

00:00:00	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:00:02	Jesse Thorn	Host	Welcome to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast! Me? I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn. We're in chambers this week to clear the docket. And with me is Brooklyn's own Judge John Hodgman.
00:00:15	John Hodgman	Host	Brooklyn and Brookline's and maybe even Brooklinen's own Judge John Hodgman. Had a wonderful sleep last night. Ready to name some people, places, and things—emphasis on people. This is a big responsibility, Jesse Thorn. Naming is power. Naming is very powerful. And that's why humans get to rename themselves, in case their names are wrong. But today, no one has more power than the court of Judge John Hodgman, because people have brought things to be named, and I'm not gonna say do whatever you like. I'm gonna tell you this is gonna be named this. And that's gonna be binding, Jesse Thorn. Unless you're a human.

[Jesse laughs.]

			In which case, you can change your name or the name of the thing—the backyard pub that you've built in Des Moines, Iowa. We're gonna name a lot of different things, Jesse. Do you like your name, Jesse Thorn? I do. It's pretty cool.
00:01:18	Jesse	Host	I've always liked my name. Yeah. One time, someone told me it sounded like a secret agent, and since then I've been completely onboard.
00:01:25	John	Host	It's a really cool—that is a really cool name for a character in a book. Now, my name is John Hodgman. It is also my dad's name. I've never had any problem with it whatsoever. The only problem I have with it is when people think that my name is Jonathan, which it is not, and people think they're being cutesy by being extra formal with me. And they go, "Well, Jonathan, you're wrong about something." No. My name is John, and I'm always right!

[Jesse laughs.]

			But I did have to make a choice when I became—when I became a person who had a thing published in a magazine. What was my byline going to be? Was it gonna be John Hodgman or John K. Hodgman or John Kellogg Hodgman, as that is my middle name. Or Jonathan Livingston Seagull.
00:02:12	Jesse	Host	
00:02:15	John	Host	<i>[Snorts.]</i> Second time in a week that's come up. Isn't that weird?
00:02:18	Jesse	Host	It's very weird.
00:02:19	John	Host	It's very weird. Very obscure. Well, kind of a spiritual novel of the '60s. Is that what that was?
00:02:24	Jesse	Host	I think it was from the '70s. I feel like it is one of those things from the '70s that was monumentally popular that I know only as a thing that people who were alive in the '70s talk about sometimes. The other is the I believe television miniseries and possibly novel, <i>The Thorn Birds</i> .
00:02:43	John	Host	Oh, sure, starring Richard Chamberlain.

[Jesse confirms.]

00:02:48	Jesse	Host	Jesse The Thorn Birds Thorn. It was a great time for television miniseries.
----------	-------	------	--

00:02:52 John Host Especially if it was starring the incredibly handsome Richard Chamberlain. I hope he's not a creep! Seemed like a charming guy. Jonathan Livingston Seagull, was that the name of a seagull or a guy?

00:03:02 Jesse Host I think it was the name of a seagull, because when I've seen it in thrift stores, there's a picture of a seagull on it.

00:03:07 John Host Oh, right. John Kellogg Hodgman probably—I like that name a lot, and probably I should've used it as my official name in print. But the thing is, I got a little bit secretive. I got a—like, Kellogg is like my secret middle name. It feels weird for me to even say it right now out loud! Letting all these people know. Names have that kind of power. Do you have a middle name, Jesse?

00:03:31 Jesse Host I have two middle names.

00:03:32 John Host Here we go.

00:03:33 Jesse Host My—all of my names, to me, symbolize conflict between my parents [*chuckling*] who were soon to divorce acrimoniously.

00:03:43 John Host Yeah, two middle names will often suggest there's a lack of decision-making. Maybe a not seeing of eye-to-eye.

00:03:50 Jesse Host I think my birth was imminent, and my parents sat down with a bible—despite not being especially religious—and went through the names and picked some. And I think—my full name is Jesse Michael Gabriel Thorn. And I know that once my father alluded to the fact that my godfather, Michael, had a pressure campaign to have his name included. [*Laughs.*] Which, god bless him, he's a wonderful man. 82 years old, still an avid churchgoer and avid leather daddy who always wears his big, black, leather suspenders even with his little, gentle sort of Flanders-y rest of his outfit.

[They chuckle.]

00:04:42 John Host San Francisco's cool.
Hi-diddly-ho, fellow bears!

00:04:44 Jesse Host [*Laughing.*] Exactly! Sometimes he wears one of those—you know those like cab driver hats—not yellow, but like motorcycle guy hats with the little bill on them, like Marlon Brando would wear?

[John confirms.]

00:05:12 John Host My church-loving godfather, Michael, absolutely wears one of those hats at age 80-whatever, I guess when he's hoping to get picked up at a leather bar.
That's a terrific namesake. And if I'm using the term namesake incorrectly there, don't write me a letter. I'll figure it out eventually. Is Michael the namesake of Jesse? Or Jesse the namesake of Michael? It doesn't matter. Look it up. Don't correct me.

[Jesse laughs.]

But you know, even though your names maybe remind you of certain conflicts in your past—in your familial past, when I hear Michael and Gabriel, I'm like, "That makes sense to me that Jesse's got not one, but two little angels inside of him."

Kellogg, my—you know, look. My lineage goes back indirectly to a health food quack who invented cornflakes. And Beknown Ai Kellogg, who was a traveling minister in New England, I actually—

and then now, a terrible company, a terrible, anti-labor company—but I do not actually have a direct link to the Kellogg cereal corporation. I am not the heir to a Battle Creek, Michigan fortune, as far as I know. But I wish—maybe I wish I put my name. If I were like John Kellogg Hodgman, the people would remember that. Like, John Hodgman, you get the “auh” and the “ah” in there, and it’s a little bit—it’s like—like it’s hard to say Judge John Hodgman. No one can ever say John Hodgman. John Hod-guh-man is where I get most—is what I get most.

00:06:29	Jesse	Host	John Kellogg Hodgman would be a great name for the <i>New York Times Magazine</i> or for, you know, a literary review. I think it might be a little bit tougher of a sell in the world of podcasting with, re: sounding a bit big for its britches.
00:06:50	John	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> Seriously?
00:06:52	Jesse	Host	I think you might sound—you might sound a little fancy.
00:06:55	John	Host	That’s a lot of shade to throw at <i>Dune-ing It</i> with Timothée Chalamet, which is the podcast that Timothée Chalamet’s recording about the making of <i>Dune 2</i> , which is definitely spelled D-2-N-E, the letter 2. <i>D2NE</i> . Anyway. Let’s name some stuff.
00:07:13	Jesse	Host	Here’s a case from Nick in Chicago. “My wife, Katrina, and I have an inflatable dinosaur, named T. Reginald—aka T. Reg. For my birthday, she gave me an inflatable triceratops. I named him Buddy. It was a name I always had in mind if I ever got an inflatable triceratops. Sometimes, longshots pan out! Katrina hates the name Buddy and insists his name should be T-Tops. Who’s right?”
00:07:45	John	Host	Wow! Well, I know who’s right. But first of all, we need to get Nick and Katrina and T. Reg and the soon-to-be named triceratops onto a live show in Chicago sometime soon. Like, we need to go to Chicago to do a show just to have them onstage. In the meantime, I’m gonna name this triceratops. Now, Jesse, here I have two questions for you. Listen to them both. First, do you have a feeling about this one? And before you express your feeling, does it make a difference that according to Nick, the triceratops not only was a birthday gift to him, but that he is the designated dinosaur inflater in the family?
00:08:25	Jesse	Host	Oh, wow!
00:08:27	John	Host	And also, Katrina named T. Reg herself, and she had T. Reg long before they had met. So, it’s a pre-dating—pre-dating their relationship. Those are all the facts. So, what do you think?
00:08:41	Jesse	Host	I think this inflatable triceratops is essentially the bowling ball that Homer gave to Marge that had “Homer” inscribed on it.
00:08:52	John	Host	Go on.
00:08:53	Jesse	Host	I think Katrina is really trying to essentially give herself an inflatable triceratops and force upon Nick the name that she prefers. I think T-Tops is a great name. I say they should use it for their 1987 Camaro. But I also think Buddy is a great name as I do all the classic dog names.
00:09:21	John	Host	I took a lot of airplanes last week. We went on a little family trip. And I’ll tell you something that I’m not a fan of: dads in their late 30s wearing performance shirts and shorts, steering their male-appearing children to the airplane bathroom while constantly referring to them as buddy. Don’t care for that. Don’t care for that.
00:09:45	Jesse	Host	<i>[Chuckles.]</i> That’s a very complicated scenario, but sure.
00:09:48	John	Host	Oh, it’s—maybe it’s complicated, but it sure is prevalent when you are flying on airplanes in America during a school vacation week. A lot of kids wearing sports themed garb in the age—you know, like 9-

11 being referred to by their dads as buddy. “Come on, buddy. Let’s go over here, buddy.” Don’t care for it. Call your kid by its name.

00:10:09 Jesse Host A bit condescending.

00:10:11 John Host Don’t care for it. I don’t know why. It just got on my nerves. That’s all I’m gonna say. Naming is powerful.

00:10:16 Jesse Host Any dad in a performance top is a problem to me.

00:10:19 John Host Yeah. There’s a lot of performance wear.

00:10:22 Jesse Host You know when you should wear a performance top, John? In my opinion.

00:10:25 John Host No.

00:10:26 Jesse Host When performance is required.

[John agrees.]

00:10:34 John Host If you’re in a footrace, for example, wear a performance top. And I get it. Like, your son—if it’s in this case your son—is your buddy. I get it. You’re pals. Pal is better—buddy is just so... I don’t know. Just too sporty for me.

00:10:49 Jesse Host I mostly don’t like school personnel referring to children as kiddos.

00:10:53 John Host Don’t care for it either.

00:10:54 Jesse Host Like, as a group. Like, “The kiddos are doing this. The kiddos are doing that. Well, this kiddo is—” Blah, blah, blah. It gives me the creeps.

[They chuckle.]

00:11:04 John Host It’s creepy! It’s one of those terms of quote/unquote “affection” that seem to actually be conveying contempt.

00:11:12 Jesse Host Yeah. I mean, just say kids or children or students. All those are normal words.

00:11:18 John Host *[Chuckles.]* Call a thing what it is! This is not—this is not your buddy! You guys aren’t buddies! Your child isn’t your buddy. I mean, you should be friends with your child, I suppose. He’s not your drinking buddy.

00:11:29 Jesse Host What about this triceratops, though?

00:11:31 John Host Oh, right! Anyway, the point is I hate the name Buddy. Hate it! Hate it. Hate the name Buddy. Sorry, Nick. And I love T-Tops. And though I am wary sometimes of matchy-matchy names when it comes to kids in a family, matchy-matchy names when it comes to inflatable dinosaurs in a family feels appropriate. I think T. Reg and T-Tops are two great T names that go great together. Katrina’s absolutely right. T-Tops is a better name. But I’ll tell you what, buddy. I’m talking to you, buddy. Nick. Nick’s my buddy. It was his—it’s his birthday triceratops. He is the primary inflator. And he gets to name the triceratops what he wants. So, it’s Buddy. Sorry about that, Katrina.

00:12:21 Sound Effect Sound Effect

Three gavel bangs.

00:12:23 Jesse Host Here’s something from Cory in Regina, Saskatchewan. “Our daughter’s name is Aurora. When brainstorming names for our son, I wanted to put North Star on the list. My wife, Pam, said no. Please rule I can at least put North Star on the list.

00:12:45 John Host Jesse, do you understand the significance of this? North Star and Aurora?

00:12:49 Jesse Host Yeah. So, Aurora is a celestial phenomenon with the lights in the sky. And then, North Star is a family of high-performance engines produced by General Motors between 1993 and 2011.

00:13:07 John Host I didn't think that you were gonna get it, but wow! Yeah. Also, it happens to be the case that Aurora and North Star are both members of the Marvel comics Canadian superhero group, Alpha Flight.

00:13:21 Jesse Host Oh, wow. *[Laughs.]* Well, then they should name their child Sasquatch!

00:13:29 John Host *[Laughs.]* And they live in Saskatchewan, after all! But they can't just name—they can't just name their child Sasquatch. Now, you know my brain is going for the... Walter Langkowski. That's the alter ego name of Sasquatch. He's the one who turns into Sasquatch. Don't @ me if I'm wrong. I'm feeling pretty good about that. Walter Langkowski. Is that right? I think I'm right. Sasquatch. Other members, of course, were Guardian, Sasquatch, Marina, North Star, Aurora, Snowbird, Shaman, and Puck—my favorite. He was named after a hockey puck, literally.

[Jesse laughs.]

A little person who's incredibly athletic and acrobatic and a great brawler and sort of Hemmingway-esque life adventurer who was dressed up as a hockey puck. But North Star and Aurora are brother and sister. And North Star's the first openly gay character in Marvel comics. And those are the two interesting things about those characters. Otherwise, they are Dullsville. Duller than Regina. Alright, I said it. I said it, Saskatchewan. Duller than—I've been to Regina. I have a right to say it. Kind of a dull town. You know, the food festival that happens in Regina recently renamed itself. Did you know that, Jesse? I looked it up. It's not called Taste of Saskatchewan.

00:14:50 Jesse Host Aw, I'd like to have a bite of that great Province.

00:14:53 John Host It used to be called Taste of Something Else. It had a different name. Regina's Food Festival used to be called A Taste of Something Else. Anyway.

00:15:01 Jesse Host I'm just excited about all the possibilities for Alpha Flight names. Right now, I'm leaning towards Man-Bot.

00:15:08 John Host Box. Box is a great name, honestly!

00:15:10 Jesse Host Box! One of the characters is just named Box!

00:15:14 John Host One of the characters is just named Box. Chris Claremont and John Byrne created these characters together, originally in *X-Men*. But John Byrne really fleshed them out when he created the *Alpha Flight* comic in 1983.

00:15:27 Jesse Host John, if you're wondering, Groundhog quit after the battle with Egghead's emissaries of evil.

00:15:34 John Host *[Chuckles.]* The EOE's?! Yeah. Yeah, you see a lot of stuff in Alpha Flight. You can't keep—that's not—that's not a job for a long time. You know what I mean? That's not a long-term job. It takes a toll on you. Love Alpha Flight. I love North Star. I love Aurora. I love your desire to put North Star on the list, and it can be on the list, Cory. But it cannot be your child's name. Too matchy-matchy. Too matchy-matchy. You can try. You can try to sneak in Jean-Paul, which is North Star's actual name, or Walter Langkowski, or Eugene Judd, which was the name of Puck. Puck's the best character in all of Alpha Flight, bar none. Everyone knows it.

You can't name your child North Star. You can put it on the list. It will not be approved.

00:16:20	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	Three gavel bangs.
00:16:21	Jesse	Host	No matter what your child's name is, their nickname should be Major Maple Leaf.
00:16:27	John	Host	<i>[Snorts.]</i> I don't think that was ever Guardian's name. Guardian was known as Vindicator, James, Hudson Mc—never mind. Doesn't matter.
00:16:36	Jesse	Host	Died in <i>New Avengers Vol. 1 #16</i> .
00:16:40	John	Host	Hey, get off the Wikipedia. Get back on script.
00:16:43	Jesse	Host	I'll never get off the Wikipedia for Alpha Flight!
			We're gonna take a quick break to hear from this week's partners. And for me to find more funny names in this Wikipedia entry. We'll be back with more cases to clear from the docket on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.
00:16:57	John	Host	I'm doing mine off the dome, and you're on Wikipedia. That's not fair.
00:17:00	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:17:03	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:17:05	Jesse	Host	Welcome back to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I'm Beta Ray Bill, honorary member of Omega Flight from <i>Omega Flight #1</i> , 2008.
00:17:14	John	Host	Okay, that's a technicality, but that's from the <i>Thor</i> books. I'm up here coming up with Diamond Lil out of my brain! Wild Child! And I think that's it. I think that's all I got. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:17:27	Jesse	Host	Smart Alec. A-L-E-C.
00:17:29	John	Host	Yeah, Smart Alec was really smart.
00:17:31	Jesse	Host	Goblyn with a Y.
00:17:33	John	Host	I think that they were the original Omega Flight. They were the bad ones. And then, the backup team was Beat Flight. And that's where Box was. Box was a person who used a wheelchair and was an incredible inventor and he created a giant, strong robot that he could put his mind into, mentally. You know what his last name was? Bochs, B-O-C-H-S.
			<i>[Jesse "ooh"s.]</i>
			See? All off the dome. I don't think there is a character named The Dome, though. There should be.
00:18:02	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughs.]</i> That's quite a... <u>Flex!</u> Flex, alter ego of Adrian Corbo, who was depowered on M Day.
00:18:12	John	Host	I don't sit here making fun of you, reading the San Francisco Giant's Wikipedia page. 'Cause I respect you!
00:18:19	Jesse	Host	I don't—I don't need to read it.
			Here's a case from Nathan. "I like the band Wrinkle Neck Mules. My partner, Leah, dislikes them because of their name. Please rule it's fine for Leah to dislike Wrinkle Neck Mules on the merit of their music, but she can't dislike Wrinkle Neck Mules on the basis of their name."
00:18:41	John	Host	Please stop saying "wrinkle neck". It was bad enough that it's Wrinkle Neck Mules in my head. Hearing Jesse Thorn say it three times felt like a weird curse.

00:18:55	Jesse	Host	Yeah. <i>[Laughing.]</i> If there had been a mirror here, I would've brought Wrinkle Neck Mules to life.
00:19:02	John	Host	<i>[Laughing.]</i> I'm also beginning to appreciate that just—you know, you have one of the greatest voices in all media. But you do say "mule" as though it has two syllables in it. I just noticed that for the first time. Mew-elle, almost.
00:19:17	Jesse	Host	What would you rather I say? Mooles?
00:19:21	John	Host	I just mean to say there's no way to make this band sound good unless they sound good. Now, I am grossed out by the name of this. I think—I don't like thinking about necks. I don't like thinking— <i>[chuckles]</i> I don't like—it's a very—it's a very—it's a touchy subject, but particularly people touching my neck. Don't like it! As someone who probably has a wrinkled neck in his future, I don't care for that! I'm fine with mules. Not so thrilled about mew-elles, but fine with mules. Put them all together, you got one band that I do not want to listen to, but I'm gonna take a listen to them now.
			I did a little bit of Wikipedia searching, so I do know that they are not a particularly controversial band. Wrinkle Neck Mules, according to this, it's an American band from Richmond, Virginia. The last record was in 2015. And if—what's?—Nathan, if you're a member of Wrinkle Neck Mules and this is a long trick to try to buzz market your band—your folk rock, indie rock, roots rock, bluegrass band? It worked. Alright. I'm gonna listen to one Wrinkle Neck Mules song, now. Wrinkle Neck Mules... should I listen to "Catfish", "Okeechobee", or "Central Daylight Time"? Jesse, it's your call.
00:20:37	Jesse	Host	Do they have a song called "On the Nose"?
00:20:39	John	Host	<i>[Snorts a laugh.]</i> Wow. Wow. Wowie. Your choices, again, are: "Catfish".
00:20:47	Jesse	Host	"Lonely Banjo".
00:20:50	John	Host	"Okeechobee" or "Central Daylight Time".
00:20:53	Jesse	Host	"Boxcar Tears".
00:20:54	John	Host	I'm gonna give you one more, and this is the one we're gonna listen to. "Mecklenburg County".
00:20:59	Jesse	Host	Let's go with "Mecklenburg County".
00:21:01	Music	Music	"Mecklenburg County" from the album <i>Pull the Brake</i> by Wrinkle Neck Mules.

*It wasn't pretty
When you set out across the fields
In your nightgown
Cursing the doctors
Curse us all right on out*

[Volume decreases and continues under the dialogue then fades out.]

00:21:27	John	Host	Okay. I heard enough. Here's what I'm gonna say about Wrinkle Neck Mules: they're fine! They're a good band. I would say that I never would've sampled their music based on their name, because it just sounds like a deformed mule. It just sounds gross to me. And I'm sorry. And perhaps you're aware of this, and perhaps there's a reason for it. But you know, when you name your band, you kinda don't wanna gross people out. I order Nathan's partner, Leah, to listen to some Wrinkle Neck Mules if Leah has not done so already, so that Leah can form their own opinion about the quality of this music. It is possible to not like Wrinkle Neck Mules on the basis of
----------	------	------	--

their music, but you must give them five minutes of your time in honor of your relationship with Nathan, who is obviously a fan. And if they're not for you, that's fine. And then, you can just say, "I don't like Wrinkle Neck Mules, and let that be the last time I ever say those words."

00:22:26 Sound Effect Sound Effect

Three gavel bangs.

00:22:28 Jesse Host

In part two of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, Jonathan transcends into a reality which he assumes is heaven, where all seagulls enjoy practicing incredible maneuvers and speeds, as he does.

00:22:40 John Host

I always feel like the reason I never picked up that book or looked into it any further was it just had the stink of *The Little Prince* on it. You know what I mean?

[Jesse laughs.]

It had a little of that *Little Prince* stink. Like, popular philosophy, self-actualization philosophy that some people went really bananas for. Never liked that Little Prince. Get a real planet. Get on a big planet.

00:23:12 Jesse Host

[Laughs.] "Ey, Little Prince! Get a real planet! Hey, get a little bigger, Prince!"

00:23:20 John Host

I don't have a problem with the prince's size. It's fine if he's little. Just get on a real planet.

00:23:25 Jesse Host

Here's a case from Neil in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. "I need help naming a one-year-old. A one-year-old mullet!"

00:23:36 John Host

Oh! Eh—! Now, look, I guarantee you that we are going to name some actual kids. I made that promise at the top, and we will do that in act three. But now, we're talking about naming a mullet? We're talking about a haircut, Jesse? Tell me more.

00:23:52 Jesse Host

"My barber, Benny, has been caring for my mullet from its very conception. At my last haircut, he asked me if I had named it yet. I had never considered the possibility! I think this mullet needs a cool and badass name. Benny adds it should be gender neutral. Judge and Bailiff Jesse, please name my mullet."

00:24:16 John Host

Now, Jesse Thorn, since you're the king of Wikipedia, you can certainly tell me the surprising fact that I read on Wikipedia today about the popularization of the name mullet for this particular hairstyle—short on top, business in the front, long in the back, party in the back. I'll give you a hint. According to Wikipedia, it was coined more recently than I would've thought.

00:24:39 Jesse Host

Really?

00:24:40 John Host

Yeah. Given the fact of the mullet being associated with so much '70s sports, the term mullet—according to Wikipedia—was coined by none other than Kid Ad-Roc, Mike D, and Adam Yauch, The Beastie Boys, in the '90s.

00:24:58 Jesse Host

I remember mullet as a word and idea sweeping my high school circa 1996.

00:25:07 John Host

That's what—that's when, supposedly, the Beastie Boys started calling that haircut a mullet. But of course, that haircut goes back—way back! And I did a little research into some of the top mullets, 'cause we're gonna name—we're obviously gonna name this mullet after some iconic mullet or mullet owner. So, you know, here are a couple—here are a couple of big ones. David Bowie in the Ziggy Stardust phase, one of the top mullets.

[Jesse agrees.]

Joan Jett, incredible mullet. Incredible person. If you want something cool and badass, it could get worse than Snake Plissken in *Escape from New York*. Andre Agassia is probably the most leonine mullet of all time.

00:25:49 Jesse Host Agassi.

00:25:50 John Host Oh, really?

00:25:51 Jesse Host *[Chuckling.]* I was just trying to—you wanna do it again?

00:25:55 John Host No. Andrew Augusty. Andy Gusty, the famous tennis player, right?

00:26:03 Jesse Host Yeah. Canon EOS Rebel spokesman.

00:26:06 John Host Yeah. Beautiful mullet. I'm not doing this off of Wikipedia. I'm doing this off the dome! I'm not looking at the pronunciation guide! Who are some other sports mullets? Any mullets on the San Francisco Giants?

00:26:17 Jesse Host Oh, the San Francisco Giants were nothing but mullets. I would say my top Giants mullet may be Rod "Shooter" Beck. What I like about a baseball mullet is often—I'm thinking of one from like 1988/1990/1992 when the mullet was long past its cool phase. And a baseball helmet—or I think hockey helmet, famously—really emphasizes the mullet in a distinctive way. But I like—I like let's say a sloppy guy who wears a mullet. Like, there were a lot of sloppy ball players, Rod Beck among them. For a while, late in his career, Rod Beck was in AAA, and he just parked his camper outside the AAA stadium and lived there. And famously, before a game you could stop by Rod Beck's camper in the outfield parking lot and have a beer with him.

00:27:12 John Host Wooow!

00:27:13 Jesse Host Like, he'd just toss you a beer. *[Laughs.]*

00:27:15 John Host So, would you nominate Sloppy as a name for this mullet?

00:27:19 Jesse Host That's not a bad name. I think—when I was thinking about great mullets, my brain for some reason—and I don't know if it's the most—like, I thought of singular mullets. Jose Canseco had a really singular mullet, because he had very straight hair and it was a very weirdly severe mullet because of the straightness of his hair.

00:27:41 John Host I think I would always prefer a singular mullet over a double mullet.

[Jesse agrees with a chuckle.]

'Cause a double mull would be, what? Short on both sides, but long in the front and in the back?

00:27:49 Jesse Host But for some reason my brain landed on the Minnesota twins of the late 1980s and early 1990s. Great team. Won a lot of games in those years with a great core of players, almost all of whom had mullets. Dan Gladden. Rick Aguilera. Jeff Reardon. Frank "Sweet Music" Viola. There was a whole—there's more, too. But the one that I thought could be the namesake of a mullet was Kent Hrbek. And I think Hrbek, H-R-B-E-K.

00:28:22 John Host Hrbek is a great name for a mullet.

00:28:24 Jesse Host It's gender neutral. Apparently, there's a lot of commercials on Minnesota television for some sort of fishing supply store that he owns.

00:28:32 John Host Speaking of fish, a sports player—a basketball player who died very young and sadly named Dwayne Schintzius, and I don't know if I'm pronouncing it correctly and I don't wanna know, was famous for his mullet which he named. He had a name for his mullet, which was The Lobster. And I'll add one more—one more mullet into

contention, which is Michael Bolton—New Haven’s own Michael Bolton. Do you know that Michael Bolton was rumored to have been an extra in David Lynch’s film production of *Dune* in 1984? And was rumored to have auditioned to be the replacement vocalist for Black Sabbath? Those things are not true.

But did you know that Michael Bolton actually was the babysitter of Paula Abdul? True. So. That’s—

00:29:19 Jesse Host
00:29:22 John Host

Wow! I guess opposites really do attract!
That’s some mullet history. So, the top mullet names we have so far are Ziggy, Jett, Snake, Drewgussi or whatever that tennis player’s name is, Bolton, Hrbek, Sloppy, and MC Skat Kat.

00:29:39 Jesse Host

[Chuckles.] In the interest of racial diversity, I’m gonna throw in Neon Deion Sanders. And I think Neon or Primetime could be a good—

00:29:49 John Host

Primetime! That just went to the top of the list. I’m gonna make a judgement here. These are all great mullet names. And I’ll tell you what. What I think you should do, Neil, is make a note of all of them and in a year or so shave your head, grow a new mullet, give it a new name, work your way through the list.

[Jesse laughs.]

00:30:24 Jesse Host

Snake. Jett. Ziggy. Hrbek. Sloppy. Primetime.
You think that the mullet should be pared back seasonally, like a bulb.

00:30:28 John Host

Yes, indeed. You can do one double mullet. Call it **the Kenseyko**. And then, this mullet though, I’m going to suggest this name. And I’m not gonna suggest it; I’m gonna order it. The name I’m offering you is Squalo.

[Jesse laughs.]

It’s short for Squalomugil nasutus, which is the Latin name for the fish known as the shark mullet, AKA the sharp-nose mullet, AKA the Popeye mullet, AKA the skipjack mullet. All of those are good, Sharp-nose, Popeye, Skipjack, Squalo. Squalo, the shark mullet, is a fish found in Australian New Guinea. It feeds on algae and insects taken from the surface. From the surface, you say? Sure. This fish can breathe air. That’s right. This is an air-breathing fish that sometimes moves across land by wriggling. I don’t think it gets cooler or more badass than Squalo, the air-breathing fish.

All great mullet names, but that’s the name of your mullet. Live it up. Long live Squalo until replaced by Primetime. You know what? I’ll agree with Squalo Primetime as a first and last name too. That’s also fine. In fact, that’s even better. Squalo Primetime is the name of your mullet, Neil. Have fun with it.

00:31:46 Sound Effect Sound Effect

Three gavel bangs.

00:31:48 Jesse Host

In part three, Jonathan has now amassed a small group of outcasts as flying students with Fletcher, the star pupil, and tells them that, quote, “Each of us is, in truth, an unlimited idea of freedom.” In truth.

00:32:05 John Host

I don’t even know why *The Little Prince* bugs me so much. I don’t even think I ever read it. All I know is it’s about this like French,

middle-aged pilot having a mid-life crisis, symbolized by his crashing in a desert and then getting a new life philosophy from a little kid wearing a military uniform. None of this is okay! This is all creepy.

00:32:26 Jesse Host It's a super weird and oddly boring book.

00:32:30 John Host And then Bob Fosse shows up as a snake?! No thanks!

00:32:36 Jesse Host *[Laughs.]* That's the first good part of it I've heard! Let's take a quick break. When we come back, it's finally happening. We're naming some babies.

00:32:44 Sound Effect Transition Three gavel bangs.

00:32:46 Sound Effect Transition Three gavel bangs.

00:32:48 Jesse Host It's the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast. I'm Bailiff Jesse Thorn. With me, Judge John Hodgman: the king of the short story.

00:32:59 John Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah, you got me dead to rights there, Jesse Thorn. That's me: John Hodgman. Two published short stories in this world. "Ghosting" in *The Paris Review* no. 141 and "Villanova" in *One Story Magazine* no. 1. And otherwise, mmmm, whatever it is that I do, I've been doing it. And I got my start by doing it for McSweeney.net, the website associated with the literary and humor journal, *McSweeney's*. I hosted many an event for them back in the '90s and throughout the 2000s and I'm coming back with my old friends to Symphony Space for our 25th anniversary extravaganza. That's not just a regular vaganza, it's an extra vaganza, celebrating *McSweeney's* 25th anniversary and presented by *Selected Shorts*, the wonderful public radio program that presents selected short stories!

Now, look. We're coming to Symphony Space on May the 10th. I'll be hosting. Our musical guest is Stephen Merritt, from The Magnetic Fields. You can watch in person, or you can watch live streaming. It's your choice. Just google "Symphony Space John Hodgman *McSweeney's*". You know what to do. There are great, cheap tickets for people who are not yet 30. So, get over to SymphonySpace.org and check out some interesting stuff there. They have a lot of wonderful in-person programming and lots of live streaming programming, including my hosting of the *McSweeney's* 25th Anniversary Extravaganza. And uh, if you're in person, come see me after the show!

00:34:33 Jesse Host Jesse, what do you have going on?
I also have something high class going on, which is my friend—Jordan Morris—and I have created a short-run podcast, called *Stache Rules Everything Around Me*.

[John slow claps.]

00:34:50 John Host It's a recap podcast of Burt Reynolds movies.
I've been meaning to complement you on this thing that's been giving me sooo much fun and pleasure. I mean, I remember you telling me about it way back when we were on tour, earlier this year. And you just told me the title, and I fell down with happiness. This is the greatest.

[Jesse laughs.]

			<p><i>Stache Rules Everything Around Me</i>, a recap podcast of the films of Burt Reynolds. Tell me more.</p>
00:35:11	Jesse	Host	<p>Episode one, which covers <i>Smokey and the Bandit</i> and features Adam Pranica of <i>Greatest Generation</i> and <i>Greatest Trek</i> is in the regular <i>Jordan, Jesse, Go!</i> feed so anyone can listen to that. And I would encourage that people do. And then, episodes two through six, plus some bonus stuff, plus some upcoming episodes that we have promised based on the success of <i>Jordan, Jesse, Go!</i> in the Max Fun Drive are all in the Maximum Fun member's feed. So, go listen to those. Probably my favorite is the episode for <i>Smokey and the Bandit 2</i>, which features your friend and mine, best-selling author and acclaimed novelist Elizabeth Gilbert. <i>[Laughs.]</i></p>
00:35:52	John	Host	<p>Sure! She loves Burt Reynolds.</p>
00:35:56	Jesse	Host	<p><i>[Laughing.]</i> She sent me a screenshot of a text message thread with her friend that said like, "Will explain later. Can I come over Sunday night to watch <i>Smokey and the Bandit 2</i> with your family?"</p>
			<p>And then, her friend texted her back, "No explanation necessary. Yes."</p>
00:36:16	John	Host	<p>Absolutely not. There is no—you need no explanation to go over and, if you haven't—if you didn't manage to become a member during the Max Fun Drive, just go over to MaximumFun.org/join and unlock all that bonus content, including the <i>Prisoner</i> TV show recap podcast I do with Elliott Kalan, called <i>Be Podding You</i>, including our upcoming <i>Shootin' the Bries</i> cheese podcast, including the state mottoes podcast I'm doing with Janet Varney. And of course, Richard Kind! You missed him at Symphony Space. Don't miss him now! Go listen to <i>Kinding Them with Kindness</i>, a special member's only episode of <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> that everyone is enjoying a lot.</p>
			<p>Obviously, if you're already a member, thank you very much.</p>
00:36:56	Jesse	Host	<p>Let's get back to the show.</p>
00:36:57	Sound Effect	Transition	<p>Three gavel bangs.</p>
00:36:59	Jesse	Host	<p>Welcome back to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. Here is a case from David in Irvington, New York. "My wife and I are having a child this week, and we do not agree on the name. My wife would like another Greek name to match our daughter, Andromache, and our dog, Sparta. She likes the name Calliope. I find our previous names to be a bit much. I would prefer a name that's simple but still has Greek origins, like Chloe. Who's right?"</p>
00:37:36	John	Host	<p>Well, yeah. Andromache is a big—that's a big name for a kid. Andromache in <i>The Iliad</i> is the wife of Hector of Troy who falls into grave lamentation when Hector is killed by Achilles outside the walls of Troy. But there is another version of Andromache in myth and history and lore of ancient Greece which is one of the queens of the Amazons. Andromache literally meaning "man battler", which is an incredible name. I don't know which Andromache you were going for when David—or let's be fair, David's wife and whole human being in her own right—named this child Andromache.</p>
			<p>But now, David's wife is leaning into Calliope—who, of course, is a muse. One of the top muses, known as the chief muse of all the muses. You got Calliope, muse of epic poetry. Cleo of history. Euterpe, flutes and music. One very big category, one very narrow</p>

category. Flutes and music. Thalia, like the Thalia Theater in Chicago, where we've performed before. Maybe we're gonna see T. Reg and Buddy there sometime in Chicago, when we go on tour next. Melpomene, muse of tragedy. Terpsichore (Terp-es-curry), dance, obviously—or Terpsichore (Terp-es-core). Erato, love poetry and lyric poetry and favorite of *The New York Times* crossword, always showing up in there. Erato. Polyhymnia, music of hymns and sacred poetry. Polyhymnia would be an incredible name for a child. And Urania, also a wonderful name.

I don't like names that are too matchy-matchy, so I think that—you know—the fact that Andromache comes from—you know, from marshal myth, *The Iliad*, and Calliope comes from artistic myth, that's not too matchy, even though they both are big, big, big Greek names. Chloe derives from the Greek word basically for fertility. So, I think that's kind of putting Chloe in a box, there. Nothing against all the Chloes in the world. And there are a lot of them! I kind of feel like if you're leaning into Andromache, naming your child Chloe—you might as well name your child Emily. [Chuckles.] A lot of these people are out there named Chloe and Emily. I don't think that that works, David. I think if you've already gone to Andromache, you might as well go hard into the next one.

Now, I'm going to offer you this. Penthesilea. Penthesilea. Because this weaves together the two traditions. Penthesilea was also a queen of the Amazons, a warrior who also showed up at the battle of Troy. And after Achilles killed Hector, making Andromache—the wife and whole human being in her own right—sad and arguably making Andromache the Amazon not too happy either, Penthesilea fought Achilles almost to death. Well, to her death, unfortunately. Like, Achilles, the greatest warrior in the battle, was almost destroyed by Penthesilea. Tragically, she was killed. But during the fighting, they fell in love. Wild stuff happened at the battle of Troy. I mean, you could go with something more Trojan, like Helen, I suppose.

00:41:10 John Host

I gotta give a shoutout to Benjamin Schott, the British writer who created *Schott's Miscellany*—a very, very important book in my life in the early 2000s in which he coined the term milihelen. A milihelen, Jesse—according to Ben Schott—is the amount of beauty required to sail a single ship. Valerie Moffat really enjoyed that one. Milihelen. I'm offering you Penthesilea. You could do Penny. You could do Lea. I don't know what nickname you're doing for Andromache. But since all these names have a lot of complicated and sometimes problematic history behind them, maybe there's something I don't know. And obviously, your wife named your daughter Andromache. So, it probably sounds like your wife has a pretty big—pretty good classical education. Probably she knows what she was doing.

So, I'm gonna leave it in her hands. If she likes Calliope, there you go. Calliope. That's a great name! Andromache and Calliope. Those two go together. I love it! Penthesilea I love, but Calliope, go for it. Cali. Lope. Maybe no nickname at all! And just think about—just think about how great it's gonna be to introduce your family as you're walking your dog through the park and say, "These are our daughters, Andromache and Calliope. And this is Sparta." And then,

			you kick the person you meet into a hole. That's how your family does it. I love it. But in the meantime, congratulations. I hope everything—if you have not already welcome Calliope into this world, I hope that everything has gone as smoothly as possible and that everyone is happy and healthy, and that Calliope enjoys her name.
00:42:50	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	Three gavel bangs.
00:42:52	Jesse	Host	Here's something from Brian in Washington DC. "My wife and I are expecting our second son in August. We agree that his name should start with the letter D. Her leading contender is Daniel, which I think is a fine name. It's not exciting. I like Damien. My wife dismisses this name because of its association with the 1976 horror film, <i>The Omen</i> . I say that movie's nearly 50 years old. Help us name our child."
00:43:23	John	Host	Well, you're doing a little short shrift there to the 2006 remake of <i>The Omen</i> , starring Liev Schreiber and Julia Stiles. Guess when that movie came out, Jesse Thorn? I gave you the year already.
00:43:35	Jesse	Host	2006, did you say?
00:43:37	John	Host	Yeah. What month and day of the month do you think that came out?
00:43:42	Jesse	Host	I'm gonna say October 31 st , 2006?
00:43:45	John	Host	That's a fair guess. Remember, this is a story about the son of the devil.
00:43:50	Jesse	Host	December 25 th ?
00:43:51	John	Host	June 6 th . Oh wow. June 6 th . 666.
00:43:54	Jesse	Host	666. Got it.
00:43:56	John	Host	Yeah. Yeah. That was one of those movies that are like I guess we have to do this. I guess we have to make a remake of <i>The Omen</i> , it's gonna be 6/6/06. It's like when they were like, "I guess we have to make a movie of 1984 to bring out 1984, even though there's no reason for a movie that depressing and authentic to the novel needs to exist." Anyway. Uh, Damien. It's interesting, you know, 'cause I wonder how much the association of the name Damien with the antichrist still exists. Indeed, that movie is 50 years old. It's fine. It's a fine movie. It's not great. It's fine. Made a couple of sequels. They tried to reboot it as a TV show a couple of years ago. I don't know how much it's faded into memory.
			I do know that looking at lists of people named Damien, there are a lot of them. But not many of them are American. Very popular name in Ireland and Australia and other non-USA, English-speaking countries. So, maybe there is still an association of evil with Damien. Never forget, Damien is also the name of the tortured assistant exorcist in <i>The Exorcist</i> . But no, Damien is still a pretty strong flavor. So, do we name this kid Damien or not? What do you think, Jesse Thorn?
00:45:12	Jesse	Host	I mean, when I heard a D name, the first name I thought of was Dru Down, the San Francisco rapper who I only recently learned is Bootsie Collins's son.
00:45:23	John	Host	Woah-ho-ho-ho! Wow! That's a lineage. Speaking of lineage, before—you can all stop sending me your emails right now, 'cause yes, I did make the connection. The last name of Damien in <i>The Omen</i> , Jesse? Do you know what the last name of Damien in <i>The Omen</i> is?
00:45:40	Jesse	Host	Hrbek?

00:45:41	John	Host	Thorn.
00:45:42	Jesse	Host	Really?
00:45:43	John	Host	Yeah. You ever check your own scalp for a tattooed 666? Could be you. Yeah, he's feeling around.
00:45:52	Jesse	Host	I need one of those little hand mirrors.
00:45:54	John	Host	I'm gonna give you two choices for what to name this child. Either you lean into it and name this child Damien Amityville Linda Blair Adrian Marcato Anton LaVey Beelzebub Bailiff Jesse Thorn or just name the kid Damon, after my friend Damon. My oldest friend. I met him when I was three years old. Really good guy, listener to this podcast, a really terrific person and a really good friend. And <i>[stammering]</i> a name that doesn't get enough play, I feel like. Damon isn't—people—not enough people are named Damon right now.
			So, there you go. I wish you only the best, Brian, with your son, Damon. I hope that your son, Damon, does not end up being the son of Lucifer.
00:46:39	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	Three gavel bangs.
00:46:40	John	Host	Hey, I got a couple of—a little lightning round before we go, 'cause Jesse—'cause we did get quite a few naming cases, and I wanna settle these up before we go.
			Rosie, I'm sorry but The Root Cellar is a better name for your backyard pub in Des Moines, Iowa. It's better than your suggestion, The Quarry. Sorry. The Root Cellar's a cool name. The Quarry—I feel like there are too many of those.
			Holly, you should not rename Susie—your adopted Bernedoodle. Your human Aunt Susie will just have to deal with it. That's fine.
			Caitlyn, as much as I like Kevin for a cat—I like all human names for all pets—do not rename your cat. Kittyboy is already a good name. Kittyboy is a good name. And as I point out, naming is powerful. That's why humans can rename themselves. But for animals, renaming is just confusing.
			Lindsay, you cannot name your friend, Molly's, next child. You cannot name that child Jack or John, even if you did eerily predict your best friend's first pregnancy. Jack and John are both names that are tired out! And also, you are not that person's parent! That is why they did not allow you to name their first child with your suggested name, Remy Squash Pasta. Even though that came to you in a dream. Lindsay, you're not magical and you're not this child's parent.
			Similarly, Collin, your young children are not allowed to name your sister's baby. It is not their place to name their infant cousin. And Oat Milk is not a good name for a baby. Sorry, Collin. Your kids are obviously very imaginative. But that's like me naming my imaginary friend Windowsill, 'cause I didn't have an imaginary friend. And Damon did, and he asked me, "What's the name of your imaginary friend?" And I just looked around, and the first thing I saw—Windowsill. No. This is serious, everyone. Naming is serious. Be wary of joke names.

Frazer is a great middle name for Ben and Sarah's daughter, Miriam. It's better than naming her Miriam Webster. That's a nice chuckle for now, but that's something that Miriam has to live with for the rest of their life until they decide to change it. Miriam Frazer is better. And that's Frazer with a Z, not like the TV show. And I have to say this: this family, Miriam Frazer's family, has one of the very best last names of all time. Do you know what it is, Jesse Thorn?

00:48:47 Jesse Host
00:48:48 John Host

What's that?
Van Name.

[They chuckle.]

Literally V-A-N space Name. One of the most incredible last names for a naming docket that we've ever had, and we've only ever had one naming docket, and it's not gonna get better than this.

00:49:02 Sound Effect
00:49:04 Jesse Host

I name this docket cleared.
Three gavel bangs.

00:49:18 John Host

That's it for another episode of *Judge John Hodgman*. The show, created by Jesse Thorn and John Hodgman. Our producer is Valerie Moffat. We're on Instagram [@JudgeJohnHodgman](#). Follow us there for evidence and other photos from the show.

00:49:39 Jesse Host
00:49:41 John Host
00:49:47 Jesse Host

Well, I am going to forward to the *Judge John Hodgman* Instagram, a picture of Susie, the Bernedoodle, that will not be renamed. Because Aunt Susie doesn't like sharing a name with a dog. I'm gonna send this photo to you right now, Jesse. I'm gonna put it in the chat. It is called BigSuze.pdf.

00:49:46 John Host

[Chuckling.] Awwwww.

00:50:10 Jesse Host

For context, Big Suze just got a haircut in this situation.

00:50:16 John Host

Big Suze looks like she just got her hair cut and set—like in a beauty salon in Minnesota in 1987.

00:50:20 Jesse Host

Holly, Big Suze's person, is a dog groomer, and Big Suze—AKA Susie—is one of her clients of many years who can no longer—who had to be rehomed. And so, Holly is taking the dog in.

00:50:21 John Host

Awww, isn't that sweet? And Holly also cuts Tom "Bruno" Brunansky's hair.

00:50:25 Jesse Host

It's a little bit—Big Suze has a little bit of a—possibly a mullet in there, too.

00:50:35 John Host

It's true.

Big Suze is Primetime. I think we have a name for this episode.

You can also check out the Max Fun subreddit, [MaximumFun.Reddit.com](#). There's always a lovely conversation about *Judge John Hodgman* episodes going on in the Max Fun subreddit.

And speaking of conversations, we had a lot of replies to our grudge match episode, including some incredible letters that I did not expect to get with news of The Sex Execs—that Boston band that lost out to 'Til Tuesday, back in the Battle of the Bands in the '80s and grudges held there as well as verification of some grudge-worthy stuff that went down at Robin Hood Camp. You'll hear about it when we—because you knew that—you know that grudges don't die. You'll hear about it in our next grudge match episode somewhere down the road, where we'll also have Starlee Kine looking into the mystery of the tattooed science teacher.

So, if we've got any more grudges out there, get them to me at MaximumFun.org/ijho. Especially a grudge where both people are willing to be on air and we can do a—like an old fight with a sibling that you wanna bring up again or something like that. Plus, I'm also gonna ask for disputes about trains and ferries, because I've been on both recently, and I like them. And we've had lots of disputes about other forms of transportation. Automobile etiquette and airplane etiquette. What about trains and ferries? I mean, we're talking about trollies. We're talking about Amtrak. We're talking about cargo trains.

00:51:50 Jesse Host
00:51:51 John Host

Street cars.

Street cars. Street cars named Desire. Any dispute, conflict, or question arising out of travel upon a train or a ferry, I wanna hear about it. And I wanna hear everything! Right, Jesse?

00:52:06 Jesse Host

It doesn't matter if it's a big case or a little case. It doesn't matter whether you think it's good or you think it's bad. If you've got a dispute, send it to us: MaximumFun.org/ijho.

Our show is dependent upon you coming up with problems that you have with others in your life. MaximumFun.org/ijho. We'll talk to you next time on the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast.

00:52:29 Sound Effect Sound Effect

Three gavel bangs.

00:52:32 Sound Effect Transition

Cheerful ukulele chord.

00:52:33 Speaker 1 Guest

MaximumFun.org.

00:52:35 Speaker 2 Guest

Comedy and culture.

00:52:36 Speaker 3 Guest

Artist owned—

00:52:37 Speaker 4 Guest

—audience supported.