

MBMBaM 693: Run, Don't Wonk

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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. Welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me, an advice show for the modren era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

Travis: Wuddup, Trav Nation! I'm your middlest brother. Woof-woof, big dog pound. Travis McElroy!

Justin: Ah, interesting. So that's gonna keep being a thing this year. I—

Griffin: Woof-woof!

Justin: Sometimes it's the turning of a page.

Griffin: Justin, I love Trav Nation. I—

Travis: Yeah, we can't leave Trav Nation. We closed our borders.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: No, they would—that's it. Also like, that's all our listenership now is, Juice. Like you can feel grumpy about that if you must, but all we have is Trav Nation.

Travis: We welcome in new people—important to note, we have a semi-permeable barrier around Trav Nation.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Semi-permeable borders. We welcome in new, don't let out old. That is important.

Griffin: It's weird.

Travis: It's kind of the reverse—

Justin: [chuckles] It is a prison colony.

Griffin: And the territory is not getting bigger.

Justin: Right!

Travis: No, it's not a prison colony, Justin. It's a haven This is—it's safe in here.

Griffin: Woof-woof.

Justin: For long enough have your politicians try to convince the people of Trav Nation that they are citizens, when they are in fact prisoners!

Travis: I don't want to hear this anti Trav Nation propaganda, sir! It's safe in here, it's better!

Griffin: Woof-woof, Trav Nation. This is Griffin, hi.

Justin: I knew your father. And he would be so ashamed of what you have done here with this penal colony, Trav Nation.

Travis: Penis colony.

Justin: Your father, were he alive today to see this, would be ashamed of the man you have become.

Travis: Listen, my father's rule of Trav Nation was weak. You know this. He was too—he allowed everything.

Justin: Why did he insist on calling it Trav Nation?

Griffin: You have to stop clapping at jokes, Justin.

Justin: I have to stop clapping at jokes.

Griffin: You have to stop clapping at jokes.

Justin: I have to stop clapping at jokes!

Griffin: Sometimes, we get you—

Travis: Hey, happy 20-Fun-Galore, everybody. How are you observing so far?

Griffin: Well, so far, the wizard has cast a darkness spell over our brother in his laboratory—

Justin: I'm back.

Griffin: Hi, Juice.

Travis: Hey, new business idea; instead of the clapper—

Justin: Hey, can we vote on the clapper?

Travis: When you flip off the sensor, it turns the lights on and off.

Justin: Can we vote on the clapper?

Travis: Boo.

Griffin: That's a no from me. It really—

Justin: Thumbs down.

Griffin: It interrupts the flow a lot.

Justin: It feels like it interrupts the flow. But if I go to unplug the clapper, that would be yet another interruption. So I think this is gonna be kind of a goodbye, farewell to a friend this episode. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It'll be fun, at the end of the year we should do like an in memoriam reel of all the—we can do all the bits we thought would work but didn't. All the goofs that failed, all the—my jokes that you guys don't acknowledge.

Griffin: See, but this is the thing, I don't bring a lot of new heat. I try to sort of perfect the craft of some of the original material of the show. And Travis comes in with a lot of puzzles, riddles and games. And Justin's got gizmos and gadgets galore over there. He's always introducing some new electronic delight, some new sound boy.

Justin: I have my beloved cast of characters. Travis has the work that he does beforehand, all the great skits and bits and games and puzzles. Turn it into a regular... god damn highlight reel over here. [chuckles]

Travis: And Griffin's the glue that just sits there, stuck in his ways.

Griffin: I'm the audience surrogate. I enjoy your bits and I tell the audience—

Travis: Do you?!

Griffin: Whether or not it's okay to laugh—

Justin: Yes.

Travis: Do you, Griffin?!

Griffin: I do. I do. I love doing this show. Some of the bits aren't good. That doesn't mean I don't have a good time listening to them.

Travis: You have the capacity to enjoy my bits, one might say.

Griffin: Sometimes your bits have the capacity to delight me. It's a two-way street, Trav.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Do you know how—can I talk about something real quick, Trav? I am scandalized that I bought you a specific Wonka Mad Libs book, hand-delivered via courier to your home. And you still have not treated us to any Wonka Mad Libs.

Travis: I mean, I have it right here next to my desk. I keep it as a totem.

Justin: I don't... Okay, well I mean, as long as you've got it on hand, then it makes it a little easier.

Travis: Yeah, it's always there.

Justin: Okay, good.

Griffin: We can't generate this Mad Libs now on the show. You must know that—

Justin: No, no, no, I'm just—I just wanted to voice our disappointment, because we did go see Wonka!

Travis: We did.

Griffin: We did. This is also—

Justin: We did.

Griffin: I would say for farewell to the clapper and farewell to Wonka.

Justin: Wonka.

Griffin: So we're certainly going to be talking about the candy man and his works in the first half of the show—

Justin: We're gonna be—yeah, we've got our live field report from—god, it would have been like 11:30 or midnight.

Griffin: It was quite late.

Justin: At the Golden Square Plaza. We went saw the last showing after our kids were asleep like three totally cool, totally normal adult men. Just three adult men. [chuckles]

Travis: Just normal men.

Griffin: Yeah, let's roll that beautiful bean footage. I don't remember what we said most of it. But—

Justin: No.

Griffin: I hope you—

Travis: We might have been so, let's say, high on the energy.

Justin: Tired. Yeah.

Travis: Of the Wonka—

Griffin: High on energy and Wonka-brand gummies.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Which were a delight and surprise and a nightmare.

Travis: I found, last night—I went out to dinner, I found in my pocket a half empty bag of magic Wonka hats.

Griffin: Oh, shit?

Travis: Still there. Still there! And I was like, oh, Wonka left me a treat. And then I reached into the other jacket pocket and I found a tin of weed mints. And I thought, man, Wonka, does everything now!

Griffin: Damn, Wonka hooked you up!

Travis: He's leaving all kinds of candy in my jacket!

Griffin: So let's go to the—let's go to that live report now. And we'll be back after.

[antique film projector sound]

Griffin: It's 11:39PM. Alright, we've just left the Wonka movie.

Justin: So, did any of you guys cry during the movie Wonka? [chuckles]

Travis: I did not cry.

Griffin: No.

Travis: I felt emotions for a second, but I'm also pretty stoned. [chuckles]

Griffin: I... [laughs] I cooked very much!

[group laugh]

Griffin: I didn't think it was very good.

[group laugh]

Griffin: I didn't think the movie was very good. [laughs]

Justin: Griffin, from my vantage point, and maybe we're talking a difference of seat angles, but from my vantage point, it was a big-hearted and relentlessly entertaining adventure. For everybody. [chuckles]

Travis: That's so weird, because for me it was a non-stop thrill ride, with intrigue, there was crying.

Justin: No, I'm being serious, man, I was relentlessly entertained.

Griffin: I could feel the energy shift in the room and I knew I was going to be alone on an island.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: As we walked back to the car, I just didn't...

Travis: I don't want to leave you out there. It fuckin' sucked, man.
[chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Thank you so much, Travis. Ah, man, I felt so... so strange for a moment. Yeah, it was... I'll tell you what, it had some—there are some highlights, for me. There were some good goofs in there, damn. Got more than a few chuckles out of me.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And there were two good songs in there. But one of them was Pure Imagination. So that's cheating the system I feel like.

Justin: Well, final score, it was—I liked it.

Travis: I'd give it like maybe a 5.8 out of 10.

Griffin: Just to set the table for conversation, I was not expecting a story about a man who poisons his way across London Town.

Travis: Yes. It seems at some points to be professing that his chocolates could replace perhaps some sort of prescription drug you're taking for, I don't know, whatever. But here you go, eat this chocolate. Have a supplement instead. [chuckles]

Griffin: The supplements can do a lot of stuff for you. They can create ideas out of whole cloth in your brain. That's incredible. That's amazing. They can make you have a sort of psycho erotic adventure, at the end of which you go to sleep so the man can steal the giraffe milk.

Travis: They can also force you into a hallucinatory state where you're living in a show—like in a stage show.

Griffin: Another wonderful thing is in this musical number where Willy Wonka does crime around the city—not just poisoning, but some poisoning—he gives everybody a musical candy that takes them one layer deeper into the musical that they were already doing. If they had eaten the same musical candy in the musical-musical, I fear they would have ended up in some sort of limbo state.

Travis: I'm also—listen, big spoiler here, big spoiler. But Wonka and a small child almost die in some chocolate. They definitely soak in it for a while.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And within 30 seconds they open up the fountain and they say, "Hey, everybody—"

Griffin: Drink it.

Travis: [chuckles] "Eat this chocolate we were just soaking in."

Griffin: "Eat this chocolate, it is my body. Eat this chocolate, I zested it with me, Willy Wonka, the chocolate man."

Travis: [chuckles] "Every inch of me was in this chocolate."

Griffin: "My balls and everything in these loose London trousers have been soaking in this chocolate." It was diluted a great deal, it was a tremendous amount of chocolate.

Travis: "And listen, I was under there for a while. I thought I was gonna die. There's no way I was being polite with whatever my bowels were—"

Griffin: "Oh, I evacuated my bowels in the chocolate trap, for sure."

Travis: "Now [eat??] my chocolate."

Griffin: I do want to give a shout out; there was a couple sitting in front of us on what must have been a pretty good day. Because my man pulled out

his phone quite a bit during the film, more than once, to take a picture of the screen. Or maybe a video, he may have been bootlegging Wonka.

Justin: [chuckles] I had the—the best though was the lady who he was with had her phone on like 100% brightness.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: So I—like two rows down and it was blatantly obvious what she was doing on her phone because it was during the film.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Literally two minutes I scoped this lady's on the Wikipedia page of Timothée Chalamet.

Travis: [laughs] "I gotta know about this guy right now."

Griffin: Why is he—

Justin: This woman sits down, she's 30 seconds in a she's like, "Who in the fuck is that?"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: That same couple in this two hour movie left an hour and a half in. They watched the first hour and a half and then they were like, "I get it." [chuckles]

Justin: I've never seen it yet. 90 minutes in, these people were like, "I—okay. I get it." I gotta be honest though, from where I sat, I had no idea what was gonna happen every five minutes of this movie. It seems to be concerned about something different.

Griffin: Yeah, every time you'd think, "I bet he's about to make the factory—" Another spoiler alert, that had doesn't happen until the last 24 seconds of the movie. So I hope you don't come in here expecting to see a bunch of magical machines. Without the Chocolate Factory, he's just a

strange man. So that's an eight star rating from me. And 10—it sounds like 10 from Juice. I'll say this; those Wonka hats, the gummy Wonka hats, those can fuck—those fuck.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: But the whole movie's about chocolate!

Justin: Yeah, it's really—

Travis: All I wanted was chocolate!

Justin: I was dying guys, I—[chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: I went out there and got a bunch of snow caps.

Griffin: Did you really?

Travis: Ah, just had to get your fix!

Justin: Something, man.

Griffin: Sometimes you guys don't vibe with the film, and that's okay. And I don't have to—

Travis: Rich Fulcher was a dream. Matt Lucas was a dream.

Griffin: Absolutely! There were a lot of standout performances in this film and a lot of great characters. And a lot of just sort of—some of the wildest work I think I've seen from Mr. Keegan Michael Key.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Not entirely his fault that his whole plotline is some of the wildest—some of the wildest depictions of a fat person since I would say Mike Myers tried his hand at such a role, with a less than deft hand.

Travis: And someone was frankly some sort of compulsion issue that's very funny—

Griffin: This film wanted to say a lot of stuff about the nature of addiction and religion and capitalism. But it just got a little tripped up on itself along the way.

Travis: 10 out of 10, Oscar Bates.

Griffin: I really—I really—it really left me high and dry. [chuckles]
Goodnight.

Justin: Thanks, bye.

[antique film projector sound]

Travis: I think that sums it all up.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: What more is there to say? Run, don't Wonk. Now, you can—don't need to run, it's going to come to streaming in February.

Griffin: I will say Wonk or don't Wonk, just stay home and Wonka will come to you. That's the great thing about movies these days, is you don't have to go to Wonka. Wonka comes to you if you wait long enough.

Justin: Thank you, Wonka, for—

Travis: Wonka comes for us all in the end. [chuckles]

Justin: Wonka, thank you. I wish the end result of Wonka had been a worse movie.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: I will say that, a worse, funnier move. [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh, that's interesting.

Justin: Like, it was—it didn't quite reach the—I was hoping for debacle. And we didn't quite get there. But hey, it's been a lot of fun talking about Wonka. I'm gonna miss it this year. But we've got a lot of new things to move on to. Like this is an advice show, for example.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's new.

Justin: And we give people advice—yeah, that's new. "What feels like most days while at work, I can hear little kids playing not too far from my window. I'm surprised these children are cursing like sailors at seemingly all business hours of the day. Seeming to scream curses just for the joy of it. I think it's kind of funny and I'm a guy who enjoys cursing on occasion, but it's beginning to get embarrassing to explain to my clients and coworkers that the loud expletives they can hear are coming from these seemingly stray adolescents and not from my own household. How do I either dissuade these kiddos from belting the loudest swears ever outside my window? I'm a very tall, middle-aged man, so there's a bit of trepidation around the prospect—"

Travis: Just a little bit—yeah, okay.

Griffin: A tremendous amount.

Justin: "There's a huge amount of trepidation around the process of just approaching stray children." Sound. Sounded safe.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Sound and sane. Fear of Foul Mouth Fledglings in Flint. I don't know why people continue to write tongue twisters for me in this, the year of our lord, 2024. I can twist my tongue all on my own without your—

Griffin: This is the thing about Trav Nation, Juice, is that they love the games and riddles and twisters and little traps and mazes that Travis makes—

Travis: It's the only way they can escape.

Griffin: It's the only way they can finish the maze. And Justin, now you're caught up in it. They're weaving one for you too, pal.

Travis: This morning, Bebe, before leaving for school, I'm not exactly sure why, but started talking about like, yeah, "At school, we're not allowed to say the B word, or the P word, or the F word." And I said, "What are those?" And the P word was 'pissed.' Which, okay. The B word was 'busted.' And the F word was 'freak.'

Justin: Busted?

Travis: Busted, like—oh, that—this—oh, you're about to get busted. I don't know why, maybe the children like to tease each other with getting in trouble.

Justin: I think they made this up. This sounds like a confection of a young mind.

Travis: And then she said to me—like this, this delivery, "Are any of those cuss words?"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] And I loved it so much.

Griffin: I think we can—I think it's time. Maybe I can get this going on the ground here in DC, that we... we take 'piss' down from a schedule one curse word.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And we just like—for me, it is on the same level as like 'dang.' Like I for me it's not—it has lost all of its power.

Justin: Would you encourage your kids to say piss?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Mine does. That's sort of—

Travis: Where do you think mine learned it?!

Griffin: When Henry wants to cut loose—when Henry's had a long day at the office and wants to cut loose and the end of it, he'll say 'piss' once or twice, just to like test out the waters. That's his weapon of choice.

Travis: I just want to say like don't our teachers have enough to worry about that like sometimes like Bebe tells me that she's not allowed to say like 'butt' or like 'fart' and stuff. Like, hey, teachers? You're off the hook for that one.

Griffin: [sings] Leave those kids alone!

Justin: The only thing that cheered the girls up after Griffin—after Henry and Gus left my home after the Christmas holidays, the only thing that cheered the girls up is after you guys left and the door shut, the first thing I Cooper's mouth was, "Charlie, we can curse again!" And Charlie went, "Fuck!" And Cooper went, "Shit!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: I love it.

Justin: And then, "Balls!" And then they just cursed the whole day long.

Griffin: I weighed it. I love that there. If he learns about a word—the extent to which he says 'piss,' guys, if you—if he learned about the other ones, that would be the whole day for—

Justin: I would strongly encourage you. I took off the—you know, I kind of took off the restrictor pretty early and just encouraged them to say what they will. I do wish—I'm struggling with the nuance.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: I'm struggling with the nuance of teaching my five year old why when I asked her to do something, it's not okay to flip me off and call me bitch. Because it's—

Griffin: [chuckles] Juice, that's a small—

Justin: The individual actions, right, I have encouraged through laughter myself, right?

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Travis: That's the problem, J-Man, yes, is I've seen this happen to you and your response is like, "[laughs] You can't do that! [chuckles]"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: And it's not... it's not great.

Justin: I challenge anybody—I challenge the two of you, if Cooper looks at you and says—calls you a bitch and flips you off, like you're gonna—

Griffin: No, no, I'm powerless to that.

Justin: You're gonna bust up, it's good. It's good.

Travis: This is where Teresa and I have tried to develop like a certain amount of like eye contact laughter. Where you just make eye contact and your eyes widen a bunch. But the rest of your face stays set in stone. And that's like acknowledging like we both know that what just happened, if we laugh at this, it's the rest of the day.

Justin: What's hard is when there's the disconnect between like, fuck, this is really funny but Sydnee's really mad.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I gotta try to play—and usually it's reversed. Like I'll spy her like laughing at one of the children.

Griffin: Yeah, this is the issue, this conversation, a little fraught. But if you don't have these hard conversations, you do end up with kids who cuss nonstop while playing and yelling through your walls.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Griffin: And it's—that situation is no good. Because some of us are trying to get business done in here.

Travis: Can you yell out your window like, "I'm calling Santa," and see if that has any—or like—

Griffin: That's cool. That's cool.

Justin: Ooh, don't call Santa, be Santa! Be Santa! Santa has to live somewhere.

Travis: "Ho-ho-ho, I heard you said shit!"

Justin: "At my summer home? Children cursing here on sacred ground?"

Travis: "I'm trying to steal people's money with hedge funds or whatever."

Justin: [chuckles] What?

Travis: It's whatever—I don't know, what people do for jobs or whatever. I don't know.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Santa doesn't have a job?

Travis: What's he do the rest of the year?!

Justin: Meditates!

Travis: Ah.

Justin: He's in spiritual study, trying to get closer in tune with the deities that give him his immortality and power.

Travis: Ah, you've been watching the Rankin/Bass Life and Times of Santa Claus. Okay. When it gets to the mortality from the gods, yes.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Classic. He's raised by a lion in that one, in case anyone's wondering.

Justin: Kids cursing is always additive. No one is upset during your business meeting about these kids cursing so loudly. Maybe—

Griffin: Unless you run like a camp for... Christian children.

Justin: Yeah, then there's definitely—

Griffin: And then all of a sudden it's like—

Travis: Even then, if you're calling to do business, you're establishing a need right there. If you're like, "Yeah, maybe with more funding we could get 'em to stop saying 'fuck' so much." [chuckles]

Justin: Would a tasteful sign help? Maybe a tasteful sign would help.

Griffin: Oh, that's interesting.

Travis: Oh, would a sign help? Like if you set up a curse—

Griffin: For the children, for—

Travis: A cursing zone.

Justin: Curse-free zone. And then put a character that kids like on there like Bart Simpson.

Travis: Yeah! He loves to curse.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Hey, man! No cursing, dude."

Griffin: Shit, guys, I'm—

Travis: "It's okay to say fuck, man!"

Griffin: I'm sorry to derail—

Travis: "But only over here!"

Griffin: Sorry to derail, but a line of merchandise of us in the Bart Simpson style with a sign saying, "This is a no cursing zone. No cursing zone, dude."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Like if we could put that together—damn, Christmas was just—shit, can we do Christmas again so we can get all that money?

Justin: Yeah, we're gonna miss out on that great gift giving opportunity. I think we've helped as much as we could. There's nothing—put up a sign, a sign would help. Yet again, signs to the rescue.

Griffin: Thank you so much.

Travis: Maybe like a soundproof booth that they can cuss to their heart's content inside of.

Justin: I think we had it at sign.

Travis: And also at some point, a fan kicks on and money blows around!

Griffin: That's cool.

Travis: If they curse enough in there, they can catch some dollar bills.

Griffin: What about like a little box that you can say your cusses into, and then you can close up the box. You keep that on your desk. This is your cussing—this is your cussing area. You can cut inside of this little box. Like a bell—like a diver—like a diving bell that goes over your head. And then you can just cuss as much—

Travis: But what happens when it gets full?

Griffin: Of cussing?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You point it at the sun and you launch it.

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: And blast it. Do you guys want to go to the Wizard?

Travis: Yes, please.

Justin: Yeah, I'd love that, Griff. Thank you.

Griffin: A lot of people have been asking if Fungalore is the Wizard. I'm not ready to answer that.

Travis: No, he's just Fungalore.

Justin: Yeah, he's just—Griffin can't make that kind of decision. He doesn't have the power to change—

Griffin: No, nor would I. I'm just saying Diana did send this in. And so—

Justin: Valid interpretation, though!

Griffin: Yeah, thank you. It's how to show off your muscles without it seeming intentional.

Travis: Thank you!

Justin: Hm! Now this I—let me get my notepad!

Griffin: "Are you looking to impress friends, a date or people at work?" Zero for three, wikiHow.

Justin: No.

Griffin: [chuckles] None applicable. "Do you want everyone to notice your hard work in the gym without seeming like an arrogant jerk? Take these less obvious routes to get them to see the gun show."

Travis: Hm. Okay. I'm trying to think about who I like to impress with my muscles.

Griffin: That's a great question. I mean—

Justin: Oh, I could speak to that. Because when he was at my home, Travis made me feel his muscles.

Travis: That is true, yeah.

Justin: So I did—I mean...

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: What'd you think?

Justin: I can speak to that.

Travis: What'd you think?

Justin: No, I mean, normally—

Travis: What did you think?

Justin: If I had been anybody else, it would have been weird. But as your brother?

Griffin: It was super weird.

Justin: I appreciate the strength update. It is important to me to know physical strength, where we are at. You've always been above, now your way up there. [chuckles]

Travis: The thing is, Justin, we spend a lot of time together both professionally and socially. And I want you to feel safe. I want you to know that like—

Justin: Well, it just made me—it made me feel—

Travis: I could body guard you out of any venue. If we get swarmed by our millions and millions of Trav Nation fans, I can carry you to the limo that we always pile into.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: It makes me happy that I've sown so many invisible emotional and psychic prisons around you, entwining you to me. Because like physically I'm not going to be able to dominate you.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like I'm not gonna be able to bring it—

Griffin: If there had been a strong Beatle, if there have been a strong member of The Beatles, all that sort of Hard Day's Night hard time that they

got of people chasing them around and trying to get them, would not have been an issue if Paul was super strong.

Justin: Do you think—okay, Paul would—okay. I wouldn't enjoy it if Paul—

Griffin: Which we would—which is the strong Beetle? Is that the question?

Justin: My question is like—none of 'em are strong. You look at 'em, I don't think any of 'em are the strong Beetle, right.

Travis: But who was the strongest?

Justin: I don't care who was the strongest. I'm saying it would have been awesome if there was one super-muscly—like, if Ringo had been like a super-huge, muscly dude.

Griffin: Ringo's too obvious. People would see—

Travis: I think George Harrison is the answer.

Justin: You think George Harrison—

Griffin: Ooh, that's interesting.

Justin: Answer to what? What is the question you're asking?

Travis: Well, I think that when you're going through the—

Griffin: Who's the strongest Beetle?

Travis: Yeah, when you're going through the lineup and you're like, what's the identifying factor of each of these, right? I'm hard-pressed to be like what's—like, what's George Harrison's like defining feature? And if it was just like, oh, underneath you know, he was ripped as shit, I would just love that.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. This was the problem, this is why Pete Best had to go to. He was too big!

Travis: Yeah, too strong. Too strong!

Griffin: Pete Best! It was right there in the name!

Travis: Fans couldn't get close to 'em!

Griffin: It was right there in the name! The other four Beatles were like, "We can't fucking hang with this dude. This dude's the best." Oh, wait, are we about to see a ripped picture of Paul McCartney?

Justin: No, super quick, I just did a little—

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Justin: A little bit of quick research on—and Quora was there for me. Another person asked this exact thing.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: In 2020. Now, Chat GPT's attempts to answer it is not successful.

Griffin: No. They're like—who's the strongest Beatle? Chat GPT is like, "The Beatles were a British rock band." Thanks, man.

Justin: Let's say Ringo, he hit things for living. That's one thought.

Griffin: Now that's interesting, but here's the thing, the device that Ringo is holding to play his music is quite late. He moves it fast. I've seen Whiplash, it can get you strong, right? But it's not like you're holding a big, heavy bass guitar, for example.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: And we all know who held the bass guitar.

Justin: Yeah, Ringo was also, according to J. Marshall here, from a rougher section of Liverpool.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So—

Travis: I would say though, George Harrison played his guitar so hard that he made it cry. So...

Griffin: Shit, that's right. Justin has Googled 'George Harrison physical strength,' which is awesome.

Justin: See, McCartney here was the physically strongest since he had to carry the band from '67 to '70. Okay, well, that's not—

Griffin: That's a mean joke.

Justin: You're just having fun.

Griffin: That's not a nice joke.

Justin: You're just having fun.

Travis: Unless that's true. Unless that was like before they had like enough money for cars.

Justin: [in a silly voice] "Everybody on my back."

Travis: Yeah, get on—

Justin: [in a silly voice] "Everybody on my back."

Griffin: Do that again. Sorry, Travis. No more from either of us as Justin does—

Justin: [in a silly voice] "Everybody on my back. Everyone in the rickshaw, we're going to the big show."

Travis: Wait, sorry, Paul. Speak up. Couldn't hear you.

Justin: [in a silly voice] "Everybody in the rickshaw! Time for another concert!"

Griffin: Oh, no, Paul—

Justin: You made me do that. I don't wanna be Jim... [chuckles] Jim is the guy from—

Travis: And it's me, George Harrison! The American one!

Justin: The guy from fuckin' Moulin Rouge? Jim...

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: You know, the—

Travis: Jim Broadbent?

Justin: Thank you! Jim Broadbent from Moulin Rouge. Like every British guy has eventually become a carnival barker, trying to get you to come in and sleep with Nicole Kidman.

Griffin: [in a silly voice] "Ah, Paul, you're so strong."

Travis: That's really good!

Griffin: "Paul, you're so—"

Travis: Now, it does look like you're physically in pain while you do it, Griffin.

Justin: Is that your Pete Best?

Travis: You had to dislocate several vertebrae to do it.

Griffin: [in a silly voice] "Hey, Paul. Don't be so strong, Paul. Paul? What have you been eat—Paul? You're so strong now."

[group chuckle]

Justin: A little more, please?

[group chuckle]

Justin: I'm imagining you in the back of the car and no one is responding to you. You're just like—the other Beatles are like averting your gaze and you're obsessed! [chuckles]

Griffin: [in a silly voice] "Paul, I feel so safe, Paul."

[group chuckle]

Griffin: [in a silly voice] "Give me a hug, Paul."

Justin: He can't, he's pulling the rickshaw. He can't right now, George. [chuckles]

Griffin: [in a silly voice] "Hit the ramp, Paul."

[group laugh]

Travis: [in a silly voice] "Kick on the nose."

Griffin: [in a silly voice] "Paul, we're being chased. Paul, we're being chased by babes again, Paul. Hit the notes."

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: It hurts my neck to—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: To sort of turtle up like that.

Justin: It hurts my neck to look at!

Griffin: Shit, we had a fuckin' wikiHow we did not even get into, dog.

Travis: Yeah, we were doing the wikiHow, where we—yeah, okay—

Justin: Yeah, get back into it! Where were we?

Griffin: I mean, okay, "Method one, show off with subtle motions. One, do a face wipe. Is it a little hot out today? Wipe your face with the bottom of your shirt to show off the ab muscles."

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: It is 29 degrees outside today, so I need something that can maybe get me through a little more of the year. Something that is a little bit more consistent.

Travis: I did think they meant like wipe my face with like the back of my hand so hard that I'm flexing—ugh!

Justin: Yeah, you're—ugh!

Travis: The sweat is really stuck on there!

Griffin: When I'm at the iron church grinding out splats and I see somebody do that maneuver... it can work. It can work. It has to look like there was no other thing for you to wipe your face. One, there was too much sweat for you to just like kind of do a hand gesture with it. Two, there was nothing else in the area that you could have used as a face wipe instead. If I see you do that with your shirt and I see your incredible torso, of course, great work. Excellent work in there. It can work, but it's hard.

Travis: I think it's weird to try to show off your muscles while working out at the gym. Because like we're all gonna be like, "Yeah, man. We're all here."

Griffin: Yeah, we've all got 'em. Look around, we all are equally strong here.

Travis: We're all here at—we're all doing this. This is what that place is for. You need to show off your muscles at places where people least expect it. If you can figure out a way to show off your muscles while doing one of those like self-serve yogurt places that lets you mix different yogurts, and you're able to like do with the—ugh! You're pulling the lever in such a way that someone's like, "Look at those fuckin' triceps."

Justin: You guys ever—

Griffin: When I worked at TCBY, I was smashing left and right, dog! [chuckles] With that perfect seven ounce pour.

Justin: Do you—did you—

Travis: Smashing what?

Griffin: That like subscribe button...

Travis: [chuckles] Yeah!

Justin: Have you guys actually ever done the maneuver where you lift your shirt up and dap your head? Man, you feel so good. Like to have that level of physical exertion in your day to day life.

Travis: I've done it to blow my nose.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: [shudders] Grody, okay.

Travis: No, I'd never. I would never blow my nose.

Griffin: Next, "Perform and arm fold. Slowly fold your arms—" I always forget which one goes in front. And push—

Travis: Mm-hm, and look like a bad boy. Mm-hm!

Griffin: "And push your wrist upwards—push your wrists upwards a bit. Boost 'em."

Travis: That's cheating though because then you're just pushing your muscles up.

Griffin: Yeah, but—

Justin: So I'm sitting like this and then someone comes to me and they're like, "Damn, looking good."

Travis: [chuckles] Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I look like I'm trying to stay warm through a Russian winter. [chuckles] Just holding my body physically close.

Griffin: I do sometimes rock like this, not to showcase my muscles, but just because sometimes my arms just get so dang heavy that I need a little bit of—a little trust.

Justin: A little break, yeah.

Griffin: A little trust here in the action.

Travis: I do that if I'm trying to carry a bunch of eggs safely.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Travis: And I don't have a carton.

Griffin: [chuckles] I will say—

Travis: And I'm just like, "Just line 'em up."

Griffin: I will say, I do do the pulling up the bottom of my shirt technique quite a bit, but usually it is to transport toys and Legos out of the bath tub. And bring them in bulk back down into the toy zone. Pretend—

Travis: And Gus is like, "Damn, dad! Those abs!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "You've been splatting hard, brother! High five! Oh, you dropped my Legos!"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: "Ah, I shouldn't have tried to high five you while you was carrying my dang Legos, dad!"

Griffin: "Pretend to stretch, yawn or scratch the back of your head." I don't need to, I'm always doing one of those three things basically all the time.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "Lean and shift your weight to turn your body into a work of art."

Justin: Mm-hm! Sculpt it.

Travis: And that's how to like subtly do it, without seeming... like you'll trying.

Griffin: You never just—you never just—sometimes I am standing up in public and feeling tired, but there's no chair nearby. I'll try a lean and it never—as soon as I complete the lean I'm like, ah, fuck, I wish I hadn't done

that. Because now I look like I'm in *The Outsiders*, chilling, bracing myself against the wall—

Justin: You also have—like leaning is cool. If you see someone leaning, that's cool. But no one looks cool like pushing against a wall and they're like, "I'm getting up from my lean!"

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, no.

Justin: Everyone, get out the way! Or like trying to watch me stand up.

Travis: I'm 40 hard years old. And I'm worried that if I shift my body to a different position without at least an hour of preparation, I'm gonna hurt myself. Like I just started to lean and the carcinogenic—like the—my body is turning into a crab, you know?

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Travis: Slowly over time. And my body was like, "No, we don't move like that. That's not the way your body moves."

Griffin: So, pay attention to your walk. I—

Justin: With Christ.

Griffin: With Christ. And keep your grades up. With Christ.

Travis: If I pay too close attention to my walk while doing it, I will fall down.

Griffin: I will fall right immediately down, yeah. That's one of those—that's one of those things that if I start—a little—a grain of sand in the cogs of my gait, and I am fucking down. I am on the floor. "Dress professionally while still looking fit. Dress to show off—"

Travis: Like super tight?

Griffin: This is at work. So if you're at work, dress professionally while still looking fit. This is no longer so much about how to subtly show off your muscles, or is it?

Travis: I mean, if your clothes are so tight that someone could see your abs, I suppose?

Justin: Man...

Travis: Or maybe it's like, oh, you wear it and then it's just like, oh, let me pick that up. Ah, I ripped out of my ding-dang shirt again! Ah, it's too—I'm getting too swole. I mean, everybody's got water coolers, right? The water cooler—

Griffin: That's true.

Justin: Are you saying what I think you're saying, which is fill up a cup of water, oops, splash it all over your chest.

Travis: No, I was—

Justin: Is that what you're saying? To let the musculature ripple.

Travis: No, I was more saying is like, I've been in jobs where the water cooler's empty. And everybody's like, "Ooh, I don't want to."

Justin: Oh...

Travis: "I don't want to be the one to switch." And if you're the guy who switches, I mean, I don't think you need to show muscles for people to be like, that's—their—"Derek switches the water coolers? He's the strongest person in the office."

Griffin: Not me. Not me. Not me. I'll tell you why, because that could be a fake water cooler. Like an—

Travis: Oh, it's cake.

Griffin: Like one that looks like it full of water, but it's really light. I've been tricked so many times by people like, "Watch me pick up this couch." And it's an inflatable couch and—

Justin: Ah! I hate that!

Griffin: It gets me every fucking time.

Justin: If I was the strong guy in the office who did the water, I would do it at the same time every day. And then everybody in the office who liked guys like me, they would be like, "Psst, it's 11:30. It's time." [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, they would crack their ice-cold Diet Cokes. [chuckles]

Justin: Cokes. Yeah, they would crack it like, "Watch. [spoofs intro of Etta James' "I Just Want to Make Love to You"] Ba-ba-ba, ba-ba-ba! [sings] I don't want you—be no slave." And I'll be like strong, like got the thing on my shoulder. Like, "No problem, everybody."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But I'd make an event out of it. You know what I mean? Like it's gotta be—

Travis: Yeah, sell tickets.

Griffin: Sell tickets, yeah, for sure. Why not? Okay, I mean, the next sort of step in this process I think is actually quite ingenious. And that is working out. So step one, "Put in extra time working out on muscles that stand out."

This is the point that I had not even considered until Wikipedia kind of opened my eyes to, is if your body is huge enough, you have no choice but to show off your work. If your body's huge enough, everyone is going to see it no matter—like no matter what. And they'll know. They'll know. You won't need to pick up any water coolers or ipe your face.

Travis: Yeah, nobody—like Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, Vin 'The Man' Diesel, they don't have to like show off their—you just know that they're big, beefy—

Justin: That's a dumb—that's a dumb thing to say. That's a dumb thing to say. Because they're shirtless, like tank topped—big, tank topped, I mean, in all their films, like—

Travis: Not in Ballers. Not in Ballers, Justin.

Griffin: Not in Ballers, Justin. Not in Ballers.

Travis: Not in Ballers. He's in a suit.

Justin: But it exists—but we knew—we knew—

Griffin: He ain't nude in Ballers, Justin!

Travis: Not in Ballers, Justin.

Griffin: He ain't nude in Ballers, man!

Travis: He's in a suit in Ballers, Justin.

Griffin: He's in a suit in Ballers, bro.

Justin: But you already knew him from the wrestling. Your first exposure to him was in underwear. Like everyone knew about his musculature.

Griffin: That was so long ago. I don't know if he's still strong. Yes I do, look how big he is. He's so fuckin' big!

Travis: That was The Rock, Justin. I'm talking about Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson.

Griffin: There's a step in here that just says, "Blast your triceps. When it comes to big arms, biceps get all the glory. But a double bicep flex is also an obvious over the top way to show off your muscles. Biceps and triceps are

opposing muscle groups. So when one is working and flexing, the other is relaxed." That's interesting. I never thought about that. But only one side of your arm can be big at one time, the top or the bottom.

Justin: Do they outline in there what the triceps sort of... are? And what you might do to—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Do 'em.

Griffin: To blast 'em.

Justin: Like you know what I mean? Like—

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: To blast 'em.

Griffin: Well, do a—lift a—

Travis: The biceps are your pick up muscles. The triceps are your put down muscles.

Griffin: Are your set down muscles. So what you can do, Justin, is get something really heavy. Don't pick it up, but set it down a whole bunch of times.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's gonna get you so strong.

Travis: In fact, have a rack with a bunch of heavy things up high. You're gonna pick it up, put it down. Pick it up, put it down.

Griffin: Get a friend to put them—

Travis: And then get your friend who has huge triceps and weak biceps.

Griffin: Yeah. [chuckles] This is the problem though, is if your triceps are huge and your bicep is small, in cartoons, that is how they depict weakness. They depict—

Justin: Okay, so I got—

Griffin: Oh, shit...

Justin: I got my green screen.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: Here. It's the heaviest thing i could reach. So you're saying if I lift it up like this... This right here is my bicep.

Griffin: Yeah, extend 'em. Extend that.

Justin: [groans] Eh... It just looks—it doesn't look any better!

Griffin: How wild would it be if our story ended with Justin dropping a green screen on his head and dying on tape—like on tape?

Travis: He went out the way he lived.

Justin: [chuckles] Someone, please—guys, get a—

Travis: Justin, do you need me to come lift that up for you? I can protect you.

Justin: Guys, get over here! [chuckles] Please. Guys, I'm pinned.

Travis: Okay, we need to go to the Money Zone so I can have time to rescue Justin.

Justin: Drive over here, Travis, please! [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Fuck!

[theme song plays]

Travis: Justin's dead, so I've lost a huge source of revenue. But luckily, I've been using Rocket Money to save and to manage my subscriptions and my payments and all those things. You know, it's a new year, and it's time to out with the old and—no new, don't do new. You've got too many subscription services and you know you do.

Griffin: Do what the fuck you want with your finances. Just be smart about it. And Rocket Money helps you do that. Don't listen to Travis saying don't do this, don't do this. Just keep your head on a swivel. Rocket money does that for you.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: That's all I'm saying.

Justin: Do whatever you want.

Griffin: Do whatever you want, man. I'm not gonna tell you how to spend your money. You work hard for that shit. Sorry, Trav, go ahead.

Travis: I was just trying to talk about our sponsor—our advertiser this week, Rocket Money. I didn't know why you came in with such hate about what I was trying to say. Which is like you know, you signed up for a free trial or something, used it once and you forgot to unsubscribe. And now you're paying like \$9.99 a month for it and you completely forgot about it.

And Rocket Money will be like, "Hey, did you know you're paying \$9.99 for this thing?" And then they'll help you like shut it down. Because, man, sometimes canceling those subscriptions, they'll make you like jump through hoops and bend over backwards and show off your triceps.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Travis: And they won't let you cancel it easy. You know what I mean? You gotta fight 'em. And Rocket Money will fight for you, literally.

Justin: For you.

Griffin: Yeah. Travis—

Travis: And they have over five million users that have helped save its—helped savings members an average of \$720 a year. That's like one coffee a day. I don't know, I have no idea how much coffee is.

Griffin: Travis and I have a little bit of financial beef right now, just to provide some context to my flare up earlier. In that I did turn the first floor of my house into a franchise Ron Jon Surf Shop.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: And Travis thinks that was a fucking stupid thing. That was not a good way to spend my money. And he spent a long time of the holiday—a lot of the holiday break giving me a hard time for the Ron Jon Surf Shop that I run out of the first floor of my house now.

Travis: I'm going to be honest with you, Griffin, a big part of that is you brought it to me as an investment opportunity. And I said that's fucking dumb. And now seeing all the success that you've gotten from it, and I'm feeling a little jealous. I'm feeling stupid for not believing in your dream.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: And now here you are, a billionaire. You've been invited to be one of the new sharks on Shark Tank because of your successful Ron Johnson shop—

Griffin: I've made a billion dollars out of my Ron John—I've made a—I've sold a billion dollars of merchandise from my Ron—my unauthorized Ron Jon surf shop.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: And I could have... I could have gotten in on the ground floor. And I'm sorry. I'm sorry I didn't believe in you.

Griffin: No such luck.

Travis: This is just like when you bought that zoo. And I was like, "This is ridiculous." And then it saved your family.

Griffin: That's right. It saved my whole family and I made another billy off that one. And Rocket Money's gonna help me keep—

Travis: Yeah, how did you make a billion dollars off at zoo by the way?

Griffin: Yeah, exactly. I sold a lot of eggs.

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] So anyway, Rocket Money is a good app—

Travis: [chuckles] I sell [cheat??] eggs.

Griffin: Rocket Money is a good app that saves you money. Rachel and I literally did this yesterday, we literally opened up Rocket Money and saw that there were a couple of services we were subscribed to in Austin still. And Rocket Money was like, "Hey, please let us help you with this." And so it's fuckin' great and they help you save a bunch of money.

I don't know why we have to advertise Rocket Money. I don't know why anyone does. It's wild. It's money that is—should be yours. Cancel your unwanted subscriptions by going to rocketmoney.com/mybrother. That's rocketmoney.com/mybrother. [Rocketmoney.com/mybrother](https://rocketmoney.com/mybrother).

Justin: If you have recently moved or you're looking for a new physician for any reason, it doesn't have to be anything like that, it—

Travis: I'm looking for a cooler doctor. I mean, my doctor's fine—

Justin: Want a cooler doctor? I mean, that's all—it doesn't have to be more than that.

Travis: But he—I wanted doctor that skateboards in.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Like vaping. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yes!

Justin: But how do you find the coolest doctor that loves to vape and isn't going to give you a hard time about it? Well, go to Zocdoc. It's a free app and website where you can search and compare highly rated in-network doctors near you and instantly book appointments with them online. If you've ever had to look for a doctor, you know that it is a really overwhelming experience. I mean, my wife's a doctor and I still struggle with it regularly.

Travis: What?!

Justin: I know, it's tough. But Zocdoc makes it a lot easier. You can filter specifically for the ones that take your insurance. You know, so you're only gonna get the high quality results.

Travis: I'm gonna—hey, pause—there's an asterisk there because they can't say that you can filter for doctors that vape. But if it says that the doctor takes your insurance, that's code.

Griffin: That means they vape. [chuckles]

Justin: That's—then it means—it means they take your insurance.

Travis: It means they vape.

Justin: No, that means—sorry, legally speaking, that means they take your insurance.

Travis: Wink.

Justin: There is no way to find out if doctors vape on Zocdoc.

Griffin: The term pediatrician means that doctor vapes. So now you know that for sure.

Justin: Go to zocdoc.com/mybrother and download the Zocdoc app for free. Then find and book a top-rated doctor today! That's zocdoc.com/mybrother. [Zocdoc.com/mybrother](https://zocdoc.com/mybrother).

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Carrie: Hello, everyone out there! Thank you for coming to our service.

Ross: Yes.

Carrie: We are ready to heal you. We are Ross and Carrie. We are faith healers. Yes, you there?

Ross: Yes, sir, you have a spirit of—

Carrie: Not listening to enough podcasts.

Ross: We have the solution for that.

Carrie: Ugh, we can cure you.

Ross: You should listen to there are you have a spirit of not listening to enough podcasts we have the solution for that we can cure you should listen to Oh No, Ross and Carrie. Hallelujah. It's on Maximum Fun.

Carrie: Mm-hm! I couldn't have said it better myself.

Ross: Yes, ma'am?

Carrie: Yes, you there? Gladys?

Ross: A spirit of boredom?

Carrie: Oh my goodness, we have the solution for you! It is to listen to the podcast—

Carrie and Ross: Oh No, Ross and Carrie.

[Oh No, Ross and Carrie theme music plays]

--

[Depresh Mode with John Moe theme music plays]

John: The human mind can be tricky. Your mental health can be complex. Your emotional life can be complicated. So it helps to talk about it. I'm John Moe. Join me each week on my show, Depresh Mode with John Moe. It's in-depth conversations about mental health with writers, musicians, comedians, doctors and experts. Folks like Noah Khan, Sasheer Zamata and Surgeon General Vivek Murthy. We talk about depression, anxiety, trauma, impostor syndrome and perfectionism. We have the kind of conversations that a lot of folks are hesitant to have themselves. Listen, and you won't feel as alone. And you'll have some laughs, too. Depresh Mode for Maximum Fun. At maximumfun.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

[Depresh Mode theme music concludes]

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Justin: [mouths Munch Squad riff and sings] I wanna munch!

Griffin and Travis: Squad!

Justin: [continues riffing and sings] I want to much!

Griffin and Travis: Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. Guys, we were away for so long and then there was the Christmas holidays where we weren't talking about it, and I just have like a few—

Griffin: Yeah, please.

Justin: To update you on.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: First up, Chex Mix. Cheesy pizza remix. Really good.

Travis: I don't like that they have mix in there twice.

Justin: Too bad.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: It's really good.

Griffin: That means, Travis, they took the—when they remix the Chex Mix, they separate. So there's like a little pouch of melba toast and a little sack of almonds.

Justin: So I have a bevy, I have an assortment of stories for you. First off, I just want to let you guys know BK is inviting you to have it your way with half—

Travis: Oh, finally.

Justin: Have-sies. That's H-A-V-E hyphen S-I-E-S.

Travis: To what end?

Griffin: That's... that's not what half—that's not—I don't think that's what halvesies is, is it?

Justin: "Luckily for guests at Burger King, they no longer have to worry about deciding between fries or onion rings. Burger King, home of the flame grilled Whopper sandwich—" Is what it's not—like there's just—calling it a sandwich is really wild, y'all. "It's once again redefining what it means to have it your way with an all-new side. Have-sies.

Travis: It's not new. It's not new. It sounds like to me, Justin, they've mixed preexisting onion rings and fries.

Justin: No. No, no, no, it's—Trav, it's have-sies. "Say farewell to the frustration of picking just one side."

Travis: Thank god.

Justin: "And hello to finally enjoying both fries and onion rings. Just the way the drive-through dining room," and, well, world, "should be."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Burger King is all about letting guests have it their way. And while the flame grilled Whopper sandwich is often the star of the show, that also includes side options when ordering combo meals." Said Pat O'Toole, Chief Marketing Officer of Burger King North America.

Griffin: I'll fuckin' say!

Justin: Yeah. "We know guests love our onion rings that they can't get anywhere else, but it's hard to give up on the classic French fries. So we're excited to offer them both."

Travis: There's onion rings at other places. There's onion rings at other places.

Justin: No.

Griffin: Not really, pal.

Justin: Not really. Name one. Go, I'm putting you on the spot. Go.

Travis: A different BK? The one down the street from the other one?

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay, so you understand—yeah, no, they're not—you understand that all the Burger Kings across the country aren't competing with each other, right, Travis? It's not like a Highlander situation.

Travis: I don't know about all that.

Justin: Super quick, Dunkin' welcomed back the beloved pink velvet macchiato.

Travis: Fuck yes.

Griffin: Is that donut or a drinker or a—what?

Justin: Two days—

Travis: It's a lifestyle!

Justin: It's a macchiato. It was two days after Christmas. They're back with this pink drink. It's making its highly anticipated comeback after 1037 days. "Set to debut is a part of the new seasonal menu, launching nationwide on December 27th. The pink velvet macchiato adds a new twist to the season, as well as the pancake wakeup wrap."

Griffin: Pancake wakeup wrap.

Justin: Pancake wakeup wrap.

Griffin: Pancake wakeup wrap!

Justin: Responding to a—

Travis: Did they put the number of days in there? Because that's three years.

Justin: Yeah, 1037. "Responding to a flood of DMs, fan mail, petitions and heartfelt pleas, Dunkin' is thrilled to bring back the pink velvet macchiato. A sensation since it first debuted in January 2020, this visually striking, layered drink captured hearts with its bold espresso, red velvet cake flavor and notes of cream cheese frosting."

Travis: Hey, I don't want to be that guy, but if it was a sensation, why did they stop selling it?

Justin: I mean, that's always the question. I guess pink got expensive and they stopped selling it. That's usually how these things work. Their pink supplier went out of business or something.

Travis: Oh, they were licensing it from Pink?

Griffin: Pink—they make pink dye by squish up pink bugs that they find out in exotic parts of the world. And they were running low on pink bugs, so...

Justin: Yeah, they're chitinous and they are rare. I wanted—real quick before we go though, before we close the door on some of these like little things that didn't—oh, there's a calzone. A cheesy calzone epic stuffed crust pizza at Papa John's. That's just like a heads up.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: It's got ricotta in it.

Travis: That just feels like you're talking about something you're excited about, Justin. That doesn't feel—

Justin: Just like the Chex Mix cheesy pizza remix? Yes, Travis, I'm trying to bring more useful information into Munch Squad.

Travis: What if you could stuff a calzone with a cheesy pizza Chex Mix?

Justin: Now that was the news you could use. Now I have for you guys what—in the entire time I've been doing Munch Squad—

Griffin: Oh, boy.

Justin: Is the single sweatiest press release, that seemed the hardest to write.

Griffin: Oh, man...

Justin: The most lost. The saddest, maybe. The saddest person. I don't want to read into. But I think their life is sad.

Griffin: All right!

Justin: Because they're lonely or whatever. You know what I mean? I don't know why, but it just—

Travis: Something's off. Something's off.

Justin: They seem like a sad person. The headline is this; Dunkin' introduces new salted caramel creamer. Colon, sweet meets salty for your cup of coffee.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: At home. At home. Sweet meets salty for your cup of coffee.

Travis: We've done it!

Justin: At home.

Griffin: At home.

Justin: Now, just so you guys don't think I'm like—I'm like—I'm not editorializing. Like look at the—that's the headline. Sweet meets salty for your cup of coffee at home. Don't read ahead. I know you guys, you stinkers. Okay—

Griffin: I read the whole damn thing—

Justin: Dunkin' recognizes that everyone has their flavor preferences. [chuckles] Now there's no need to choose between sweet and salty in your cup of coffee.

Travis: Oh my lanta.

Griffin: Jesus Christ! Can I get the salty—can I get the salty coffee, please?!

Justin: Salty coffee over here, please! [chuckles]

Griffin: Pass the salt, my man!

Justin: Maybe a salted coffee today?

Travis: You know what? I hate to do it, it's so wasteful, but I'm gonna have to buy a salted coffee and a sweet coffee, and dump half of it out and mix it together because it's the only way!

Griffin: The only fuckin' way.

Justin: Dunkin' has introduced a new Dunkin' salted caramel creamer, available on retail and grocery shelves. So it'll be like grocery stores and like Best Buy. [chuckles] I guess you can get it there too.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "After selling out of caramel cold brew in the summer of 2022 and serving up approximately 6 million salted caramel cold brews in Dunkin' restaurants this past summer, Dunkin' heard fans loud and clear. They can't get enough of salted caramel in their cup." It partnered with the at home—

Travis: But they don't know where to get it! Up until now they're like, "Hey, we love this stuff. Is there any way—"

Justin: Is there any—

Travis: How do we replicate this at home?!

Griffin: How do we get the salty and the sweet flavors together?!

Justin: How are you doing this?! I'm so tired of choosing between sweet and salty coffee!

Travis: You flavor magis! How do you do it?!

Justin: "They partnered with the at home coffee and creamer experts at Danone to bring the flavor home in another format with a delightfully sweet and suddenly salty caramel coffee creamer."

Travis: Together?!

Griffin: Shut the fuck up!

Justin: And it's now available for at home enjoyment. [chuckles] Can you all not say—could you just not say everything the weirdest anybody's ever said it every single sentence, please? From fan—this a quote, "From fan favorite Dunkin' Extra Extra Creamer to limited time seasonal creamers, Dunkin' knows the importance that flavor plays in a morning cup of coffee. And so does Danone."

Travis: Oh?

Justin: That says—that's from Kallie Goodwin, the VP of marketing over there at Danone. "We are thrilled to introduce salted caramel creamer to the Dunkin' portfolio, giving fans another restaurant inspired creamer to enjoy."

Griffin: This is—

Justin: And then the person is still standing there in front of Kallie with their notepad like, "Say something else."

Griffin: And?

Justin: "Like it's not long enough yet, Kallie." Okay, "Salted creamer has been such a success in stores, so we wanted to bring that same excitement to the at home coffee experience as well."

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Holy shit, man.

Travis: Do you see what we're saying here?! Because you guys liked it, and we like money, but you're not always at our store...

Griffin: You don't live at a Dunkin' Donuts, unfortunately. We wish we could figure that out.

Justin: You'd think it would be over then, right? But then there's another paragraph. And it says; "When it comes to coffee creamer culture and habits, Dunkin' and Danone unite to individually deliver the flavors that coffee lovers crave for their morning brew at home. With the new salted caramel creamer, consumers—"

Travis: Did it start over?

Griffin: [chuckles] Is this on repeat? Is there a D.S. al coda in this press release?

Justin: "With the new salted caramel creeper, consumers can now find that same salty sweet flavor they ordered from the coffee shop right in their fridge." [chuckles]

Griffin: Fuck yeah. It's the second stanza, Travis. The second movement of the Dunkin' Donuts—

Travis: Is the next paragraph; "Help me, I'm trapped in a time loop. I have to learn to be a good dad and a better husband or I'll never get out of here."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: The coffee—the... "With the new salted caramel creamer, consumers can enjoy the same salty sweet flavor they ordered from the coffee shop right at home in their own fridge. Alongside fan favorite extra creamy and extra sweet Dunkin' Extra Extra Creamer, the salty caramel creamer is the latest permanent addition to Dunkin's—"

Griffin: Holy shit, guys!

Travis: Stop acting like it's not!

Justin: "At home coffee creamer lineup."

Travis: Is there a corresponding but opposite press release that you're supposed to read in a dialog with this that makes it make sense? Where there's like a very like—disbelieving voices like, "There's no way!"

Griffin: There's no fucking way!

Justin: Bull shit! No way!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: "I don't buy it!"

"No, I'm telling you—"

Justin: No, no, no, it's true. It's offered in 30—

Travis: "So you're saying I can only have it at the store?"

"No!"

Griffin: One flavor at a time though, right? Not both flavors.

Justin: Imagine you're reading this whole press release and you're like, "Wait, but how big are the bottles?"

"Offered in 32 ounce bottles at an SRP of 4.49, it's making its way to Target and other major retailers worldwide."

Travis: What is?

Justin: And they finally—they finally—no—"Dunkin' is always finding ways to help fans run on their favorite flavors throughout the year." And then it tells you how to find out more about that. And it's just—

Griffin: Literally just—

Travis: What more is there to find out?! Sorry, what—if there was more to find out they would have said it in this 16 page long press release.

Justin: This is not arbitrary. The last, most pointless press release I read was in the summer of 2023. And it was extra pink lemonade gum that had its entire press release. And I'm going to say that Dunkin' introduces new salted caramel creamer sweet meets salty—[chuckles] sweet meets salty for your cup of coffee at home has taken its place. So congratulations, Dunkin', you went above and beyond for us.

Griffin: We stand at the cusp—this is like the first episode of Mad Men. We stand at the cusp of a PR revolution, because there's a different way of doing things. If this press release had come across your desk and just said, "The Dunkin' Donuts flavor—the salty sweet Dunkin' Donuts flavor is now with you. You can control the Dunkin' Donuts sweet and salty flavor."

Travis: Yeah, that power is yours.

Griffin: The Dunkin' Donuts sweet, salty coffee flavor that we make in our buildings, you can now make in your building. Anytime you want.

Justin: It's tough—

Travis: Yeah. The means of production belongs to the people now.

Griffin: It is less than \$5. And you can have the flavors that way make.

Justin: It's already got redundant halfway through the headline.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: So you know that it's—like the article is not going to do you any favors. It was probably written by Chat GPT, but I don't know that for sure. [chuckles] I think it's definitely possible.

Travis: It's fun to read a Chat GPT that felt like you also gave it a word count. So like a student could use Chat GPT to write a paper and even Chat

GPT feels sweaty by the end of it. Like, Yeah, so Abraham Lincoln was the president, for sure."

Justin: I'm gonna have to—I'm a little worried about that, because I've been pretty stringent about—I'm really trying not to support any sort of like AI in the creative fields as much as I can. And I don't like the idea of our beloved, maniacal fast food press release writers to be subsumed by the machine. Like I don't like that, I want that to be a human job.

Griffin: Yeah! We, I mean—

Travis: You want people to be made sad by this job.

Justin: I want—I—Chipotle has a robot that mashes up the—that cuts up the avocados and peels them. Remember that guy?

Griffin: Yeah, I needed a human to tell me about that. I don't want a robot to tell me about that, because—

Justin: Because then all you're hear about is the robots.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Exciting new news!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Guess what? We figured out how to smash the avocados too!"

Travis: "Human taste buds will thrive."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Thank you so much for listening to our podcast. We hope you have enjoyed yourself. We hope you got a lot out of it. Hope you grew as a person.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Hope you're enjoying 20-Fun-Galore. In whatever way you observe.

Griffin: Yeah. Thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. It's a great track and a great experience.

Travis: Yeah, you're gonna learn, you're gonna grow, you're gonna love. I wanna tell—

Griffin: The experience of Montaigne's My Life Is Better With You is now available in your home and automobile.

Travis: I wanted to let everybody know, we've got a couple of exciting announcements. First, we've got some new merch up in the merch store. You can go to mcelroymerch.com. We got the Three Brothers Moon Shirt there. If you haven't seen it, it's really great and I love it very much.

Griffin: Very good.

Travis: And Candle Nights items are still available. Go check those out. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month will go to World Central Kitchen, which uses the power of food to nourish communities and strengthen economies through times of crisis and beyond. We also want to say a very exciting thank you to everybody last year. We were able to donate \$125,000 to 18 different nonprofits including Harmony House, the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund, immunized.org, Equality Florida, the First Nations Development Institute, the Transgender Law Center and World Central Kitchen. And that's thanks to y'all, through supporting through the merch and like Candle Lights and different stuff. And it's really amazing. We wouldn't be able to do that without you.

Griffin: Thank you all so much. Again, I can't stress this enough. It means the world to us. It is very life affirming. We do not tell those organizations about you when we bring in these giant cheques.

Travis: Yeah, it's just us.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: It's just us, they—

Justin: I hope you understand.

Griffin: Every single one of those orgs, when they see us roll up with our big cheques are like, "Wow, damn, where does it come from?" And it's like, "Elbow grease," is what we say. We do not tell them about you.

Travis: I also wanted to let everyone know I'm going to be at Sketch Fest coming up February 4th. I'm doing the Tra-Venture Zone, a night of Dungeons and Dragons, and also comedians. I'm going to be running a game. The players are Eugene Cordero, Danny Fernandes, Ron Funches, Erika Ishii and Connor Ratliff.

Justin: Wow, killer.

Travis: It's going to be an absolute blast. And so—

Griffin: That's a fuckin' lineup, man.

Travis: Thank you. You can go to sketchfest.com to get those tickets. That's, one more time, February 4th, sketchfest.com. Come see the show, it's gonna be super fun.

Justin: All right, well that's gonna do it for us. Let's—

Travis: Do we do a sound bath or whisper our wishes to Fungalore? I can't remember.

Griffin: Hm... I feel like we would need to workshop that bit before we deployed it live on set. [chuckles]

Justin: What about—whatever—what—what about—okay, hm... maybe we could close the show with a silent wish to Fungalore? This year.

Griffin: Oh, no one—so we don't say it out loud?

Justin: We don't say it out loud. And the listener can set their intentions for the rest of their week.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Okay, that's cool.

Justin: By making their silent wish to Fungalore—

Griffin: But we won't do any—this is fuckin' huge, Juice.

Justin: No jokes.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: No jokes.

Justin: No, I'm saying it's silence. The bit is silence.

Griffin: Yeah. Okay. We need a chime or something. We need some sort of thing to let people know to begin—

Justin: Okay, now no one get mad at me, but let me see what buttons I have. [in a deep, robot voice] My buttons, okay.

Griffin: Okay. So Justin has turned his voice into the devil's voice, which is the opposite sort of vibe than what we were going—

Justin: [in a high-pitched robot voice] I'm sorry—

Travis: [in a robot voice] What about this one? How does this—

Griffin: Okay, so—

Justin: [in a high-pitched robot voice] Wait, you guys have buttons too?

Travis: [in a robot voice] I got some buttons.

Griffin: I don't think this is an accident, Travis. I think he's trying out some new gizmos and gadgets.

Travis: [in a deep, robot voice] What about—which one is this?

Justin: Okay, guys, who knew that we had the—this show's gonna be funny again because this is—this is—[in a robot voice] good. This is really good.

Griffin: What the fuck? How come both of you guys have buttons and I don't have buttons?

Justin: [beep] I've always had—

Travis: You should get some—you need to get some buttons, Griffin. I don't know what to—

Justin: You just need to get some buttons. [beep]

Griffin: Oh, this sucks! I can't let—

Justin: Oh, there's a sensor. Mother—[beep] [chuckles] [beep] [beep]

Travis: We should have been using that the whole time. We said some stuff.

Griffin: Are we sure that the sounds are making it into the recording? Because there's nothing funnier to me than you guys just yelling shit and—

Justin: I actually—Griffin, I can say with 100% certainty they are not. [laughs]

Griffin: Okay, great. [chuckles]

Justin: I'm Justin McElroy!

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy!

Griffin: [chuckles] I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

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

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