

MBMBaM 558: The Star of the Sandwich Show

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Justin: This is Justin McElroy, and I got my little brother Travis McElroy here. We wanna welcome you to not just this podcast, but the 2021 Max Fun Drive, which is gonna be running until May 14th. It's time for you to show your support for the shows that you love. Trav, how can they get on board?

Travis: You just go to maximumfun.org/join, you pick a, uh, support level that's right for you, starting just low as just five dollars, and if you're already a Max Fun supporter, you can consider upgrading, but this is the time to do it, 'cause this is when you get those rewards, baby! [Maximumfun.org/join](https://maximumfun.org/join).

Intro (Bob Ball): The McElroy brothers are not experts, and their advice should never be followed. Travis insists he's a sexpert, but if there's a degree on his wall, I haven't seen it. Also, this show isn't for kids, which I mention only so the babies out there will know how cool they are for listening. What's up, you cool baby?

[theme song, "My Life (Is Better With You)!" by Montaigne plays]

Justin: Hello, everybody, and welcome to *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, an advice show for the modern era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy!

Travis: Let me check the latest data from the five—the polls—the Nate Silvers—yes, I'm Travis "Big Dog, Woof Woof Woof" McElroy.

Griffin: He almost forgot to say a dog thing. Did you hear it?

Travis: I did. Yeah.

Griffin: He was talking about, like, Nate Silver, and then he was like, "Oh, shit, but I have to do a dog thing."

Travis: Oh, Nate Silver's the name of my dog.

Griffin: Alright, and I'm Griffin McElroy. Give me ten dollars!

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: Whoa! Look who's good enough to podcast. When the time to collect the bill comes due...

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: ...the uh, the little red hen...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...comes poking back around.

Griffin: Well, let's just—

Travis: I don't think that's the moral of *The Little Red Hen*, Justin.

Justin: The little red hen who's too good to—I always get that one confused if it's a grasshopper.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? That saves all the seeds?

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: No, no, no. The grasshopper—no, the grasshopper does a bad job.

Justin: Okay, who's the kickass one in that story? 'Cause that's you and me.

Griffin: [simultaneously] I think we can all, no matter what, I think—

Justin: The thing we can all agree on is that Griffin is the bad one, and—

Griffin: I'm a shitty brother, and the other thing is that gas drops for my fucking fart balloon of a son aren't cheap, so give me ten—give me ten dollars. Listener, I'm coming at you with a different tone this year. I'm working on about two hours of sleep right now. Give me ten—give me ten fucking dollars, *please*.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Please give me ten dollars. Not Justin, not Travis, not Max Fun Drive. This is not Max Fun Drive related. Give me ten dollars.

Travis: Griffin needs that ten dollars.

Griffin: I'll take five dollars from two of you. I need ten dollars.

Justin: This is the Max Fun Drive, and it's time to stop stealing content, and that is the—this is the FBI—

Travis: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: This is the FBI privacy warning at the beginning of this episode.

“[low voice] If you're listening to this without donating to the Max Fun Drive, then you've—it's a crime—it's a real crime.”

Griffin: “[low voice] You wouldn't steal a dog... then why would you steal a—a podcast?”

Justin: [Maximumfun.com/join](https://maximumfun.com/join) is the site that you can go to, to finally make it real, make it right.

Travis: Make it right, make it tight.

Justin: I was o—I have a new thing.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Make it real, make it right, make it forever.

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: That's good.

Justin: Yeah. This is a lifelong commitment that we're making to ourselves, and you have locked us into creating this show forever; well, we're locking *you* in.

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: Oh, boy!

Justin: For five bucks a month, you will receive not only the joy of supporting the shows you love – this one – but also, you'll get so much bonus content that you will actually perish...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The sun will burn out before you have exhausted all this content.

Travis: Um—

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Travis: You know what, we should treat Max Fun Drives more like uh, youth church lock ins, where it's like, "We're not leaving here until we feel the Spirit move tonight."

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: You know what I mean? There's ten people in here who I know—who I know are ready to make that commitment.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: They're ready to pledge their lives to *My Brother, My Brother and Me*.

Griffin: [holding back laughter] That's definitely not a weird vibe that people have accused us of leveraging for financial gain in the past.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Certainly not.

Travis: No.

Justin: Listen, we're gonna do show, but the thing is this: there's never been a better time to support the shows that you love, and if you can do it—obviously there's a lot of joking around here. If you cant do it, I get it.

But if you can get five bucks a month—ten bucks a month, you get all that, um, all the bonus content, plus a magnet! Come on!

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Maximumfun.org/join! We need you. This is how we pay our bills, and you heard about Griffin's son.

Travis: He's got gas!

Griffin: He has the worst... gas. This child breathes, and when we breathe, air goes, "Mm, time to go to lungs so we can oxygenate the blood, and get the body pumping."

And when this little guy breathes, it's like, "To tummy town we go, to make more farts and burps to hurt the son, to hurt the baby, and keep him from the sleep."

But I'm not talking about that today. Today, I'm talking about Max Fun Drive and what your... support means to me, as a man.

Justin: If you donate 500 dollars a month, you can name Griffin's son.

Travis: That's true!

Justin: You do get the naming rights to that. That's huge.

Travis: And you know what I'm talking about right now? [whimsical]
Riddle me piss, boys!

Justin: Aw, man! We were just starting to get into a good mood. Come on!

Travis: Riddle Me Piss!

Justin: Oh, Riddle Me Piss...

Griffin: Okay...

Travis: Now, here's what I like about – though there's many things I about this riddle—

Justin: Can I talk about riddle.com for a second real quick?

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: 'Cause we did a—

Griffin: Are they shutting the fuck down too?

Justin: Our Max Fun Drive bonus episode is us all mixing up the bits. We're all doing each other bits.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Oops! All Bits factory mix-up. It's fun.

And I did riddles.com. Here's a pe—and a lot of people have been like, "Riddles.com is so dope," here's what you don't know about riddles.com. There is not a button on there that's like, "Sort by bad."

Travis: Yeah, right?

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: There's not a button that says, "Trash riddles only, thank you. I have a comedy podcast." You had to read through a lot of fucking brain teasers...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...to get to the actual—whatever the—to get to the chaff. To get the wheat out of there, and find the chaff. You really have to go digging...

Travis: So I have.

Griffin: Um—

Travis: This was not user-submitted. This was me. I did this. I put the work in, so that I could do the deliverables for my brothers. And it begins thusly!

"Once upon a time," as all good riddles begin. "Once upon a time, John was walking in the woods to go fishing for some food, but got lost. But he got across an old house and asked the owner. The owner invited John, and then began to tell a story, the old man said 'Once upon a time, two best friends'—"

Now, you might be wondering in this point in the riddle; no. Those two "once upon a times" are completely unrelated.

"Once upon a time, two best friends were on a deserted island. There was no food, so they began to die of hunger. They agreed to fight until one of them died. The winner would eat the loser, and thus be saved. Besides, no one would ever know about that. They began to fight. Finally, one of the best friends won, meaning that the other one was eaten and betrayed."

"Then, John pulled out a gun and killed the old man at once. Why would he do it?"

Griffin: To eat him? For power? To eat him for power. If it's any other answer, then I feel like my time's been wasted.

Travis: Justin?

Justin: Uh, I said you get a magnet at ten dollars a month, and it's not that, it's an enamel pin, and I'm really sorry about that. That's my riddle, and I just solved it. [laughs]

Griffin: Okay!

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Pretty good start for our literal first pledge break.

Justin: I just wanted to mention that I boned—I did a mess up. I did a mess up.

Griffin: That you boned it pretty bad. Like, an immediate mess-up.

Travis: Now, here's what I want to talk about in this riddle. Because the answer is "The old man was the cannibal." And I feel like in this riddle, John – our hero – makes a big ol' leap, because the old man began by saying "Once upon a time," and told what seems to be a made-up story about two friends on an island and one eats the other. And then John...

Griffin: Right.

Travis: ...leaps to the conclusion that even though the story began "One upon a time," clearly this old man was talking about his self and needed to be shot!

Griffin: Yeah. Wait—yeah, that's a good point, Trav.

Justin: Yeah. I think you really undermined this riddle.

Griffin: I'm starting to think these riddles aren't very good.

Justin: [laughs] That's my worry.

Griffin: I'm worried about it. 'Cause it's like, I'm—it's hard not to look at all the other bits, now that Yahoo Answers is... falling into the grave right now. And Trav, I'll be honest with you – sometimes I worry that the riddles on riddles.com aren't great riddles.

Travis: Well, I hate to disagree with you, Griffin, because there is a voting mechanic on riddles.com.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Travis: And this one has 45 thumbs up and 47 thumbs down. So it seems almost pretty evenly split.

Griffin: It's pretty—it's almost nothing. It's almost a nothing riddle.

Travis: There are folks who can't decide like, "Ooh, is this John shooting an old man for telling a story? Pretty good!"

Griffin: "Pretty good riddle!"

Justin: "Nice!"

Griffin: "Stumped me. Hey, Margaret, you gotta hear this one!"

Justin: I didn't see it coming.

Travis: And then, I guess, I suppose in this story, John eats him.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah. [sighs]

Travis: Good times.

Griffin: Let's—let's answer a question. I feel like it. It's been so long.

Justin: Is this first question from Tim Irr?

Travis: Yes, it is, Justin.

Griffin: Are you kidding me?

Justin: [laughs] Oh, what a treat for me!

Griffin: Oh, boy howdy!

Justin: Tim Irr, probably the best local newsman.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: If I had to say.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: Well—in the broadcast. Dave Lauter takes the top, like, local newsman, period.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: But like, Tim Irr? If you're going broadcast, Tim Irr is your man.

Griffin: Gotta have that.

Justin: You know what, I—one thing I'll say about Tim Irr, [crosstalk] Tim Irr, I read an interview with him where um, they asked him what his greatest fear was. I know that I've talked about this before, but it's worth revisiting.

Uh, they asked him what his greatest fear was. You know what he said?

Travis: What?

Justin: Nothing. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: No Fear Tim Irr, let's see what's on his agenda today.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Check in with No Fear Tim Irr, who loves hot sauce, another thing about Tim Irr.

Travis: He's not afraid of the heat!

Justin: Not afraid of the heat. Not afraid of anything.

Griffin: [laughs in background]

Justin: Whenever I walk outside on a windy day, you know he's always out there, walking that beat, looking for scoops.

Travis: No [crosstalk].

Griffin: The amount of narrowcasting happening right now is—is—

Justin: It's basically just Tim Irr. I don't think the version of Tim Irr that I'm describing would even be recognizable to—to some of his other WSAZ colleagues.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: So have I. Uh, uh, uh... 'cause I reference Bill Murray, and that fool left in 2013...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...to go to Kentucky, where all of our most hallowed newspeople go [crosstalk]

Travis: To die.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: It's the elephant graveyard of Huntington newspeople.

Justin: Man, I'm just realizing that Rob Johnson's gonna listen to this, and get all pissed off. Okay, Rob, listen.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Well, you need to send in a question, Rob!

Griffin: Step it the fuck up, Rob!

Justin: Come on, Rob! Let's get it going! Tim Irr's on the show now.

Travis: Yeah, now that Yahoo Answers is dead, we're gonna start a segment on *My Brother, My Brother and Me* where we just talk about Huntington news anchors for an hour.

Griffin: Should be fun.

Justin: Here's another fact about Tim Irr; he looks just like Woody from *Toy Story*.

Travis: True.

Justin: So much so that he used to wear a Woody costume. I don't remember if it was on the air, or from an—[wheezes, laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Or a dream Justin had.

Griffin: [laughs] Alright.

Justin: Tim Irr doesn't tweet a lot.

Travis: [laughs] These are just some Tim facts!

Justin: [laughs] Here's some Tim facts!

Travis: Some Tim bits!

Justin: Um, just—but, you know—get in the—man, actually, you know what, now I'm looking through his history, it's more than I thought. His most recent tweet is "RIP Greg Jacobs, AKA Humpty Hump." So he's—his got his thumb on his pulse.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Of course he does; he's Tim Irr.

Griffin: I would love a question.

Justin: So here's a ti—you're wondering the question.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I can tell already. But I clicked away from the page to look for more Tim Irr nugs—

Travis: Mm-hmm, Tim Bits.

Justin: So I now have to go all the way back to the question. Tim Bits! *Fuck!* Obviously Tim Bits!

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: Man, that makes me angry. I shouldn't have missed that.

Travis: I'm sorry. I'm—

Justin: “Whenever I walk outside on a windy day – I, Tim Irr, walk outside on a windy day, particularly in the pollen-filled days of spring and summer, my eyes water. Other people walk by, obviously think I’m crying. One older woman, who was clearly moved by what she perceived as an emotionally distraught passerby, actually went so far as to produce a handkerchief from her purse and wipe my tears. I’ve given serious consideration to wearing a sign around my neck or perhaps a t-shirt with the emblazoned message: ‘I’m not crying.’” And that’s from Tim “I’m Not Crying” Irr.

Griffin: It’s—it—Tim...

Justin: I know he’s not afraid of emotion.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: This isn’t like—this isn’t [crosstalk].

Travis: No, no, no, no, no.

Justin: He’s Tim [crosstalk]. He’s not afraid of anything.

Travis: The only thing—the only thing Tim is afraid of is lying to the people.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

Griffin: I’ve seen him—I’ve seen him talk about stuff on the news, and he’ll be like, “[choked up] And the... Huntington Highlanders... [strained] came back to win it. Fucking [unintelligible] touchdown, and they—”

Justin: “[choked up] They won it for all of us!”

Griffin: “They won it for all of us, and they’re gonna go to state! [extended unintelligible moaning]—”

Justin: [laughs] That sounds exactly like him!

Travis: Nailed it.

Griffin: “[normally] We got—the Marshall Thundering Herd made [strained, high-pitched] quite a comeback [unintelligible] field goal...”

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: It’s a lot about football.

Justin: [laughs] Yeah, which is weird for a non-sports reporter.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That they let him—you know, a lot of people don’t know this, but if you’re the anchor, and you really care about one a lot, they’ll let you do it instead of the sports.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...they’ll let you do it instead of [crosstalk].

Travis: No, it’s nice, ‘cause they don’t make him do any of the sad sports stuff.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Or even the happy ones. Just the emotionally moving ones.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: But he can be like, “Yeah, there was a big ritual cult murder that happened in the park, whatever, whatever, [tearfully] but did you hear about these Huntington Highlanders?”

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: “[high pitched] And their volleyball team!”

Justin: Um, I wonder if Tim realizes that, um... old women giving you handkerchiefs because you could be crying is not something that happens to us that are not TV news anchors.

Travis: Yeah. That are not, specifically, Huntington's own Tim Irr.

Griffin: Oh, yeah, that's a fair point.

Justin: Right, yeah. Tim is like, "Whenever I walk down the street, eight people hand me bagels..."

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: "...and wish me a happy day!"

Travis: Pretty sure I could be walking down the street, openly sobbing – not just, like, eyes—

Justin: [laughs, unintelligible]

Travis: And I think older women would think, "Oh, he's probably on bath salts."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Or something along those lines. That would probably be the vibe I, specifically, would give off.

Justin: I will say this, though: I will say this. To lend credence to Tim's issue, if I see Tim Irr – local news anchor, Tim Irr – wandering the streets, sobbing to himself, in my head I'm like, what the fuck is going on in Huntington?

Travis: Oh, no.

Justin: Something really bad.

Griffin: What does he know—is there an asteroid headed for the river city?

Justin: Right. That's the [crosstalk].

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The man with no fear is—is crying. We're all doomed! Yeah, it would be terrifying.

Travis: Huntington's Green Lantern is crying. What's happening?

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I used to have this concern when we used to go to church as kids, and I would yawn on so hard that my eyes would water. And I wasn't worried about people seeing me yawning; I was worried that they might think I was so moved by the sermon that I was crying, and they would think, "Did Travis do some bad shit?"

Justin: "Is Travis about to recommit his life to the Lord right now?"

Travis: "For a third time?" [laughs] I did do it a second time, 'cause I liked the attention.

Griffin: Right. Well, in the first one you were clearly faking it.

Travis: Yeah, the first one didn't take, obviously.

Griffin: Right. Yeah.

Justin: You know what, Tim, here's what I would suggest. Just let the—if this happens to you again, just let people feel like they did you a solid.

Travis: Yeah, you've done so much for them.

Justin: You know, they rely on you. Let them feel like, "Oh, that was a nice thing I did—I did a good turn for Tim Irr. I hope he appreciates it."

Travis: And then when you do the newscast later that day, have that handkerchief hanging out of your sleeve to show that you enjoy their favor. That you are now doing the news for them that night, right?

Griffin: Oh!

Travis: Like, a jousting.

Griffin: Who has handkerchiefs?

Travis: Old ladies.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: And now Tim Irr!

Travis: Yup.

Justin: And now Tim Irr has her handkerchiefs.

Travis: I heard that in his office, he nails up the handkerchiefs one by one, as they are given to him.

Griffin: Oh!

Travis: Much like Willie Mays Hayes does in the—the hit baseball movies.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Major league.

Justin: Yeah, I hear he makes a necklace out of them.

Travis: Really?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I heard he pulls them out of his sleeve, one by one, like a clown.

Justin: And they're all tied together. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah. And at the end, his underpants.

Griffin: That's funny. And sexy.

Justin: Funny and sexy. Rob Johnson, the floor is yours.

Griffin: The—there's—I can continue to read Yahoo for another, like, six days.

Justin: I mean, I guess... I guess there's no reason to not, right?

Griffin: Let me say this: Graham Roebuck sent in a lot of goodun's, and a very sweet message.

Travis: Well—

Griffin: Thank you, Graham Roebuck, for your—for your service.

This one's asked by Yahoo Answers User William, who asks, "Why is there no big fruit?"

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: "Why is all fruit small enough to hold with your hand? I know we have berries and apples, but I think watermelons are the biggest fruit I know of. And you can just hold it with two hands, or one, if you're strong. Why is there no big fruit?"

Travis: Now, listen, there's gotta be some science folk out there, like your Hank Greens, your Hanks Green, where—

Griffin: Oh, we're in a TikTok of his right now, aren't we?

Justin: Oh my God, Travis. If you search “biggest fruit,” I shit you not – I shit you not! Searched “biggest fruit,” first image, Hank Green superimposed in front of a picture of a watermelon.

Travis: Fucking knew it. That dude—

Griffin: What is going on—how could—

Travis: Do you know—yesterday, Bebe asked me, “How’s lightning work?”

And I pulled up a video, and I was like, “Ah, okay. I don’t see any of Hank Green’s stank on this. Any of Stank Green on this.” And then fucking right there at the end of the video, executive producer Hank Green.

Justin: [groans]

Griffin: I feel like we’re in a TikTok of his right now, and he’s just like, looking at the camera like...

Justin: He’s probably using this audio, and being like...

Griffin: Son of a gun.

Justin: ...huh, glasses...

[all speaking at once]

Travis: [moaning voices] I’m Hank Green.

So Hank Green is gonna tell you is the problem is, is that the fruit gets too big, it falls off trees. Well, Hank Green, counterpoint: why don’t we have bigger trees, then?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, *Hank!*

Travis: Stronger trees! Give me some virile trees!

Griffin: Trees where the branches bend down all the way down to the ground, so the fruit can just sit on the ground and hang out, and then when the fruit falls off, branches whip way up high in the air, and gives the bird a scare.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Hey, Crank Green.

Griffin: That's good.

Justin: What about pumpkins?

Travis: Yup!

Justin: Hey—hey, Hank? Did you forget about pumpkins, my dude?

Travis: Yeah, roast him!

Justin: When you gave us this answer that we imagined a few seconds ago, remember when you, Hank Green, said that?

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Or Travis attributed that to you?

Travis: And watermelons grow on the fucking ground, Hank, so I guess it's not about trees.

Justin: Pumpkins grow on the ground, Hank!

Travis: It's not about trees, is it, fucking Hank?

Justin: Hey, teens following this guy. This is—this is—I've revealed the curtain and you can see the wizard behind it. It's just—it's just Hank Green, lying to you about fruit.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: He's guessing about fruit!

Justin: He's guessing about fruit, he forgot about pumpkins!

Travis: He forgot about fucking pumpkins!

Justin: I'm so embarrassed for him and that imaginary response that Travis attributed to him.

Travis: Oh my God, can you imagine?

Justin: So that—I mean, that's the thing, is like, there's some fruits is big, like pumpkins.

Travis: Pumpkins is big!

Justin: Huge! You kidding me? What about durians? I've never seen one in real life.

Griffin: Jack—jackfruit's a big boy.

Justin: Jackfruit's a big.

Travis: So big!

Griffin: But—listen, but—

Justin: Durian's stinky, not big, sorry.

Travis: Yeah, stinky fruit.

Griffin: There's—but there's a cap on it, huh? And the cap is pumpkin. Where—

Travis: That we know—but here's the thing. I've seen some fucking big pumpkins. Not in person, mind you, but in pictures.

Griffin: No, I know, but—

Travis: Now, maybe they're photoshopped, I don't know, but like, there's a variability in the size of pumpkins.

Justin: You've never been—Trav, have you seriously never been to the uh... you never been to the pumpkin festival?

Travis: No, I went, but I specifically didn't look at the big pumpkin, because I was afraid. I was afraid.

Griffin: No, yeah, he'd get trapped inside of it. it's a completely legitimate fear. But—

Travis: Well, anything could happen. It could spontaneously, like, roll onto me, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Right, and he would... yeah, you'd die.

I think that the question we're really asking here is, "Why's most fruits so smalls?"

Travis: Yeah. 'Cause birds is small.

Justin: [sighs]

Griffin: Birds—so wait, what?

Travis: 'Cause birds is small.

Justin: Yeah, birds is small.

Travis: The birds gotta eat the fruit, and then poop out the seeds!

Griffin: Birds don't eat fruit. Birds don't eat fruit. Birds eat worm.

Travis: Some birds do. Fruit birds.

Griffin: No. Birds eat worms, and birds eat crackers.

Justin: No fruit birds.

Travis: Ah, that's true. Fuck, that's a good point. Uh, what about lemurs, Griffin?

Griffin: Yeah, lemurs do love it.

Travis: Lemurs are like the birds of monkeys, if you think about it.

Griffin: How do bananas know how big to be, I guess is my—

Travis: They look at the other bananas around.

Justin: Yeah, it's all comparing. And that's what's so harmful, is they see a lot of pictures in magazines of bananas that look a certain way...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ...and they think, "That's gotta be it."

Griffin: See, now I wish my last name was Green. 'Cause sometimes I ask questions like that, and I want sort of an erudite... discussion about it?

Travis: Mm.

Justin: You wish we hadn't gone so hard on it.

Griffin: But then Travis says stuff like, "The banana looks with its banana eyes at the other bananas, and feels banana peer pressure to look like the other bananas." When like—

Travis: Hold on, I didn't say the banana peer pressure thing. That was Justin. I said they look around, and that lets them know how big to be.

Griffin: Well, regardless, like, neither of you came at me with that good heat that, like, I know—I just happen to know, “Oh, it’s funny you asked that. I happen to—” You guys have never, ever once said to me, “Oh, it’s funny you ask that, Griffin! I know exactly this.”

Travis: Well, ask about something I know, Griffi—you always ask shit I don’t know!

Griffin: Oh, God.

Travis: Ask me something I know, right now. Right now. Ask me something you know I know.

Griffin: Is it bad that I can’t think of anything?

Travis: Wow.

Justin: Wow.

Travis: It’s pretty bad. There’s things—

Justin: Here’s a que—I got another question.

Travis: Wait, hold on. Griffin, you know me, right?

Griffin: Yeah, but like, I don’t know what you know.

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: I—’cause I feel like you sort of float through... life...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ...on a little cloud.

Travis: Yeah. Like the thing in *Mario Brothers*.

Justin: Trav, what's the big—what—when you start, um, blacksmithing, what's some of the early stuff that you'll learn? What are some of the first skills?

Travis: Oh, thank you so much, Justin. Um, you will learn—

Griffin: Travis, you should say—

Justin: [crosstalk]

Griffin: No, I just—Travis, just to take that again, it's uh, it's funny you ask that.

Travis: It's funny you ask that. Hey teens, it's me, Travis McElroy, your favorite brother. Uh, blacksmithing, huh? [confused noises] That reminds me, you got a taper, and then you gotta scroll...

Griffin: You don't even—it's the energy is so off.

Travis: I'm trying to match Hank Green's energy.

Griffin: He doesn't go [mocking groaning]. It's "Oh, you wanna know about the biggest fruit? [mocking groans and grunts]"

Travis: Well, okay, to be fair, in that specific video, John Green is choking him out.

Griffin: That does happen a lot.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I'll say this about those two: I wish they didn't fight as much—like, physically fight.

Travis: Yeah, it's very upsetting.

Griffin: Like, to hurt. To hurt.

Travis: It's very upsetting. Like, Hank Green will be doing a video about like, I don't know, why tornadoes happen...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And suddenly, John Green will just karate chop him in the Adam's apple.

Griffin: Run into the room, and just spe—like, fucking spear him into his computer, and break it.

Travis: I saw John Green speed bag Hank Green's butt once.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: So hard!

Griffin: Yeah. But like, you know what? Fucking glass houses.

Travis: Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: We speed bag—we've speed bagged each other's butts on camera before.

Travis: Oh, yeah, all the time.

Griffin: 'Cause we're bro—we're brothers! We're rascal boys!

Travis: Yeah. And boys punch butts!

Griffin: Boys, rascal boys punch each other's butts!

Travis: Yeah, those little rascals love punching butts.

Justin: Just wanna slide in here real quick. Sorry, uh, past us for interrupting, but we do wanna take a second to talk to you—

Travis: I'm not sorry.

Justin: Talk about the Maximum Fun Drive. We do it, um, once a year, just for this little bit of time, and this is the time of the year where you get to stand up and say, "Hey, I like this."

That's what joining the Maximum Fun Network really is, it's a way of planting your flag, of casting your vote, whatever metaphor you wanna use. But saying, like, "Hey, I want this to keep happening." You can pledge us five bucks a month, and uh – or more. 10, 20—whatever you can spare. Whatever the show means to you. I don't know what it means to you. If it means something to you, we really could use the support at maximumfun.org/join.

The vast majority of your donation goes to the shows that you listen to, uh, and a portion of it goes to Maximum Fun to, uh, you know, pay for the—organizing the network, and doing stuff like this, and lining up advertisers, and all kinds of great stuff that Maximum Fun does. So we treasure every buck we can get, and we really do put it to good use.

Travis: And uh, not only that; you get rewarded for that support. And not just like, that warm fuzzy feeling you get in your heart, though that is pretty great. I love a warm fuzzy feeling in my heart, unless it means I am having a heart attack, at which point now I am concerned.

But for the five-dollar support level, you're going to get access to over 200 hours of bonus content, including every past Max Fun Drive bonus, every, like, Max Fun Day bonus. Everything. There's so much there, including new content from this year. And I loved the episodes we recorded. We did like a bit switch-around, a segment switch-around. Uh, there's stuff from *Sawbones* and *Wonderful!* and *Shmanners* and *Adventure Zone*, everything.

Now, for 10 dollars, you're going to get your choice of an enamel pin. I think there's 38 show-specific pins to choose from, and the bonus content. For 20 dollars, you get the enamel pin, you get the bonus content, and there's this really, really cute tea kit to give you a little tea break in there. There's all kinds of stuff, folks, and I want you to check it out, alright? Because you're great, and you deserve the support—well, you deserve the reward. You get what I'm saying.

And it helps us out, it helps you out, it keeps our show going. Uh, and we really appreciate it.

And you know, we also know that not everybody's able to support, and that's fine too. You can still do your part by sharing that link, maximumfun.org/join, telling people about the fact the Max Fun Drive is going on, why the shows matter to you, all that stuff.

Justin: So, uh, please, if you can, maximumfun.org/join, and with that said, let's get back to the show!

Travis: Speaking of Max Fun Drive, perhaps we should [singing] Reach For the Stars!

Justin: Wow, so you're doing a lot of hits today.

Travis: Well, I just wanted to make it feel special. It's our first Max Fun Drive episode, and I wanted to bring...

Griffin: Yep.

Travis: I wanted to bring the two of my bits that people seem to like.

Griffin: [stifled laughter]

Justin: Ple—okay.

Travis: What's that, Justin?

Justin: Go ahead, Travis. No, I wasn't going to editorialize in any way; I just want to hear the—this segment.

Travis: Okay. So I will read some reviews left with a certain amount of stars. These are all four and five-star comments.

Griffin: Oh, wow!

Travis: On a product on Amazon.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: I will read you those comments, and you guys are going to try to guess what that product is. First comment: "Wow, it works! Did a good job cleaning out the gunk and earwax!"

Griffin: Is it one of those earwax cleaners-outers? Like, one of thing—it's got a little camera on it? I see `em—I get Facebook ads all the time, where it's like, "Hey, you dirty fuck. Get—check out this big nasty glob you can pull out of your human head."

Travis: Man, Facebook has you pegged, huh?

Griffin: Yeah, it does. It knows I like what's up.

Justin: Got your number.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Saw you coming a mile away. Alright, Justin, guess?

Justin: No.

Travis: Okay! Second comment—

Griffin: Wait, was that not the answer?

Travis: No, that was not the answer, Griffin!

Griffin: Oh.

Travis: If that was the—you think that I would be like, "Guess the product! Anyways, it's the thing that cleans out ears!" No, come on.

Griffin: Yeah, okay.

Justin: The best thing to clean out ears is caps of Bic pens, but I'm assuming it's not Bic pins.

Griffin: That is *visceral*, what you just said.

[pause]

Justin: My wife's a doctor; I can't be wrong.

Travis: Okay. "Used today on a two-mile swim. Works great, and forms to my ears! Keeps water out and dries to use multiple times. Kids, don't try this at home! Only adults can stick things in their ears."

Justin: Is it a wax product? Is it wax... some sort of ear... wax that you use to protect from swimmer's ear?

Travis: Incorrect.

Griffin: I'm starting to think that people are not using this... object... in the correct—

Justin: This is, like, an off—off-label usage.

Griffin: Right. Yeah, it's like, foam or some shit.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Or you know how you can smoke foam...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: ...and get incredibly high?

Travis: And then you run down the street, sobbing.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: Okay, “I burst my eardrum back in March, and my EMT recommended this, of all things, to use as an earplug because it uses stickiness to stay in, as opposed to having to be shoved down the ear canal. This was a great bang for my buck!”

Justin: Oh, my God. Is it, like, Silly Putty?

Travis: It *is* Silly Putty, Justin!

Justin: Oh, no! [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: God almighty. So floam wasn’t even that far off.

Justin: My God! Holy shit, really?

Travis: It was Silly Putty pack of six, Justin.

Justin: This is a weird Reach For the Stars, where I actually come out a little smarter...

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: ...than when I went in. ‘Cause this is a whole, uh, uh, world that I did not understand, I didn’t know about. I mean, I guess it makes sense, right? Silly Putty wasn’t invented... to be Silly Putty, you know what I mean? So why wouldn’t it be... why wouldn’t it be an ear—an earplug thing?

Travis: Now—

Justin: Just a guy trying to make fake rubber. Made Silly Putty, and also made a great earplug thing.

Travis: Here—there are four more quick comments here that I just—I had to—one, first one: “Received on time, and they are crowd-pleaser.” And that makes me think that perhaps for future live shows...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Instead of doing jokes, just fucking hand out some Silly Putty.

Griffin: It makes me think that the crowd you hang out with sucks.

Travis: [laughs] These three comments, these were reviews left by three different people, and I—at three different times, I cannot stress this enough. I'm going to read all three of them.

"It really is Silly Putty."

"It's Putty, it's Silly."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Silly Putty it is!"

Justin: Yeah, it's right there.

Travis: That last one's right there. "Silly Putty it is!"

Griffin: Travis, you should've read us one of those ones, 'cause it'd been easier to...

Travis: Yeah, but I thought that might give it away.

Griffin: Yeah. Was that the only one?

Travis: Yep!

Griffin: Oh, wow. Okay, I like that! Travis, that was your best Reach For the Stars yet, I would say!

Travis: [low, rough voice] Yeah, got it!

Griffin: Well, you don't have to sound... like a pervert about it, yeah.

Travis: Haha, nailed it. I fixed it! [gravelly laugh] Reach For the Stars!

[normally] Hey, everybody, we don't uh - I wouldn't normally highlight this, but uh, halfway through the episode we had to take a break and then pick it up the next day, and now I'm having my coffee and the sun is shining, and I'm wondering, and I'm—I want us to really think about it; did we go too hard on Hank Green? I—I—[sighs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. In the light of day, I feel like—I think I called him... I think I called him Spank Green.

Travis: There was definitely—a Crank Green was in there, Stank Green...

Griffin: Crank Green is libelous, and I feel fucking—like, he's been nothing but very kind to us.

Justin: Just like—he's always been so nice to us, and like, we've worked with him on stuff before.

Travis: A lot, yeah! We've done a lot of stuff.

Justin: [crosstalk] And, like, I've texted him as a human being. Just about our lives.

Griffin: No, yeah, he's a pal. But like—

Travis: Yeah, yeah, he's a good friend.

Justin: Like, a good—he's a good person, and I don't know why... we called him Crank Green. [soft, wheezing laugh]

Travis: Yeah, we went really hard.

Griffin: Or Spank—or Spank Green. Um... should we say up—should we—

Justin: I think—you know what I think? Part of it is, is 'cause he had YouTube, and he took TikTok.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Aha.

Justin: I think that if I'm being honest about it now, in the harsh light of day, he did have YouTube already. Then he took TikTok, and it doesn't seem right.

Travis: He—and—he did try to come—he and John tried to come for brother podcasts, which...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...did feel a lit—you know what? Now I'm actually kind of back around the other side.

Griffin: Yeah, spank that crank.

Travis: 'Cause then he—yeah, he and his wife then also tried to do, like married couple, like, podcasts, and that's also kind of our thing?

Griffin: [angry voice] Oh, f... Just like Crank.

Travis: That is a real Crank move..

Griffin: It's a real Crank move.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Real Crank move, Crank. Okay.

Griffin: Um...

Travis: Okay, I'm back around. I'm back around.

Justin: Alright. Good. Well, I'm glad we put—left him right in his place.

Um, what do we want, another question?

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Yeah, my morning brain is ready for a question.

Justin: Yeah, this is a new day. Like, we are now imbued with the knowledge of what happened yesterday, and spoiler alert: it's pretty similar to the 300-plus days before, but—

Travis: It all becomes a blur.

Justin: Did have some new releases of *The Circle* on Netflix.

Travis: Ooh! I gotta go. Hey, can we take another break and come back, then, in like an hour, so I can watch—

Griffin: [defeated] Yeah, I guess so.

Travis: Go to question three, J-Man.

Justin: Uh... [crosstalk]

Griffin: Computer, computer! Execute question three!

Justin: I don't normally work the way, where it's sort of like you call the shots, and I...

Travis: I know, but [singing] it's a new day, it's a new day.

Justin: Okay. "My roommate works at Harris Teeter." Oh, man, I love a Harris Teeter!

Travis: Oh, yeah!

Griffin: I do not know what this fucking name is.

Justin: Griff, you gotta get down to the beach with us, man. Harris Teeter down there!

Travis: Oh, they got everything.

Justin: Oh, boy, I love a Harris Teeter.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "My roommate works at Harris Teeter, and about a month—" [softly] Man, I love Harris Te—every time I express affection for something, I'm so ready for somebody to be like, "Actually, they put pigeons in the furnace every morning to start the electricity."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: That's life, man.

Justin: [laughs] It's just some—"About a month ago—" Okay. "So my roommate works at Harris Teeter. About a month ago, who shows up at her 8 AM shift but Bill Murray himself."

Griffin: I'm guessing they mean... of stage and screen, and not Huntington's own Bill Murray mentioned earlier in this.

Justin: [laughs] So wild that we did talk about other Bill Murray, now Kentucky's own Bill Murray.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Kentucky [crosstalk].

Justin: This is Hollywood's Bill Murray.

Travis: The other. As he's known, The Other Bill Murray.

Justin: Yeah, Garfield. "Struck up a casual conversation with her, and asked if she went to a school nearby. After confirming that yes, she does,

and she lives on campus, he asked if she had a car to drive to work. Unfortunately, we're college students who spend the majority of our income on Totino's Pizza Rolls TM, and so she always walks.

"As he finishes ringing up her groceries, he pulls out his wallet and hands my roommate a 50-dollar bill. He tells her to put it towards a bike fund. She did not buy a bike. Instead, a week later, we used Bill Murray's hard-earned money to buy a kitten – he was on sale. In our defense, [laughs] he does not have a tail."

Travis: Okay.

Justin: [wheezing laughter]

Griffin: [laughs] Why is that a defense?

Justin: I cannot fathom what you're trying to ask us.

Griffin: I see, the prosecution rests.

Justin: "What should my roommate do if Bill Murray comes back and asks about the bike? So sorry if you hear this, Bill."

Now, this is interesting, isn't it?

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: 'Cause here's the sequence.

Bill Murray said, "Hello, do you have a car?"

And the roommate said—

Travis: And I'm hoping not that directly. [laughs]

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: 'Cause that does feel like a setup for something.

Justin: "Hello, do you have a car?"

And the person said, "No, I take a bike." Sorry, the person said, "No, I walk."

And Bill Murray said, "Here's 50 dollars. Buy a bike."

And it's like, well, why don't I—if I'm starting a fund anyway...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...if I'm being aspirational, why don't I go and put this towards, you know, a car fund? Or maybe, perhaps, even a Vespa fund?

Griffin: Well, I think Bill wants to feel like he's made a significant contribution to your transit... fund, right?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And 50 dollars towards car is not as impressive as 50 dollars towards bike.

Travis: Yeah, to scale that back, let's see, how much is a car? You could get a used car for like, 5,000 dollars, right? So 50—

Justin: Oh, less, less.

Griffin: Jesus, you can get a fucking great used car for 5,000 dollars.

Travis: Well, that's what I mean, a reliable—

Justin: You go on Craigslist, you can probably find one for free, if you're willing to get in the carburetor, [unintelligible] get elbow deep.

Hey, list—hey, what Bill Murray should've said was, "Here's 50 dollars. Buy yourself a really nice bottle of wine."

Oh, doesn't that seem more charitable—doesn't that seem nicer?

Griffin: [crosstalk]—

Travis: That—but the way you said it, and buying someone wine, is a li—a little creepy.

Justin: Oh, yeah, but is Bill Murray—he defy—he defies that. Like, he's gotta—

Griffin: And—and defines that.

Justin: And defines that. It's enough of a cultural legacy.

Travis: “Hey, kid, buy yourself a bike,” though, feels like a cool move.

Griffin: That is pretty fucking cool.

Travis: Then it's “Hey, hey, man. Get yourself a bike.”

Griffin: You know...

Travis: But actually, I guess what he was doing, was, “Hey, here's like 10 percent of a bike.”

Griffin: I love 50 dollars. I *love* 50 dollars. 50 dollars [crosstalk]

Justin: I've highlighted before that that's—that's a triple-A video game.

Griffin: That's awesome. Well, it's—I mean, it's up to 70 now, in this fucking generation.

[all groan]

[all talking over each other]

Travis: More like *Cash Bandicoot!*

Griffin: Yeah. Like *Ratchet*—

Justin: You motherfucker!

Griffin: Like *Ratchet and Crank*. Um...

Justin: Green.

Griffin: Green.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Anyway, um, 50 dollars, I love it, I love it, I love it. But if Bill Murray gave you 50 dollars, isn't there a part of you that's like, "I don't wanna—I wanna frame thi—"

Justin: Frame the 50 dollars.

Griffin: "This is my Bill Murray 50 dollars."

Travis: Well, that's the thing, right? Is a part of a bike, that's fine. But Bill Murray paid for this cat? That's way better!

Griffin: It's better. Pretty good.

Justin: And hey, also, um, excuse me, question asker, how in the *fuck* are you gonna tell us you got a cat and not tell us what the name of it is?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Because if it doesn't relate to Bill Murray in some way...

Travis: Bill Purry.

Justin: Bill Purry. Bill Purry. Bill Purry. Sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry, Bill Purry.

Griffin: Can I just actually—can I just—

Travis: Did you have a little lag, Justin? 'Cause I did say it first.

Griffin: I—I—literally, I am sitting here, I do not know which one of you said it first. Because of internet latency. But I also wanna say that there's probably a whole Garfield vector that—

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: That's just completely did not want to explore.

Travis: And this is also one of the zones where I feel like I just wanna rattle off any one I can think of, so nobody tweets later, like, "I can't believe you guys didn't say like, Bill Purry, Bill Furry—"

Justin: Bill Purry's the one. I mean, Bill Purry is like, so—it's predetermined, actually. I mean, it's that good.

Griffin: Ooh, you know what's a dope name for this cat that Bill Murray paid for, is you call them Lorenzo Music's Garfield.

Justin and Travis: [burst out laughing]

Griffin: That's—

Justin: Lorenzo Music is one of the great names.

Travis: It really is.

Griffin: Yeah, it's really powerful. Um...

Justin: Hey—

Travis: Uh, I got a—

Griffin: Wait, hold on. Wait, I had a follow-up. Why do cats go on—when do cats go on sale? I guess if—did the cat go on sale?

Travis: When they lose their tail, and they're 10 percent off!

Griffin: I guess so. Is that what happened?

Travis: No.

Justin: I mean, if you take 10—if a cat loses its tail, that cat is 10 percent off.

Travis: This is what I'm saying.

Justin: So it does make sense that you would have a value—a value deal.

Griffin: Mm. Hey, did you know that Carla Music from *Bon Appetit* is Lorenzo Music's... daughter-in-law? Crazy, huh? Thanks, Wikipedia.

Justin: There it is.

Travis: [laughs] Now, Griffin, did you hop on Wikipedia real quick to see if Lorenzo Music was incredibly problematic?

Griffin: No, I just wanted to see some cool pictures of Lorenzo Music.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: And I did—and I achieved my goal, and I w—

Travis: How often do you guys confuse Lorenzo Music with Lorenzo Lamas?

Griffin: Probably never. It's probably never.

Travis: Oh, really? Okay, cool, cool, cool.

Justin: Hey, it's us again, your old buddies. Your old begging buddies.

Travis: Oh boy.

Justin: Justin and Travis coming to you, hat in hand, saying, "Hey, are you enjoying this? Is this good? Do you like—do you like this?"

Travis: Not Griffin. Griffin's too proud. Griffin's too proud.

Justin: Griffin's too proud, and too busy caring for an infant. That's another thing, folks; you know these babies don't feed themselves.

Travis: Not yet. Eventually, when they get older, they will.

Justin: They will, but they need you to uh, spring into action to buy all the different baby—it's been too long since I've had a baby. You know, baby stuff. [laughs]

Travis: Hey, no, but for real. Listen, jokes, leave the room. Get out of here, jokes.

Justin: Get out of here, jokes.

Travis: Over the years, your support has allowed us to do things like focus more on merch, right? If you've noticed that we've had more and more merch, it's 'cause we were able to like, work with designers and spend more time focused on that. If you've noticed like, the show have been sounding a little bit better – maybe of a lot a bit better – we've been able to hire an editor, because of your support.

There's just things throughout where we've been able to kind of make the shows better, make them more of a focus for us. Make sure we don't miss episodes when—when we can. All of that stuff. Tour when we were able to.

All of those things are because of the support you've shown us over the years. There is a direct improvement—just listen—well, don't listen to the first 100 episodes. But the audio quality from then—

Justin: No one do that.

Travis: No. But the audio quality from then to now is because your support has allowed us to get better and better equipment. And it's just all of those things, you know?

The world can be tough sometimes, and sometimes you wake up, and you think, "I don't want to be funny today. I don't want to be creative today." But then we know you're all out there depending on us to make these shows, you're supporting us, and we're doing it, you know? We're making these shows for you because you matter to us, just like we hope we matter to you.

Justin: Well, that's beautiful, Travis, and that is a beautiful sentiment. Also, you're gonna get gifts.

Travis: Yeah. That too.

Justin: You know, five bucks a month, you get 200 hours of bonus content. Wild stuff. Wild stuff. We did a mix-up bit thing where we all did each other's—it's wild.

Travis: There's video stuff in there, too. It's all over the place.

Justin: The video stuff in there, there's—you know, if you can do 10 dollars a month, you get all that bonus content, plus an enamel pin. So cool. And pick any show you want. Any Max Fun show you want. Whatever, they don't care. They make a pin out of anything these days.

"Take a Minute" tea kit, that's at 20 dollars a month, the diamond friendship circle. And uh, that's a great way to relax, unwind. Get a little bit of tea *and* a pin *and* the bonus content.

I know that it's not like... you're not buying these things, remember? This is just our way of saying thank you, because what you're really getting is the satisfaction of knowing you're supporting stuff you like, and putting good stuff – I think good stuff – uh, out to the world!

So thank you so much. Maximumfun.org/join. If you've never joined before and you're able to do it now, um, we really would appreciate it. And I don't like... doing this... [laughs] I don't think anybody likes—

Travis: I kinda do! I kinda do.

Justin: Okay, well, that's fine.

Travis: You know, it just gives me a moment to talk to the people directly. I do wanna say, uh, just like two more things. One, if you're already supporting Max Fun, maybe this is the year you consider increasing that support.

Uh, maybe you've listened to more shows. Maybe you've found that our shows are holding a more important place in your heart, and you want to reflect that in your support, you can do that too, you can upgrade your support level.

Or if you want to give a little bit more, but you're not ready to move up to the next level yet, we totally get that too. You can do that as well at maximumfun.org/join. But the last thing I wanna say is, if you think this sounds great, if you wanna do it, do it now. It's so easy to think about it, and then like, 20 minutes from now it's completely out of your head, and pretty soon the Drive is over, and you missed your chance to get these rewards, right? So if you're thinking about it right now, maximumfun.org/join.

Griffin: Justin, did you have a transition?

Justin: [imitates rock guitar]

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: [continued extended guitar] I wanna munch!

Griffin and Travis: Squad!

Justin: [imitates rock guitar] I want to munch!

Griffin and Travis: Squad!

Justin: [continues and ends guitar] Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. Um...

Travis: Sounded for a second there like you said "brofiling."

Griffin: It did sound like that, and I like it.

Justin: Whoa, that's good, actually! Let's use that.

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: Um, um... Welco—

Travis: That'll be the name of our procedural, like, show. Like, they're the Brofilers.

Justin: [gravelly voice] Brofilers.

Travis: Three brothers that can kind of figure out why someone would do something.

Justin: [normally] I almost feel—Griffin, did you listen to the last episode?

Griffin: Did I listen to la—no, I didn't. I haven't listened to it yet.

Justin: Fuck—di—so like, you just completely missed the fact that the Noid's back? [stifles laughter]

Griffin: ...The Noid is...

Travis: Back.

Griffin: In what sense is the Noid back?

Travis: Well, Griffin—

Justin: I'm so glad Jean was there for this moment, because Jean is an important person to me, and a wonderful person. I am also heartbroken that you were not there for the news story that the fucking—just the Noid is back.

Griffin: You can't—

Travis: I can sum it up real quick, though, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: There's a—a new computer car that delivers pizzas...

Justin: The Noid's back; he's fighting robots.

Travis: ...and the Noid is fighting the robot car that delivers pizza.

Justin: Yeah, the Noid is fighting robot—pizza delivery robots, and he's back, and he's—I got a Noid shirt, so.

Travis: Did you?

Justin: I did; I got it in the mail. It was a very quick delivery.

Griffin: I—man, I love my new son, but the fact that he kept me from this...

Travis: Yep.

Griffin: ...exciting announcement...

Justin: And that's not even what we're—'cause we actually already did all the jokes about it.

Griffin: Oh...

Justin: Jean actually came up with like, better ones, probably...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ...than you... than you may have, but I just wanted to give you a quick—um, quick CBD update. Uh, Wings Over – which is the name of a place – has a new CBD-infused menu for 4/20—oops, missed it. [grumbles] But this new flavor is sticking around. It's garlic parm with CBD.

Travis: Why?

Griffin: Garlic parm, like, chicken wings?

Justin: Well, it's a garlic parm sauce that you can put on wings, tenders, and tots!

Griffin: But it also...

Justin: And it's CBD.

Griffin: It also...

Travis: [laughs] CBD garlic parm.

Griffin: ...will get you Mondo fucked up, dude. It won't.

Travis: But why?

Justin: But why? Because CBD and parmesan tots. I guess?

Travis: Yeah, but at a certain point, like, if someone said, "Here's some parmesan sauce, and I crushed up some ibuprofen in it, like..."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: It doesn't make any sense to me!

Travis: I wouldn't want that either.

Justin: [through laughter] What a delivery vehicle that would be.

[action voice] This is headache-destroying buffalo barbecue!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: It doesn't make any sense to me.

Travis: It's just that some things don't need to go in things, you know?

Griffin: "This new Game Boy brushes your teeth while you play it!" Like, I don't... I don't need that.

Travis: Huh.

Justin: If you eat a little bit of your Honda Accord's tires, it's also Claritin!

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: What? Why?

Justin: So that's good.

Travis: But why?

Justin: If your allergies are bothering you, just get out there and gnaw on your tire—that's not even what we're fucking talking about! Because that is not the news right now.

The news right now in the world of QSR is everybody's—everybody's [low voice] plant-based. You guys heard about this?

Travis: Oh, yeah, I love it.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Everybody's plant-based now.

Travis: You like—you mean like a salad or like a tomato?

Justin: Um, no, sir, this is plant-based, uh, Taco Bell, so you *know* that this is the endpoint of the whole trend.

Travis: Oh, wow.

Justin: "Taco Bell is testing a proprietary boldly-seasoned plant-based protein *meat*. [pause] The cravetarian taco fea—" it's—and it says here in parenthesis, "sounds like vegetarian."

Travis: Oh, oh, oh, oh!

Griffin: Now, listen, there's probably somebody in the executive board who read that word and thought it said crave-a-train. And they needed a minute...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: They needed a special helper to help them.

Justin: "Like the original crunchy taco supreme..."

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: "...this take features shredded cheddar cheese, crisp lettuce, diced tomatoes, and reduced-fat sour cream served in a crunchy corn shell." Thank you, by the way, for reducing the fat in this sour cream. I have—I have a big spring in my step now.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: Uh, except, "Now fans can experience Taco Bell's beloved taco in vegetarian form! The cravetarian taco is currently testing at only one Taco Bell location."

Travis: Oh, wow!

Justin: That's at 14042 Red Hill Avenue, Tustin, California. "Until [crosstalk] supplies last."

Travis: Big market. Big market!

Justin: Why—why—why would you put out a press release to say that if you go to this one bizarre-ass Taco Bell in a Californian city, they'll serve you a vegetarian taco? [laughs] Like, that's—why? Why's everybody need to know that?

Travis: Well, Justin, they put out press releases when they opened that new *Guardians at the Galaxy* ride at Disneyland, and there's only one of those, too.

Griffin: There's only one of those, yeah. That's a good point.

Justin: [laughs] That's almost a good point. It, like, glances off being a good point.

Griffin: And I would also wager that this proprietary Taco Bell turbo fake beef is gonna send you on a roller coaster ride of a different kind.

Travis: [laughs] "Hi, I'm Turbo Fake Beef! [laughs] The newest American gladiator."

Justin: [laughs] This is gonna let—set a fucking land speed record cruising through your guts.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Blowing with re—it's gonna make a new tube in between your intestines.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: So there's just like, a straight shot.

Travis: [laughs] It's the shoots and ladders of fake beef.

Justin: It's gonna make a gut shuttle.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Just fucking blow right to your butt. "The cravetarian taco is just one output of Taco Bell's innovation team, as they've been busy making good on the brand's continued commitment to provide vegetarian options in 2021." [holding back laughter] If you're keeping track so far, that includes one vegetarian taco in California. So it's going pretty good for me, I guess.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Hey, you guys are still working on that, right?"

"Uhh... yeah, uhh..."

Justin: "Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. We got one taco in—it's in... Tustin?"

Travis: "Did you just make up a name?"

"No, I'm sure it exists."

Justin: No, it's S... Tustin.

Griffin: Your name is Dustin, and I think you just said...

Justin: [laughs quietly]

Griffin: ...your own name.

Justin: "The term cravetarian..."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: It feels compelled to outline here, "Is inspired by all of Taco Bell's craveable options."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And it emphasizes how "No one should have to sacrifice bold flavors for their lifestyle." Okay? [laughs]

Travis: It's fun to see the marketing person get their hand on the ball who came up with that term. Like, "Tell 'em how I thought of it. Hey, tell them how I thought of craveta—" No, I think they'll get it. I think "cra—" it's right there.

"No, but tell them, 'cause I'm like—this is the best thing I've ever done."

"You have three kids, Doug." [laughs]

Griffin: "This is my fourth kid, the cravetarian taco. The crave-a-train—you know what, you actually said crave-a-train, and I think I like that better."

Travis: [laughs] "Is it too late to—ah, damn it."

Justin: Um, so that is huge news if you are near Tustin.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: Um, then mail us one.

Justin: Guys, can I get—is there time for one—is it time for one more, very brief—

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: There's always time.

Justin: Del Taco created a Mexico pizza ghosted support hotline.

Travis: Wait.

Justin: “For the past several years, the concept of ghosting...”

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: “...when someone cuts off all communication without explanation...” Thank you so much. “...has become an everyday phenomenon.” Not so much an everyday phenomenon, I might editorialize, that they don’t have to parenthetically describe what the term means in the press release, but no, trust us, it’s an everyday phenomenon.

More than a year ago, a certain tostada-like menu item, described as a Mexican pizza, disappeared from a major Mexican fast food chain.

Griffin: Oh my God.

Justin: And fans took the social media and other—do you see what’s happening here?

Griffin: Yep!

Justin: And other online platforms en masse. To air their grievances.

Travis: Uno masse.

Justin: If they’re airing their grievances about the Mexican pizza – I assume it is in the form of farts – their request went unanswered, leaving hundreds of thousands of consumers hangry, sad, and ghosted.

Travis: Okay. And so now, a year later...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: “Del Taco restaurants, with breakneck speed, is offering emotional and culinary support to all those disappointed fans via a Mexican pizza ghosted support hotline at 1-8773-GHOSTED. Fans can call the line 24/7.”

Travis: Wow.

Justin: That persistent availability, I assume, is very [laughs] important. 'Cause you never know when the grief of the Mexican pizza will hit you.

"You can call 24/7 to receive guidance, inspiration, and resolution for being wronged in the form of an exclusive promo code for a buy-one crunchtada, Get one free from Del Taco through May 20th."

Travis: Can I just say—you have been doing—bringing to us these Munch Squads for quite a while, and sometimes I think, like, "This is the most, like, throw it at the wall and see what sticks," and then something else comes along, and then something else comes along.

And I'm now hesitant to say it, but this feels like... just conceptually, perhaps, in many ways, the wildest one, right? I think it's the timeframe...

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: I think it's the idea... I think it's—

Griffin: It's like when somebody, like, slams you, and then like, later that night, you're brushing your teeth, and you think of a really good retort, only in this case...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: The slam wasn't against you, wasn't a slam, and your resort—your retort is to come up with an emotional support hotline for the people who feel slighted by the slam.

Travis: It is as if a kid said to another, kid, like, "You look dumb today."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And you, a third party, unrelated to the scenario, nine months later, went to the insulted kid, and said, "Hey, do you need to talk about that?"

Griffin: "Let's talk."

Travis: And they went, "I don't fucking remember what you're talking about."

Justin: So... what they ha—what—so you would think that Del Taco would be like, "So we're doing Mexican pizza. Fuck you."

Travis: Right.

Justin: But Del Taco doesn't—I guess they don't have the guts, 'cause they do have this thing that's called a crunchtada, that's like... you know, a round ch—it looks like a Mexican—it looks like the Taco Bell Mexican pizza. Mexican pizza is not an existing entity in the world.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: It's an invention of Taco Bell.

So they don't call it the Mexican pizza—what they're saying is, "We have something sort of like the Mexican pizza. Do you wanna call this 1-800 number about it?"

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: "'Cause then we can make the connection in your head that these two things are sort of the same thing you can go to—to Del Ta—" Tim Hackbardt, you guys know him. He's the CMO over there at Del Taco.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: Of course, of course.

Justin: "Del Taco is more than happy to fill the Mexican pizza void, and meet the obvious pent up consumer demand. However, instead of just meeting expectations with a single crunchtada, we went further by offering a variety that'll appeal to vegetarian—" Do you mean cravetarian?

[crosstalk]

Griffin: And by that, do you mean crave-a-trains?

Justin: If you are a vegetarian, and you describe yourself as anything other than a cravetarian, you're not living. Uh, beef and chicken fans...

"[shakily] Hi, I think of myself as a chicken fan."

"All three crunchtadas highlight our, um, quick service restaurant plus positioning with quality ingredients, like our fresh house-made guacamole, fresh from scratch, slow-cooked beans, and signature queso blanco, while offering guests best-in-class value for the money on top of a large six-and-a-half inch freshly fried tortilla."

Travis: So it's like a Mexican pizza?

Justin: So what it is, is a Mexican [laughs] pizza!

Griffin: Well, no—here's what happened. Is that they wanted to get into the Mexican pizza game, by which I mean the fucking tostada game...

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: ...which is tostadas, which is tostadas! But they can't—but they know if they just call it tostadas, people aren't gonna know that they're [crosstalk]—

Justin: Instantly.

Griffin: Instantly, there are certain people, I should say, that aren't gonna know they're talking about Taco Bell's amazing Mexican pizzas. And so this is their way of kind of having their Mexican pizza and calling it a tostada, and then also eating it too. And you gotta do something. I admire it.

Justin: And also not calling it a tostada, still! The belligerence on display here is like, "No one would ever know what a tostada is."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: “We have to call it a crunchtada, so they wanna eat it!”

Griffin: Now, have you called the number yet? `Cause I have it loaded up on my phone. I just wanted to know—it’s definitely—

Justin: Wait, wait, wait, can you—you know me, though. I can connect via Bluetooth.

Griffin: Yeah, that’s what I was saying.

Justin: We can get a call going right here.

Griffin: I mean, I know for *sure* it’s gonna be a robot, or answering machine.

Travis: Uh, it better be. Oh, God, can you—

Justin: Yeah, I don’t think I could actually handle if it’s a real... human being.

Travis: If nothing else, just the idea of a human being have to be on call 24/7 for that number. Ugh.

Justin: 24/7. Yeah, the 24/7 thing does make me think that it’ll be recording, but hey, we can treat ourselves. Give me a second, okay...

[hold music plays]

Justin: Okay, so we called, and it was a real human being, and that—I don’t—it—they—it was not a conversation. It was just someone telling us about a Del Taco promotion, so we spared you the very lengthy script that was read to us.

Travis: Hey, and let’s spare them, too, `cause we said, like, what the number is, the number is there in the press release you can find even if you

didn't catch it when we said it. Don't call it. A human being will have to talk to you.

Justin: But what if you're crea—what if by calling you're being a job creator? I don't actually know that morality of this one, gang—

Travis: Oh, no. [laughs] Oh, no.

Justin: I'm moving on. I'm moving on.

Griffin: Um, do you guys want a quick Yahoo real quick?

Travis: Sure.

Justin: Yeah, slide one in there! Lay it on me, man.

Griffin: Alright, this is another Graham Roebuck joint. Thanks, Graham. It's a question mark – Yahoo Answers User Question Mark – uh, I'll call them Del, asks, "Canned BLT?"

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: "Hi, y'all. I h-gave recently started reading a book about the ways of preservation through cannin-ging. It seems like you can meat and cheeses and vege... and vegetables, but almost everything? It is possible, then, for me to try and can a BLT, just a thought. Here's my idea: toast the bread, add the mayo, add the tomator, but add lots of salt to help with preserving, add the bacon, then the lettuce, and put it all on the bread. Then I can put it in ought a can and vacoom all the air out, so the bacteria can't breathe. Then I put the lid on and boil the jar. Will this work, or will the mayo make the bread soggy overtime? Thanks. I'm new to cann-n-n-ing, but I want to become a master."

Travis: I think... [sighs] Boy.

Griffin: If you put it in a... jar—a can, a jar...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ...and you vacuum... you vacoom all the air out.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: So the bacteria can't breathe?

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Does that kinda stasis-lock—there's a sort of osmosis I'm worried about of mayo encroaching into the bread lands.

Travis: Mayo and tomato. Let's be honest; tomato's very, uh...

Griffin: A very wet customer, yeah.

Travis: Moist vegetable.

Griffin: Um...

Travis: Could you dehydrate both the tomato and the mayo-nnaise...

Griffin: Oh, that's fun!

Travis: And then rehydrate them with some sort of eyedropper later in the process.

Justin: I mean, there are canned hamburgers.

Griffin: Yeah. The—yeah.

Justin: This is known.

Travis: Canburgers?

Griffin: Can we make those with the technology of our homes? Do you know what I mean? Like—

Justin: Here's what—here's—and they specifically asked about a BLT, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Here would be my issue.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: When McDonald's launched the McDLT...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ...they were so flummoxed by the tech—like, the prime—like, the perfect BLT experience, that they created a two-prong uh, Styrofoam container, in a real "fuck you" to Momma Nature.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Uh, which kept the hot side—as Jason Alexander told us in, um, in that famous ad, it kept the hot side hot and kept the cool side cool.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So McDonald's, in their infinite wisdom, could not master this technology. Certainly, certainly, us at home...

Griffin: It's well beyond our—yeah, no thanks.

Justin: Like, in a can?

Travis: Well...

Justin: Are gonna be able to preserve it.

Travis: I think the problem is, is that it gives you too much time to think about the BLT itself, which as a functional sandwich is great.

Griffin: [stammers] Okay.

Travis: No, but I mean—they're quick. Quick, right? Bacon, lettuce, tomatoes. Quick—quick and easy, right? It is a functional sandwich. But as far as, like—there's no bells and whistles in a BLT. There's nothing—it's not gonna change the world, the BLT. It's not revolutionary. So I'm saying you're going through a lot of work to preserve a BLT. I'm just saying, I think that there are better, more interesting options that one can do and be excited later in the apocalypse to find, you know, your canned croque monsieur, right?

Griffin: [clapping] The BLT is a bullshit sandwich. You can't take a club sandwich—

Justin: Whoa!

Griffin: You can't take a club sandwich and take one of the components off of it, and then call it a different, even more desirable sandwich. It can't happen like that. The BLT—it's disgusting! Those three ingredients aren't enough—

Justin: I was trying to dance around that, Griffin. I didn't want the BLT—

Griffin: But I've been dancing around it for too fucking long. Like, it's—you can't just give something a name and then it's a real sandwich. Bacon isn't enough to be the star of a sandwich show. Like, it just isn't. It's a friend that helps us.

Justin: Sorry, Griffin, can you say that very pleasing sentence again?

Griffin: Bacon isn't enough to be the star of the sandwich show?

Justin: [soft, wheezing laughter] Thank you.

Griffin: Now, let's ta—but here's the thing. You *can* can a BLT, right?

Travis: 'Cause you can can can.

Justin: Can can can.

Griffin: I really don't like doing the show some days.

Justin and Travis: [burst out laughing]

Griffin: I for—I even forget what I was gonna—oh, yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: If we tweak a little bit our definition of the word “preservation...”

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I think then, the answer to this can be a firm yes. Can you can a BLT? Yes, you—yes, absolutely. And it will be in there, and stuff's gonna happen to it. And when you open it later, it—something'll be there. Do you know what I mean? Maybe not in the original sort of...

Travis: You're talking more about of like a time capsule scenario.

Griffin: Yeah! The matter itself is preserved, the flavor and texture maybe not. It'll be different texturally and flavorally, and not in a great way, I bet.

Travis: You might've begun new society in there.

Griffin: Right, yeah. There might be a little fucking Whoville down there. A little—a little tiny mayor talking to you. Who knows?

Travis: The mayo.

Griffin: Oh, Travis, you're on fire, baby!

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: Yeah, baby.

Griffin: But you know what that means; it's time to wrap up.

Travis: Yep.

Griffin: [laughs] Once Travis gets too hot, we gotta go out so he's on top.

Travis: Yeah. Can't use it all up. Leave one more. Let's go.

Justin: Alright. Um, that is gonna do it for us. Thank you so much. Again, last time, maximumfun.org/join. Please, please, please. We really could use the help.

Travis: [laughs] Oh, boy!

Justin: Just wow, uh, please help us out. Uh, we really appreciate it, we really appreciate you, thank you for all your support over the years. You're the absolute best.

Griffin: Um, thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life (Is Better With You)!" Uh, and it's a good—it's a good track, and coming to Sam Goody's this summer.

Justin: Goody's got it!

Griffin: Goody's got it, baby! Suncoast does not, which is weird.

Travis: No, no.

Uh, just real quick, we talked a lot about the bonus content. Uh, I think we mentioned it already, but in case we didn't, uh, the bonus *My Brother, My Brother and Me* this year is us trading different bits and doing each other's segments. And I just want to talk real quick about the *Adventure Zone* bonus episode. If you like *The Adventure Zone*, it is Justin DMing a world of his six-year-old daughter Charlie's creation. It is horrifying. [laughs]

Justin: Yeah, it's something else.

Griffin: It's horrifying, and it is also—I don't know, it's—I've been ruminating on it. It feels to me like a pilot for a bigger thing. Like...

Justin: [laughs] The Charlieverse will expand.

Griffin: Kids weave the darndest, like...

Travis: Tales. [laughs] Yes—

Griffin: Nightmare tales, yes.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: But yeah, that's it. Hey, I have a final Yahoo here, and it may actually—because this website will become unavailable before we record again, this may be the final final Yahoo.

Travis: Oh, boy. So crush it.

Griffin: And I don't hate it. I don't hate that this is it, uh, 'cause it is another Graham Roebuck. Thank you, Graham. Closing it out with a hat trick.

It's an anonymous Yahoo Answers user who I'm going to call... Griffin.
[quietly] It was me the whole time.

Travis: [gasps]

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: Asks... "Milk in soda stream. Does it work, or is it a fairy tale?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy. So long, you beautiful beasts! Off!

Justin: This has been *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. Kiss your dad square on the lips!

[theme song, "My Life (Is Better With You)!" by Montaigne, plays and ends]

[chord plays]

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