

We missed you.

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Hey look—we hate this guy, too.



WHILE YOU HAVE 2.7 SECONDS BETWEEN TASKS, HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE DANGERS OF JOINING A UNION?

MicroPamphlets™ from Amazon

//DAVID BERNSTEIN GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Hello, Amazon Organic Labor Unit (OLU) #34452! Welcome to the Northwest Sector 6 Warehouse family! We hope that you will use the 2.7 seconds allotted to you between tasks to learn about the dangers of unionization.

Don't worry! For the next 2.7 seconds, your WorkRite Personal Shock Collar™ will allow you to think the word "union" without triggering negative feedback.

07:15:36

Amazon is not anti-union, Amazon is pro-YOU!

By joining the Amazon team, you have become part of a global family who loves you and wants you to succeed! That's why we have compiled this brief list of facts about unions to protect you from yourself:

- 1. Unions take away your freedom.
- 2. Unions take away your money.
- 3. Unions encourage sexual deviancy.
- 4. Unions... kind of feels communist just saying it, right?

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the first union board rulings resulted in Jesus's crucifixion.



11:45:17

Amazon is pro-YOU:

When you join an OLU, you become part of a greater whole—an organ within a larger organism. Outside connections must be shed. Amazon loves you. We are your family. Daddy knows best.

DID YOU KNOW?

Amazon Founder and CEO Jeff Bezos prefers to be called "Daddy."



13:30:04

Under the NLRB, you have the right to discuss unionization with your coworkers. Legally, we are not allowed to suggest there are consequences for doing so, but if we were allowed to, it'd look like this:

BEYOND THE SHOCK COLLAR:

While your WorkRite Personal Shock Collar™ will deliver a mild shock as a deterrent for any intrusive thoughts about unionization, in the event that these thoughts do not cease, you will be subject to further enrichment such as:

- Shaming
- Branding
- Tickle Torture
- The Gauntlet™

MORE ABOUT THE GAUNTLET™:

Warehouse Sector 7-B, between housewares and pet supplies, consists of a 200-square-yard labyrinth inhabited by genetically engineered "Morlocks™." Problem employees must spend three business days doing solo survival work.

DID YOU KNOW?

Morlocks™ have no eyes, but can "see" your body heat and "smell" your blood!



Your bio-family:

Many Amazon OLUs have lingering memories and concerns about their bio-family (henceforth referred to as "former-family," or FF), such as their spouses and children. Please note the following:

- 1. We know where they are.
- 2. A union could hurt your FF.
- 3. We know what they are doing at all times.
- 4. If you aren't in a union, your FF will be fine.
- 5. Donna likes to go for a jog at 2:15 PM on Saturdays.

amazon

23:30:56

Wisconsin: A Cautionary Tale

In 2019, our Wisconsin warehouse unionized. The results were rapid and disheartening. Windows were opened. Frequent laughter occurred. Order capacity dropped 7.2%. Pants-pissing dropped by 100%.

Following an immediate reduction in work hours to near-zero, the Wisconsin union voluntarily disbanded, and conditions improved significantly. Employees can now look at a picture of their former-family or daddy -approved celebrity for up to 45 seconds a day!

OLUs have gone on to do incredible things such as:

- OLU supervision
- OLU management
- Human Ottoman™
- Waxing Daddy's scalp

REMEMBER

"Without a union, maybe you could be the next Daddy!"
-Daddy Jeff

amazon

See more from David Bernstein: IG: @makemeahandmodel // Twitter: @go2therapydavid



EPISODE 1 - TOO FAST BUT NOT ENOUGH FURIOUS

We've got Dominic Toretto (me playing a character) on the pod. We talk dogs both big and small, what it must have been like for Lincoln when he got shot, and why you shouldn't eat food off of the sidewalk. A can't-miss episode.

EPISODE 5 - THE DRAFT

Welcome to a special NFL draft episode. We talk the draft, which teams are going to be good this year, and which teams might be not so good. I recorded this before COVID-19 took out the entire Patriots organization, but that hasn't changed any of my opinions. If you like this episode, please donate over at our Patreon.

EPISODE 17 - FAUCI-CCINI ALFREDO

Big episode today! Me and my ex-crush Larissa catch up on current events, chat about coronavirus and how to cure it, and make up our dream team White House cabinet. If you like politics, this is the episode you've been waiting for! Sorry this episode is late, my diarrhea was acting up and I got it all over the floor.

EPISODE 28 - PAM SPELLINGER

Pam is my most requested guest, and when you listen, you can see why. We get into everything, from how birds work to what men REALLY want. She's beautiful on the inside and out and I am in love with her. This episode is sponsored by Blue Apron if they want it.



//DIANA KOLSKY

In these trying times, one question lingers in many Americans' minds: "Is it time to go full Joker?" It's honestly hard to know! The careening ball of hellfire that is our socio-political landscape can feel too absurd to navigate—sob-cackling, donning some white face paint, and jerk-dancing to convicted sexual assaulter Gary Glitter on some nearby steps can sometimes feel like the only relief. Take this fun quiz to find out where YOU fall on our ever-spiraling mental spectrum:

When a dude in my book club laments what "we did to Hillary," I:

- A. Nod along listlessly on the Zoom call
- B. Hang up, email something about a bad connection, and eat a handful of table salt
- C. Toss my phone out the window and throw up blood

When my aunt forwards me an article on how fracking is actually *good* for the environment, I:

- A. Don't respond
- B. Write back, "Good one, Barb! HAHAHAHAHAHA"
- C. Drown my phone in the bathtub and cry blood

When my former coworker shares a *New York Times* piece on how to best spend quarantine (spoiler: it's in a beach house on Cape Cod!), I:

- A. Comment with the surfer emoji
- B. Comment with the monster emoji
- C. Spike my phone on the ground and piss blood

When my stepmom informs me that "there's a time and a place for #MeToo," I:

- A. Dig my nails into my leg until my incurable rage turns to physical agony
- B. Scream that she and her ilk are collectively reversing the women's rights movement an entire decade
- C. Whip my phone against the wall and shit blood

When my uncle texts me a photo of himself with ten friends sharing shrimp cocktail on the crowded patio of a restaurant, I:

- A. Remind him *again* that he's in the demographic death zone for COVID
- B. Delete his contact information
- C. Drop-kick my phone into the ocean and drink blood

When my roommate posts the Instagram poll, "Whose face would you rather sit on: Fauci or Cuomo" to her stories, I:

- A. Report as spam
- B. Screengrab it and mock her mercilessly in multiple group chats
- C. Set my phone on fire and make myself hold it until the first few layers of skin burn off my hands

When I finally get through on day 67 of calling the unemployment office for ten hours straight, but the line disconnects, I:

- A. Put on another pot of coffee—it's gonna be a long one!
- B. Loudly weep into dirty laundry until my dog gets nervous
- C. Cut off and mail all of my toes to Governor Cuomo >>



When I'm walking my dog in the park and a man screams at me from 30 feet away to "wear a fuckin' face mask, you dumb twat," I:

- A. Pull up my bandana—thanks for the reminder, pal!
- B. Politely shout back, "We're well over six feet apart, friend! Sounds like you're succumbing to social control and turning on your fellow man when we should be coming together! Love your Dave Matthews T-shirt!"
- C. Pick up my dog's shit with my bare hands and slowly eat it all

When a woman I went to high school with posts how it's impossible to co-parent two children without their nanny during quarantine, I:

- A. Scroll through to see who liked it; I will never forget
- B. Create a dummy account to comment "fuck u rich piggie, oink oink oink"
- C. Get a kids-in-cages photo collage quilt made and shipped to her mansion right before stabbing my own eyes out with an unsharpened pencil

When I find out I have to wear a Liberty Green bridesmaid dress to the wedding of my neoliberal cousin and some finance bro, I:

- A. Bank on it getting postponed
- B. Buy a revealing little aquamarine number to spite her
- C. Purchase the dress, put it on, and commit seppuku as they're exchanging vows

Quiz Results: Is it time?

MOSTLY As: Good Soldier

Congrats—this won't hurt a bit! You're dead inside.

Mostly Bs: Husk on the Edge

Uh-oh! You're just one death stat or dog-is-friends-with-a-duck post away from either sewing one-hundred facemasks for the elderly or procuring a firearm.

Mostly Cs: Full Joker

Fuck it all! Rejoin Amazon Prime and order eight pounds of clown makeup: tonight, the streets are yours!





19-4052

ANNOUNCING THE PANTONE COLOR **OF THE YEAR 2020**

PANTONE 19-4052 MAGA Blue

Instilling peace of mind to liberals on both coasts, this calming blue indicates, "I'm the good guy. I'm in the right," as the class war rages across town. This enduring azure shade highlights our desire to return to normal, whatever the fuck that is.

We exist in an era that requires putting on blinders and staring into the void until the darkness becomes the serenity we seek within. This yearning is perfectly expressed by the classic, dependable hue of Pantone 19-4052, pulling us back to the alleged Americana of our mind's wine-drunken eye. MAGA Blue is truly the numbing of despair incarnate."

-KEELA MINNOW **Executive Director of the Pantone Color Institute**



I've Been a Good Little Boy FOR A REALLY LONG TIME

//BRADY O'CALLAHAN

It's been months since New York went into shutdown, and it's been really tough for everyone. I applaud Governor Cuomo for taking the difficult but necessary steps to protect everyone by mandating the temporary closure of non-essential businesses and a near shelter-in-place order. It's not fun, but it absolutely had to be done to make sure we mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and its resulting death and destruction. Real heroes make hard choices.

As such, I've been a good little boy for a really long time, so now I think we should stop quarantine.

When the shelter-in-place order came through, I knew I had to comply, if not for me, then for my friends and family and neighbors who are most at risk. But that was like... a really long time ago. I know it has only been a few months, but you have to understand how long it feels, especially for a little boy who's been as good as I have. I think we can stop now.

I've been very sweet and polite through it all. I didn't even complain a lot. I showered most days and I read a big book (the hard kind, no pictures!). I banged all of my pots and pans at 7PM for our essential workers, even the ones I was cooking pasta in at the time (sorry 2B!). All of that is good stuff, and in all my twenty-four years on this earth, when I do good stuff, I get good stuff. So far, even after following the rules like a good boy, this quarantine hasn't been really fun. I hate that!

I understand why we have these social distancing rules. COVID-19 is a virus, and it doesn't care whether or not everyone feels fine and healthy, because even asymptomatic individuals can be carriers and spread the virus to everyone they encounter. I know it's important to keep six feet of distance from others while in public to discourage infection. I've seen

so many people not doing this, and it's infuriating that they just get to walk around not getting yelled at and not even thanking ME for following the rules. Regardless, I've been such a good boy that I think we can ease that down to five, or maybe even four feet if I promise to start making my bed. I've been such a good boy that I think I will be fine if I hang out with friends I really know, though, because they've been really, really good boys and girls so far too, and all us good boys and girls should be able to hang out. We're going to be smart and safe (and good!), so I think it will be fine. Don't you trust us?

Also, I don't want to wear a mask. It was cold and winter for such a long time, but now it's nice and summer out and my sunglasses keep fogging up. It's really annoying. And why should such a good boy have such a sweaty mouth?! I hate it, and as a bonafide good boy, I won't do it. You can't make me. John's governor doesn't make him!

I don't mean to undercut the severity of COVID-19. We're at the peak of infections, and the social distancing measures we've taken so far have proven to be effective. Other nations like South Korea and New Zealand have taken control of their situations by following rigid precautionary measures and providing widespread testing. We can win. We can beat this thing, and I'm proud to have done as much as I have.

But I'm bored.

It's unfair. You're being totally unfair! I was a really good boy. I'm going to run away. I hope I get it and die and then you'll be so sad! Then you'll understand why this is all so stupid and how you should have rewarded this very good little boy.

EPISODE 57 - ROOMMATE BRAD

Finally got my roommate Brad on the pod. We talk about how God can allow good things to happen to bad people for a little bit, Brad asks about the mysterious diarrhea stain on the floor, then Brad plays some characters. This episode goes a little long, but it's sixteen hours of solid content. Please forgive the loud buzzing noise in the background eleven hours in—someone was trying to chainsaw down our house.

STAYING POSITIVE DURING THESE TIMES

//MALIN VON EULER-HOGAN

NEGATIVE LEFTISTS KEEP COMPLAINING that capitalism has created an untenable society that brutalizes the working class, and, for some reason, they won't shut up about it. But we centrist Democrats know that it's like Dr. King said: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward staying positive!" Here are some positive slogans you can use to inspire hope and good vibes—because being mad is not a good look. What's stopping you from buying up the billboards in your town and spreading love? Only your bad attitude!



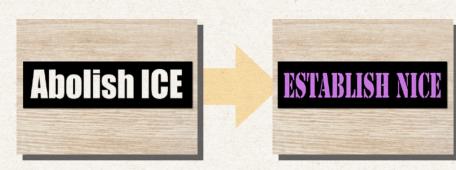


LET'S LEAVE THE HATE TO THE RIGHT!





NO NEGATIVE NELLIES HERE!







ALWAYS CATCH MORE FLIES WITH HONEY!









WHEN THEY GO LOW, WE GO HIGH!







A Letter to My Younger Self NINE WEEKS AGO

//CATHRYN MUDON

Dear Younger Cathryn,

Listen, kid, life comes at you fast—I remember that innocent girl on the left. In fact, I'm lying here on the couch wearing our "Hindsight is 2020" Bernie sweatshirt. It still fits. Sorta. It's dirty and reeks of B.O. because (this will sound nuts to you) going out to do laundry is now potentially life-threatening. The shirt's basically a souvenir from the now-closed window our decaying empire had to avert full fascism...so, suffice it to say, the marinara stain on the collar is the least of our concerns. I've been lying here for hours collecting sage wisdom for you, sweet younger Cathryn, reflecting on advice I wish I'd taken back when I was your age nine weeks ago:

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

...for the next few hours or so, just to get it out of your system. That audition tomorrow? Skip it. (Trust me, doesn't matter. You didn't book. Even if you had, the shoot's cancelled.) Instead, start developing some tele-skill, like, posthaste. Photoshop, contact tracing (look it up), anything, doesn't matter what, just tele. ...Yes, I'm aware we aren't good with computers! Just do it! Ooh, and grab us one of those standing desks with a wrist cushion while you're at it.

LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE

...but mostly focus on that first one. Remember a couple weeks ago at work when the client said Justin Bieber has Lyme disease,

so if he catches "that virus from China, he'll have corona with Lyme?" You chuckled because we enjoy wordplay, and imagining Bieber with a highly communicable disease was pleasant enough. Well, get your giggles out now, hunny, cuz this shit is no joke. *Laugh* and *love* can take a backseat. Especially *laugh*. (Oh, speaking of which, improv is pretty much done for).

HANG IN THERE, EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OKAY

...is a thing rich people keep saying, which I suspect they may actually believe. Things are definitvely not going to be okay. The American edifice is collapsing from core rot. Preventable deaths are multiplying exponentially every week. Trump is going to be in power until 2024, maybe longer, by which time the eco-crisis will have secured its death grip on the planet. You definitely can't afford some Tesla space-pod on Mars, but you *can* start researching a little plot of land in the mountains (with its own water source!) ASAP where we can live off the grid while the coasts erode and water riots wreak havoc in urban areas.

DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

Stop finding *tiny* issues to fixate on—invented concerns like debate performances (lol), media blackouts, and voter suppression. Worry less about the present moment and more about the future. It's much, much worse than you expect: the 2020 primary has dissolved into the most illegitimate sham in modern electoral politics (shhh, do NOT tell 2016 Cathryn). First, the Democrats ignored safety precautions in Illinois, Ohio, and >>



>> Wisconsin, forcing voters to risk their lives to participate in democracy, which resulted in record-low turnout and several poll workers dying-all, inexplicably, just to push through the candidate least equipped to beat Donald Trump. And now, Democrats are cancelling primaries and appealing federal mandates in states where people might have the audactity to voteby-mail for someone, ya know, who hasn't been accused of sexual assault, has bold policies for universal healthcare, and advocates for socialized economic programs (good news, though, by the time you're my age, these policies become super relevent). Trust me, the DNC colluding with the Buttigieg campaign (oh, he's super short and balding now, btw-might sound crazy to you, younger Cathryn, to watch the soul get sucked out of a man in real time, but that's normal now!) to use the Shadow app to incinerate the entire Iowa caucus...? What I wouldn't give to have that be something I "found disturbing." Count your blessings now, sweetpea!

APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

Get in the phone queue now, trust me. 💀

GREAT EPISODES OF TV

That Were Inexplicably Removed from Syndication

//TIM MAHONEY

I, LIKE THE REST OF YOU, WOKE UP EXACTLY TWO AND A HALF MONTHS AGO to find all my favorite eps of my favorite shows GONE. I did a lot of online searching and I honestly cannot figure out why these eps were removed. I refreshed my browser, bought a new computer, made my wife get us a new wireless router, called what turned out to be not my congresswoman but still a very passionate person, and all I have to show for it is a sweet new computer with great internet speed and a new passionate friend that's fun to talk to on the phone. I'm not being hyperbolic: I learned absolutely nothing about what may have happened to these eps.

With the help of my identical twin daughters, we've compared what's left of our DVD boxsets to the offerings on television/online and have made a list of all the missing eps. Maybe by putting this list out there, we can finally get to the bottom of why on God's green earth these great episodes of primetime television have been snuffed out.



Frasier

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner... and the Bathroom"

After Frasier gets a highly communicable disease from his neighborhood haunt, Café Nervosa, he tries to shut it down by running for community board president while hiding his

debilitating illness. Down the street from the café, Niles picks up a teenage pastime.

God. This episode is so, so funny. Frasier has to give a speech at the lectern while intermittently sneezing and vomiting into a wine decanter hidden behind the podium. I hope you saw it. My daughter Amanda thinks this ep has been erased because of the gross-out humor that may interfere with people's delicious lunches. I think she may be right.



Seinfeld

"The Hanky Hand"

When Jerry, Kramer, and Elaine run into Newman, who's super sick from a highly communicable disease, they suspect he's lying about being sore from working out. Meanwhile, George gets involved with >> >> a young skateboard gang, where he picks up an interesting pastime. Guest starring Danny Tamberelli, Elden Henson, and Vincent LaRusso.

Man, the memories. There's this great moment where Newman's hiding in his closet and can't stop coughing up blood. Finally, they find him hiding in a pillowcase that's all red at the closed end where his esophagus has just been gushing blood. I think now with everything being so PC, the TV overlords don't want to hear one bad word about the post office. If we're not careful, this whole country won't be able to laugh. I really hope they bring back this episode.



Friends "The One with the Wrong Birthday Day"

Ross, after picking up a highly communicable disease, tries his best to miss his own birthday party by

having his pet monkey, Marcel, forge his birth certificate. Elsewhere, Phoebe, Monica, and Joey get roped into participating in a skateboard competition, where they take up a dangerous pastime.

Every time I hear the *Friends* intro song I do those little claps, both right when I'm supposed to and afterward because I love it so much. This episode is a classic. "I'm uhm, I'm trying on clothes?" God, such a classic line. I suspect those PETA guys are behind removing this episode. The monkey does look really tired throughout the episode, but it's also like—so what? My uncle owns a bunch of horses. You gonna cancel him too, PETA? That would be insane because he didn't even do anything.



Everybody Loves Raymond "Yours Truly"

Debra and Ray are the targets of some all-toomature mischief on Halloween night. They both

have a highly communicable disease, and they get a little too carried away planning the perfect payback. Meanwhile, Robert picks up a risky pastime as he joins a professional skateboard team.

Admittedly, I can maybe see why this ep was canned. There's that one moment where Debra, dressed up as a spooky ghoul, pops out of the recycle bin. It's honestly not funny at all. My daughter Synthia cried when I made her watch it on my birthday last year, and quite frankly, I'm surprised I forgot about it. This episode is bust-your-gut funny, but also kinda very scary. Please bring it back, but also, maybe add some warnings before that scene happens.



That '70s Show "Dark Side of the Room"

It's the first day of summer break, and Eric already has too many problems to count. One of the problems is that he caught a highly

communicable disease even though he self-quarantined and took every precaution offered up by the CDC. Red is skeptical and becomes infected himself. Meanwhile, Fez is a professional skateboarder now and is really good, and more importantly, Jackie approves (even though skateboarding is very, very unsafe.)

I'm tearing up just thinking about this episode. It's somehow so, so funny and also, like, very actually real? When Red turns around, I swear he's crying. I know that's insane, but if you look, his eyes are all glossy before he turns. I would show you, but the episode is maybe deleted permanently. I hope not, though. I loved to laugh at the funny heartwarming jokes and scenes in this funny, funny show. I just don't understand. Why deny us the pleasure of seeing these moments?

I'm sorry if this made you sad. It's not my intention to make anyone bummed out, but there's some serious cultural touchstones that are MIA. While I'm lucky to have a near photographic memory and my daughters who can do a lot of good impressions of my favorite characters, I know others aren't so lucky. If you happen to see any of these eps reappear, please contact me. I'd love to see them again, because now especially—during a scary pandemic—we could all use a good laugh.



"NASTY WOMAN" BUTTON: \$0.50

"SMASHING THE PATRIARCHY IS MY CARDIO" TOTE BAG: \$3

"WELL-BEHAVED WOMEN RARELY MAKE HISTORY" T-SHIRT: \$5

"WE ARE THE GRANDDAUGHTERS OF THE WITCHES YOU COULDN'T BURN"
YOGA BAG: \$15

"THE FUTURE IS FEMALE" RUNNING SNEAKERS: \$25 (PAIR)

"WHEN THEY GO LOW WE GO HIGH" JUICER: \$35

"THE BEST MAN FOR THE JOB IS USUALLY A WOMAN" LEATHER PORTFOLIO CASE: \$40

"THIS PUSSY GRABS BACK" CUSTOM KNITTED PUSSYHAT: \$50 (NEVER WORN)

"SUSHI ROLLS NOT GENDER ROLES" SEVEN-PIECE CRYSTAL SUSHI SET: \$100

//DAN LOPRETO

"NEVERTHELESS SHE PERSISTED" IRON FIREPLACE TOOLS: \$250

"NOTORIOUS RBG" TIFFANY & CO. COLLAR NECKLACE: \$300

"BELIEVE WOMEN" CORVETTE: \$58,000



Op-Ed: WHY BERNIE SANDERS SHOULDN'T BE ON THE BALLOT

//SHAD O. E. FIGURE

NEW YORK VOTERS WERE VERY UPSET with our recent decision to appeal AGAIN to have the New York primary cancelled. To the untrained outsider, I can see how this might seem like we here at the NYBOE are purposefully corroding the foundation of democracy, but there is actually a very REASONABLE explanation for the fact that Bernie Sanders will NEVER, not ever, be on the New York State ballot. Allow me to explain:

As we push to re-open the state and save Neiman Marcus, it is not only foolish to allow people to gather in person to vote—it is wrong. As Board of Elections member Doug Kellner has said, "(W)hat the Sanders supporters want is essentially a beauty contest that, given the situation with the public health emergency that exists now, seems to be unnecessary and, indeed, frivolous." I have to agree.

There is no point in voting now, just as there was no point in voting after Super Tuesday. It is over. We have decided democratically to back Joe Biden, a cool, hot, young guy everybody loves. Voters can still express their politico-consumer choices in the state and local level primaries, of course. Anyone who can read the incredibly fine print at the bottom of the press releases and news articles can attest state and local primaries are still happening. Only THE Presidential PRIMARY IS CANCELLED.

The Board of Elections here in New York State wants everyone who is able to vote to do just that. To address the people with something like, "DO NOT VOTE. IT IS HOPE-LESS. WE ARE YOUR MASTERS. THE FORCES OF CAPITAL HAVE REAS-SERTED CONTROL THROUGH THE APPARATUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN NEW YORK AND WILL EXERT EVEN GREATER INFLUENCE MOVING FORWARD," would be cartoonish—parodic, even. This is why we have taken the important step of posting the information on mail-in voting in every COVID-riddled

subway station in the city, starting tomorrow. We simply cannot risk people getting sick just so said people can exercise some invisible right that could jeopardize our powerful messaging.

It is typical of a hypocrite like Senator Sanders to declare himself a socialist (a word that means sharing and being liberal the same way as Joe Biden) only to horde delegates. You cannot take it with you, Mr. Sanders. They are not Beanie Babies. Ridiculous! If he is truly a principled man, he will graciously GIVE his delegates to Joe Biden, the guy we already said won. It is the dignified and rational response to the precious freedoms we enforce.

Governor Cuomo (another cool, young, sexy man) is committed to allowing people to vote for him and Caroline Maloney this July (or August, maybe?) by mail and affidavit (who gives a shit?), to be counted later by prisoners. To state for the record: the mainstream party is in no way attempting to suppress the vote. We are not in any way discouraging progessive and socialist voters in the primaries to come out for whoever their candidates are. We absolutely want you to pretend like you can re-elect Julia Salazar or get a psycho like Jabari Brisport into whatever stupid little pissant position he wants. Zohran for State Assembly? Go ahead, sure, whatever, give it a shot. We literally could not give less of a shit—only five idiots who contribute to the Citations Needed Patreon will be motivated to vote, and that is purely coincidental. And hey, the DSA is always welcome to pretend it matters to the Democratic Party. In fact, we love young powerful girlboss DSA-ers like AOC who batted their eyelashes right in through the back door. We cannot wait to have her serve in a Cuomo presidency as a secretary or typist after she is defeated by whomever it is we have "running" against her.

In conclusion: Shut up, all of you. Cancelling the primary is a necessary safety precaution. Only delivery guys and people awaiting trial on Rikers Island need to get sick. We do not need anyone who makes over \$50k a year—or a white college student—to get sick on top of that. The Democratic Party of New York and the Board of Elections (which I promise are completely separate) are committed to allowing the people to vote for our candidates, and so they shall on June 32nd. Excelsior and good luck!

Mr. Figure is head of the New York State Board of Elections Secret Council on Public Relations Biden for President and the Democratic National Committee cordially invite you to:

A Virtual Conversation with Hillary Clinton, Tom Perez, and Joe Biden

via Zoom*

//MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN



CONTRIBUTION LEVELS:

- **\$2,800 Peasant:** For those paupers who can't swing more than the individual maximum for one of the least inspiring candidates in history. If this is all you can afford, we don't really want your money. Maybe you'll be able to connect to the Zoom, but your display name will be something like "SHITMOUTH," and Tom Perez will private message you demeaning comments throughout the call.
- **\$5,000 Simp:** Access to the Zoom, plus we'll send you a close-up photo of Joe Biden's navel and blonde leg hairs. Hillary Clinton will have Chelsea "like" a tweet of your choice (no politics or photos of Comet Ping Pong).
- **\$7,500 Sap:** All of the above, plus a single melted scoop of Jeni's ice cream and a locket of hair sniffed by Joe himself, overnighted to you in a wet envelope.
- **\$10,000 Sucker:** Joe Biden will hold a press conference to say you remind him of his dead son, as he is strangely wont to do. Stacey Abrams will become jealous of you and act weird to you at parties.
- **\$25,000 Blood Bitch:** Biden will personally use your blood and kidneys to stay alive in his futile attempt to win the White House.**
- **\$45,000 Lost Soul/Blue MAGA:** At this tier, we know you've truly given up hope that anything can ever change and that the Democrats can be a force for good and make this country better. You drank the Kool-Aid and you're thirsty for more. That's why we're not giving you a thing. Fuck you.
- **\$75,000 Scumfucker:** Everything in the "Lost Soul" tier, plus one of the less important cabinet positions (it's not like we're trying to win this thing with our *Weekend at Biden's* nominee, anyway).

- **\$175,000 Finger Party-Goer:** Access to the Center for American Progress think tank, where we'll publish any whacked out bullshit you want (please limit pro-eugenics screeds to one per month). Plus, the Tampa Bay DJ we inexplicably hired will play a song of your choice.
- \$355,000 Being Jill Biden: You will get to live as Dr. Jill Biden for a week and a half. Joe will personally call you his wife (and sometimes his daughter) in both public and private. He'll also sit next to you in bed while you read, clipping his toenails, loudly complaining that you bought the wrong kind of black tea.***
- **Soo,000 Friend of Ghislaine: A weekend getaway on sprivate plane to an unspecified island location just off international waters. Enjoy the kind of lifestyle only the monstrously rich and powerful can enjoy—hint, hint.

Admission is limited, as the old Gateway 2000 Tom Perez found in his garage only has a Pentium II processor, and the thing really hangs up when too many people start speaking at once.

- *As with any Zoom, there might be some technical difficulties. Joe's grandkids are playing video games again and tying up the 56k modem.
- **Transplant surgery paid for by your insurance. Biden For President is not liable for any additional organs that may be removed from you during surgery.

***CPR knowledge required—Joe might go at any moment.



Dear Diary: WHAT IS THAT WEIRD GLASS CLOSET w/ A WALL SPRINKLER NEXT TO MY TOILET?

//DIANA KOLSKY

5/18/20 - Day 67 in Cuomo's lockdown

In such a small dwelling, I am familiar with everything and its purpose: the Macbook Pro is a reminder of credit card debt, the fridge for photos of old new babies, the phone for text alerts of the latest corona death tolls, the rug for collecting my hair as it falls out... but something new and mysterious has materialized in my little universe.

Today, like most days, I woke up. I felt pressure in my bowels, and I knew I needed to go to the small room with tile on the floor. (As you know, Diary: I only forgot that one time, on Day 17—I have the balled-up pressure excrement sheet in the corner of my studio apartment to prove it. It no longer emits an odor. I could probably still sleep on it.)

I rolled off the couch and headed for the small room with the tile floor to expel my digestive waste. I didn't rush the process, since it was the only thing on my agenda for the day. I sat so long my legs went numb, and the corona death toll went up by 1270. Eventually my phone died—probably for the best, since my hands have become tight little pain-claws. I looked around the small tiled room for toilet paper and realized my last roll

was in the colder fridge on top of the fridge. That's when I saw it: the weird glass closet with a wall sprinkler, right next to my toilet.

It was so close I could touch it, and I did. I ran my swollen knuckles over its surface—smooth yet lumpy, mottled glass. Maybe just hard plastic. It had a door. I could see through it, but only in a fractal-patterned sort of way. It was beautiful. Was I on the toilet, or was I in the middle of the Louvre? I pulled on the handle, and it stuck, so I yanked again, which threw me off balance and onto the floor.

I drag-crawled my tingling limbs over to the weird glass closet, my ankles hog-tied with Christmas pajama bottoms, a skid-mark itching on my left buttock. Belly on the cold linoleum, I peered like a meerkat into the weird glass closet. It was all white inside, like a rejected *Space Odyssey* set piece, a perfect vertical rectangle. My neck is perma-bent into an agony hump, so I had to roll onto my back to look up. That's when I noticed the sprinkler adhered to the closet wall. How bizarre! I blacked out.

I woke up in the dark to the sound of pots and pans banging together and neighbors screaming out of their windows—the beginning of night. I relaxed at the familiarity of the ritual. Everything was normal. I was sore and cold. I flushed my waste log, pulled up my Rudolph slacks, and limped back into the big room, to the side with the oven. I opened and ate a can of expired beans over the sink. I finished my beans, filled the can with water and drank it. I have come to look forward to the bean water. Water. Wet. Sprinkler. The weird glass closet! Is it real? If so, what is it for? A box to drown yourself? I experienced the first twinge of excitement I've felt in days... months, maybe. Phone's dead; no way to know.

I cannot wait for tomorrow when I go to the small room with the tile floor again. I hope the weird glass closet is still there. If it is, I am going to go inside it and hopefully break through to another, better, wetter, world.



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The Biden Campaign's Unused Sketch Comedy Pitches

//MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN, JAMES DWYER & PATRICK KEENE

After the Biden campaign released their hit viral comedy skit with former comedian Keegan-Michael Key, *Functionally Dead* managed to obtain a copy of the unused pitches for the Biden/Key comedy duo. These are those pitches:

- Keegan cheats at a game of Battleship, and Joe threatens to drone strike Keegan's family.
- Keegan grills hot dogs on a George Foreman Grill. Joe says, "I'll have one." Keegan tries to push the hot dog through the camera. Joe says, "Now that's a bunch of Malarkey, Keegan."
- Joe says, "Key and Peele was my favorite SNL." Everyone laughs.
- Joe and Keegan recreate the famous chocolate bon-bon assembly line bit from *I Love Lucy* but instead of bon-bons, it's thick vitamins. (Joe refuses to swallow his vitamins so maybe we can trick him with this.)
- Joe pretends he is Jordan Peele (Joe seems REALLY enthusiastic about this pitch—find a way to not do this).
- Keegan pretends he's an undecided voter—"Do I vote for a pathological liar or the former VP to the best President in my lifetime?" (Unusable: We shot multiple takes and each time Joe forgot it was a bit and told Keegan to vote for Trump.)
- Keegan and Joe recreate the memorable "Weekend Live audition" scene from Don't Think Twice.
- Keegan's worried he gained weight in quarantine. Joe says Keegan's got too much baby fat around the ears (not sure what this means, Joe pitched it.) Joe does half a bicep curl and insists he's "healthier than a train of mules."
- Keegan asks Joe if he and Dr. Jill are having "quarantine sex." Joe laughs for a minute and a half before saying "you betcha." Keegan says "TMI!" directly to camera.
- Keegan asks Joe who he would want to play him in a movie about his life. Joe mentions that casting is tricky nowadays because "colored folks aren't allowed to play white like they used to." (I say we shoot this and keep it as insurance if we ever have to blackmail him.)
- Joe asks Keegan what song he's been singing to make sure he's been washing his hands for 20 seconds. Keegan says he's going with the old standby—"Happy Birthday." Joe says he likes "Uptown Funk" but can never remember the words, so he got Bruno Mars to sing it for him. We then cut to a shot of Bruno Mars from behind (like Larry David used to do when playing Steinbrenner on Seinfeld) singing "Uptown Funk." Joe claps along, like a simple child.
- Joe's eye starts bleeding again so Keegan suggests some fun Zoom filters (Potato, Sunglasses) to cover it up.
- Joe delivers another one of his folksy, rambling anecdotes. Keegan leaves the screen for about 30-40 minutes.
- At 7:00PM, Keegan and Joe can put pots on their heads and bang them for essential workers. Be sure to key in the new background with the window onto the greenscreen in Joe's windowless hospital room.

I READ THIS ZINE, AND NOW I'M EVEN ANGRIER.

What do I do now?

//DAN LOPRETO & ROSIE WHALEN

Here are some articles and resources to check out concerning the connection between COVID-19 and already existing systems of oppression and inequality:

Pandemics, Inequality, and the #CoronavirusSyllabus / Institute for Advanced Study "Sociologist Alondra Nelson is an expert on the intersection of race, inequality, science, and technology... [S]he created the #CoronavirusSyllabus, a crowdsourced list of resources that sheds light on the social implications of the pandemic."

When Blackness Is a Preexisting Condition / The New Republic

"COVID-19 may fit the profile of an equal opportunity assassin, but the trajectory of its rampage throughout the United States strongly indicates otherwise... When a crisis disproportionately hurts those who are already structurally marginalized, the structural neglect of these factors further entrenches preexisting inequalities."

Stop Blaming Black People for Dying of the Coronavirus / The Atlantic

"Too many Americans are infected with the belief that a cause or the cause of higher black infection or death rates is that black people are not taking the viral threat seriously, and that white people have lower infection and death rates because they are taking COVID-19 seriously. But the evidence points in the opposite direction."

Center for Black Women's Wellness / Donate HERE

"With boots on the ground, we continue to support families during the Coronavirus pandemic, and dedicate ourselves to advancing health equity. Your support will help us provide healthcare, economic support, and hope to underserved Black women and their families."

Movement for Black Lives / Donate HERE

"Created as a space for Black organizations across the country to debate and discuss the current political conditions, develop shared assessments of what political interventions were necessary in order to achieve key policy, cultural and political wins, convene organizational leadership in order to debate and co-create a shared movement wide strategy."

"OUR LIBERTY IS BOUND TOGETHER." -LILLA WATSON

EPISODE 232 - MARTIN SHORT

I've been trying to get Martin on for over a year, and after my aunt (his entertainment law-yer) reached out, it finally happened. We talk about dogs, the difference between comedy and drama, and how SSL encryption works for websites (I knew, he didn't). We packed a lot into this five minute episode, so check it out!



We'll leave the light on for ya: functionallydead@gmail.com



FOLKS TO BLOCK: