

**Trends Like These 245: Should You Sun Your B-Hole?, Impeachment IMMINENT, Elon Musk's Cybertruck Debut, Trump Multi-Update, Alarming Mortality Study, Russia Tries to Hack Voter Booth, Kamala Harris is OUT, Disney+ Keeps Changing Greedo Scene, Amazon's Ruthless Employee Quotas**

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**Travis:** This week: Sunburned puckers, post-apocalypse truckers, and emergency pee suckers.

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

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

**Brent:** And I'm Maclunkey.

**Travis:** With Trends Like These.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hello, Brent!

**Brent:** Hello, Travis! Welcome to an episode of a podcast that you cohost! It's called Trends Like These. Have you heard of it?

**Travis:** I have! Courtney's not here. She's taking, uh, I was about to say a personal day, but I guess it would be a personal week. She has some things that she needs to take care of, and some family stuff she's dealing with, so she's not gonna be able to be here. But y'know, our hearts are with her.

**Brent:** Absolutely.

**Travis:** And she is great and we miss her, and you'll just have to deal with these two goobers talkin' about, I don't know, trending news and stuff? Whatever this dumb show is with us two dumb-os. Anyway, it's December

6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 5:30PM Eastern time. Welcome to this great show, and I'm so glad you're here.

**Brent:** Well, it is, and I have corrected you incorrectly before. I think I'm right about this one... I think it's December 5<sup>th</sup>, but this comes out December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Travis:** Oh, right, right, right. I was looking at the top of the thing, and it's December 5<sup>th</sup>. Y'know what? Like I said – dumb-os. Hi everybody!

**Brent:** Trends Like These classic.

**Travis:** How are you? Yeah! Yeah!

**Brent:** The classic flavor of two dudes named Brent and Travis.

**Travis:** There's nothing like—well, weird. There's nothing like...

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Y'know when there's a rest beat, and you're like, "Mmm, something's missing," and then you find that third heat? That third flavor? And you're like, "Oh, that's great!" But let's go back to the classic flavor, when it was missing something. [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** That's this show.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So, here we are. Brent, what are you drinking?

**Brent:** I am drinking... okay, so, I was... [sighs] I hosted a little Friendsgiving the night before Thanksgiving at my place, and I was just like, "Bring a booze or a snack!" Holy shit, my friend brought their A game. And I

was left with like, so—anyway. I was left with a lot of stuff, some of that being apple cider, like the cloudy, delicious, spiced apple cider. Now, it's very sugary. I don't really drink, like, juice, per se. But... I've started like, puttin' just a little bit of apple cider in with some seltzer...

**Travis:** Oh!

**Brent:** Makin' a little spritzer. Still glycemically low. I don't know why I used that adverb. Like...

**Travis:** Huh.

**Brent:** The amount of not too much sugar I like, but just a liiittle bit of juice. It's good.

**Travis:** Cool cool. I am having a mixed drink called a dark and stormy. That's basically—

**Brent:** Mmm! I love those!

**Travis:** Yeah. Spiced rum and ginger beer. It's good. Um, mostly the same thing. I had ginger beer left in my house after Thanksgiving, and I have spiced rum that I never do anything with, 'cause I don't normally drink it. Um, and here we are. And it's good. Uh—

**Brent:** What was the best thing you had during your Thanksgiving adventure?

**Travis:** Um, I make... so, I focus on desserts for my friend Thanksgiving. Um, and uh, I—there's this like, I guess cookie is the way to go with it. It's also kind of a candy that I make for the thing that's like, Teresa's favorite. And basically, you lay out, like, crackers.

I use Club crackers, and then you like, pour, y'know, toffee, brown sugar and butter melted together over them, and then you bake it for a little bit, and then you sprinkle chocolate chips on it, and uh, I use dark chocolate

chips. And then you spread those out. And for this recipe, normally, it's like, you sprinkle on like, chopped nuts. But I used uh, Heath bars.

**Brent:** Ooooh!

**Travis:** And then cool it—yep. Cool it in the refrigerator and break `em apart and eat `em like little chunks of cookie or candy or whatever. Uh, and I enjoy that a lot.

**Brent:** Wow. Well, there were many good things at my Friendsgiving, including my southwestern boomerang dip, which some of our Max Fun supporters already have in that cookbook we released a year or two ago. But what took the cake was my friend Harry, who came on a plane from Chicago the day of the Friendsgiving, and brought back a cold Lou Malnati's deep dish pizza that he then reheated, and we all had authentic Chicago deep dish pizza, literally direct from Chicago. It was quite a thing.

**Travis:** Huh! Nice!

**Brent:** Yeah. Good Thanksgiving kind of dish, pizza.

**Travis:** But we did miss you folks, and we're so glad to be back, so let's get into it!

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hey, Brent.

**Brent:** Hey what?

**Travis:** I'm out here. I need some energy. I think I'm gonna get some sun on my headlines. No, you know what? I'm gonna get some sun... beyond the headlines.

**Brent:** Oh. Oh, how far beyond? [laughs] Are you gonna get some sun?

**Travis:** Well... I would say so—I'm gonna get sun between the headlines, and the Politics Roundup.

**Brent:** Oh, are you gonna—you gonna—in the crack between those two segments?

**Travis:** Yeah, y'know, t'ain't beyond the headlines, and t'ain't... it t'ain't the Politics Roundup. That's where I'm gonna get it.

**Brent:** Yeah. It's its own *whole* thing.

**Travis:** Yes. So... there was... ugh. Okay. This is one of those things where I don't know that this is a new thing, so much as social media has made it such, that things become new to us as we become, uh, horrified by them.

**Brent:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** And for this, it became known as butthole sunning, but actually, it's perineum sunning, or—

**Brent:** [sings to the tune of 'Black Hole Sun'] Butthooole sun, won't you come...

**Travis:** Okay.

**Brent:** Sorry.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Brent:** Go on.

**Travis:** Listen, here's the thing, Brent – I have bad news for you – there is no joke you could possibly come up with about this that Twitter has not already made.

**Brent:** That's probably true, but I hadn't heard that one, so nobody tell me that it's not original. Let me just dream.

**Travis:** Okay. Okay. But it's actually perineum sunning. Which, y'know, is the—like, that thin strip of skin betwixt...

**Brent:** The taint. Yeah.

**Travis:** Your front nethers and your back nethers. Um, so, uh, apparently, it became, I don't know, it made its resurgence, or became known, due to an Instagram video by user @Raw\_of\_Earth in December, showing three completely nude men lying on their backs, butts to the sky, soaking up rays with the caption, "In a mere 30 seconds with sunlight on your butthole, you will receive more energy from this electric node..." [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "... than you would in an entire day of being outside with your clothes on." [sighs]

**Brent:** I mean, you've gotta really think you've got a pretty cool taint to call it an 'electric node.'

**Travis:** Yeah, right? Uh, there was also—the one that I became aware of was from a user named, uh, @MetaphysicalMeagan, which, if you saw one of someone alone, a woman alone from the side, uh, like, holding onto their toes, laying on a rock. And the caption for that one, in part, read, "Perineum sunning is an ancient Taoist practice that originated in the far east." Uh, explaining that, in the religion, the perineum, or Hui Yin, called the "gate of life and death," and is a galaxy where energy enters and exits the body.

**Brent:** A gateway.

**Travis:** So... listen... um... sometimes, when I listen to Sawbones, the medical podcast from my older brother, Justin, and my sister-in-law, Sydnee... I think about how much stuff there was back in the day that people

thought was like, medical, y'know, science, that now we look back on and say, "No." And vice versa, right?

And now, how much stuff do we do that, a hundred, 200 years from now, people are like, "Can you believe they were using this?" Now, that's less likely to happen, because we have, y'know, the scientific method, and science in general... but I can tell you right now, even living in this moment... never, ever, ever will someone be like, "Yeah, it turned out, it was all about sunning your taint."

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And in fact, uh... So, in one of the articles I was reading, a doctor named David E. Bank, founder of Mount Kisco's The Center for Dermatology, Cosmetic, and Laser Surgery said, "It's actually dangerous. This skin is particularly sensitive." Uh, he also said, "Over time, it could result in an increased risk of skin cancer." Yeah.

**Brent:** Yeah. Like, I mean, so there's a lot of things going on here. First off, imagine a sunburn on your taint. Wow. Ouch. But also, like, y'know, I a lot of times think about stuff like, "Well, why did we evolve to be this way?" And the thing is, evolution is not kind. Uh, and it is not perfect. But... y'know, we could pretty safely say, humans have had butts and taints for a very long time. So I feel like—

**Travis:** I would go so far as to say, forever.

**Brent:** I guess since we were homosapiens, we've had butts.

**Travis:** I would probably guess before that even!

**Brent:** That I don't know. I'm too used to—I'm too used to the "well, actually" crowd on social media, but—

**Travis:** Well, here's the thing. Not—

**Brent:** I can definitely say, homosapiens have butts. And we've been around for a minute.

**Travis:** I would say that, other than like, single-celled and like, very small organisms, a lot of things have butts. Most things have butts. Most living things have butts.

**Brent:** Yeah, like a hole where the poopy comes out, sure. I mean, like, I don't know. I'm not a poop biologist.

**Travis:** But to that point, I think maybe this is where you're going. But if human beings needed to get sun on their taint to survive... that this isn't how we'd be built.

**Brent:** We probably wouldn't have—yeah. It wouldn't be referred to as literally where the sun don't shine.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Brent:** But then again, like—

**Travis:** The taint would be on our foreheads.

**Brent:** [laughs] The thing is, like, part of me did go, "Well... I don't know how I would try, but I'm interested." Just 'cause like—

**Travis:** Hey, let me tell you – don't. Because, uh, my favorite part of this story is, actor Josh Brolin tried it, and then posted on his Instagram, and this was part of the caption that I just had to read. "My pucker hole is crazy burned." This is the quote. "My pucker hole is crazy burned, and I was going to spend the day shopping with my family, and instead, I'm icing and using aloe and burn creams because of the severity of the pain."

**Brent:** Well.

**Travis:** So don't—don't do this. And listen...

**Brent:** I meant the 30 second version. I'm not tryin' to get a tan.

**Travis:** Yes. Well, that's the thing is like, I know that there are plenty of like, naturalist—naturist? Whatever. People out there. Nudists. And I'm not saying like, that's a problem. But like, specifically pointing an area of your body that lives its whole life in the shade, and pointing it at the sun for, in some of these quotes, advise for like five minutes? Or more? You're just asking for a burn! You're asking for skin damage!

And listen – skin cancer is the most common kind of cancer. I lost my mom to melanoma, and this is where it becomes no laughing matter. People often think of melanoma as like, the easy or light cancer. But here's the thing – it can take lives. If it gets into your lymph system, which is what happened to my mother, it will kill you. So like, skin cancer is serious business, and this idea of like, risking skin cancer for health is dumb. Do not do this. If you need vitamin D, take a pill, or walk around in the sun, or whatever you want to do, but don't sun your taint.

And don't taint your son.

**Brent:** Woof. [laughs] Taint your dad square on the lips.

**Travis:** Oh no.

**Brent:** Sorry. I just... I think plenty of our listeners will—

**Travis:** I said thee, no sir.

**Brent:** Okay. [laughs] Um... This next story... y'know, that was weirdly a good segue. Kind of started funny, went a little dark, so... quick content warning – the next story mentions various forms of death, including suicide, and also gets into body stuff like obesity. So if you don't want to hear about that, we've got time codes for our segments in our episode description, and you can skip ahead to the next segment if you want. So yeah.

This story involves a report in the journal of the American Medical Association that completed a comprehensive analysis of mortality data from

the past six decades, and... welp, death rates from suicide, ODs, liver disease, and dozens of other causes have been rising over the past decade for young and middle-aged adults. And that has driven American life expectancy down for the past three consecutive years.

We spend more on healthcare than any other country, but yeah, people 25 to 64 have a lower life expectancy now. And the highest jump in death rates, from 2010 to 2017, was in people 25 to 34. Travis, it was a 29% increase.

**Travis:** Wow.

**Brent:** I know. Uh, life expectancy, as most of us know, as long as we've had butts and taints, uh, it's basically gone up as history has gone forward, typically. But no, we Americans are special. We blaze our own trail. Now, obviously, there is no one cause. It's a compound issue. But...

**Travis:** By the way, just side note, 'cause this is a "well, actually" that I know. Whenever anybody points to like, mortality rates or something, back in like, y'know, 1600s, 1700s, a lot of the times, those averages were brought down by infant mortality rates.

**Brent:** Oh, absolutely.

**Travis:** Um, so, like, it wasn't like, "Well, everyone's living to 35." Y'know what I mean? It's just, there weren't a lot of people living to like, 120, to balance it out.

**Brent:** Right. And it's kind of hard to know once you get past a certain point in history. But we can sort of guess that, y'know, people didn't make it quite as far on the whole. Um, but like, yeah, it's a compound issue. And I will say, the opioid epidemic seems to have made a dent, because the risk of death from drug overdoses since 1999 has risen 351% for men.

**Travis:** Whoo...

**Brent:** And 486% for women. Uh, the lead author of the report, Stephen H. Wolf, speculates that it could be due to factors like obesity, drug addiction,

even distracted driving from smart phones, and y'know, people that have like, movie playing screens in their car. Um, there's obviously a concern with diet, as many factors lead to diets... well, many factors—I mean, like, uh, there's socioeconomic stuff. The cheaper food is worse for you, whether it's really high in sugar, really high in salt, uh, just the things that happen when food is chock full of preservatives, or it's over processed.

And if you acquire the habit of a super unhealthy diet as a kid, your risk factors of related health problems just go up and up and up. And I don't know, like, this is one of those tricky subjects, but I feel like the food industry is basically trying to get as close to being an addictive drug as it can in general. And like, it's just weird to me. It's weird to me that like, the ramen's cheap, but the stuff that's good for you is expensive. I mean, maybe now that I say it out loud, that's not that weird, but it's like... what are our goals as a society?

But okay, that being said, let's talk about the elephant in the room. The life expectancy numbers have been going down for three years. Three years ago... we elected Donald Trump. Is that over simplifying things? Probably. But, between Trump's Republican congress continuing to hobble Obamacare and raising taxes on the poor and middle classes, and the fear and loathing his presidency has inspired, you can't tell me—

**Travis:** Uh, if I may, not just fear and loathing, but also desperation.

**Brent:** Absolutely.

**Travis:** Uh, like, depression. Feeling of loss of control. Anxiety.

**Brent:** Sure. Stress about, y'know, whether you're going to... I mean, especially—god, I remember when he got elected, I was in Canada, and so many people up there, uh, that were queer, just felt like, does this change the whole culture? What does it mean that this president and his rabid, y'know, like, bigoted base now have this platform? All kinds of things.

**Travis:** It has made, overall, I would say, the future feel so uncertain. Y'know what I mean?

**Brent:** Right.

**Travis:** It's terrifying for a lot of marginalized groups.

**Brent:** Yeah. Um, and so, you—obviously, that all has some kind of effect, whether it's systemic or more localized. Surely, it has an effect on the averages of the nation's health. It's not hard to guess that more people have been self-harming through vices or worse under his presidency. So, it's like—it's sobering.

**Travis:** Here's the thing. Here's the way I look at it. And I know that this isn't Politics Roundup, but I've been thinking about this a lot, right? 'Cause this time of year... follow me here, folks. Trust me. This time of year, I watch a lot of different versions of A Christmas Carol, right? And in the end, my first—like, I always think, like, "Is Scrooge going to give away so much of his money that he becomes destitute?" Right?

And this is the thing. In the right scenario, the way that the Democrat and Republican parties should check and balance one another is, Democrats should be focused on social, whether be that social programs, social change, social awareness, whatever. And the Republicans should be focused on fiscal. Right? So that you have the Democratic party saying, "We need to help people who need help. We need to create these programs." And you should have the Republican party saying, "We need to know how we're gonna pay for those programs, so we need to not just bankrupt ourselves by giving away money to people."

Right? That's how it's supposed to work. Except that that, it feels like... let's say one side of that hasn't been really doing that as much. And instead of just keeping it fiscally responsible, they've just been cancelling out programs altogether.

**Brent:** Yeah. I mean, I, as you can guess—

**Travis:** And I think that's bad for the overall health of the country. I'm simplifying. I know I am. But it's bad for the overall, like, mental and physical health of the country.

**Brent:** Yeah, I think—I think it's—I would just take the foundation of what you said and put onto it that like, basically, the religion of this country is profit. Is the profit motive. And that has seeped well into Congress, like milk into Rice Krispies. It is just in there. And so, if everyone in Congress is—almost everyone is basically rich and powerful and connected, they're connected to all these companies that keep consolidating.

And it's like... if pharma just wants to make a buck, but they're the ones that are supposed to make us healthy, and they're all friends with the food people who just want to make a buck... like, at a certain point, it's—there's gonna be a loser in this equation. And y'know, I might be oversimplifying, but I guess I just feel like... the countries with better, uh, mortality rates and health outcomes typically have more curbs against rampant profit motives.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Brent:** And uh, they sort of have like, the way that you would compress an audio file, where they bring up the bottom and bring down the top so that everybody can just have a little more, and—or rather, the people that—anyway, whatever. I'm... please don't ever quote me. Jesus.

**Travis:** Speaking of having a little more...

**Brent:** Yeah. Go on.

**Travis:** Speaking of people who have a little more, let's talk about Elon Musk.

**Brent:** Take this talking stick from me. Yes.

**Travis:** Okay. On Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, Elon Musk, whose name always makes me think he's a villain in Fifth Element, took stage to unveil his newest product, the Cybertruck, a truck from Blade Runner.

**Brent:** [laughs] And or the PlayStation One.

**Travis:** Also. It does kind of have a bit of a Twisted Metal-esque feel to it. So, it's uh, the Cybertruck... [sighs] So, uh, singer songwriter Mike Doughty had this song that he would do at live shows, and he said they—I can't remember the exact lead in, but I believe it was, "This is a song written by a five year old." And it just consisted of him screaming, "Fire truck! Fire truck!" Like, four times. And that was the whole song. And I think about that now every time I see... Cybertruck!

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** It also kind of sounds like a monster truck that might fight like, Truckzilla. So, Cybertruck is Tesla's all-electric pickup truck, and sixth vehicle since its founding in 2003. Musk has referred to the Blade Runner-esque machine as "heart stopping," and even dubbed it one of his personal favorites out of all of the vehicles he's worked on.

And it is named Cybertruck in honor of the Cybertruck movement, started by Ridley Scott in Blade Runner—

**Brent:** Cyberpunk.

**Travis:** Yes. What did I say? Cybertruck?

**Brent:** Yep.

**Travis:** Cybertruck!

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Um, and it was purposely unveiled last month, because the movie it was partially inspired from was set in November, 2019. Um, and all of this is totally cool, except for when it totally wasn't.

So, the whole event was going fine at first. Musk did a series of demonstrations to showcase Cybertruck's durability compared to other cars. Uh, he brought up the cyber steel alloy making up the truck is the same one he's using in his space program. He went through to showcase how you could hit the door with a sledgehammer, and even shoot a nine millimeter bullet at it, and the truck's—at the truck's siding, and doors would bounce back unscathed.

He also did a first class demo that went great. And honestly, a lot of the unveiling was pretty impressive... until they decided it was time to demonstrate the shatter-proof windows for real. Musk brought Tesla design chief, Franz von Holzhausen, up to the stage and handed him the same metal ball used in the first class demo. He tells Franz to straight up throw the ball at the window. The crowd cheers. Franz good naturedly goes, "You sure?" And Musk is like, "Yeah, do it!" And Franz tosses the metal ball at the front driver side window... and smashes the shit out of it.

**Brent:** Yeah. Now, real quick, real quick... I just—have you ever seen the closed circuit video? It's like a gif on Twitter where, supposedly, on this security cam footage, somebody's trying to break into a building through a window, and he throws a brick at the window, and it bounces off and hits his accomplice. And then he throws it again, and it bounces off and hits him. Like...

**Travis:** Yeah, it's very Home Alone. Yes.

**Brent:** Yeah. Glass that does not break would just, by the laws of physics, really ricochet off whatever projectile you're throwing at it. This was a bad idea for a lot of ways.

**Travis:** Indeed.

**Brent:** 'Cause it didn't look like a toss in the video to me – it looked like, y'know...

**Travis:** A pitch?

**Brent:** Yeah, like a fast ball, but like, for like a normie. Like, not an actual professional.

**Travis:** When I first watched it without like, the sound, when I first was like, scanning through Twitter and saw it, I thought they might—like, “Oh, they brought a professional pitcher and it backfired.” Right?

**Brent:** Right.

**Travis:** But like... no. Just a dude.

**Brent:** But like—and I didn’t even know it was a metal ball ‘til now. But I’m sitting here thinking, what if the window had worked perfectly, and that metal ball had flown at the same speed at the thrower, or out into the audience? This was just not well thought through as a thing. And the fact that Elon Musk like, told him to go ahead and do it, and the guy was like, “You sure?” Like, “You didn’t tell me to do this before.”

**Travis:** Right?

**Brent:** “Okay... this is real dumb...”

**Travis:** It does seem like something that was not planned at all. Uh, it continued to be poorly thought out. So when it smashed, Elon Musk said, “Oh my fucking god.”

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And then says, “Well, maybe that was a bit too hard,” making a joke out of it. And Franz says, “Should we try the rear?” And then threw it at the rear window, and smashed the shit out of that, too. So... uh, Franz then left the stage, and Musk said, “Not bad. Little room for improvement.”

**Brent:** [laughing]

**Travis:** But here’s the thing. That really wasn’t... listen. People talked about that on Twitter, of course. But... it’s kind of the design of Cybertruck that

took the blue ribbon for like, most discussed. 'Cause here's the thing... I—listen, I'm no artist, and I'm no designer, and I couldn't design a car if you paid me a bajillion dollars. It's ugly. [laughs] Like... it is—it—y'know, there's a... like, there's always a thing in sci-fi movies of like, cars are one of the things they use to show like, "It's the future!"

**Brent:** Right.

**Travis:** Right? There's all—like, it's one of the earliest things they'll do in any movie, of like, this is—

**Brent:** And so often, the world building in like, a not very well thought out sci-fi future movie is like, the practicality of the design. And this just feels like that.

**Travis:** And it also is a thing that like, when you watch like, old—like, the original Mad Max, and uh, the original Blade Runner, there's a lot of like, angular design in it to show like, futuristic. It's angular. And here's the thing... it looks like an armored car. Like, it really comes across like Elon Musk – especially when he's talking about like, bulletproof doors and shatter proof windows and things you can hit with a sledgehammer – it is like he is designing for the apocalypse. Like... it is—it is not that far removed in idea. Like, it's not like—it's not a leap to say he's designing this for the apocalypse.

So yeah. Lots of people made fun. My favorite tweet that I saw is someone said, "Why did someone make the DeLorean a truck?" So...

**Brent:** Yep. Good one.

**Travis:** And not just that – like, even though it is electric, y'know... uh, so in 2018 alone, 6,227 pedestrians died in the US, which is up nearly 52% from pedestrian deaths in 2009, and it's thought that the boom in SUV sales is to blame for this. A groundbreaking investigation by USA Today and the Detroit Free Press found that the increase was directly correlated to truck and SUV sales skyrocketing.

**Brent:** Hmm.

**Travis:** Now, as anybody will tell you, correlation does not equal causation. But, it's right there, right? The numbers do correlate, but we're not saying they're caused by that. And so, even if it is better because it is electric, right, that doesn't necessarily mean it's better. At the end of the day, Cybertruck hit the trending circuit as supremely out of touch, laughable, and dangerously designed.

So, regardless of this, Musk claims that there have already been more than 250,000 orders for Cybertruck. But the accuracy of that number is heavily disputed. So, it seems like a few busted windows might be the least of this monster truck's problems.

**Brent:** Yeah. I have some thoughts. I think that it's good to remember that just because somebody made billions with PayPal does mean they should be designing vehicles. Um, but also, can we be real about the fact that like, before this announcement, or rather—yeah, that's what I'm—before this presentation, if you'd been like, "Brent, do you want to go to space with SpaceX? We'll buy your ticket for free!" I'd be like, "Whee! Yes I do!" And now I'm like, "SpaceX, you say? Do they claim the windows are unbreakable? Can we have somebody like, throw some metal balls at this rocket before we take off, just in case?"

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** Now it's time for a segment we do pretty much every week, because politics have become such a huge part of trending news, and we are a show where real life friends talk internet trends. So, this segment is called... the Politics Roundup. Travis, take it away.

**Travis:** Uh, so, I learned about this issue, uh, a while back, watching it on Last Week Tonight, which is still one of my favorite news shows on the planet. So, if you would like to learn more about this, you can check out... like, they have a full main segment on it. But uh, on election day this year, a Russian-owned security company attempted to hack the Ohio office that oversees the state's voting system.

Ohio Secretary of State, Frank LaRosa—or, excuse me. LaRose. I was thinking of LaRosa's Pizza here in Cincinnati. Don't worry about it. Frank LaRose said the state's internal systems detected the threat, which was trying to insert malicious code onto his office's website. LaRose said that the attack originated in Panama, but was traced back to a Russian-owned company.

LaRose downplayed the attack as "fairly unsophisticated. Some of these attacks are ways that they probe for vulnerabilities. They are poking around for soft spots," LaRose told the Columbus Dispatch. He credited the state's Albert alert system as what quickly identified the attack. He also assured the public that he is confident that hackers cannot access voting machines, because they're not connected to the internet. He wrapped it up by saying, "The good guys won, and the bad guys lost." Cool.

But... this is happening in other places. LaRose's announcement came several months after Florida governor, Ron DeSantis, revealed that Russian hackers had breached the voting systems of two counties in 2016, even though DeSantis said, "There was nothing that affected the vote count." How—how—how do you know, Ron? So...

**Brent:** Mmm. Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** That attack was revealed in the final Mueller report, where Robert Mueller himself testified that Russia was planning to interfere in upcoming election "as we sit here." The senate intelligence committee report also found that Russia had targeted election systems in all 50 states in 2016. The report noted that these hackers could "delete or change voter data" in Illinois.

While there was no evidence that that happened, the report warned that Russian operatives may have been cataloging options "for a later date." And don't get it twisted, folks – 2020 is said 'later date.'

**Brent:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** So, for the record, voting machines are not supposed to connect to the internet for security reasons. But, some machine analysts have discovered a remote access software on machines in key swing states, and other issues that could expose the voting system. It was also recently reported that election systems in ten different states have been connected to the internet in the past year.

So... you're not supposed to connect, but they do. Even if a machine doesn't connect directly, many are programmed with cards that have been. So as I mentioned, on Last Week Tonight, John Oliver explained, "So, your voting machine isn't connected to the internet in the same way your Alexa isn't recording everything you say and sending it directly to Jeff Bezos. It's totally not doing that, except for when it's totally sometimes doing that."

**Brent:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** So... [sighs] Here's the long and the short of it. Which, and I'll keep telling you more about it. But, the problem is, in many states, there is no paper ballot that exists. It's all done like, mechanically. It's all done electronically. And y'know, it's 2019, and you might think, "Isn't that better? Paper is so outdated."

But... without a paper record, right? If something happens, there's no way... like, if you were to do a recount, all your recounting is the electronic data. You have no way of going back. Unless you called every individual person and said, "Who did you vote for?" You have no way of confirming that the electronic data is correct.

**Brent:** Right. When you think about the way they staff, y'know, elections, like... when you go into, uh, to vote at the ballot box, usually, you have a, uh... what am I trying to say? You have a spectrum of political parties represented by the different people who are there and counting and helping. So, the idea being, hey, if a Republican and a Democrat do this together, then we both check and balance each other, and neither of us can stuff a ballot box with paper, or... y'know what I'm saying? Like...

**Travis:** Yes.

**Brent:** This changes the whole equation and makes it where, in theory, you could have something happen where none of the well-intended people running the thing have any idea what's happened. They just see the read out.

**Travis:** Yes. There's a great bit about that on Last Week Tonight, where it's a very, very, very small district, and this uh, person who is running, I believe, for city council, like, lost in a landslide. Like, got 0% of the vote. But there was only like, 35 voters in the district, and 15 of them were their friends. So they called and were like, "Hey, who did you vote for?" And they're like, "We voted for you." And so, it was found that there was an error, like, in the system, that didn't catalog votes for them. Right? Like, that—that is literally, without paper ballots, the only way to check on that.

**Brent:** And it's not hard to do paper! And it's cheaper! Like, what the—is it—I guess I just don't know... okay, okay. So a company that's making voting machines could maybe be like, "Hey, vote counters. This is so much easier, because it'll just do it for you!" But is it *that* much easier?

**Travis:** Well, so, let me answer that question for you, Brent. Um, so... there is a hacking conference called Def Con. Right? The Brennan Center for Justice released a report days after Def Con, recommending that people replace outdated machines and require paper backups to secure elections. The report showed that a third of all election systems used vote machines that were more than a decade old, and that only one in every eight ballots in 2020 would be cast on a machine with no paper backup.

Uh, and the house approved, right? The house said yes, do this, do it. And over the summer, a bill came up that would provide \$600 million for states to buy new voting machines without internet connections and with paper backups. Buuut... Mitch McConnell blocked the deal. In fact, he has blocked—

**Brent:** Everyone's favorite.

**Travis:** He has blocked multiple election security bills, and only agreed to back a bill that would provide \$250 million to improve state elections – less

than half of what was originally proposed. So, Congress keeps debating how much it will spend to fix the system our whole country is based on, and experts are telling them over and over again that they need to move faster.

Fiona Hill, the former top Russia expert on the National Security Council told the White House Intelligence Committee, "Right now, Russia's security services and their proxies have geared up to repeat their interference in the 2020 election. We are running out of time to stop them."

**Brent:** [sighs] And I mean... it's so obvious. I sometimes think the whole Russia thing was a little bit overblown by, y'know, corporatist Democrats who just wanted to be like, "No, there's no way this could've happened!" Like, it was, y'know... but that being said, yeah, of course! Of course there's a reason Trump has so many fucking contacts in Russia, and of course they like him being in there! Probably they have... I mean, not to be Alex Jones, but like, between Jeffrey Epstein and Russia and the pee tape or whatever... man, they probably have some shit on Trump. Let's be real. Or some kind of—in any case, he's Russia's guy.

And it's like, the fix is so easy. It's not more complicated. It's less complicated. But I mean, I would say, if there's any solution to this, it may just be, um... I mean, look. I'm just gonna come out and tell you. While sometimes, it's not a good idea to like, donate to people running in states where you do not live, I will be donating to whoever challenges Mitch McConnell for the seat.

**Travis:** Agreed. Agreed.

**Brent:** I will throw some money at that person, because... Mitch McConnell is possibly worse for the country and the world than Donald Trump. At least, in terms of the nuts and bolts.

**Travis:** Yes, because I think he—I think he's corrupt, uhh, and uhh, and not an idiot.

**Brent:** Yeah, he knows what he's doing and he's super corrupt. So it's like... and I mean—just—anyway, we could go on and on. But it's demonstrable.

**Travis:** Enough about that idiot. Time to talk about this idiot. Wait, hold on.

**Brent:** Wait, no no no, yeah, you were jumping to the Trumpdate. But in between, there's a person that neither of us wants to refer to as an idiot. Just a quick little—

**Travis:** No no no, I don't feel that way about her at all.

**Brent:** No. Just a quick little toe dip into this... Kamala Harris dropped out of the race. It was a shock to some people. But if you look at her polling numbers, like, y'know, she was actually in a really big field, always in the top tier. In the top five or six, maybe seven. Which, again, with a field of like, depending on how you count it, 15 to 30 people, is pretty good.

But... it seems like... I don't know. There's rampant speculation. It makes you wonder if someone, y'know... let's just imagine a Biden was like, "Hey. If you get out now, you got like, first refusal on VP." Y'know, or just people that are in the party establishment being like, "Look, you're having a hard time raising money. You're kind of splitting this certain kind of lane. Maybe you get out now, maybe you end up attorney general." I don't know.

And here's the thing – I think Kamala Harris would probably be an okay attorney general. Sure be a fuckin' mile better than Bill Barr, may he—may he, uh... I don't know what I was gonna finish that sentence with, but none of it's good. Anyway.

**Travis:** Eat some shit?

**Brent:** There ya go. Um, I almost said 'rest in peace,' and I was like, no no no no no, that sounds like a threat of death. I just mean may he go away. There we go. Um, so yeah. Kamala's out. And we will probably see some more of that happening. Um, like, I think Tulsi's building a brand, so she may stick it out. Um, but like, your Cory Bookers, for instance? He may go the way of the Beto. Um, a Tom Steyer, only staying in because of his money. Mike Blumberg... well, that's a whole different other thing. But yeah. Anyway. Kamala's out.

Okay. That was an off-the-cuff thing, but this is not. Uh, in the past two weeks, we've had an awful lot of news come out of Trump land. And I am not gonna be able to even approach reporting on every single—or a-pproach on reporting every single headline. I'm gonna try to hit the most viral and important ones. First, the man did his signature trick of attempting to brag about his accomplishments while lying and showing that he's a silly person.

Here's what happened. See, next year, 2020, will be the hundredth anniversary of women getting a vote in the United States. A centennial anniversary. So with that in mind, Congress passed a bill to mint a one dollar coin commemorating this centennial anniversary. It's a cool thing. And this anniversary, it occurs at a very specific time, y'know? It's one hundred years after a thing. We're all on the same page? Okay.

And keep in mind, Trump did not propose the bill that led to the minting of this coin. He did not have anything to do with its congressional debate or passing. He's just signin' the bill. Here's what President Numbnuts said when he signed it.

**Trump:** And they have. They've been working on this for years and years, and I'm curious, why wasn't it done a long time ago? And also... well, I guess the answer to that is because now I'm president. We get things done. We get a lot of things done that nobody else got done.

**Brent:** Now... as he goes through that line of thought, he... [laughs] He almost comes to a point where he might realize his mistake, and be a little self-deprecating. Like, he could've been like, "And the reason for that is... oh! I'm such a goober. Of course we all know the reason! Ha ha ha!" Like, keep in mind, he's surrounded by like, 25 women in the Oval Office, including this model looking woman with a sash. Like a Miss America looking sash that says something like, "Votes for Women." It's all very ceremonial, and there's not even a—he's the only man in the room, and he's sitting here saying this. It's all about him.

He asks, rhetorically, why it wasn't done a long time ago, then pauses and says, "Well, I guess the answer to that is..." [laughs] His answer is that he's

in office now, and he gets things done. Swing and a miss, big guy. Uh, it hasn't been done because there hasn't been a centennial anniversary coming up next year yet, you blockhead.

Okay. Now onto something that was trending over the past 48 hours. If you just passed by it on social media, you might've thought some woman named Pamela Karlan totally crossed the line by making fun of Trump's son, Baron. He's the child son. I think he's... what, 10? 11? 12? He's a kid. And I mean, you could be forgiven for thinking that that happened, because Melania sure called her out. But what really happened?

Well, law professor Pamela Karlan was being questioned by House representative, Sheila Jackson Lee, in the first impeachment hearing of the House Judiciary Committee, as opposed to the Intel Committee. And they were talking about how the framers wanted to make sure we didn't have a king, but rather, had a president subject to checks and balances. And in the larger picture, there was a concept of a president's rights, according to article two of the Constitution, which is just the executive branch. Um, and—or the executive, sorry.

Trump is literally said, "I have article two, where I had the right to do whatever I want as president!" [laughs] The man has said these words. And Obama was called a tyrant. And when uh, fuckin' marriage equality was passed, you had Mike Huckabee going, "This is judicial tyranny!!" It's like, oh, okay. But Trump can do whatever he wants.

So let's listen to representative, Sheila Jackson, asking about the powers of kings versus presidents, and then, professor Karlan will answer with the moment in question.

**Sheila:** What comparisons, professor Karlan, can we make between kings, that the framers were afraid of, and the president's conduct today?

**Pamela:** So, kings could do no wrong, because the king's word was law. And contrary to what President Trump has said, article two does not give him the power to do anything he wants. And I'll just give you one example that shows you the difference between him and a king, which is, the

Constitution says there can be no titles of nobility. So while the president can name his son Baron, he can't make him a baron.

**Brent:** [laughing] And of course, right wing media, the ones that say they're not snowflakes and they're against safe spaces, they're pretending to be outraged by it. And one of the best examples of that was Fox Business channel's Trish Regan, speaking here, clutching her pearls, with Republican house representative, Lee Zeldin.

**Trish:** I mean, this, to me, was beyond the beyond. It shows you how low they'll really go. Your thoughts?

**Lee:** Yeah. It was so low, and this was something that you were seeing play out with regards to other answers to other questions over the course of the entire hearing. It shows that she came in totally biased, completely unhinged. You've heard the word 'triggered' a lot, and it's the source of Don Junior's book that became number one New York Times best seller list. This is what's played out since the election of Donald Trump, and this woman was clearly, and is, just totally unhinged by the election of Donald Trump, and still hasn't gotten over it.

**Brent:** And all this culminated in Melania Trump, hot off of being loudly bullied at an anti-bullying event, though... look, I don't feel bad. Uh, she tweeted Wednesday evening, "A minor child deserves privacy and should be kept out of politics. Pamela Karlan—"

**Travis:** By the way, just quick side note there – when I first read that, because of the phrasing of 'a minor child,' I read it like an unimportant child.

**Brent:** [laughs] Yeah. Yeah.

**Travis:** We're talking about a minor child. This isn't even one of those major children you hear about. This is a minor child.

**Brent:** A cameo. Look, a featured extra child deserves privacy. But yeah, so she ends it with, "Pamela Karlan, you should be ashamed of your very angry and obviously biased public pandering and using a child to do it." This was

followed by trending hash tags like #FakeOutrage, and uh, y'know, most of the right wing news sources I've seen talk about what professor Karlan said, but they don't play what she said, because if they did, their descriptions of it being unhinged or angry would be shown to be bullshit.

And like, she was called unhinged in part because she said she was insulted. But like, a Republican House representative straight up said that there was no way she could've possibly digested Adam Schiff's findings that were released yesterday. Like, there's no way she could've digested that overnight.

And again, like, that's not unhinged. This guy being a total dick to a law professor who came in with this one goal of speaking about all this stuff before a national audience on Capitol Hill. But yeah, she's angry and unhinged. #Sexism. I'm sure Courtney would have a lot to say about that, but I will say it less eloquently and more briefly.

Okay, and finally in this Trumptime, back to the impeachment! One thing to make clear is that President Trump has not been impeached. Up until now, we've just had the House investigating his possible impeachable offenses, also known as his definitely impeachable offenses. Given congressional Democrats long history of being comparatively spineless compared to their Republican counterparts, it actually hasn't been clear whether the House was even going to draft articles of impeachment.

That's the order of events. First, investigation, then articles of impeachment, then the House votes on whether or not to impeach. At that point, the president is not removed. It moves onto the Senate, where they try the accused, AKA the president, and if two thirds of the Senate vote for removal, the president gets removed. We say that a lot, but it's worth repeating.

Again, we're not anywhere near potential presidential removal, because the House hasn't even drawn up articles of impeachment yet. However, Thursday, the day we're recording this, depending on who you ask, Nancy Pelosi announced that she's asking the House Judiciary Committee and other congressional panels to draft articles of impeachment.

So, here we are. Congressional Republicans and the lawyers who have represented them in these hearings have largely not even contested the accusations. They've just tried to criticize the process, and I mean, they hated it and said it was terrible when it was closed meetings, and they hated it and said it was terrible when it was open.

They just—they're suggesting conspiracy theory defenses for the president, or even, this week, they had law professor Jonathan Turley, who claimed there wasn't compelling evidence to impeach Trump. Though... in 1998, he testified about Clinton's impeachment, saying, "No matter how you feel about President Clinton, no matter how you feel about the independent counsel, by his own conduct, he has deprived himself of the perceived legitimacy to govern. You need both political and legal legitimacy to govern this nation."

Like, they couldn't have found a lawyer that didn't say that? On TV? Anyway, so, look. Trump, according to Turley I guess, Trump commits obstruction of justice, violates campaign finance law, commits bribery, and a bunch of other things that range from irksome to unbecoming to illegal. But there's, I guess, not enough evidence for Trump, whereas Bill Clinton... look, despite being a shitbird in his own way, he had an affair and got a BJ at work. Like, that's what he got impeached for.

Trump is almost definitely getting impeached. That's the good, question mark, news. And while he will almost definitely not be removed from office by the Senate, I think it's more important that we avoid setting the precedent that the president is above the law.

Travis, do you want to do—

**Travis:** Well done.

**Brent:** —a small—thank you. A small segment we call... Tid Bits?

**Travis:** I do!

**Brent:** Good, 'cause we have to. It's not...

**Travis:** I know. They've edited the Han and Greedo scene in Star Wars: A New Hope again, and all I can say is, Maclunkey.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** For those unfamiliar, there's a scene in A New Hope where a character named Greedo and Han Solo are having a sit down standoff. Greedo is trying to collect some money for Jabba the Hutt. Perhaps you have heard of him. And Han doesn't have the money, and some form of gunfight ensues.

So, in the original 1977 version, it is edited in such a way that it briefly cuts away when the shot is fired, but clearly, everyone knows Han shot first, and Greedo is dead. Then, in the 1997 version, it was re-edited to show Greedo fire. They digitally jerked Han's head to the side, which looks as weird as it sounds. And then, Han fires.

**Brent:** [laughs] Yes.

**Travis:** In 2004, they re-edited it so that they fired almost simultaneously. Then, in 2011, it was re-re-edited so that the sequence was sped up. Now, in 2019, with its release on Disney+, it has been re-re-re-edited so that it happens the exact same, except for some reason, they added Greedo saying, "Maclunkey!" [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And listen... listen... you don't have to give a single solitary shit about Star Wars... but you have to watch it. 'Cause it is so... weird... and wonderful. I've seen the memes. I knew the word, but I had not watched the scene until I was covering this, and it is so awkward. It's like somebody trying to remember Macaulay Culkin's name, and they just can't quite get it, and they're like, "It was something like Maclunkey?" [laughing] It's so... weird!

**Brent:** [laughing]

**Travis:** And it's so awkward, and it's one of those things—it's like if somebody brought you a sandwich, and you said, "This sandwich is very good, but it's missing something." And they poured a big cup of water on it. And you're like, "I... no, it's still missing something, but that's not—why did you do that?" 'Cause here's the thing... folks, if you haven't gone on this Han Greedo journey with everyone else... the scene was fine originally. There was no—it was fine.

**Brent:** Yeah, I mean, it shows Han to be kind of, um, ruthless. But the thing is, like, he has a journey across the trilogy.

**Travis:** Right!

**Brent:** He starts out ruthless and perhaps comparatively heartless, and by the end, he's working for the good guys, and he likes it, and he respects the force. Y'know.

**Travis:** Not only that, Greedo is going to kill him. Greedo says, "I've been looking forward to this." Greedo is going to kill him. Han just is faster.

**Brent:** Yeah, there's an element of self-defense. Yeah.

**Travis:** Right. This is—this is like any cowboy movie where the bad guy and the good guy draw on each other, and the good guy draws faster. That's all it is. But they reedited it five times now!

**Brent:** It's just like... and I mean, I guess this—I don't know if this is Disney doing it. I imagine that George Lucas still owns enough of the rights – and this is speculation – enough of the rights of the original Star Wars that he had a hand in this. Because it didn't need to be reedited, and it's just like, you cannot continue editing something so much that it doesn't become old and of its time. Just stop. Like...

**Travis:** And so, the thing is, is fans have roughly translated "Maclunkey" in Huttese, which is one of the languages in Star Wars, to mean something along the lines of, "This will be the end of you." So, maybe it's trying to

establish like, this is a direct threat that Greedo is gonna kill him. But that's clear! It's completely unnecessary. You did not need to do it. Maclunkey.

That said, I like the word a lot. [laughs] I really—and seeing Greedo's weird mouth say "Maclunkey" is so good. 'Cause it's a very—Maclunkey. It's a very teeth and tip of the tongue word. So when Greedo's mouth says it, it does not correlate. It does not correspond. I love it. Maclunkey! [laughs] It makes me so happy, Brent. Not because it's a good addition to the movie in any way, but... Maclunkey. Aww, Maclunkey.

**Brent:** Um... well, bit of a gear shift here. It's getting harder for me to justify buying anything from Amazon, with yet another report on how the working conditions at their warehouses... um, well, look. So, this time, it was from the Atlantic about how the ruthless quotas placed on workers are injuring and literally maiming them. I was really struck by the fact that a worker filling merchandise racks is required to scan an item at least every 11 seconds to hit their quota. And these are sometimes on like, mandatory 12 hour shifts.

If you don't hit your quota, according to one worker in the uh, in the story I read on the Atlantic, Amazon "always knows." And like, that fact alone makes me anxious. I think about like the I Love Lucy episode with the conveyor belt and the chocolates. Also, the Center for Investigative Reporting looked at 23 of the country's 110 Amazon warehouses, and their internal injury records showed an average rate of serious injuries as 9.6 out of every 100 workers in 2018.

Basically, one in ten workers at these warehouses seriously injured over the course of one year. And considering Jeff Bezos' massive wealth, and Amazon's massive profits, and their nonexistent tax liability, like, you can't tell me that it's impossible to make the company better and safer for their workers. They may have raised wages somewhat recently, but like, a ten percent chance annually of a serious injury on the job, let alone endless stress-inducing quotas, and in some cases, like I said, 12 hour—*mandatory* 12-hour shifts?

I just... y'know, I've described myself on this show before as like, the kind of progressive that is progressive, but still somewhat shamefully shops on

Amazon. Like, next time I find something on Amazon that I want, I'm gonna, at the very least, try hard to find where else I can buy it. And I don't think if I just get out of the habit that it'll really be all that hard.

[music plays]

**Mark:** We interrupt the podcast you're listening to to tell you about another podcast. That's right – We Got This with Mark and Hal.

**Hal:** That's correct, Mark. This is Hal. We do the hard work for you – settling all of the meaningless arguments you have with your friends.

**Mark:** So tune in every week on the Maximum Fun network for We Got This with Mark and Hal, and all your questions will be asked and answered.

**Hal:** You're welcome.

**Mark:** Alright, that's enough of that.

**Speaker 1:** Listen, I'm a hotshot Hollywood movie producer. You have until I finish my glass of kombucha to pitch me your idea. Go. [slurping]

**Ify:** Alright. It's called Who Shot Ya? A movie podcast that isn't just a bunch of straight white dudes. I'm Ify Nwadiwe, the new host of the show, and a certified BBN.

**Speaker 1:** BBN?

**Ify:** Buff black nerd.

**Alonso:** I'm Alonso Duralde, an elderly gay and legit film critic who wrote a book on Christmas movies.

**Drea:** I'm Drea Clark, a loud, white lady from Minnesota.

**Ify:** Each week, we talk about a new movie in theaters, and all the important issues going on in the film industry.

**Alonso:** It's like Guess Who's Coming to Dinner meets cruising!

**Ify:** And if it helps seal the deal, I can flex my muscles while we record each episode.

**Speaker 1:** I'm sorry, this is a podcast? I'm a movie producer. How did you get in here?

**Drea:** Ify, quick! Start flexing!

**Ify:** Bicep! Lats! Chest! Who Shot Ya? Dropping every Friday on MaximumFun.org, or wherever you listen to podcasts.

[music plays]

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

[Wi-Five slap]

**Brent:** I love a good MacGyver story, and as Wi-Fives go, this is a good one. An unnamed man was on a commercial flight from Guangzhou, China, to New York City. This man happened to have a terribly timed and life-threatening bladder condition. He has a history of prostate enlargement, and was basically full of pee and unable to pee it out and in extreme pain. And if you stay like that long enough, your bladder can rupture. It's not a good look. I shouldn't put it that way, but y'know what I'm saying. It's not a good situation.

So, he's stuck on a 16 hour flight with a life-threatening bladder full of pee. According to a doctor on board, uh, as I just said, the 'life's man' was at risk. The doctor who was on board was Dr. Zhang Hong, who, with a little bit

of help from another doctor named Xiao Zhanxiang, constructed a makeshift pee extractor from materials available on the plane, including a straw, and oxygen mask, and a syringe.

But... [laughs] This next part... I mean, I can't think of a better example of a Wi-Five recipient when the criteria is doing good things or being a good person. See, the makeshift pee sucker... didn't quite work. The syringe needle was too thin to extract the pee. So this dude, Dr. Hong, could've been like, "Well, I tried. Sorry." Dr. Hong... sucked the man's pee out using the tube and his own mouth, repeatedly spitting it into an empty wine bottle over the course of 37 minutes.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Brent:** And he was quoted as saying something like, "Well, y'know, when you're a doctor, you just have the urge to save lives. You just have to help." That's me paraphrasing, 'cause I didn't finish my copy for the Wi-Five, but yeah. I mean, it's one thing to be like, "Yeah, let me get my scalpel and cut your appendix out before that ruptures," or whatever. Like, daring, lifesaving medical things are great. We like them.

This is above and fucking beyond. And so yeah, um, I think that counts as one of the more elaborate, like, y'know... it's one thing to run into a burning building. But it's not 37 minutes of somebody else's pee in your mouth. A stranger, mind you. So yeah. Dr. Zhang Hong... you earned this Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Alright, folks, that's gonna do it for us. Thank you so much for joining us. Uh, first, I have a couple things I want to tell you. Me and my brothers and our dad, along with Twogether Studios, have been working on an Adventure Zone game. It's a cooperative storytelling card game. Um, it's incredible. I've played it, and it takes about an hour. It's rules light. It's easy to learn. You don't need, uh, you don't need a DM to do it, and it expands on the Adventure Zone: Balance world.

The preorders go on sale December 11<sup>th</sup>. You can go to [TheAdventureZoneGame.com](http://TheAdventureZoneGame.com) to find out more about it. I also want to say a special thank you to Alex, uh, who helped me write copy this week, without whom I would not have been able to get done. Thank you so much, Alex. You are amazing.

What about you, Brent?

**Brent:** Well, as a lot of listeners to Trends Like These already know, I have a new podcast. It's called Question Box. In fact, at this point, it's not that new. We just did our 20<sup>th</sup> episode. It is the game show podcast of shockingly personal questions. Y'all have heard me dip a little, uh, into the um, deep end of personal stuff on this show. That's kind of where I live a lot of the time, in TMI land. I love to talk about the real shit with people, and that's where this show started, and I co-host it with Kate Sloane, who you've heard before as a substitute host on Trends Like These.

And we have amazing guests on who just either spill their guts and the beans, or they pass and lose points. And uh, so, our guests have included such luminaries as Travis McElroy, Courtney Enlow, Trends Like These UK correspondent Dave Bulmer, and all kinds of people that you've either heard of or you really should. This next week, we're gonna have Renee Culvert from Can I Pet Your Dog, which is another amazing Max Fun show. And I'm gonna be on Can I Pet Your Dog. We're gonna trade.

So anyway, so, Question Box is on all major podcast platforms, and you can also get it directly at [QuestionBoxShow.com](http://QuestionBoxShow.com).

**Travis:** Uh, so, I think that's gonna do it for us. Go check out... excuse me. Go check out all the other amazing shows on [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org). um, y'know, rate, review, subscribe, all that stuff. Tweet about the show. You know. You know what it is. And we'll be back in a couple days. Brent, am I forgetting anything?

**Brent:** Yes. You're forgetting what life was like before... Maclunkey.

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

**Brent:** See you next time.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** I'm just typing real quick.

**Travis:** I know. I know what you're doing, Brent. And it won't work.

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