

# QUEER LIBERATION NOT RAINBOW CAPITALISM



FUNCTIONALLY  
DEAD

MAY 31, 2021//VOL. V, ISSUE 5

# Happy Pride Month!

//COVER ART BY MARY Z GUEST CONTRIBUTOR, [@ComradeMary](#)

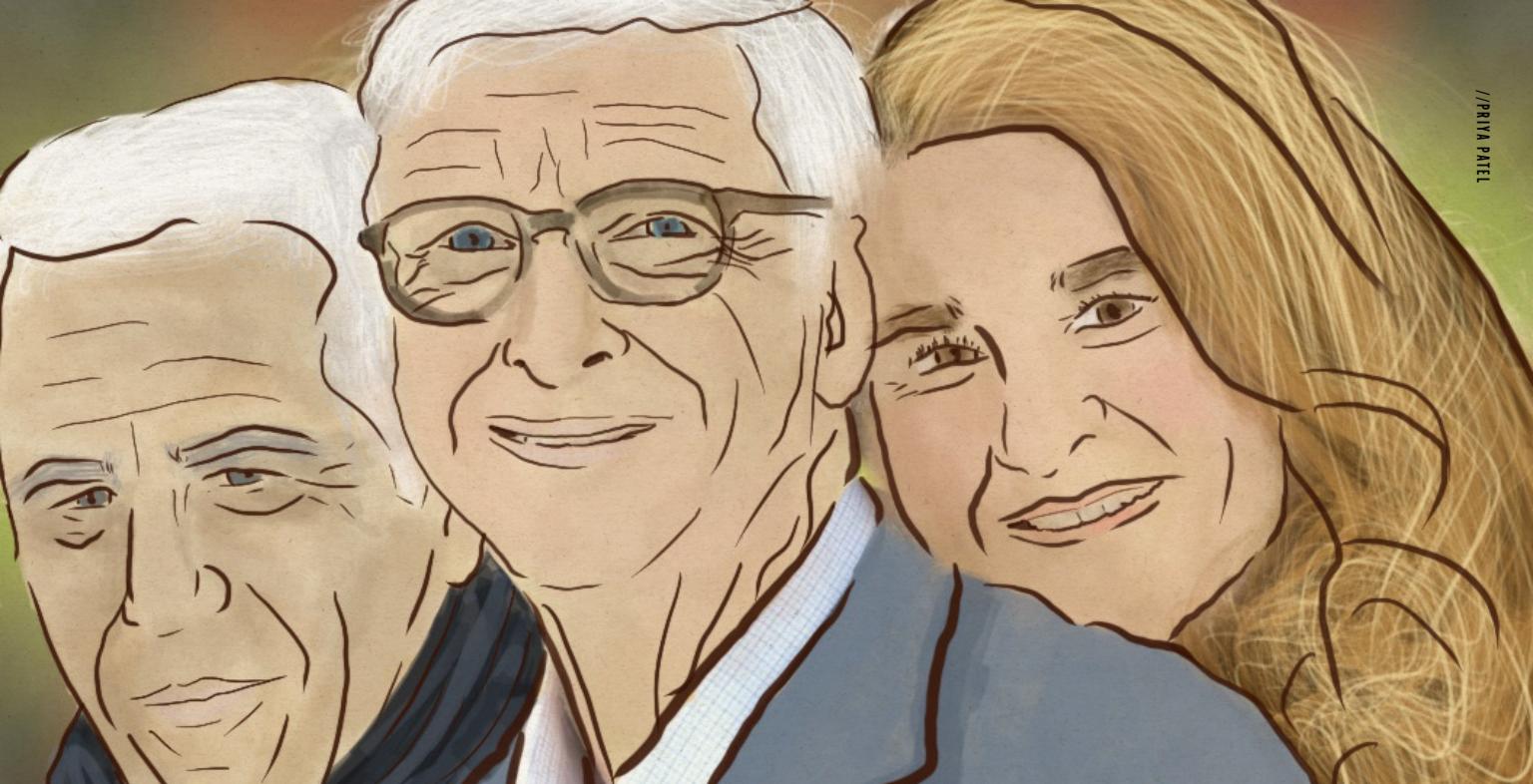
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*Steve Williams is a writer and musician based in Brooklyn. His only claim to fame is the Solo Upright Bass SpongeBob Squarepants Tribute Record "Bikini Bottom Bass." @stephenw56*



# MELINDA GATES: GOOGLING “BILL GATES” WAS THE LAST STRAW

// MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN

AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, I recently filed for divorce from my husband, Bill Gates. Why bother divorcing someone when we both have enough wealth to afford separate homes on separate private islands, you might ask? Well, I wasn’t happy in my marriage to begin with, but Googling “Bill Gates” was the last straw.

When I Googled “Bill Gates,” I was shocked by what I found. Antitrust violations at Microsoft?! The heck?! This was not the man I married. I married one of

the good billionaires! A man I assumed to be a Pro-Trust billionaire. When I met Bill, I only knew him from his charity work with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. But apparently he created an unlawful monopoly via decades of anti-competitive business practices! If I had known about any of this Microsoft stuff, I certainly would have thought twice about accepting his proposal.

I Googled “Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation” too, and I was amazed to find that

it’s not all that great of an organization. Did you know the Gates Foundation had major holdings with some of the world’s biggest polluters, like Dow Chemical? Or that almost half of the Gates Foundation’s investments are in companies that are largely responsible for our climate catastrophe? I thought poor people who used plastic straws caused that!

I was so busy running the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that I had no idea what Bill was doing with the Bill and >>

>> Melinda Gates Foundation. I was completely caught off guard by the news that he urged Oxford to close source their COVID-19 vaccine, deliberately prolonging the pandemic. How is this the same guy who I went to all those board meetings with? I feel as though Bill did all of this work behind my back at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation while he knew I'd be off busy doing work for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation!

I was also surprised to learn that Bill has pledged to give away the vast majority of his wealth, but somehow, keeps making more money. How the heck does that

work?! I certainly just assumed he was living up to his word when he was spending \$25 million on a private island. And did you know he was one of the richest men in the world?! I certainly didn't until I Googled him. You'd never know by the way he dresses. Those sweaters?! Yeeuch.

And now, the Epstein stuff. When I saw that, I was floored. I had literally no idea. Sure, he'd leave one of our five multi-million dollar estates and fly to New York to meet with him on a regular basis from 2011 to 2014, years after Epstein had been convicted of soliciting child prostitutes, but I didn't know the full extent of their

relationship. To me, Jeffery Epstein was just some convicted sex criminal billionaire my husband loved to be around while he cavorted with his cadre of unconvicted sex criminal billionaires.

All of this is to say that you ladies out there should Google the men you're with, especially if they're Bill Gates (I'm looking at you, multiple female employees at Microsoft whom Bill Gates asked out while we were married in the mid 2000s, of which I just recently learned about). You just can never know what stuff you definitely knew about was happening without your knowledge. ☠

**You're still mad about the JARED thing?**

**...Really??**

**That was kind of a long time ago.**

**Most of his victims are adults now, we're pretty sure.**

**He's in prison until at least 2038, but that's not enough for the woke crowd, huh?**

**Fine. Ugh. Hold on, we can do this.**

**All right: WE HEAR YOU.**

**Starting June 2023, our beloved Footlong™ will be replaced with a 12-inch circumference circular sandwich named:**

**The FootRound (Trademark Pending).**

**This will separate our outdated phallic sandwiches from our current stance against pedophilia.**

**It will be about thirty dollars; y'all played yourselves.**



# You think you're woke?

Then why are you  
anti-apartheid?

◀ All iCloud



At Hobby Lobby, we believe in [A SET OF VALUES].

We have a long history of [GENERALIZED WORK WE'RE PROUD OF].

That's why, when we saw [RELEVANT NEWS STORY], we knew we had to take action.

Starting [SOMETIME], we will be [CHANGE]. [REPEAT VALUES].

WE ARE OVERLOADED. TOO MANY CONTROVERSIES FOR ONE PR TEAM TO HANDLE. PLEASE FILL THIS IN FOR ALL FUTURE OUTRAGES. THANK YOU.

WE ARE SORRY, GENERALLY SPEAKING.

**HOBBY  
LOBBY**





ELIZABETH

# HOW TO PRETEND YOU'RE WHITE IN FRONT OF YOUR WHITE BOYFRIEND'S PARENTS

//MADELEINE TOMASOA GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

HAVE YOU EVER SHOWN UP for dinner with your white boyfriend's parents only to belatedly realize that you're not white? Have your white boyfriend's parents recoiled in horror upon realizing that their future grandchildren will put 'half-white' in their TikTok bios? Perhaps you've been through the harrowing ordeal of accidentally serving bird's eyes chili in your cooking in a feeble attempt to win them over with *Exotic Dishes From Your Culture*?

Rest assured, this happens all the time! Follow these easy steps to ensure that you too will be appreciated for who they perceive you to be, and not who you really are!

## Reject Skincare

Stop moisturizing! Stop doing anything to your skin! Your boyfriend washes his face with a Dial bar and your boyfriend's withered white parents definitely didn't wear SPF in their youth, so why should you? It's a great way to save money, and an even better way to get that extra-crispy raisin-like skin texture that is to die for! Literally! You'll increase your chances of skin cancer with this simple hack! >>

## Rename Yourself

I'm sure your parents put a lot of thought towards your name, but let's be real—it's just too hard to pronounce! Stick with the gendered classics like "James," or "Lisa," or "Kyle." They're caucasian classics for a reason! And if you want to add some cultural flair to your new adoptive white name, you can simply capitalize random symbols and use multiple letters to make a single vowel sound like KayLeigh and LeAnne!

## Bring Up Meghan Markle Out of Nowhere and Denounce Her in the Same Breath

If they're 'progressive', then you've subtly insinuated that you are the Better Pee-Oh-See, but if they're overtly racist, even better—you can just join in!

## Ignore Heavy Topics Such as BLM While You Cut Into Flavorless Chicken Breasts for the Third Night in a Row

It's 5PM. You're inexplicably having the earliest dinner of all time with your boyfriend's family as the news highlights racial injustice somewhere across the globe. You can sense your boyfriend's mother, Lauren, tense up in her suburban seat as her husband Mark picks up his knife to gesture towards the TV. This is where you jump in. Quickly veer the conversation away by loudly proclaiming how this is the best meal of your life... yes, even

better than the chicken we get back home, as my tiny nation cannot keep up with Western agriculture and has suffered greatly thanks to Western goods being subsidised heavily so that local produce suffers. All will be well!

## Hire a White Person from Fiverr to Replace You

Fiverr is an online marketplace for freelance services. It's also an excellent way to find cheap, non-union labor! Get an actor to replace you throughout your meeting with your white boyfriend's parents and you'll fool them in no time! Insist that any racial disparities are simply caused by 'Photoshop' and 'the deceitful nature of social media!' After all, isn't this just your way of claiming colonial reparations?

Wait, what's that? You've worn colored contacts, donned a blonde wig, and Melissa is telling you how she's always admired your 'golden brown complexion' and seemingly small stature, despite the fact that your height is above the national average? Just break up with him, man... after all, dating you is your white boyfriend's only way of rebelling against his family! Prepare to be replaced by a more plain, quieter white equivalent! ☠



**We heard you. More importantly, we listened.**

Here at Apple, we strongly believe that Black Lives Matter. That's why we have started our Youth Diversity Hiring Initiative. This will create 50,000 jobs for youth in Africa, which our cultural consultants have assured us is a rich source of Black Lives.

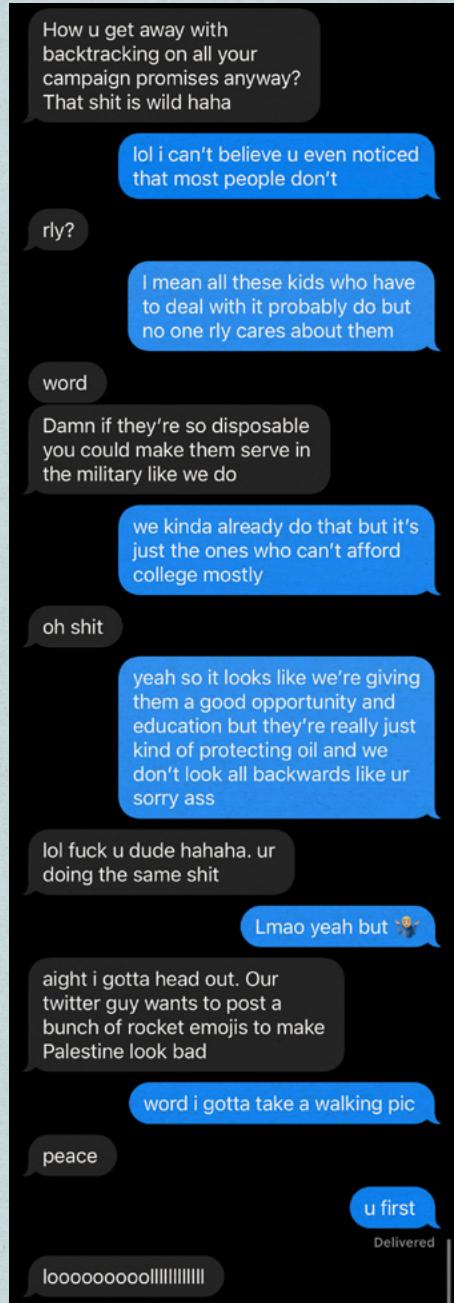
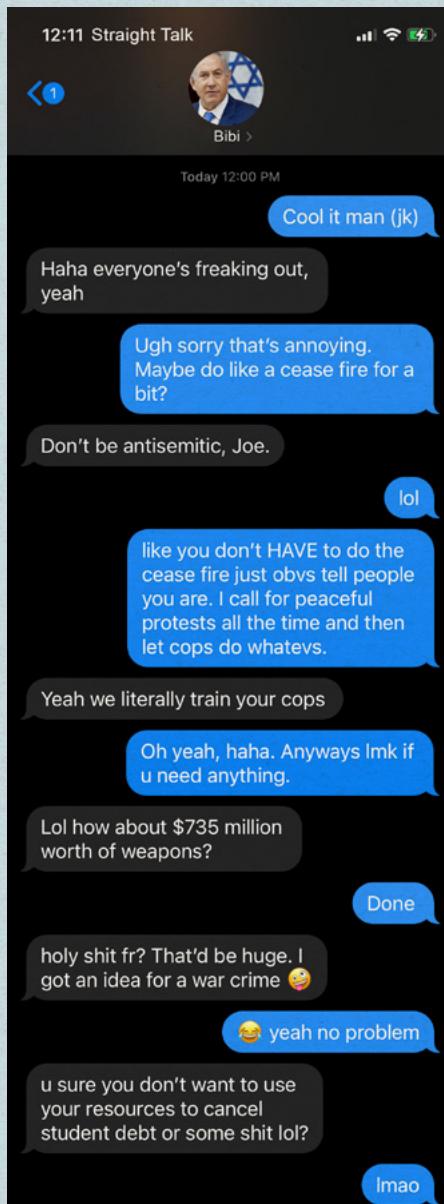
This program will teach African youth to dig for cobalt, a necessary component of all of our technology, in under-oxygenated mines. We believe in youth empowerment, which is why we're empowering these youth to get a head start on their careers without the pressure of an overly high salary. Black Lives Matter, so we're using Black lives to excavate matter.

BLM  
Apple.

*Madeleine Tomasoa has a crippling disease that makes them write fruitlessly for a living' and 'for fun'. They are from Jakarta, Indonesia. Twitter: @madeleinetsms, Instagram: @kerentm*

# FD EXCLUSIVE: BIDEN/ NETANYAHU TEXTS LEAK

//BRADY O'CALLAHAN



# Voices from our Queermunity™ Presented by **citibank** **COPS AT PRIDE**

//PATRICK KEENE

Recently, *The New York Times* Editorial Board criticized NYC Pride organizers for taking steps to ensure that NYPD officers would not be present at any and all pride events happening around the city this June. We at Citibank decided to reach out to the Queermunity™ through our company-owned Grindr paid-ad profile to see how they (mostly cis-males) felt about allowing cops in queer spaces.

"I spent \$40 on my NYPD cop uniform at Party City, so honestly, I would prefer if real cops weren't around to upstage me."

—full vaxd fun

"I think if we have more trans cops, cops will stop kidnapping trans people off the street. Right? It's worked so well for other marginalized groups."

—Hung DL

"Who is going to arrest RuPaul for fracking if there are no cops? Me? OK, I'll do it."

—Masc bi sapio

"Last Pride, I was arrested after buying coke off of an undercover cop. If we don't allow undercover cops at Pride, I'm not sure how I will buy coke."



"If the gays allow former U.S. Representative Aaron Shock to occupy their spaces, the least they can do is allow gay cops, who I imagine are less faggy."

—24\_m\_host

"U hung?"

—Curious4DomD

"If queer cops can't show off their pride in their job uniform, does that mean I shouldn't show up in my Regal Cinemas polo?"

—Hng 🌈❤️的眼光

"The cops already have their Pride parade on March 17th, and Columbus Day, and whenever the Super Bowl happens."

—Tony

"I think it's time for community-based solutions to justice, which is why I'm already planning on locking up my friend MacKenzie in my Kia Sorento if she tries to play Taylor Swift that whole weekend."

—That'll do, pig

"Let us not forget our history. Gay cops were present at Stonewall! Violently attacking trans women of color."

—心脏病 4 Host

"For too long the Barefoot Wines Pride Parade float has been disrespected by fascist pigs."

—Suckr

"Thank God. Now I won't have to explain to my five-year-old what a cop is."

—Hole4Hole

At ExxonMobil, we believe that climate change risks warrant action and it's going to take all of us – businesses, governments and consumers – to make meaningful progress. That's why we have decided to devote a large portion of our net profit to fund crucial studies on sustainability.

We plan to ask scientists hard-hitting questions like:

**WELL, IS CLIMATE CHANGE REAL?  
ARE YOU SURE?  
ARE YOU REALLY, REALLY SURE?  
BUT HOW?  
CAN YOU DOUBLE CHECK ?**

Progress cannot happen until we know if climate change is real. And because we take this question so seriously, we're going to make sure that these studies take as many years as possible before making any rash decisions.

Bring in one of our weekly Thursday *New York Times* ads on 'Climate Change Question' – always in print, always a full page, always in color – for 10% off of your next oil change. This one is on us.

**ExxonMobil**

//CHANDLER DEAN & STEVE WILLIAMS

# Billionaire-Statement-to-Downplay Connection-to-Jeffrey-Epstein Generator

Ever wondered how you would downplay your connection to suicided pedophile sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein if YOU were a billionaire “philanthropist?” Fill in the blanks and find out what statement your fancy-schmancy PR firm would put out!

“The idea that Jeffery Epstein had a relationship with **YOUR NAME**, outside of his/her official capacity as their (Birth Month), is overblown. On the few occasions they met in person, **YOUR NAME** and Jeffery Epstein only discussed (Birth Day) at the behest of (First Letter of Last Name). When **YOUR NAME** said that they ‘greatly admired’ Mr. Epstein’s lifestyle, they were only referring to his (First Letter of Last Name).”

## Birth Month: *Profession*

- Jan - tantric sex guru
- Feb - improv coach
- Mar - personal stylist
- Apr - biographer
- May - bar trivia teammate
- Jun - writing accountability buddy
- Jul - travel agent
- Aug - friend of ex spouse
- Sep - freelance videographer
- Oct - wellness expert
- Nov - brand consultant
- Dec - private plane enthusiast

## Birth Day: *Noun*

- 1 - the health benefits of drinking blood
- 2 - insider trading
- 3 - tax incentives
- 4 - who could be trusted
- 5 - favorite getaways
- 6 - real estate opportunities
- 7 - causes for concern
- 8 - burgeoning talent
- 9 - Free Mason-type stuff
- 10 - Kundalini yoga
- 11 - potential employment opportunities
- 12 - the new Microsoft product launch
- 13 - beautiful women who are over 18
- 14 - exotic dog breeds
- 15 - the lawlessness of the open sea

- 16 - eating the last tiger shark
- 17 - Fiji (the water)
- 18 - the limitations of the free market
- 19 - repopulating the earth with my seed
- 20 - if *Back to the Future* is kind of real
- 21 - close-up magic
- 22 - the collected works of humorist Dave Barry
- 23 - how to get out of giving oral sex when you’re just not feeling it
- 24 - baseball bloopers
- 25 - the ethics of zoos
- 26 - their one mutual Black friend
- 27 - White Claw Hard Seltzer
- 28 - sharing a Disney Plus password
- 29 - how to handle a breakup with someone you’ve only kissed a few times at parties
- 30 - wiping the city of Boston off the goddamn map
- 31 - The Harlem Renaissance

## First Letter of First Name: *Proper Noun*

- A - Alan Dershowitz
- B - Harvard Business School
- C - Linda Tripp
- D - The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

- E - Fat Joe
- F - Sally Jessy Raphael
- G - the secret clone of the “Where’s The Beef?” lady
- H - Jair Bolsonaro
- I - John Wayne Gacy
- J - Coachella
- K - the estate of Rod Serling
- L - Debra Messing
- M - Rudy Giuliani
- N - the ghost of Ryan Dunn
- O - Prince Andrew
- P - The Met
- Q - Peter Thiel
- R - Ghislaine Maxwell
- S - who else? Burt Bacharach
- T - the cast and crew of *Crazy Rich Asians*
- U - Kristin Chenoweth
- V - the REAL Kennedy assassin (NAME REDACTED)
- W - the citizens of the lost city of Atlantis
- X - Jeff Bezos
- Y - Kim Jong-un
- Z - Cory Feldman

## First Letter of Last Name: *Noun*

- A - big fat honkers
- B - vast collection of old Howard Stern shows
- C - really comfortable couch
- D - podcast recommendations

- E - habit of always having hard candy on him
- F - novelty belt buckles
- G - gorgeous eyes
- H - sense of humor
- I - short stories
- J - amateur photography
- K - stick and poke tattoos
- L - TikTok “For You” page
- M - stealth in torrenting anime
- N - amount of penthouse secret passageways
- O - camera collection
- P - copy of *Ghost Dad* on film
- Q - deep connection to Mossad
- R - cancellation of the guy who used to play Elmo
- S - off-Broadway adaptation of *Clue*
- T - irrational fear of the West Side Highway
- U - secret nipple
- V - collection of Joe Montana’s unwashed jockstraps
- W - respect for most living things
- X - ability to break a solid ice block with only a few well-placed axe kicks
- Y - style of greeting with a kiss on both cheeks, like some kind of Frenchman
- Z - unexplained personal grudge with former H.W. Bush Chief of Staff John Sununu 💀



## HUH! THIS WOMAN "BOTH-SIDED" HERSELF INTO A MAJOR MEDIA JOB

//DIANA KOLSKY

“WELL, I GUESS MY lack of conviction finally paid off,” said Laura Pennyhole over a matcha latte. I sat down with the new Grey Lady hire at a quaint but unaffordable cafe in North Brooklyn to chat about landing her dream media job while emerging from the heavy fog of pandemic.

“I just kept tweeting really groundbreaking stuff about how Israelis and Palestinians both have the right to live their lives, ya know? It’s a super complicated issue actually. And it’s important to remind everyone that it really is just as simple as that.” Pennyhole was being modest. The so-called ‘stuff’ she tweeted grabbed the attention of *The New York Times*—a media organiza-

## Bigotry has no place at Uber.

Our mission is simple.

If this country won’t pay reparations to those who built it on their backs, then we will. We believe the BIPOC community has suffered too much for far too long.

Until Congress can step up, we will be removing two cents from every white driver’s tips to go directly to our BIPOC drivers to give them the wage they deserve.\*

If you have a problem with that, then switch to LYFT.

BLACK LIVES MATTER.

\*Each transfer incurs a 1.5 cent transaction fee for the BIPOC driver.

Uber

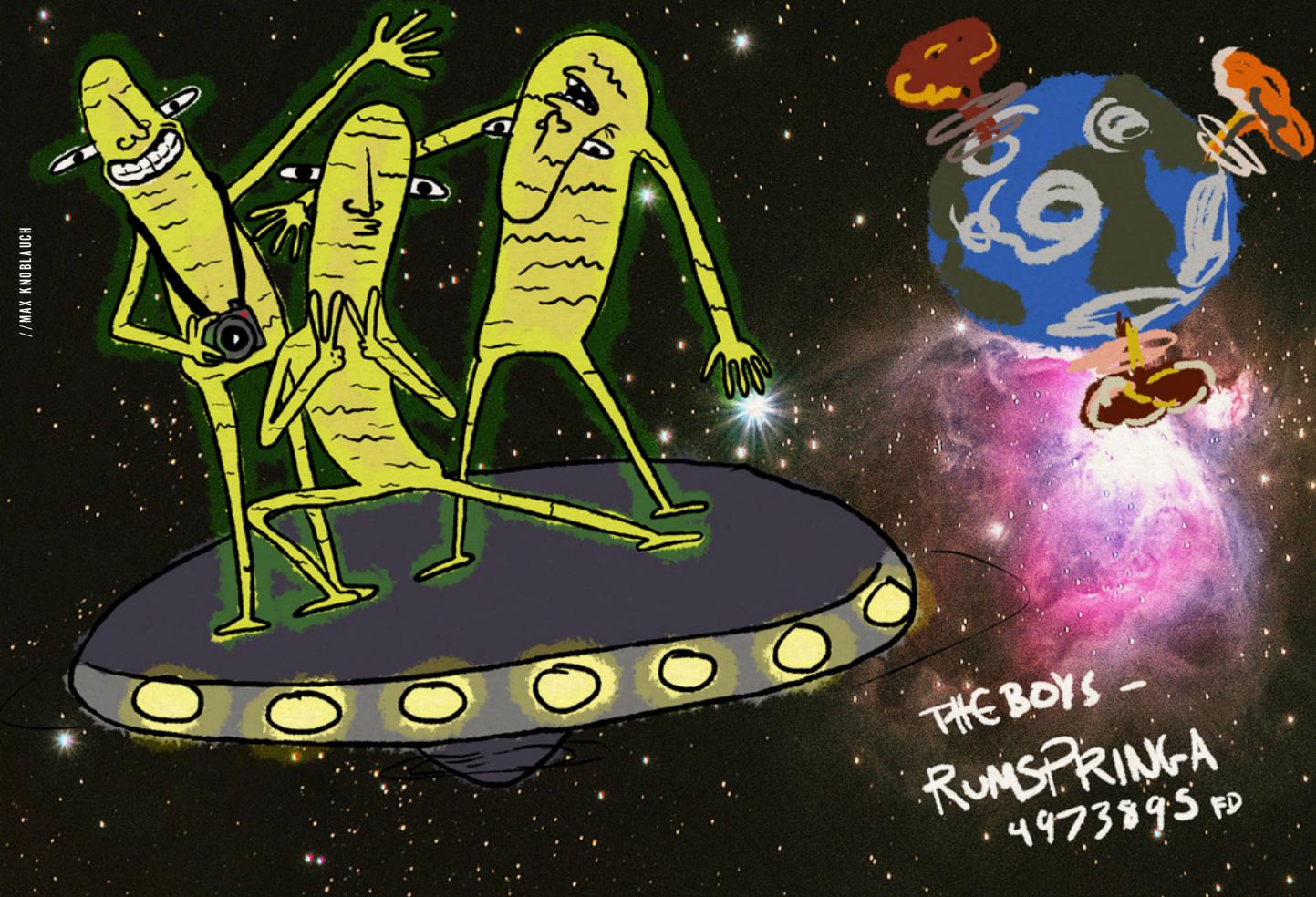
tion so revered, they receive over 10K applicants a year for approximately 30 spots.

I asked if she plans to focus solely on geo-political topics. She laughed. “Oh no, I have tweets about all kinds of stuff.” She pulled her iPhone out of her silk poncho and showed me a recent Twitter thread about the Amazon union vote in Bessemer, which includes tweets like, “Workers have the right to safety, but also bosses have the right to make money. This is #America,” and, “Id pee in a diaper for money, but I would not shit in one #rise-andgrind #standards #compromise.”

“They loved my use of hashtags. Like, they specifically said that when they reached out. The compliment was about the hashtags and in hashtag form.” Pennyhole looked down at her empty drink, then: “I’m gonna grab another. You want?” I shook my head as the newly minted journalist sauntered up to the counter. I watched as she ordered her drink, paid, and didn’t tip. She did, however, reach across the counter, grab the barista’s arm, and say: “You’re doing a *really* good job,” before heading back to our wooden barrel table.

I asked if there’s any advice she’d give to the droves of people seeking employment in this treacherous job market. “Do a job like InstaCart. There’s a ton of gigs out there—you just gotta hustle.” I asked if she ever considered doing gig work before landing at the Paper of Record. She laughed, then responded, “Um no. I was hiding out at my folks place in Westchester, holding out for a real job. I need healthcare.” On this point, she is very much decided. ☠

//CHANDLER DEAN & STEVE WILLIAMS



THE BOYS -  
RUNSPRING-A  
4973895 FD

## DEAR ALIENS: PLEASE SAVE US, OR GTFO

//SEAN O'REILLY

WITH THE RECENT RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS and accounts by the military of Navy pilots who can't seem to NOT run into UFOs during training exercises, many have been asking the inevitable questions: Are they extraterrestrial lifeforms? And if so, why are they here?

The answers to these questions are:

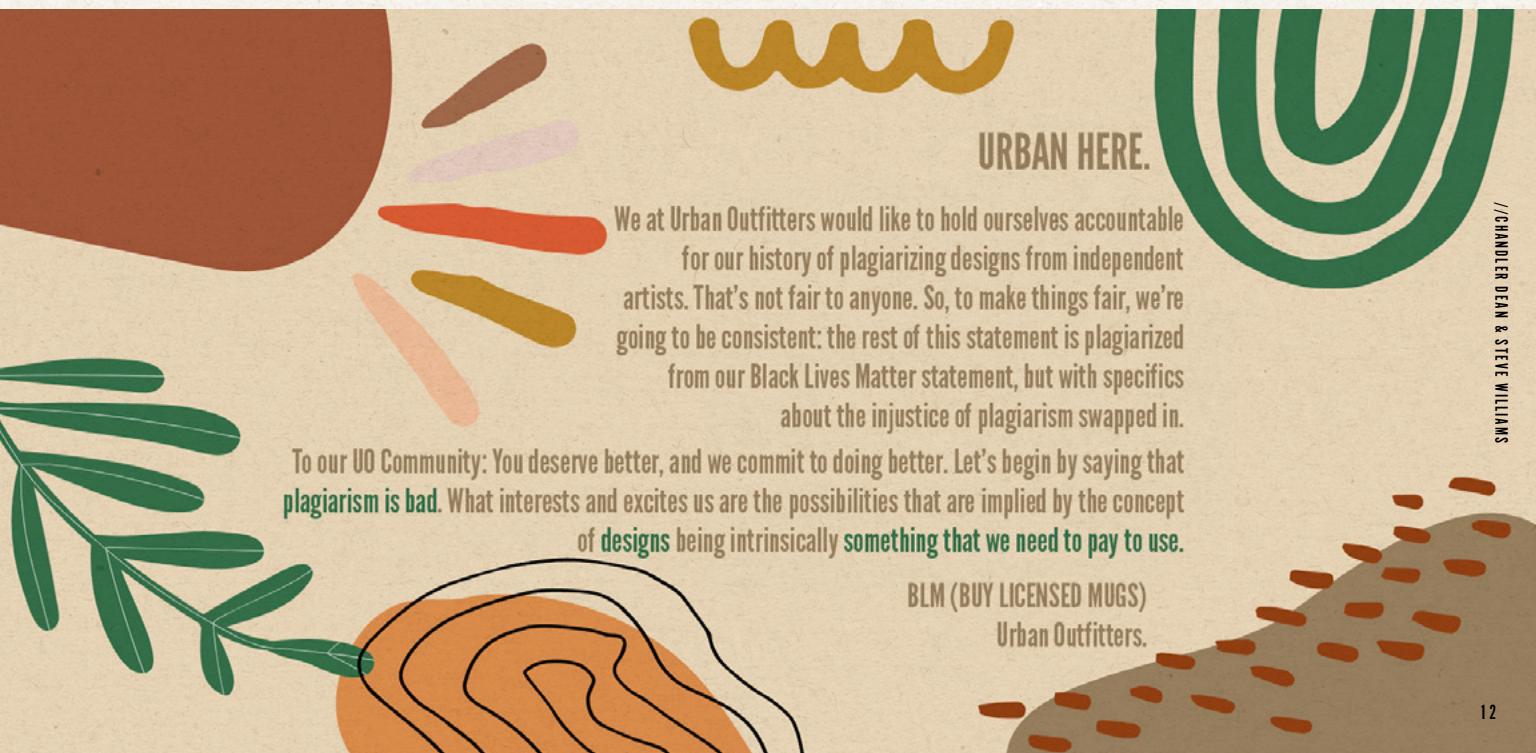
1. Yes, of course. Don't be stupid.
2. Who gives a fuck? If they're not here to save our asses, they need to get the fuck out. >>

>> Frankly, at this point, I'm pissed at the ETs. Are you seriously just on safari right now? Like you've come countless lightyears to this place just to moon some yokel Air Force pilot? Looking is not free, chief! Seriously, aliens, if you aren't here to give us an energy source, or a matter replicator, or even just a political system to stop us from killing ourselves, then go away. There are no amusement parks in the sky, fellas. You're the intergalactic version of a tourist walking slowly down a busy street. Everyone on THIS planet has work, jackass!

I don't need this. My friends don't need this. I don't give a fuck if I'm alone in the universe or if I sit near the bottom of the universal ranking of species. I don't need to confront any of that in my real life. I have movies for that. I can watch *Star Trek* and have fun. What's not fun, you interstellar lookie-loos, is knowing that an advanced civilization is popping into our atmosphere just to, what, take a picture? Fuck you and your tentacle asses (I assume you're absolutely COVERED in tentacles like some kind of poser). This ain't a zoo, bro.

It's rude! Seriously, it's just plain gauche to scare our Top Gun boys and not at least have drugs. Yeah, you know what, these fucking aliens are just dudes who showed up late and didn't bring any weed to our burning planet party. You can't have any of the beers in my fridge or any of the cobalt in my soil, you green pieces of shit. Again, unless you have the cure for cancer or plans for a Dyson sphere, go home, or take us with you and *To Serve Man* our sorry asses. Plain and simple.

I'm no Posadist. I'm not waiting on the aliens to nuke the planet and allow dolphins to finally live in peace via perfect dolphin communism. I'm also not saying that would be bad! Galactic communism—or at least a new kind of wheat we can grow in the ocean—would be nice, is all. Instead, we get these mysterious grey jerkoffs who just like to mutilate cows and scare nerds with good eyesight. And that, honestly, sucks. These aliens blow, they don't invite me to their parties, and they want to see us all naked. They are worthless pervs and they need to GTFO. Please Mr. Biden, whatever you can do. ☠



To our UO Community: You deserve better, and we commit to doing better. Let's begin by saying that plagiarism is bad. What interests and excites us are the possibilities that are implied by the concept of designs being intrinsically something that we need to pay to use.

BLM (BUY LICENSED MUGS)  
Urban Outfitters.

functionally dead

# Left Zeeld



hosted by  
matthew brian  
cohen

A lot happened  
this week—  
Let's see how  
the *Left Feel'd*  
about it.



Hey, while you're reading this, you could be listening to *Functionally Dead's* new podcast, available to our \$5 tier Patreon subscribers... click below to check it out.



[OUR PATREON](#)

# KHALID SHEIKH MOHAMMED ACQUITTED AFTER REVEALING THE TARGET OF 9/11 WAS A HAMAS HOT DOG VENDOR IN THE BASEMENT OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

//JAMES DWYER

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba (FD) – A military tribunal in Guantanamo Bay has moved to acquit 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed after he revealed through enhanced interrogation that the target of the terror attacks was a hot dog vendor named Gary in the basement of the World Trade Center who was working with Hamas.

"In light of this new, shocking information, this military court must move to acquit one Khalid Sheikh Mohammed on the grounds that Hot Dog Gary from Hamas was using the Twin Towers and its occupants as a human shield," presiding officer Colonel William Huckler said on Friday. "Given that these people stood

between justice and Hot Dog Gary, their deaths are retroactively justified, and the attacks will hereby be remembered as a brave act of self-defense."

Following Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's acquittal, many questions remained, such as this one posed by *Functionally Dead's* 9/11 correspondent outside the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility: "why attack the Pentagon, and what of the fourth plane that landed in Pennsylvania?"

"You have to understand that we did everything we could to minimize civilian casualties, but there will always be casualties in war," KSM said as he was being released. "That is not a reason for us not to

launch precision airliners directly into the buildings housing these monsters." The rest of the press corps covering the event nodded in agreement. It checked out.

Some have rebuffed this defense, saying no proof has been provided that Hot Dog Gary was ever inside any of the buildings targeted on September 11th, and even if there was proof that he was there, why not arrest, detain, or even compromise Hot Dog Gary to a permanent end without taking down entire buildings full of people and crippling a city, first? We posed these questions to Jen Psaki at her daily press briefing.

"This administration has always maintained that the 9/11 hijackers have a right to defend themselves. Are you suggesting they don't? Seems kinda weird for you to say that."

We were then asked to leave for the remainder of the briefing as Jen Psaki discussed the Biden administration's TikTok strategy to engage with K-pop fans on issues of social justice.

We will update this story as it continues to evolve. ☠



## Raytheon



Raytheon Technologies has always been committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Diversity in the types of high-powered weapons we produce; equity among the branches of the military we sell them to; and inclusion of a wide variety of civilians that see our logo around the world.

But we know that isn't enough. That's why we're making a \$25 million commitment to help people in war-torn countries to get back on their feet. And we will accomplish this using funds from the \$250 million contract we just received to send F-16 fighter jets to those war-torn countries.

LIMITED EDITION HAND-DYED Ts!

# FUNCTIONALLY DEAD FORTY FOOT

UNION PRINTED & MADE IN USA



//PRODUCT PHOTOS BY BEN STANTON @benastanton

**3 DREAMY  
COLOR  
VARIATIONS:**

**Pinko Paradise**

**Centrist Blues**

**Scranton Sunrise**



**X EACH SHIRT IS ONE-OF-A-KIND,  
HAND-DYED BY @FORTYFOOTLA**

**X 15% OF ALL PROFITS GO TO  
INCARCERATED WORKERS  
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (IWOC)**

**X PACKAGING IS 100% PLASTIC FREE  
& ECO-CONSCIOUS**

**VISIT THE FREAK SHOP**

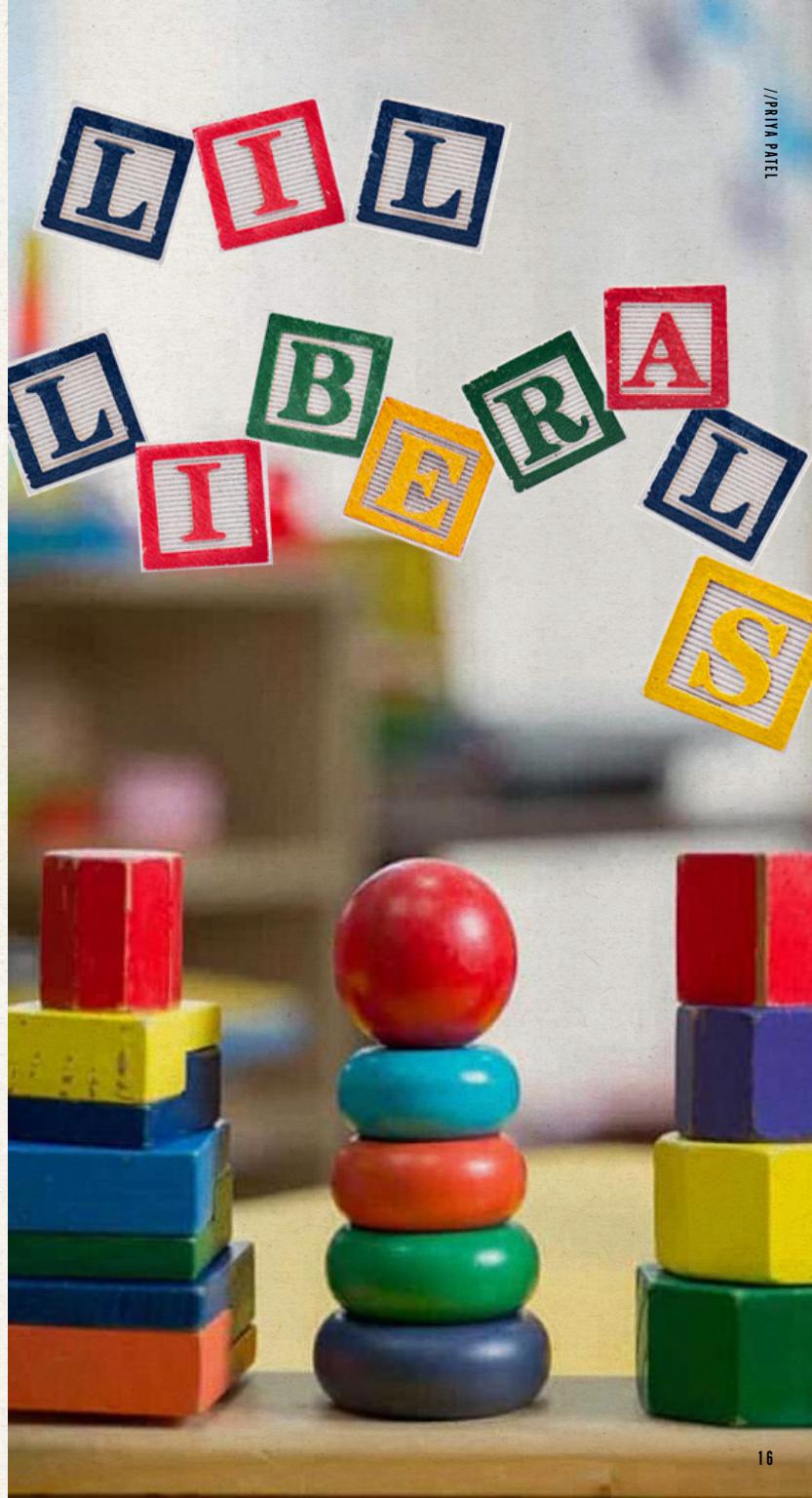
# A TOUR OF THE NEW, PUBLICLY- FUNDED “L’IL LIBERALS” CHILD CARE CENTER

// ELLIOT HASPEL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

LADIES, GENTLEMEN, PLEASE, COME IN, COME IN! Allow our valet to take your keys. Don’t worry, your cars will be very safe in our minivan-optimized parking lot.

I’m so glad you’ve considered enrolling your child here at L’il Liberals. As you know, we’ve recently received funding under President Biden’s child care plan, and, haha, boy was the *Wall Street Journal* right when they said once we stopped scraping to make payroll every month, we’d start upselling, like them fancy colleges and their aquatics centers.

Our first stop is the toddler room. As you can see, all of our children have access to individual jumperoos—why yes, they are gold-plated, I’m so glad you noticed! Over here is the art table. We’ve sourced these craft materials from only the finest suppliers; this crayon is actually made with volcanic ash, and you’ll notice the sparkle of the glitter? Tiny emeralds! Mined from the same workers Elon uses! How about that? No limp spaghetti hair for our self-portraits here, no ma’am; feel this—you feel it? Yep, bucatini. Don’t tell the New York City restaurant scene (ba-dum ching). >>



>> If you'll follow me, you can see that the infants all have SNOO robot bassinets. My finance director told me we could pay \$1,500 apiece for these babies—babies for our babies, how about that, eh, sir?—or we could give our teachers \$1,500 bonuses. You can guess what I said: less time rocking, more time indoctrinating our kidlets to hate America and vote Dem! We try to be responsible stewards (wink wink) of public money: with child care teachers making a median wage of \$11.65 an hour, that's a steal at 128 hours per SNOO.

Now, let's talk food! I'm sure you're used to hearing all the gab from our competitors about how Blue Babies brings their food in every day by mule from an organic farm, or how Open Minds, Open Borders has an apple orchard on site—I kid, I kid, they're good friends—but look out the window. We actually bought a pasture so the children can watch the cows being milked, and when their fine motor control gets a little better, they can even help! How. About. That. We milk the cows, then we dump it out and drink oat milk. Such fun!

Please, right this way. Step around that moldy floor tile, it's not so sturdy—we'll get around to fixing it and all the others, but, priorities!—and I want to show you the crown jewel of the center: The J.D. Vance Honorary ["Class Warfare"](#) Classroom. Good eye, sir! Those *aren't* statues. No, we've chosen to employ upper-class

professionals like venture capitalists (Mr. Vance wasn't available, LOL) and lawyers to teach the little muffins—and you too, parents!—why we should never spend any time with our own children... you know, like a good child care program does! My finance director told me we should be using the funds to raise teacher wages and give them health insurance—we maaaaay have not been able to offer that in the quote-unquote Before Times—but you know what I said? Can't put a price on reinforcing bourgeoisie values... you know, like a good child care program does. (Actually, you can; we're paying these folks \$450 an hour.)

What's that, ma'am? Cost? Well as you know, the Biden plan caps parent fees at 7% of your income, so no worries there—spend away! Splurge a little! If I may be so bold: Treat yo'self. After all, centers like ours get all the money we want after that. Excuse me? States set reimbursement limits? That's not remotely how child care funding works? No, no, I'm sure that can't be right, I read about it in what those of us in the biz call the W-S-J (we can even afford a subscription now!).

Now, who wants to go see the aquatics center? 🌊

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*Elliot Haspel is a child care policy expert and the author of Crawling Behind: America's Childcare Crisis and How to Fix It. Twitter: @ehaspel*

**We've received our fair share of criticism for not offering the artists on our platform the royalties they deserve. And we'd like to recognize: that's unfair. Why should we receive our fair share of criticism when our artists don't even receive a fair share of the money their music earns?**

**That's why we're introducing our new Fan to Creator Profit Partnership. Here's how it works: the more you criticize Spotify online, the less money that your favorite artists receive, and vice versa. Yes, we agree: it's absurd that a given artist only makes 0.33 cents per stream. That's why we're giving you the opportunity to take matters in your own hands: if you bring up this injustice once, they'll be making 0.033 cents per stream. Twice, 0.0033 cents — and so on.**

**We're so excited to not hear from you. Please, don't hesitate not to reach out.**

**Spotify.**



THE DNC PRESENTS LIB PRIDE



# Safe Spaces in High Places

JUNE 19th



(is it Juneteenth...? Whoops! Already booked the space!)

On the roof of the New York Times building, rain or shine!

Hosted by CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER DANIEL HODGES



and Jam-packed with all your fave woke libs, including:

GAL GADOT, MARK RUFFALO (HE WALKED-BACK HIS GENOCIDE TWEET, SO HE'S IN!),  
KRISTEN SINEMA AND HER FAVORITE ANIME WIGS,  
SAM BEE, CHELSEA CLINTON'S BFF, SARAH COOPER LIP-SYNCING HER GREATEST HITS,

# EVE BARLOW,

THREE BOSTON DYNAMICS NYPD DOGS DOING THE YMCA,  
DEBRA MESSING AND THE CAST MEMBERS OF WILL & GRACE WHO HAVEN'T CUT HER OUT OF THEIR LIVES,  
LIZ LEMON, LESLIE KNOPE, HILLARY CLINTON IN A "YAS KWEEN" BROAD CITY BLAZER,  
**THE PRIDE DIVISION OF THE NYPD,**  
PAUL KRUGMAN, NATE SILVER, BILL RICHARDSON, AARON SORKIN, & MANY MORE!



Onsite Wellness Retreat by  
the Biden Administration's  
Child Welfare Border Facilities™

Andrew Yang will be  
citizen-arresting street  
vendors from 2-4pm!

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# I STRANGLED YOUR CHILD WITH MY BARE HANDS, BUT IT'S COMPLICATED

// MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN

**D**ID I STRANGLE YOUR CHILD with my bare hands? Yes. But it's complicated.

You might be looking at the corpse of your child and feeling an overwhelming sense of sadness and despair. But that's only because you don't understand the thousand-year history between your child and me. Before you do something as rash as cast judgment on me for murdering your own flesh and blood, educate yourself. You just sound stupid when you say things like, "what you did was wrong" and "you're a horrible person." There's a rich back story and deep lore to the conflict between your small child and me, an adult man wearing a tactical vest, armed with a semi-automatic rifle who also likes to sing "Imagine." You wouldn't dream of walking into a discussion about a *Dark Souls* game without a complete understanding of all the lore, would you? The confused look on your face, coupled with an unending stream of tears, are only revealing your own ignorance.

Here are the facts—your kid was throwing rocks. Yeah, rocks. The hard kind. I bet you feel pretty stupid now cradling your dead kid in your arms knowing they were throwing some rocks. I told you it was complicated! Your kid was throwing rocks, so I calmly walked over, put my hands around their tiny throat, and wrung their neck like a sweaty gym towel. That's how any rational person would respond. Why were they throwing rocks, you ask? It *could* have something to do with the fact that I was in the middle of forcibly kicking your child out of their home, but again, it's a lot more complicated than that.

Oh, you're calling the cops? So you're saying I don't have the right to exist?! It's pretty antisemitic of you to try to attach some sort of legal consequences to my behavior. Oh, you didn't know I was Jewish, and you're not sure what Judaism has to do with the

cold-blooded killing of your child? Thank you for asking those questions while sobbing uncontrollably, but it's actually super complicated. There's some people (me) who say that I get to murder whomever I want, whenever I want, and there's others (you, most other people, God) who say that maybe I shouldn't, but like most things in life, there are shades of grey. And it's important we call moments like this out for what they are: undebatable grey blobs best never spoken of ever again. Did you know that some other Jews on the other side of the world were the victims of hate crimes? Pretty convenient of you to forget that when you're staring into your child's cold, dead eyes. So yes, while I've been upfront about my goal to ethnically cleanse your child (and other children who throw rocks like them) from the neighborhood, you have to remember that I'm Jewish, and that complicates things.

Fine! I'll declare a ceasefire. I officially won't murder your child again (though I might desecrate the corpse if I ever feel like it), and that should be enough to appease you. At the end of the day, you're the one trying to reduce a highly complicated situation down to one guy who choked the life out of your defenseless child. And I get it—after I killed your child, you're in a highly emotional state, and you're bound to act irrationally, especially because (and I say this as an ally), you're a woman. But if you take a step back, I think you'll see that no side is without blame... except for my side, as I was only killing your child as part of my apartheid (though I absolutely object to anyone labeling it as an apartheid). And while we're at it, do not dare tweet "afarteid" at me. It's not nearly as funny as it looks and sounds.

So yes, I'm outraged that you would try to paint me, a child killer, like some kind of monster. Why, I have half a mind to kill you for suggesting you might suggest that. ☠

# AmaZen: How to Mindfully Shit Into a Diaper

//DIANA KOLSKY

YOU'RE HAPPILY STOCKING ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS down at your local Amazon fulfillment center and you feel an angel's kiss on your bowels: that's the machine that is your body letting you know that it's time to produce waste—must be all those delicious snacks Father Bezos provides! Follow these three easy steps to create a mindful moment (along with some dookie) without missing a beat:



## Center Your Fulfillment

Don't worry! Stress is hard on your flesh apparatus. You don't have to stop doing the work you love—you just need to take an AmaZen Mindful BM (Butthole Moment)™.



## 3x3x3

Take three deep breaths in (don't stop stocking items!), hold your breath for another three count (stock, stock, stock!), slowly release your breath for another three (stock, you bitch!). On this peaceful release of breath, also release three small turds into your adult diaper.  
*Note: treasured employees must provide their own adult diapers*



## Product-Zen-tivity

Now that you feel lighter than air, continue your important tasks with a new level of speed and accuracy until it's time to clock out. Heck, maybe you'll stay for an extra hour!?

**YOU ARE FREE.**

*Note: remember to empty your diapy on your own time or you will be executed*



## OUR VALUES

In recent days, a light has been rightfully shone on Amazon's unfortunate history. To everyone who has spoken up: **thank you**. We have heard from you loudly and clearly. And we will no longer be silent about the abhorrent values this company once held.

## OUR HISTORY

Current executives have recently been made aware that way back in **March of 2021**, some of our workers had to resort to peeing in bottles.

We believe we have grown since that regrettable period of our early days.

## CHANGE

To demonstrate our commitment to change, we have added a "**How to Pee On Your Own Time**" module to our training videos. Delivery drivers are welcome to access and watch the video at any point on their shift, as long as they don't pull over.

**Let the past be the past. Our silence has ended. Let yours begin.**

# I READ THIS ZINE, AND AM CURIOUS: WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE ORGANIZATIONS? What Do I Do Now?

We've been churning out new issues of *Functionally Dead* for over a year. Each week we like to highlight organizations or resources related to what's happening in the news, but just because a specific moment has passed, that doesn't mean the fight stops. We thought we'd commemorate over a year of *Functionally Dead* by highlighting a few of our favorite organizations who continue to do the work to improve the lives of people in their communities and around the world.

## REBUILDING ALLIANCE

"Rebuilding Alliance is dedicated to advancing equal rights for the Palestinian people through education, advocacy, and support that assures Palestinian families the right to a home, schooling, economic security, safety, and a promising future."

## CRITICAL RESISTANCE

"Critical Resistance seeks to build an international movement to end the Prison Industrial Complex by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes us safe. We believe that basic necessities such as food, shelter, and freedom are what really make our communities secure. As such, our work is part of global struggles against inequality and powerlessness."

## THE RED NATION

"The Red Nation is dedicated to the liberation of Native peoples from capitalism and colonialism. We center Native political agendas and struggles through direct action, advocacy, mobilization, and education... We formed to address the marginalization and invisibility of Native struggles within mainstream social justice organizing, and to foreground the targeted destruction and violence towards Native life and land."

## STREET WATCH LA

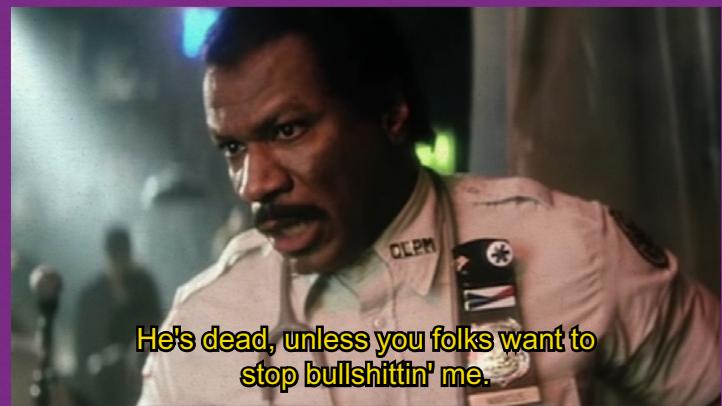
"Street Watch stands apart from progressive and non-profit homeless outreach efforts because we explicitly acknowledge that the housing and homelessness crisis cannot be solved through charity within the capitalist framework. Capitalism itself is the cause of this crisis. Therefore, we acknowledge that it is not only the private sector's control of housing policy that forces people to live on the streets, but also the private control of health care, labor, law enforcement, and government."

## EMERGENCY RELEASE FUND

"The mission of the Emergency Release Fund is to ensure that no trans person at risk in New York City jails remains in detention before trial. If cash bail is set for a trans person in New York City and no bars to release are in place, bail will be paid by the Emergency Release Fund."

*Peruse more issues of Functionally Dead [here](#) and if you're interested in contributing, [check this out.](#)*

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: AMWAY DIVES INTO CRYPTO WITH MLMCOIN



He's dead, unless you folks want to  
stop bullshittin' me.

FOLKS TO BLOCK:

//ANDY BUSTILLOS//MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN//JAMES DWYER//PATRICK KEENE//MAX KNOBLAUCH//DIANA KOLSKY//DAN LOPRETO//  
//TIM MAHONEY//CATHERYN MUDON//BRADY O'CALLAHAN//SEAN O'REILLY//PRIYA PATEL//ROSIE WHALEN//LIZ Wiest//