent: I mean, yeah. And like, she probably just wants to have people value her as anything other than this terrible role in a terrible movie she did when she was a tiny baby. But at the same time, y'know what? It's fun. It's all in fun. We're good. Nobody dies.

Courtney: Yeah. She. Did. Her. Best. Like all of us. Love to Bill Corbett, by the way. If I haven't said—I know that I've said it. I say it a million times. Bill gave me my first paid writing job.

Brent: Well...

Courtney: He's my hero and my icon and I love him very much.

Brent: I hope he's listening. 'Cause I'm like, semi-afraid to ask him to come on—

Courtney: He doesn't listen to this show. He's busy doin' other things.

Brent: Well, it's true. I want him to come on my other show, Question Box, but like, I'm afraid to ask him. Anyway, that's not really part of our news show, but it's still the truth.

Courtney: Boo, I'll do the intro, and I'll make it weird, and then I'll ask him. I would also—

Brent: This is how business works, people.

Courtney: I would also love if you had his wife, Virginia, 'cause she's delightful and wonderful, too.

Brent: Oh my god, we should get them both on, and then do like a standoff. Or like, a showdown of who can be the most vulnerable and juicy.

Courtney: [gasps] Yes.

Brent: This is how online media deals get made, people. You're listening to a schmooze.

Courtney: This is how it happens!

Brent: In real time.

Courtney: Networking! Synergy!

Brent: Okay, what else about the Oscars?

Courtney: Other things! Uh, what else happened on the ding dang darn Oscars? Oh! Natalie Portman wore this cape that was embroidered with all of the names of female directors who weren't nominated, which I thought was amazing and wonderful. And people were giving her shit, 'cause it's like, "Natalie Portman has only worked with—" Okay. Natalie Portman has been working since she was an actual child.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Like, you really cannot look at this per—like, the choices she made up until she was like, well into her, like, 20s, 30s, like, were not her own. Also, it's the industry's fault. Also, there are so many men in Hollywood who have literally never worked with a female director.

Brent: Yeah. And if you work from—

Courtney: Why are we putting this on women just trying to do something good?

Brent: If you work from childhood to your 40s, you're gonna have an Attack of the Clones. You're gonna have a Garden State. But y'know what? She—her—I mean, honestly? One of the craziest things about watching The Golden Girls is that they talk about male actors who are still working. And it was the late '80s. But any of the women that they talk about in topical humor, you've never heard of.

And that—I mean, the fact that Natalie Portman is still in the game, in this sexist, frothing, patriarchal hellscape, is pretty fuckin' impressive. I mean, like, on The Golden Girls, they talk about Liam Neeson, Courtney, is like, a punch line, and he's still! Doin' it! It's just bonkers.

Courtney: Brad Pitt has made 46 movies.

Brent: Wow.

Courtney: I mean, he's made more than that now. The article that I'm looking at is from 2016. He's made—

Brent: And he's still 20. That's so weird.

Courtney: He's made like, 50 movies. He's worked with a female director once, and it was Angelina Jolie, who he was married to at the time.

Brent: [laughs] Wow. I mean, honestly, I never really wrapped my head around the problem of... I mean, like, obviously, sexism and patriarchy and all that. Yes, of course. But I didn't really apply it to the idea of directors in uh, sort of A-list Hollywood movies, until Wonder Woman. And I loved Wonder Woman, but I watched it going, "This just feels... I don't know. I can't put my finger on it."

There was this one scene where Chris Pine, like, has his shirt off for a few seconds longer than necessary. And I was like, "This is"—

Courtney: The female gaaaze!

Brent: Exactly! I'm like, this is weird, and I realized so much in such short amount of time. I was like, "This feels slightly gratuitous. I feel slightly uncomfortable about this." And then I went, "Ohh."

Courtney: Brent and I had a little sidebar conversation earlier today, and— 'cause we are gonna get to DC's other lady movie later. But basically, where DC has been successful... like, 'cause DC, most of their movies, frankly... not great, Bob.

Brent: Turrible.

Courtney: But the ones that are good, the two, the two of them that I really, genuinely love... is when they gave the reigns to female directors and writers.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Marvel... no.

Brent: And if I'm not mistaken, they feature women in an entirely different and more prominent way, if not just straight up the lead.

Courtney: Oh, entirely.

Brent: We're talking about Birds of Prey and Wonder Woman?

Courtney: Hell yeah we are.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Goddamn it, Birds of Prey was so fuckin' good. Guys, I'm gonna do a whole ass segment on it later. It's gonna be great. It's gonna sound like just verbal diarrhea nonsense. But that's how I feel about this movie!

Brent: Alright. We have—

Courtney: Brent, have you seen it yet?

Brent: Nope.

Courtney: [yells] Brent, go see it!!

Brent: I'm gonna! I'm gonna! I just have to first see Knives Out again. [laughs] Um, Sarah put me in charge of Valentine's Day movie. And I was like, that's weirdly a lot of pressure. But yeah.

Courtney: Harley Quinn shoots men with a glitter gun. And I love it. It's like, it's my entire personality in a shot of a movie. [laughs]

Brent: Amazing. Well, I do—I mean, she was one of the best parts of, uh, Suicide Squad, which was just quite a thing.

Courtney: Well, and—oh, god. Y'know what, just... ugh. This will be part one of Birds of Prey. The difference in the handling of that character in the hands of a woman, versus... ugh. Fuckin' Suicide Squad. That was a bad movie.

Brent: Yeah, Harley Quinn actually is a very interesting – potentially, anyway – interesting character.

Courtney: Oh, Harley is fascinating.

Brent: I don't know what they do in Birds of Prey at all, but like, her backstory, and like, I don't know. There's a lot of... there's a lot goin' on there.

Courtney: Legitimately, this movie is perfect. This movie is perfect. I love it with my entire, whole heart, and it was phenomenal. And—but like, it's not... she's not wearing her little, like, short shorts and a 'Daddy's Little Monster' t-shirt. Like, I mean, there's a reference to it at one point, but

like... this is not for the male fucking gaze, and that is why men were so fucking angry about this movie. They're like, "Who is this for?! Aaagh!"

Brent: [laughs] "It's not for me!!"

Courtney: And it's like, for—I mean, it's for—it's for us. It's for me, literally. Like, they made it just for me. Thank you.

Brent: So, do we wanna—anything else to talk about with the Oscars, or should we move onto another thing about men thinking that they're entitled to things?

Courtney: I'm trying to think if there was any... yeah. This whole show is just like... fuckin' men.

Brent: Yeah, kind of. And occasionally me being like, "Fuckin' men!" But really just mostly for Bernie Sanders. Um, anyway.

Courtney: The show is now called Fuckin' Men's Like These.

Brent: You want to move onto the airplane? Whee!

Courtney: I made a really good joke about our title of our show. It was really good.

Brent: Just now?

Courtney: Let's move on. [laughs]

Brent: Oh nooo. I did that thing that I've been called out for by multiple friends, where like, I'm thinking of the next thing I'm gonna say, and my ears just go, like, "We're just takin' a break for five operative, important seconds."

Then again, let's be real – I've dropped some serious wordplay that you and Travis just look at like chopped liver, so look. Payback is a B, and I love you. You ready to do this next—

Courtney: Honestly, all of us have been called out for this. The entire show has been called out for this, and I have described it as thus. You get very excited about like, what you're gonna say, and you're like, "I am focused on this thing that I am about to say as soon as I get a window." Travis and I are fuckin' like, Labrador puppies, and we're just like, "Oh I'm excited I'm gonna say the thing!!" Like, so, this show is a shitshow, and we thank anyone for listening to it, frankly. [laughs]

Brent: It is. My main neurosis as a performer is the fact that, with other people, I have a hard time truly letting go and improvising. But then, on stage alone, I'm like... really good at it. It's backward from, I think, most improvising people. But anywayyy...

Um, yeah. That makes me—y'know what I'm saying. Like, with you and Travis to contend with, I always feel like I'm like, "Wait up, you guys!" Anyway. Um, so. Okay. Okay. We're talkin' about airplanes and assholes.

On Wednesday, D.C. newswoman Marina Maracco posted a tweet with, uh—it was a video of a man and a woman on an airplane. The woman was sitting in the second to last seat, reclined all the way back, and the man was sitting behind her. Uh, and since he was in the very last row of seats, he could not recline.

So, when I first looked at the video, it looked like the plane was experiencing serious turbulence, because the woman's seat was bouncing, for like, the whole 30 seconds of the video. But it wasn't bouncing from the turbulence – the man behind her was punching her seat the entire time, at a rate of like, two or three punches a second.

Now, if you haven't seen it, I say this only to paint a picture. Like, I would say, like, about as hard as you'd knock a door. He wasn't like, upper cutting it, but like, you couldn't do that that fast. He was just sitting there, knock knock knock knocking at it.

So, Marina Maracco posted a tweet saying, "This video has the internet legitimately divided. Dude is in the last seat of the plane. Seat doesn't

recline. Hers does, and she reclines. He's upset, and is punching her seat incessantly, so she records." I should've said, the woman is using the mirror cam on her phone to record all this happening.

In the end of Marina Maracco's tweet is, "Who is right?! Who is wrong?! See you at 7PM on FOX5LION," which I guess is her local news station. So, okay. Yes... it sucks when you can't recline, and the person in front of you reclines. Like, I once reclined in a Greyhound bus, and the man behind me asked me not to, because he happened to be very tall and needed the legroom. I was annoyed. I wanted to recline, but... that's how it goes. You don't always get what you want when you're traveling in a plane/ train/ bus with other people.

But I don't think people—maybe it's just my Twitter bubble that I'm in. I don't think people are as divided as the tweet makes it sound. Like, yes, there are some people – [whispers] dudes – focusing on how the reclining was a dick move, and how it's ultimately the fault of greedy airlines packing people in. But none of that excuses the absolutely childish punching.

To say nothing of the fact that this is a man doing this to a woman. Courtney, I am handing you the talking stick like Excalibur! Take it!

Courtney: I am going to take the sword and stab the patriarchy! Okay, so here's the thing. When people do a thing that is bad, they are assholes. But... the actual act of doing a violent action – and I got like, shit on on Twitter for saying that this was a violent action. He's literally punching a thing. That's violent. Fuck you.

So he's punching the chair. He's committing a violent act for hours, presumably. Way longer than he needs to. And people are actually saying, "Y'know what, like, they're both assholes." Or, "Here's why it's okay that he did the thing he did." Or, "Here's why I understand the thing." Like, no! He punched a woman's chair for an entire goddamn flight! That is gendered bullshit!

Do you think for a second he would do that to a fucking man? Do you think that for a goddamn second? Do you think if she had like, a husband or a

partner with her that was male, and if he turned around and he was like, "Stop fuckin' doing that," he would've stopped? No.

This was a specific act that men do to women. And y'know what? Here's the fucking thing. If we could just like, punch someone every time they invaded our space, there would be no men left. We would've punched them into the goddamn sun. Just kidding! We'd be dead, because that's what men do when women fight back. Anyway. I hate everything.

Brent: [pause] And, uh... that concludes the fun time news hour with Brent and Courtney. [laughs] No, I think you nailed it. And y'know, we even talked about it on Slack, and like... this is one of those things that just—I feel like I fight all the time. My gut reaction is, typically, a little bit sexist. And I'm not gonna lie about the fact that that's a thing I have to reconsider all the time. Like, I went, "Weeellll..." And it's like, that's the first word that comes out of my mouth in a situation like this.

Courtney: I will actually say—I will say this.

Brent: And we talked about it. I'm not saying I was defending him at first.

Courtney: No. Oh my god, no.

Brent: I'm just saying, like, the way that I worded it was...

Courtney: [laughs] I literally responded. "Brent. Are you team seat puncher?"

Brent: Which I clearly am not.

Courtney: [laughs]

Brent: Although, it looks like we're on the same team, 'cause he's a bald guy with a beard, but we'll put that aside. Um, so, uh—

Courtney: I will say, though. I think that like—I mean, peek behind the curtain. People have listened, as Brent and I have had some arguments,

where I notice something that he says that like, I take as one way, and he doesn't realize, and y'know, we both kind of go into defensive mode. And I think that is your gut reaction, is to get defensive. Whether it's—

Brent: Well, yeah. And I think it becomes about me, which is a thing I think a lot of people unfortunately do. And y'know, with me, so often, it's like, "Are you saying something bad about a man? Because I'm trying!" And it's like, yeah, dude, you're leaping to you, and now you're doing therapy when this is about something else, and also, the bigger picture.

And it never really—the first thought never really gets better, 'cause you can't really undo about 30 years of your life, living in a certain society, that like, sort of, I don't know, the conditioning and messaging that makes you into the thing that you are. To say nothing of like... I don't know. Who knows. I'm not an expert.

Uh, but yeah. These things happen, and so, like, y'know, my first thought was just like, "Well, this is shitty regardless of gender!" And you were like, well, you can't really 'regardless of gender' your way out of this. And part of that is because he would not do this to a guy. Or a woman with like—

Courtney: Yeah, that's the—I mean, that's what I—

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: That's what I came down to. It's the fact that like, to... I think that, 'regardless of gender' is, in itself, a weirdly privileged thing. Because for people who are not cisgender men... there is no 'regardless of gender,' because gender is always going to be an issue for the rest of us. It is always going to be the reasoning behind why we're treated a certain way.

And I'm gonna have a whole ass segment about that in just a minute! But first, let's talk about brooms!

Brent: [laughs] Uh, okay, so, folks, #BroomstickChallenge is not a miracle. You just never tried it before. Tuesday, a new social media challenge was trending. And y'know, I'll say this – I'm glad it wasn't like, pejoratively

valuing a body type, like the thigh gap belly button thigh brows under boob pen type challenge. Or dangerous, like the Tide Pod cinnamon spoon Kylie Jenner lip type challenge.

No, this was the broomstick challenge that was started by a woman on Twitter who lists her name as MK, and she tweeted, quote, "Okay, so NASA said today was the only day a broom can stand up on its own because of the gravitational pull. I didn't believe it at first, but omg!" And she accompanied that with a video of herself setting a broom upright and perfectly balanced, standing on the floor, and it got like, legit, I don't know, like, 300,000 likes or something.

Well, okay. As fun as that sounds, NASA did not say that. It kind of coincides with the myth that gravity is stronger on the equinox, but that's wrong. And the vernal equinox isn't until March anyway. Um, and the fact is, look – while it seems counterintuitive, brooms have a low center of gravity, and if you stand them on their bristles just right, and the handle is centered from the bristle zone, most brooms will just stand up on their own. It's not a miracle. It's not because of a difference in gravity. It's just something you probably never thought to do with your broom, because it's a dang broom.

Courtney: I'm so glad I missed this. Like, so Tuesday, I had a big family emergency, and so, I really wasn't online. I was kind of focusing on family stuff. I think things are gonna be okay, so don't worry about it. Everything's gonna be good. But I entirely missed this, and I'm so glad I did, 'cause this is... this is silly.

Brent: I used it as an opportunity to basically stan Bernie. But it was—y'know what, I got a thousand likes. I was pretty proud of it.

Courtney: How? What did—is Bernie a broom?

Brent: Um, a big—Bernie Bro... oom. [laughs]

Courtney: [laughs]

Brent: No. No.

Courtney: That was a good one, Brent!

Brent: No, I just—I tried to stick to like—thank you. I tried to stick to only facts, and I think I succeeded on my coverage of Iowa last week. But like, my emotional, less rational person is like, “They screwed Bernie!” So like, I tweeted, “Holy shit, #BroomChallenge really works!” And like, I did, in fact, stand the broom up, but then I tilt down, and on the floor, there’s a piece of paper that says, “Bernie got robbed in Iowa.” [laughs] It was just... look. Look! It got a lot of retweets, and a lot of likes, and it was just for fun.

But this is our news show where we stick to facts. And the fact is, I feel... [laughs] Bernie got screwed.

Courtney: [laughs] Y'know what? This is actually a perfect lead in... to the next segment... because facts and feelings actually do get to live alongside each other, when those feelings are a result of experience. And with that, I will take you away... into the soapbox!

If you've paid attention to the news media, Elizabeth Warren is essentially done. After two states, just two percent of delegates, Elizabeth Warren is either out of the conversation entirely, or being eulogized as a lost cause.

Literally, in a Talking Points Memo piece titled ‘Requiem for Elizabeth Warren’s Campaign’, ostensibly honoring a fallen campaign that can be heard in the background saying, “I’m not dead yet!” But also includes the line, and I quote, “she played the gender card” as one of the reasons the campaign failed.

The Hill has a piece titled, ‘While Klobuchar Soars, Warren Flounders.’ The piece is barely about Warren at all; rather, how Klobuchar is rising, thanks to her moderate positions, and discomfort with a socialist on the ticket. Washington Post has a piece titled, ‘Elizabeth Warren’s Treacherous Path to Recovery,’ the second line of which reads, “which probably means she’s done for.”

Of the 64 delegates so far, Warren is in third. But many would have you believe she is a lost cause. And I'd like to talk about why that fucking sucks. Here's the thing about men. Men are allowed nuance. Men are allowed understanding. Men are allowed excuses. Men are allowed to fail. Women are not.

When Elizabeth Warren said her Medicare for All plan would take three years, people were angry and hurt. They turned. She had failed them. When Bernie Sanders said his will take four years, nothing. Since November, Warren's support from men has dropped by two thirds, while remaining steady among women, and it's really hard not to chalk that up to the "Bernie says a woman can't win" of it all.

Yes, I'm still angry about that. Yes, I'm still angry that a man said what a woman said wasn't true, and everyone took that at face value, running with it as "woman equals liar." No nuance. No consideration that he did say the thing, and when there was, it was a lot of, "Well, even if he did say the thing, she shouldn't have brought it up." No win.

I will say it again. Any woman knows in her heart, in her soul, and in her entire life of experience, what happens when we speak out against any man, let alone a beloved one. So when I tell you there is no way she leaked that story to help her campaign, please believe me. Women don't get to play the gender card. That card is always declined.

The thing that keeps hurting me is this. My fear is that there will never be a good enough woman. Men can continue being mediocre or flawed, and we will continue excusing those flaws and that mediocrity. But for women, the risk is simply too big. Anything less than perfection is failure, and even that perfection must be a specific, perfect kind of perfect.

In a piece by Monica Hesse for the Washington Post, she addresses this, and hits on the fears and the sadness and the million of other feelings that come with having your soul wrecked by a world that doesn't believe in us.

Hesse writes, "Loving Elizabeth Warren means planning for America to break your heart. It means watching her tweet out an optimistic message after

Iowa, and then watching how all of the early replies instruct her to defer to Sanders and drop out. It means making sure to preface your pro-Warren statements with, "I don't have anything against male candidates," as if the act of supporting a female one was somehow misandrist in itself.

It means listening to people complain about her schoolmarmishness and quietly wondering what was so wrong, exactly, with sounding like a schoolmarm. What's so wrong with sounding like a grandmother? What's so wrong with her animated hand gestures, her cardigans, her preparedness, her laugh, her husband, her brain, her work, her femaleness, her voice?

It means hoping things will break your way but accepting that they probably wouldn't, because America never quite seems to work that way, does it?"

The thing is, I feel hopeless a lot, because this is bigger than an election, which is really big, because nothing feels bigger than this election. Lives are on the line. Livelihoods are on the line. Democracy is on the line. But to feel constantly that women aren't good enough, then to be constantly gaslit that you're not actually being made to feel that way, you're lying, you're playing the victim, you're actually corrected not good enough, that the most basic man on the planet will always be preferable to any woman... it takes so much out of you.

I feel this emptiness. I've felt it since the election cycle began. Because if that incredibly qualified woman wasn't good enough, and if this incredibly qualified woman isn't good enough, who is? But I won't give up. I won't let two really white states with a bonkers approach to democracy get me down just yet. And I'm going to hope that we retire the concept of electability, which is just 2020 for likable, which is just all the time for being a woman correctly, and hope. Hope that things change. That things get better. That there is hope, and do whatever I can to make things better.

There's a lot of 2020 left. I'm not ready to give up on hope.

[theme music plays]

Courtney: So, we've done the politics, uh, round, just me. But now, what if we took all those other politics that aren't just me, and we rounded them up, and we put them in a circle, and we made them dance? Brent, make it dance! [sings a dance tune]

Brent: Here we are in the Politics Roundup. I was—god, I zoned out. I'm the worst. Um, so, yeah.

Courtney: This is why you're not invited to my soapbox.

Brent: Welcome. Welcome. The soapbox has happened. I don't know what it was, but...

Courtney: But he knows it was really smart, and really good, and he agrees with every fucking thing I said. Or Twitter will yell at him. [laughs]

Brent: I am positive that you took all the words out of my mouth. Um, it's important for us to say what we feel on this show. Um, but now... it is time... to round up the largest—

Courtney: [yells] I already did that part!

Brent: I was so zoned out! Oh no! [laughs] I was like, sittin' there, legit twiddling my thumbs, thinking, "Here comes the soapbox!"

Courtney: [laughing] People will have come back from a whole segment where I'm talking about how men don't listen to women, and then you literally didn't listen to a woman!

Brent: [laughing] Oh no! I was—I was just—ohhh, god.

Courtney: [laughing] Anyway, Brent, just start fucking talking. Jesus.

Brent: Ah, that's what I'm best at. Jesus. Okay. Well, uh, to start off our Politics Roundup, as we've apparently already established, this is gonna be the mother of all Trumpdates. But like my mother, it's gonna be short and sweet. Hi mom.

So, we're now in a post-Trump-impeachment world. I still stand with AOC and others in the opinion that something had to be done to prevent setting the precedent that the leader of the free world is above the law. Unfortunately, his inevitable acquittal has coincided with his highest approval numbers ever, and a string of power drunk and vengeful acts.

Okay, here's the timeline. On February 5th, the impeachment ended with Trump getting acquitted. The very next day, February 6th, Trump appeared at the national prayer breakfast, first holding up a newspaper with the headline, "Acquitted!" Just, y'know, to wave his mushroom dick around.

And then, later saying, uh... he started a sentence, I guess saying that he... I don't have the quote here, but basically he started a sentence with a dig at Mitt Romney, talking about, uh, citing god as a reason to do something that's wrong. But then he said, to end the sentence, "Nor do I like people who say 'I pray for you' when you know that is not so." And he's talking about Nancy Pelosi there.

I'll tell you something – I, too, dislike that. But I might not point it out while speaking at the national prayer breakfast. That's just me.

On February 7th, the day after that, he fired US Ambassador to the EU, Gordon Sondland, who had testified against him in the impeachment inquiry. And so, Lieutenant Colonel Vindman, who also testified against Trump, was escorted out of the White House, along with his twin brother. It was widely reported that they were fired, but national security advisor, Robert O'Brien, says, of Vindman, "We sent him on his way to a much different location, and the military can handle him any way they want."

Like, I guess he was relocated to the Army department, but it still feels like retaliation to me. And being escorted out... it feels like being fired, even if it's not.

Okay. On February 10th, attorney general and Trump lapdog, William Barr, announced he created a channel to receive information directly from those directing any investigations that would be of interest to the administration.

What he means is, he set up a more formal channel for Giuliani to pass on information he's collecting in the Ukraine. Like, they don't learn. Why would they learn? He got acquitted. What is this timeline? Biff is the president.

Okay. On February 11th, Trump intervened, in an unprecedented move, in the sentencing of his former associate, Roger Stone, who was convicted of witness tampering and lying to Congress. Trump went on a Twitter rampage, slamming the prosecutor's sentencing recommendation of seven to nine years, saying it was too harsh. By the way, that's just sort of following federal precedent and guidelines.

Suddenly, miraculously, the Department of Justice, led by Bill Barr, cut the sentence in half. It's not exactly a pardon, but it is kind of a backdoor mini pardon. Um, so now, Trump has set it up so that, if he wants someone punished, the DOJ will act as an extension of his little Joffrey whims. And all four prosecutors – this was stunning – they all quit in protest, with one even leaving the government altogether.

But I guess they're just, as QAnon tells us, part of the cabal. What can you do?

Finally, it was announced that, uh, this—sorry, it was announced this week that former White House communications director, Hope Hicks, after nearly two years of absences, coming back to the White House. Now... we're gonna enter... slightly unsubstantiated land, but I thought this was very interesting.

Civil rights attorney, Andrew Laufer, tweeted, "Was just told by one of my contacts that the actual reason why Hope Hicks is being brought back to the White House is due to Trump's declining mental state."

Now, in isolation, that's fairly unsubstantiated. But I've been hearing buzzings about Trump's mental fitness for a while, from speculation about frontal temporal degeneration from a neurologist, to that whole thing with the UK Sudafed. He might have an uppers habit, to uh, reports from people who work with him. Clips of him seeming to kind of glitch out during speeches.

It's not for us to say whether he's in a legitimate mental decline, and even though I can't stand the bastard, I'm not trying to, y'know, help stigmatize any kind of mental health issues. All I'm saying is, he is, in fact, the president, and mental fitness matters when you're the president. And I don't know if there's any fire there, but there is some smoke.

Courtney: Well, that's the thing. Like, it's... he might have some kind of... issue. He's also a fuckin' asshole. Both can be true at the same time. He is unfit to be president. It has nothing to do with his brain.

Brent: Yeah. Yeah. I mean, it can be both. Or just the one we already know about.

Courtney: People contain multitudes, and Trump's multitudes involve him being a rapist, and a monster, and a nasty man.

Brent: Among others. Yes, absolutely.

Courtney: Speaking of nasty men...

Brent: Mm-hmm.

Courtney: I don't want to surprise you. But Mike Bloomberg is kind of a racist. I know!

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: The billionaire famous for his policy of stop and frisk being racist?!

Brent: I love that you let there be a silence in there for the listener to respond. [laughing]

Courtney: I wanted there to be a beat. [laughing] For people to be like, "Whaaat?!"

Brent: Alright, I'll get out of your way. That was funny.

Courtney: But in 2015, at a speech at the Aspen Institution, Bloomberg was recorded as saying... some shit. I planned to include the audio here, because I don't want to read this, but it's low quality, and what he's saying here is important for us to know that this is how he really feels.

In the clip, he says, "95% of murders, murderers, and murder victims fit one MO. You can just take the description, Xerox it, and pass it out to all the cops. They are male, minorities, 16 to 25. That's true in New York, that's true in virtually every city. And that's where the real crime is.

You've got to get the guns out of the hands of people who are getting killed. So you want to spend the money on a lot of cops in the streets. Put those cops where the crime is, which means, in minority neighborhoods. So one of the unintended consequences is, people say, "Oh my god, you are arresting kids for marijuana that are all minorities."

Yes, that's true. Why? Because we put all the cops in minority neighborhoods. Yes, that's true. Why do we do it? Because that's where the crime is. And the way you get guns out of kids' hands is to throw them up against the wall and frisk them. And then they start, oh, I don't want to get caught. So they don't bring the gun. They still have a gun, but they leave it at home."

Whoof.

Brent: Ugh.

Courtney: Now, this speech was bad enough that Bloomberg asked for it to never be released, as the Aspen Times reported in 2015. So, this is—this was reported, at the time. Um, at the time, the Aspen Institution said, "We basically honor the wishes of our speakers, and Mayor Bloomberg preferred that we not use the video for broadcast."

Now, after that, after that audio went public, a 2013 WORN radio interview he did went viral. And this time, we can share the audio.

Bloomberg: They just keep saying, "Oh, it's a disproportionate percentage of a particular ethnic group." That may be, but it's not a disproportionate percentage of those who witnesses and victims describe as committing the murder. In that case, incidentally, I think we disproportionately stop whites too much, and minorities too little.

Brent: Holy shit.

Courtney: Yeah!

Brent: Like, I mean, I was in New York when he was the mayor. I catered a breakfast where he was. And like, I just... I mean, y'know, look. The mayor is the mayor, whatever. But I... really did not—I mean, yes. Stop and frisk is an inherently racist, terrible, terrible policy. But gosh, it's just a whole 'nother thing to hear him talk about it this casually.

Courtney: Well, I think that's a thing, where like, a lot of white people, frankly. White people are the ones who can say like, "Well, yeah, you stop and frisk people who might be criminals." But when they actually come out and say, "Look, it's because the criminals are the people of color," then that actually makes white people have to stop and say like, "Oh, shit."

Like, there's a reason that, y'know, mass incarceration is a really bad thing, that it didn't occur to a lot of white people was a bad thing, because it doesn't fuckin' affect us.

Brent: Absolutely.

Courtney: And it's really easy to just think like, "Well, criminals are bad. They deserve to go to jail." It's only when you stop and realize, like, oh no, wait. It's bigger than that. It's broader than that, and it's—the "criminal" is not always what we, the white progressive, pictures as what we think a criminal is.

Brent: Well, and this whole thing just feels adjacent to the fact that there's this sort of unspoken—well, sometimes unspoken – idea in a lot of white

America that, when they say the good guy with the gun, they mean, the white guy with the gun.

Courtney: Every time.

Brent: And then you have Philando Castile, who was in a state where it was legal to have a gun in your car, did everything he could to be like, "Officer, I do have a gun, as is my right. I'm trying to cooperate," and he got shot.

I mean, to me, the idea that the people of color with guns are the problem... now, look, New York City is not an open carry city. That's not the point. The point is that, in so many instances, white people are doing plenty of crime, sometimes different kinds, but like, it ignores the entire institutionalized racism issue. All kinds of just like, things going back to the time of slavery.

And to hear Michael Bloomberg just so casually talking about this... it just—there's no—there's not like, "Oh, it was out of context!" No. I've seen that on Twitter, and it's like, no. I'm sorry. That was enough for me to know that it was in context, and more importantly, this is just a sequence of words. I do not care what the context is.

Courtney: Exactly. I went to private catholic high school. We had so many goddamn drugs. Y'know what we didn't have a lot of? People of color. It was a very majority white school. And the white kids were the fuckin' drug dealers. It was the rich white kids. Because they knew they were never gonna get in trouble! Ever! And I think that's the norm, probably, like... just nationwide.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Ugh. So, Bloomberg apologized for his stop and frisk policy, while downplaying it, of course, saying, "By the time I left office, I cut it back by 95%. But I should've done it faster and sooner. I regret that, and I have apologized, and I have taken responsibility for taking too long to understand the impact it had on black and Latino communities."

How big of an impact? According to the NYT, of 575,000 stops conducted in 2009, black and Latino people were nine times as likely as white people to be targeted by the police, even though once stopped, they were no more likely to be arrested.

So what's wild to me is the utter gall and entitlement of a person knowing this exists, and thinking they should still run for president anyway. Then it might not come out! They don't need to like, do any kind of pre-whatever. It's just like... welp. Well. I am sure white and rich. And of course, it's on his black and Latinx team members to somehow fix this.

Politico said, "Leaders for Bloomberg's black and Latino constituency teams gathered on a call with staffers spread across the country to get ahead of the news and calm their nerves. They talked about Bloomberg's evolution from high profile defender to deeply apologetic critic of stop and frisk," sources familiar with the exchange told Politico.

Brent: Yeah, as of the other day.

Courtney: Exactly, yeah. It didn't occur to them to do that before.

Brent: Right.

Courtney: Why would it? He also assembled a group of 20 black religious leaders to have a meeting at his headquarters, rolled out endorsements from members of the congressional black caucus, and he's apparently also got a gospel singer with an endorsement. Ah yes, hide behind the people of color the rich white way!

Brent: [laughs] His whole thing is just so... so strange. And like, I—I think there may be some intention on the part of his campaign staff to make him a meme, slightly at his expense, but just to kind of get his name out there more. Because god, the meatball thing?

Courtney: I'm so confused.

Brent: The meatball thing and the big gay ice cream thing. If he thought the big gay ice cream thing was a, honest to god, committed, straight forward, non-ironic, good move... then he just doesn't understand anything. And if y'all haven't seen it, go just Google 'Mike Bloomberg big gay ice cream.' I think we've talked about it on the show before, but it's just so... it's just so dystopianly weird.

It's the kind of thing where you watch a movie like, um... is it Idiocracy? And you go, "Yeah, but like, this is exaggerated. It wouldn't really be like that." No. It is. And I know some people think that that movie's got shitty undertones, and it does. But what I'm talking about is, this Mike Bloomberg thing just seems...

I mean, like, the corporation in Robocop. Or rather, the—y'know what I'm saying? Like, just that—it doesn't feel real. But it is. And this time, it's not Trump.

Courtney: The thing that is not real, though, is um... the Moves like Bloomberg video that a lot of people thought was real, that is, uh—that's comedy. That's from UCB.

Brent: Yes. But I mean, after—

Courtney: I just want to make sure everyone knows that. [laughs]

Brent: Yes. But after Mayor Pete's veery... silly dance thing...

Courtney: Yeah. That one, that High Hopes Pete video, is straight up real.

Brent: I mean, a lot of times, though, I feel like... I don't know. I'm the kind of person that, I never like when the person on stage goes, "I can't hear youuu!" Like, I'm always like, look, I'm just not gonna do what you tell me. I'm paying you to be here.

But what I'm saying is, when I was at Obama events in 2007, 2008, they would do like this call and response like, "Fired up! Fired up! Ready to go!

Ready to go!" And I was always like, come on. Can we please not, like, make it a cheerleading thing?

Courtney: I like when it's natural. At like—yeah, at like, women's march and things like that. They at least come from the crowd. It's not like...

Brent: Right! Totally. The crowd starts, y'know, "Show me what democracy looks like."

Courtney: "I say Bloom, you say Berg!" Yeah.

Brent: Yeah, exactly. Great. Organic.

Courtney: I will say... so, I—I tend to not really prescribe to, uh, y'know, conspiracy theories, when it comes to elections. Unless warranted, and frankly, in a lot of these elections, they are.

Brent: Did you just say Warren-ted? [laughs]

Courtney: Really Warren-ted!

Brent: Ha haaa! Okay, sorry, go on.

Courtney: Anyway, please go back to my soapbox. Anyway. But like, to the point, I feel like Bloomberg... yes, he bought his way into the debate. We all know that. I genuinely can't imagine him getting these kind of poll results without buying them. I'm so confused. [laughs]

Brent: Absolutely not.

Courtney: Like, where are these like, insurgents of supporters coming from?! There's no way!

Brent: Well, now, my question for you is, are you... in the demographic that gets bombarded with the ads?

Courtney: I'm in Illinois. I'm in Illinois, so no.

Brent: What I'm saying is, I'm in a swing state.

Courtney: I'm a blue as fuck state.

Brent: I can't—I can't go to the freaking gym without just being bombarded by these... like, actually very slick, and if you're not paying attention, very convincing ads. But it's entirely a propaganda campaign. You almost never hear him talk. And like, look – my guy's Bernie, so I shouldn't talk much about being telegenic or charming on screen, or y'know, like, having a nice voice. But like, there just is something squirrely about the guy.

Um, but moreover, he has bought so many ads, and plenty of them, Courtney, I was honestly... I shouldn't be shocked, but y'know, I had a live stream of MSNBC going while I was watching the New Hampshire returns come in. And uh, they had Bloomberg ads in the commercial breaks! Now, politically—

Courtney: I will say, like, I haven't had a ton.

Brent: —that ought to not be okay, right?

Courtney: Yeah. I haven't had a ton. But I will say that the only, um, political ads that I've seen, like... leading up to, and before the Illinois super Tuesday primary like everyone else has. I've only seen Steyer and Bloomberg I think. I don't think I've seen ads for anyone else.

Brent: I mean, the—

Courtney: Because they have the money to buy ads in every state, even if it's like, a locked, blue state.

Brent: Right. Whereas, now, with other candidates, they do a certain way in a primary, and then you hear that they've done—they've now done an ad buy. Like, I believe I heard that about Klobuchar. Like, because she did

better than expected in New Hampshire, they're going to do an additional ad buy.

But Bloomberg... it just... [sighs] There's just something gross about the whole thing. And to me, in a post-citizens united world, like... anyone saying that we need to find a way to get money out of politics, or to figure less in politics, or – one of my favorite policy proposals about this is that all Americans get a tax deduction for up to a certain amount of political donations.

Like, I've heard up to 100, but like, what if it was up to 500? You get that money back when you, y'know, as a tax deduction, because at least that gives you some power to have a voice. In a world where, if freaking Yum Brands... y'know what I mean? If like, Coca-Cola or McDonald's or Wal-Mart want to prop up a candidate, they can. It's just slightly more circuitous than it used to be, and Bloomberg doesn't even have to do that! He just does it for himself! It's a little fucked.

Courtney: I bristle at the idea that anyone must vote for a certain person or kind of person in order to win. Primary, like, quote unquote "electability", like, pisses me off. I feel like the primary is the time where people should just vote for who they think *they* want to see in the role.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: And so, the idea that like, "If we don't vote for a centrist, we can't win this!" Or, "Only one person is capable of winning this, and we must therefore shitcan everyone else!" I don't like that. I will always bristle at that. And this idea that... that fuckin'—I think it's Michael Boot? That's that conservative columnist that was like, "Please, I'm begging you to rally around either Amy Klobuchar or Pete Buttigieg!" Like, what?!

Brent: I mean—

Courtney: No!

Brent: So, okay. I watch an unhealthy amount of political TV, and most of it is in segment-length bits on YouTube. I have my auto play on. And because YouTube literally favors mainstream media sources in the algorithm, any time I watch, y'know, your more progressive independent political videos on YouTube, it'll roll over into a CNN, an MSNBC, that kind of thing. Here's what I'm getting at.

It's possible that mainstream media outlets are not always using the word 'electable' to just mean 'corporate-friendly and closer to the center.' It's possible. But I've never seen it. I've literally never seen someone—like, even if—okay. If someone—for instance, Elizabeth Warren was polling, I believe, at or near number one, late last year. She was totally kicking Bernie's ass. But even though she was polling that well, they didn't go, "Oh! Maybe she's more electable!" They went, "Oh, she's still got these policies that scare us and scare Wall Street. So you know who's electable? Joe Biden." Who now has been in fourth and fifth place.

Courtney: I think they genuinely believe—

Brent: Which just has to put to rest, forever, the idea that electability, when hear about it from a corporate-owned outlet, is anything but propaganda.

Courtney: I think they genuinely believed that Warren and Sanders supporters would just like... neutralize each other, and that, y'know, then one of the lesser ones would move into place. I don't think that anyone counted on how much people fuckin' hate women. [laughs] To where like—no, it's not a matter of like, "We have these people and these people, and they will knock each other out." But it's like, "No, we have these people and these people, and also, all of them really fuckin' want the woman out of it."

Brent: I mean—

Courtney: No one takes Sanders seriously outside of like—like, in terms of like, the mainstream media, politi—like, fellow politicians. I don't know that anyone actually sees Bernie as the threat that he is.

Brent: Well, they're starting to, and now they don't know what to do.

Courtney: Exactly. Yeah. I think that that—I honestly think that, in 2016, my opinion is not that they were like, scared of Bernie, so they needed to snuff him out. I don't think they thought he could win.

Brent: Right. The DC bubble.

Courtney: And so, they backed the candidate they thought they could win. This time, I think that it's taken until, like, Iowa and New Hampshire for anyone to think, like, "Oh, shit, Bernie could actually take this."

Brent: Yeah. And I think that in years past, y'know... I think Ron Paul, while I only agree with him on like, maybe 10% of things... Ron Paul was very popular, and he was like, squeezed out of the debates. And it just kind of—it's almost like there wasn't enough of a transparent social media, leaking gets you farther kind of environment for that to really be focused on.

But I feel like, y'know, we could all agree that, at least to some extent, there was an uphill climb for Bernie against the DNC in the last, uh—in the last presidential election primary. But now, it's kind of getting harder... like, just the way Iowa looked. It just like—no one knows exactly what happened, but like, even you got your CNNs and MSNBCs being like, "It does look fishy. We're not gonna lie." And of course, Fox News loves to be like, "Very fishy!"

Um, but it is. And that being said... I said a thing to you earlier today, which, I've been like, scratching my chin about. It doesn't really matter now. But like, okay, so, Ted Cruz in 2016, as an act of desperation, said, "Carly Fiorina's gonna be my running mate." I think it might've been a—I don't know. I don't want to psychoanalyze it. But that was what he did.

And of course, last year, I was so worried that, uh, Warren and Sanders would cannibalize each other, because they're in the same lane. And now, I'm wondering if we'll see Buttigieg and Klobuchar. Imagine if they were like, "Look, we're the reasonable candidates, so we're gonna make a pact that, uh, y'know, after a certain... a pact that we'll be on a ticket together. And

then, after a certain primary happens, whoever's got less delegates, fewer delegates, will default as the VP."

Like, I don't think that's been done before. Maybe it has. But like, that actually could make them more formidable, especially now that you've got, as I'm about to talk about, these mainstream media outlets putting up like, Bernie's percentage, versus the cobbled together percentages of all the moderates, as if that's sort of fair.

But like, with Pete and Amy doing that... I don't want them to win. But it could be an interesting strategy.

Courtney: I also don't think—I—I don't think it's possible. Because I think that in this hypothetical situation, it implies that any person, uh, would or should necessarily put themselves into the... like, take themselves out of the running, into the lower position.

Brent: Mm-hmm.

Courtney: I mean, and I... I just talked about, in the segment, that, at this time, I haven't recorded yet, about the fact that uh, when people say, "Y'know what, I think Elizabeth Warren should just say she'll be Bernie's VP, and she will be the one that does the plans, and Bernie will be the one in charge." That was a tweet that went very viral, and it was like... but wait. Isn't that like, the woman doing the work, and the man taking the credit? To which that person said, "Yeah, but that's how politics work."

Brent: Yeah. It was a dumb tweet, and then the response was like, bro. Yikes.

Courtney: Yeah. But I also—I don't—I think that there is an ego required to run for president.

Brent: Sure. You gotta be at least a little bit narcissistic.

Courtney: I don't see Pete Buttigieg saying, "I'll be VP." I don't see Bernie Sanders saying, "I'll be VP." I don't see anyone in this crew of people.

Except for Tom Steyer. Tom Steyer has strong VP energy, where he's just like, "I just want to be included!" [laughs]

Brent: Yeah. He'd also be like—

Courtney: I could see him saying, "I'll be someone's VP! Someone? Please? Me? Tom Steyer! Hi!"

Brent: I uh, I will say... and this may be controversial. But I thought, for a while, that while... okay. Even though I would like to see a person of color, or more diversity in the ticket, I think Sanders-Warren, counter intuitively to many people's opinions, Sanders-Warren in either direction would've been the strongest ticket.

It could still happen. I feel like the thing with, did Bernie say a woman can't win or not kind of made that more difficult. But I think if Sanders and Warren had done that pact thing... again, the ego and narcissism required to run for president probably prevents that, 'cause you have to believe you can win.

But if they had done that pact, I think they would absolutely, like... that could've changed everything. Now, they may still cannibalize each other and hand it to Biden. I don't know.

Courtney: I will say, I will say, I do also—

Brent: It could've been interesting.

Courtney: I do also think there's a bigger, uh, thing for the female candidates to say like, "Well, I'm running for president, but I can't be president, so I'll be this man's, like, assistant."

Brent: Well, that's an interpretation. But it's also—

Courtney: No, but it's also real, though.

Brent: It's also Bernie admitting that maybe—

Courtney: It's also real.

Brent: Sure. Look, I think this is one situation where that's definitely a take. I'm not surprised it's yours, but also, it would be Bernie saying, "I need this very good person as insurance," and/or Pete Buttigieg saying that about Klobuchar, who honestly—

Courtney: Okay, I—to which then, I would say, it would have to be after he secured the nomination. And then said, "I have secured the nomination now. I am your nominee. I need Elizabeth Warren with me." It could not be a thing that was announced before that, because I think that, then, it would look like, "Well, I can't be this, so I guess I just have—"

Like, it—there's just a... a... I think that's what I'm struggling with. It's that there is a weakness that I don't think that men can, or will, admit to. Where they're like, "Y'know what? I can't win, so I'm gonna be this woman's VP." And if a woman did it, I would feel sad for them that they were put in a position where they had to do that.

Brent: Hm. That's fair. I mean, again, I think, a lot of times, my solutions for things are... like, just like when I tweeted the other day about how I wish primaries went. It's a, perhaps, a simpler way to do it, which would be like, we all vote—all registered Democrats vote for their nominee on the same day. Get it over with.

But, it's like, that fixes a lot of problems and raises more. So like, this is yet another thing where I'm like, "What would happen if they did that?" I'm not saying it would be perfect, but I'd be interested—

Courtney: No. I think sometimes, you have pragmatic suggestions for things, and then, I come in and be like, "Nope, here's why that's not okay because of women." I feel like that's my role on this show. Is because women!

Brent: [laughs] Good tattoo. Alright, um... you want to—here. We've sort of touched on the New Hampshire primary, but I'm just gonna make it through my copy to talk about it real quick. It happened on Tuesday.

Unlike Iowa, it was a ballot vote system rather than caucuses, and the comparatively simple math is basically, there is two sets of popular vote totals, and so, it's, in a slightly complicated way, just the popular vote, which I like.

However, any candidate falling below a 15% threshold in New Hampshire gets zero delegates going forward, which was bad news for Warren and Biden, who didn't get that high.

Whereas Iowa had concerningly low turnout, New Hampshire had a record-setting turnout of at least 295,000 ballots, which is good news, 'cause Jesus do we need turnout to beat Trump.

Now, according to the official numbers, Bernie won the popular vote in Iowa, and Pete won state delegates by point one percent. This time, Bernie had a decisive, if slim, margin over Pete, with Bernie coming in at 25.7, Pete at 24.4, Klobuchar coming in at a surprising third at 19.8%, and unfortunately, Warren, who, for the record, I really wish... this is weird to say, and probably sexist, but god I'd rather it be her and Bernie at the top.

I'll put it this way – I'd love to see them duking it out, one way or the other, than some of these clowns. But anyway.

Warren at uh, 9.2, followed by Biden in fifth place at 8.4%. Andrew Yang came in eighth. He suspended his campaign. Other dropouts included Michael Bennett, AKA, "Who?" And the absolutely not event campaign of Deval Patrick. Just a little salt on the side. Somehow, even the New York Times noticed that a number of Bernie votes in Iowa were accidentally allocated to Deval Patrick. But okay, that's another story. Anyway.

Um, so, we saw some media narratives emerge. There was a narrative that Bernie's way less popular this time around because he beat Hillary in New Hampshire by 23 points, as opposed to one point here. But he was

campaigning against like, one other candidate, as opposed to this year when there's like, eleventy.

Um, they also, like I said, to the thing where they cobbled together all the moderates, and then put that versus his percentage, as if that's a thing. And then, I actually saw a thing on MSNBC where they were like, "What's important is actually that all-important third place slot," about Klobuchar, which is like... never heard that phrase before.

And as I imagine Courtney said in the soapbox, which I have not heard at time of recording, uh, Warren was really left out of the conversation almost entirely. To be fair, Klobuchar did kind of come out of nowhere, which was largely attributed to her solid debate performance for the week before, and the fact that, as Biden crashes and burns, Klobuchar is one place for a moderate vote to go.

I'll say this for Klobuchar – while I think her policies are too status quo for my taste, she has been the most consistent candidate in her lane. Like, Buttigieg has been wishy-washy on certain bold policy rhetoric. Biden barely shares any policy positions, 'cause he's gonna save the soul of America, or whatever Corn Pop told him to do. But Klobuchar has said from the beginning, "I think my plans are more realistic than the pie in the sky stuff Bernie and Elizabeth are offering you."

Now, another narrative I've seen is that New Hampshire doesn't matter much, because the state is so white, which hurts Buttigieg, who polls poorly with black voters. You could also apply that to Bernie. I've heard Bernie has a very diverse base, but we'll—that'll be put to the test as this primary continues.

Um, so, as it stands, Pete's got 22 delegates overall. Bernie's behind him with 21. Then it goes, Elizabeth eight, Amy seven, Biden six, and that's all of them that anyone has.

So, while Warren has gotten a raw deal from voters and the media in the past weeks, she's still in third place, and she's not bowing out yet. So, what's next?

Well, on February 22nd, Nevada will vote, and a week after that is South Carolina. Now, New Hampshire's 90% white, but Nevada, or Nevada as I think it's correctly pronounced. Nevada is 52% nonwhite, South Carolina, 33% nonwhite.

One argument for Biden all along has been that he's supposedly popular with black voters. But if Biden gets fourth or fifth again in Nevada, without the majority of nonwhite votes just sort of magically rallying around him, the two main arguments for his candidacy will have been disproven. Like, that he's most electable overall, and that he's most popular with voters of color.

Klobuchar may have what mainstream outlets are calling Klomomentum, and Bloomberg has risen in the polls, 'cause he bought that. Now, okay, so here's the thing. The first four contests, which we've now been through two of. Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, South Carolina. Each one gets its own week to itself.

But then, on March 23rd, 16 different primaries happen on the same day. That's why they call it Super Tuesday. In order to be guaranteed the nomination, a candidate has to get 1,991 delegates. Now we're talking about over the course of the whole primary thing. That's, in the same way that, y'know, uh, a presidential general election, you gotta win those 270. Well, in the primary, in this democratic primary, a candidate has to get 1,991 delegates in order to secure the nomination.

Uh, the first four contests will have offered a total of 175 delegates altogether. But Super Tuesday will award over 1,300 delegates in one night.

Things are looking optimistic for Bernie, who's finally leading by double digits in national polls. And in a very telling turn of events, the RCP average of betting odds has Bernie at 41%, followed by Bloomberg at 29. But look – anything could happen. Bernie could have another heart attack. If Buttgieg or Klobuchar have a major screw up, the current supporters of one may go to the other, or to Bloomberg.

Warren still has a chance, and if Klobuchar can come out of nowhere, Warren just might be able to as well. And while it looks like Biden is tanking, he was polling at number one nationally for about a year. So maybe Super Tuesday could give him the boost he needs to stay in.

I'll say this – Super Tuesday's where you're gonna see some campaigns end, because there will almost definitely be one or more candidates who, at that point, just can't mathematically win. So there are a lot of possible ways the next month could go, and as always, we will keep you posted as the primary continues to unfold.

Courtney: Hey, Brent?

Brent: Hey, what?

Courtney: Should we tid a bit?

Brent: Let's—let's tid, like, a bit. Just a bit.

Courtney: Just a bit. Like, not a lot. A tiny little bit.

Brent: We'll kibitz over some tibitz. How about that?

Courtney: I will not say what I titled this tidbit.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: But I want you to know that it was uncouth.

In an interview with the New York Times' The Daily podcast, Harvey Weinstein's lawyer, Donna Rotunno, was asked by reporter, Megan Twohey, if she had ever been sexually assaulted. She replied, "I have not. I have not, because I would never put myself in that position."

Brent: Oh, fuck you! I haven't actually read this copy yet or heard this story. Jesus Christ!

Courtney: Twohey was obviously like, “Um, what the fuck,” and asked, “So you're saying you have never been sexually assaulted, because you would never put yourself in the position of being sexually assaulted?” Rotunno replied, “No. I've always made choices, from college age on, where I never drank too much. I never went home with someone that I didn't know. I just never put myself in any vulnerable circumstance ever.”

Y'know what? She is so right. Like, the situations I've been in where I was sexually assaulted could've been so avoided, if I had never done any of the following: slept. Sat down in my class chair in sixth grade. Had my clothed vagina in the proximity of someone's hand. Had my clothed breast in the proximity of someone's hand. Checked my Facebook messages to read why I deserved to be raped. Slept again. Left my home. Stayed in my home. Existed. If I'd done none of those things, I would've been fine.

Brent: You fuckin' nailed it. Um, wow. That's... [sighs] Gross what some people will say when they just—I mean, y'know, there's the old joke of like, 90% of lawyers give the other 10% a bad name. But like, fuckin' nasty. Gross. Okay.

Courtney: Hey, y'know what? Just in case anyone needs to actually hear it said out loud... no one “gets” raped. No one “gets” sexually assaulted. They are assaulted by someone. The person who does the thing is responsible for the thing. There is nothing you can do to prevent it. The prevention is only in the hands of the person doing the thing. It is no one's fault if you get fucking assaulted. It is the fault of the person who did it. And they can fuckin' go fuck themselves. And so can this bitch. I did not call her a bitch in the title of this segment, I called her something else, and I'm not gonna say it, but y'know what? She is.

Brent: She earned it. Well, okay. Very hard—so if you've ever been in the car where somebody hit the e-brake, and in so doing, they did a sort of a 180, and suddenly were facing the other side of the road? That's what we're doin'. That's what's happening right this second.

Courtney: This was originally gonna be a headline, but I was like, “I don’t want to talk about this for very long.”

Brent: No, I totally get it.

Courtney: Please don’t make me.

Brent: Please excuse the segue, of which there is none. Um, so, I recently watched both *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* and *Honey, I Blew Up the Kid* on Disney+, and started in on *Honey, We Shrunk Ourselves* before remembering that our time on this planet is short.

But I was delighted to learn that Rick Moranis has just closed a deal to return to the *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* franchise, in a movie that will reportedly star Josh Gad as his son, who aspires to be a great scientist like his dad, but accidentally shrinks the kids.

There are a lot of what are called reboots these days, but are actually like, decades later sequels, or decades later new seasons of TV. But I think this could be really fun. And I, for one, am hoping the title of the movie is... *Honey, I Regret to Inform You, and Please Don’t be Mad, the Kids, Once Again, Have Been Shrunk by Me*.

Courtney: I like, am not a big Josh Gad—for someone who loves *Book of Mormon*, I am not a big Josh Gad fan. I actually think this is the perfect role for him.

Brent: Having just seen the thing, I can totally see him being the kid that—or rather, the man that the son in the first two—

Courtney: The man who was the kid who was of the shrinks.

Brent: Yes. Yes. He’s a little more—he’s a little more of a goober than the young man who played the son in the first two. But I’m super cool with it.

Courtney: Josh Gad's singing voice is fucking wild and I don't understand it, but that is a whole other segment that I could go on about for a solid 65 minutes.

Brent: It's very strange. It's very strange.

Courtney: But for right now, what I'm gonna do is tell everyone... go see *Birds of Prey*. Because *Birds of Prey* is perfect. It's so good. Okay. So, it's *Birds of Prey* and the *Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn*. And it is Harley, post Joker break up, living her life, loving breakfast sandwiches, and then she gets involved with some chicanery from Ewan McGregor—

Brent: Some chickcanery?

Courtney: Some chickanery. Ewan McGregor is there, and he is wearing velvet suits, and he is fabulous, and he's so good, and he is just having the best time, and Chris Massina is there in a role I've never seen him in before, where he was like, playin' kind of like the, y'know, the "myehh" henchman.

And then, all of the *Birds of Prey*... so we have... *Black Canary* is, uh, uh, oh my god, why am I blanking on her name? I keep thinking of Jussie Smollet, because he was all over the trending news. *Jurnee!* *Jurnee Smollet-Bell!* *Jurnee Smollet-Bell*, AKA Michelle Tanner's best friend Denise. She. Is. So. Good.

She's like a singer in, uh, Ewan McGregor's night club, and she is kicking ass, and she's taking names, and she's amazing, and she hi—*Jurnee* hired a black hairstylist, because black hairstylists are the only people, apparently, that can work with black hair, because white hairstylists in Hollywood do not know what to do with black hair. So, this movie's great.

Also, Mary Elizabeth Winstead plays *The Huntress*, and she is so goddamn good, and she's socially awkward, and she's weird, and I love her so much. And Rosie Perez plays *Renee Montoya*, and she's great, and she's a lesbian. And Ali Wong is her former partner, and there is so much goodness in this movie.

The following scenes, I would just like to hint at, as being the most important scenes of my entire existence. Harley Quinn plus breakfast sandwich equal OTP. Harley Quinn has a glitter gun. Black Canary makes things explode. Mary Elizabeth Winstead rides a slide. And then there's big fights. I'm not—those were not spoilers. Those were the most I can give you that is not spoilers. It is perfect. And I love it.

Brent: I'm sure the trailer gave away significantly more than that.

Courtney: Goddamn it. The Mary Elizabeth Winstead on the slide scene is my favorite. I like, jumpy clapped. I was grinning with my mouth open the whole goddamn movie. As opposed to when I saw *Cats*, where I was scowling with my mouth open the whole goddamn movie. This is opposite *Cats*.

Brent: [laughs] Um... well. I think that what you're trying to say is that it's a decent film. Um... that's what I'm getting.

Courtney: [whispers] I'm so good. I want to wear every costume in this movie. There's so much velvet. Oh my god, there's so much velvet.

Brent: I do not want to interrupt you if you're not done, but there is no copy in the thing for this. [laughs] Just like...

Courtney: No, it literally just says in, uh, pink and blue letters, "Courtney reviews *Birds of Prey*."

Brent: Yep, that's what it says.

Courtney: I was like, I don't need words for this.

Brent: Alright, well, I'm gonna take the talking stick for a small little story to put you at ease. If you read a headline about how an asteroid big enough to cause a nuclear winter and mass extinction is hurdling toward earth at a dangerous speed, you can basically relax. Um, NASA did call—okay, there is an asteroid that's hurdling kind of toward us. And the thing is, asteroids are

always at a dangerous speed. Otherwise, they wouldn't be asteroids. But anyway.

NASA did call it a potentially hazardous asteroid because of its size. But, if you scroll down way past the headline on various click bait coverage of it, you'll see that it's expected to pass by us, coming no closer than about three and a half billion miles. So that'll happen Saturday. Probably tomorrow, if you're listening to this the day it comes out. February 20—sorry, Saturday, February 15th around six in the morning eastern time, and we're gonna be fine.

[music plays]

Jarrett: Hey, I'm Jarrett Hill, cohost of the brand new Maximum Fun podcast, FANTI.

Tre'vell: And I'm Tre'vell Anderson. I'm the other, more fabulous cohost, and the reason you really should be tunin' in.

Jarrett: I feel the nausea rising.

Tre'vell: To be FANTI is to be a big fan of something, but also, have some challenging or anti feelings toward it.

Jarrett: Kind of like Kanye.

Tre'vell: We're all fans of Kanye. He's a musical genius. But like, y'know...

Jarrett: He thinks labor is a choice.

Tre'vell: Or like The Real Housewives of Atlanta. Like, I love the drama, but do I want to see black women fighting each other on screen?

Speaker 1: [singing] Hell to the naw, to the naw naw naw.

Jarrett: We're tackling all of those complex and complicated conversations about the people, places, and things that we love.

Tre'vell: Even though they may not love us back.

Jarrett: FANTI. Maximum Fun. Podcast.

Tre'vell: Meow!

Alden: Hey, everyone! Alden Ford here with the cast of Mission to Zyxx.

Group: Hello!

Alden: Our fourth season premieres on February 19th, and for those of you who aren't familiar with the show, we decided to ask one of our characters to give you a quick recap of what's happened so far. Say hello to the clone trooper, AJ.

AJ: Showing you people what's happening.

Alden: Okay, dude, put your gun down. AJ, can you just tell us what's happened in the Zyxx quadrant in the last couple seasons?

AJ: Oh, well, we destroyed the emperor.

Alden: Oh, really? Okay, great.

AJ: Yeah, I mean, I think so. We knocked him into a chasm. Mr. Robot Man and Bargez's ship crashed through a window, and Darr and Baby Horse Head and I took out like, a bunch of bad guys. Popov fulfilled his destiny. And the lizard was there, too!

Alden: Okay, great. I guess I was sort of asking what the show was like.

AJ: Oh, you mean, like... it's an improvised, serialized word play space opera featuring brilliant sound design and incredible guest stars and an epic, hilarious tale of fresh versus wack?

Alden: Oh, yeah. Wow. Where did you come up with that?

AJ: Jesse Thorn told me to write that on my palm.

Alden: Okay. Alright. Well, Mission to Zyxx, season four, debuts on February 19th on Maximum Fun. Check it out.

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

[Wi-Five slap]

Brent: For this week's Wi-Five, I want to take you back to a time before you could store video files in the cloud, before you could upload them to YouTube, seemingly forever before you could copy them to a thumb drive in a matter of minutes... there was a time when pretty much the only way for most people to have a video of their own was to be in possession of a video tape. And if you made a video with a camcorder, and then lost the tape, there was no cloud backup. It was just gone.

Well, this week's Wi-Five goes out to a Texan man who lives in the greater Austin area, and his name is Jim McKay. McKay recently bought a thrift store VCR to use as part of a film project, and he found a tape left in it from 1994. The video showed a child taking his first steps with his dad sitting in front of him.

Now, Mr. McKay could've been like, "Ah, that's too bad. I bet someone wishes they had this." Instead, he was like, "Ah, that is too bad! I bet someone wishes they had this!" So, he went to the trouble of getting a local news station to air the footage. And just a few weeks ago, he finally found the family. The kid's name is Tyre Alexander. He was ten months old in the video, and now he's 26. And it turns out, his mom called him when she saw the news and said, "Do you know you're on TV right now?"

Um, Tyre, by the way, had never seen this video before, and his parents were extremely grateful to have found the tape. Something, um... sometimes, something kind of small is actually kind of huge. And for seeing that and doing something about it, Mr. Jim McKay of Texas, USA... Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

Brent: That's gonna do it for another Trends Like These. Um, please go listen to all the other amazing Maximum Fun shows. You can find all of them at MaximumFun.org.

It would be so great if you would give us a positive rating and review on whatever your podcast platform of choice is. Uh, our podcast theme song, which I composed... thank you, thank you. Super humble. Uh, is a ringtone. And you can get it at the iTunes app on your iPhone, or if you want to just download it and put it on your Android phone as your ringtone, you can get it at BrentalFloss.Bandcamp.com.

Courtney, where can people find you on the internet, and what do you want them to know?

Courtney: Well, you can find my stuff at SYFY Fangrrls. And I don't have a ton to plug right now. I can say that there's gonna be a ton of really cool SYFY Fangrrls stuff coming up next month for women's history month. So please stay tuned for that.

And y'know, since I don't have anything to plug, I just want to plug y'all. Y'all are great. We really like the people that like us. And y'know what? The people that don't like us, we like you, too. We're gonna kill you with kindness. [whispers] 'Til you're deaad!

Brent: [laughs] Um, my plug is slightly different. Um, so, okay. Uh, I have a bunch of stuff going on, and I'm gonna just try to rattle it off. You can still get my party game, Use Your Words, which, now we have French language content on the Switch and on Steam. Coming soon to Xbox One and PS4. More information about that at UseYourWords.lol.

I'm doing a Star Trek: Picard recap and discussion podcast with my best friend, Matt. You can get more information about that. The show is called The Luc Out, and you can get more information on Twitter. Our handle is @TheLucOut. The Luc Out, like Jean Luc Picard.

I also do a very, very real and very raw game show podcast called Question Box, the game show podcast of shockingly personal questions, with my dear

friend, Kate Sloane. We've had such guests as Travis McElroy, Courtney Enlow, Demon Tomato Dave – sorry, his actual name is Dave Bulmer. Our UK correspondent.

And so many other cool people that, if you haven't heard of them, you should have, but probably, you're gonna find people you go, "oh, holy shit!" And then you're gonna hear personal details about their body parts and their past and their parents and just weird shit. It's a fun show, and you can find out more about that on Twitter, @QuestionBoxShow.

But for the moment, I think that's gonna do it for another Trends Like These. Courtney, what am I forgetting?

Courtney: Don't punch people's seats.

Brent: Don't punch their seats, ya jerk.

Courtney: Dumb twats.

Brent: See you next time.

[theme music plays]

Courtney: I've done that, like—I've done that, uh, fuckin' Grudge voice a bunch of times in the show, where I just go... [imitates the boy from The Grudge]

Brent: Ultimate vocal fry. Hi, I'm on This American Life, and I've got a lot to tell youuu.

Courtney: Oh my gooooood.

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