

FUNCTIONALLY DEAD

JUNE 14, 2021//VOL. V, ISSUE 6

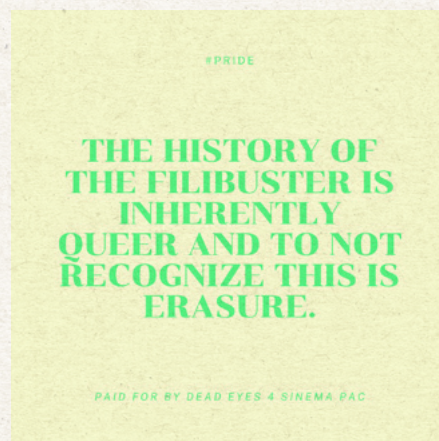
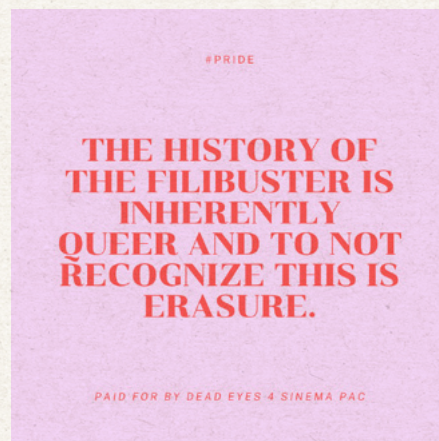
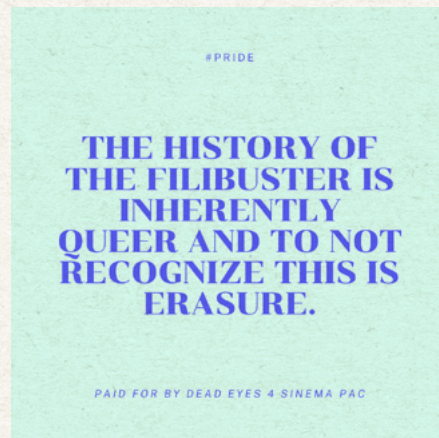
Get ready for the ride
of your life.



D. FOLSKY

Whatever.

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WHAT WOULD KARL MARX THINK OF GEN Z'S AFFINITY TOWARDS SOCIALISM? WE ASK THE IBM-POWERED MARX HOLOGRAM

//JAMES DWYER

THE RISE OF TIKTOK HAS MADE ONE THING CLEAR: Gen Z *really* loves TikTok.

It has, however, made one thing far less clear: why is so much of Gen Z's TikTok content anti-capitalist, espousing the tenets of Socialism in a clear, common sense way? And more importantly, what would Karl Marx think of it all?

As a geriatric Millennial who feels a particular kinship with Gen X because all of my friends in high school were the seniors I sat with at lunch when I was a freshman, the answers to this one don't come easy. While there have been several *Salon* pieces written by former *Paste* magazine writers that attempt to understand what Marx would make of this socialist media phenomenon, they miss the mark for people like me who went to public school and never learned how to read serif fonts.

Luckily, we no longer need a prominent graduate of the NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Studies interpretation of *Das Kapital* to discern Marx's own feelings on the popularity of Marxist theory with Zoomers. We can go straight to the source and ask him ourselves by visiting The IBM-Powered Karl Marx hologram at the IBM headquarters in Armonk, NY. >>

>> We're able to do this thanks to a collaboration between David Koch's Americans for Prosperity, Neera Tanden's Center for American Progress, IBM, and lots of cocaine. In the leadup to the 2020 Democratic Primary, Americans for Prosperity and CAP noticed the rising popularity of left-wing, overtly Socialist ideals in the younger generation. They came together, despite their differences over corn, because they wanted all Americans to understand the full impact these principles could have on the continued ability for Americans who graduate from Georgetown to fail up into our government long enough that they come out on the other side with their own Netflix deal, a seat on the Board of Trustees for a Christian chess academy, or, if they work hard enough, lead the hot dog lobby's effort to get hot dogs into baby formula. They sought out the help of IBM to clarify the positions of Karl Marx himself in order to better educate all Americans on what the implementation of those ideas would mean for the average person who's been on a yacht before age 18.

The first thing you notice when you walk into the atrium of the APxCAP wing at IBM headquarters is a giant black cube engraved with "The IBM-Powered Karl Marx Hologram is funded by Freedom," and if you're like me (a LinkedIn power user who has a great story about the time he met HootSuite CEO Ryan Holmes at an adult bris), you can't help but think, "wow I bet Karl Marx would like this big black cube with this engraving on it. This hologram must be the real deal."

Just past the Naughty by Nature "Down with TPP" exhibit is the entrance to the IBM-Powered Marx Hologram room, designed to look like David Koch's favorite multiplayer map from *GoldenEye* (it's up to you to guess which one he's going for). Only one person is allowed in at a time, and you may only ask the hologram one question before an attendant who was clearly hired because he looks exactly like the Bond villain Oddjob forces you to leave. As I walk up to the empty pedestal and wait for one of the most consequential philosophers of the last 200 years to boot up (the hologram requires a hard reboot after each question to prevent it from becoming dangerously sentient), I notice a man in a small room 15 feet away sitting in front of a keyboard, a microphone, and a screen that appears to be live footage of me

standing in front of the Marx pedestal. He catches my eyes and closes the curtain. Oddjob assured me as I left that "was just an NSA agent" and that this hologram is "definitely not a *Wizard of Oz* situation." Apparently, security surrounding the hologram is very tight.

A hum fills the room after the curtain has closed, and a blue light appears atop the pedestal. Suddenly, music that sounds exactly like the kind of music I heard when I celebrated Oktoberfest at a Midtown beer garden run by Lithuanians plays. I am later told that this is "The Hymn of the Proletariat," and Weird AI provided all backing accordion on the festive track. As the music plays on, a disheveled older gentleman in a shabby suit appears before me. I am now looking upon the visage of Karl Marx himself, though I must admit the likeness is not exact—it appears to be Josh Gad with white hair and a beard (I am later assured that I am both wrong and stupid for thinking that).

"I am the father of Marxism, Karl Marx. You come before me seeking my perspective on the events of the world today. This is made possible by IBM, home to the revolutionary POWER10 processor and hospice care provider to my personal friend and confidant, ASIMO. You may now ask me your question."

The moment has finally arrived. I ask the hologram, "Mr. Marx, what do you make of the popularity of Socialist theory amongst Zoomers creating content on TikTok?"

"No," he responded.

I would later learn that the Karl Marx hologram is only capable of answering yes or no questions at this time, though IBM has promised that the hologram will be capable of more complexity by the end of 2021 when they introduce programming that allows it to do Jeff Foxworthy-style jokes about Marxism as well as limited crowd work targeted at short people.

Despite the lack of nuance available in his answer, one thing is clear, Zoomers: Karl Marx (as dictated by an IBM-powered hologram, funded by APxCAP) does not approve. 🗿



IMPRESSIVE! THIS SIX TRILLION DOLLAR BUDGET DOESN'T INCLUDE MEDICINE

//DIANA KOLSKY

PRESIDENT BIDEN RECENTLY RELEASED his historically robust \$6 trillion 2022 budget. This big boy has it all—\$715 billion for the Pentagon, \$617 million to vaguely combat climate change, \$8.7 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, generic-brand electric toothbrushes for all White House staff, a growth spell for Jimmy Carter, and a fifty foot light-up map of China the President plans to set fire to next time he's "steamin' mad" (the last three are conjecture on the part of this publication).

"This thing is like a piñata!" Chuck Schumer said of the next year's budget on Friday, "I mean, I don't know how he packed so much in—it's got a little bit of everything, you just have to be willing to beat it with a stick, dig around on the ground, maybe push a kid." Despite Schumer's festive comments, one budgetary item appears

to be conspicuously M.I.A.: medicine. Sure, there's some COVID stuff in there, a possible Medicaid expansion, some peanuts for the homeless that could end up trickling into a lil' medical assistance, but the elephant in the room at risk of losing a leg needs insulin, and he's not gonna get it.

This administration talks a big game about dignity, equality, and "real folks," but when it comes to basic human needs, they are failing to meet them. Sure, we may see a pastel trans flag-painted rainbow rocket driven by a gay Black pilot blow up half of Palestine, but those "real folks" Biden loves to croon about in his unintelligible speeches, punctuated by pedophilic bon mots, are suffering and dying in record numbers, despite their unprecedented military protections.

Functionally Dead caught up with a WH aide who had his wits about him enough to ask to remain anonymous before downing six Jack and Diets: "With a budget this size, it's actually *so* impressive that there's no path towards universal health care. I mean, this thing is fuckin' huge! They didn't scrimp on *anything*, like I legit saw something in there about a Major Biden clone for every ICE agent and their family. They must really, *really* not want people to go to the doctor."


Although said aide projectile vomited on the bar and was ejected from the establishment where we conversed, he has a point. It really does seem like they tried to omit any vigorous semblance of medical assistance. Biden's plan includes \$17 billion for nut-and-bolt improvements like repairs to roads, airports, and bridges, \$4.5 billion to replace lead water pipes from sea to shining sea, \$13 billion to bolster high-speed broadband, but I wonder who will drive on those roads, drink that water, and watch that step-sibling porn sans-lag?

As working-class Americans' quality of life continues to erode, and we blow the crotch out of our already-tenuous safety briefs, remember to take your vitamins, my friends (you'll have to buy your own—I crawled around on the ground with Chuck and there aren't any in the party piñata). No one, even the largest fiscal budget by over a billion dollars, is coming to save us. 🤖

DUNGEONS & DEMOCRATS

A MEDIA PUNDIT CHARACTER SHEET

//MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN



EVE BARLOW



NAME: EVE BARLOW

CLASS: ZIONIST 5 / POSTER 7

ALIGNMENT:

**CHAOTIC
EVIL**

SPELLS & ABILITIES:

ZION'S SIGHT

Eve perceives antisemitism that does not exist on the material plane, but at the cost of -5 to all Perception rolls. While Eve is in combat, all legitimate criticism of Israel becomes antisemitic.

MY JEWISH FRIEND

Once per day, Eve can conjure an imaginary Jewish Friend who has been the victim of antisemitism. This Jew gains Zion's Sight and can turn "Free Parking" signs into "Free Palestine" signs once per turn. If Eve is pressed for more details on this friend, they are immediately destroyed.

AS A JEW...

All damage dealt by Eve is considered Jewish, disregarding her lack of morals, ethics, and compassion.

UNLIKELY ALLY

As a useful idiot, Eve gains +15 in all Diplomacy checks with right wing American evangelical Christians. Further, on her turn, Eve can sacrifice her integrity and summon an evangelical leader to make the same arguments she's making, granting +5 to all genocides.

FARTLOW'S CURSE

When Eve fails an attack roll, the targeted enemy rolls 1d20 against Eve's AC. If successful, Eve releases a silent but deadly cloud of poison gas, causing Eve to temporarily lose 1d4 points of Charisma.

NAME: BARI WEISS

CLASS: ZIONIST 5 / POSTER 5 /

AGENT OF SUBSTACK 2

ALIGNMENT:

**LAWFUL
EVIL**

SPELLS & ABILITIES:

OUT OF CONTROL CANCEL CULTURE

All attempts to cancel Bari immediately fail, even if she wants to be canceled. Further, if the person attempting to cancel Bari is Palestinian or sympathetic toward Palestine, they immediately lose their class abilities, their job, and their home (if Bari feels like it).

SMALL PRICE TO PAY

If Bari encounters a Palestinian child that's been murdered by the IDF, she rededicates herself to the cause of Zionism, gaining +5 to all justifications for apartheid.

INTELLECTUAL DARK WEB

If Bari lands a successful hit against an enemy, roll 1d6. If even, the enemy becomes entranced by the arguments of Old Gods Jord'aan Peterson, Steven The Pinker, and Jo Ro Gan, and is immediately expelled from the Material Plane. If odd, Bari becomes distracted by the fascism laundered through pithy observations about the benefits of cleaning your room, and suffers -15 to all Intelligence and Wisdom rolls until the end of combat.

SUBSTACK TEMPORAL SHIFT

Bari can retreat to Substack, a space where only her readers can hear her opinions. She gains 500 gold but loses all Relevance until the end of her turn.

BARI WEISS



XENI JARDIN



BLAZE ONE WITH BIDEN

Xeni takes 1d8 psychic damage to set some Joe G Kush ablaze. The idea of Xenia smoking weed with Joe Biden, who refuses to take marijuana off of Schedule 1 and even fired staffers who smoked, makes all enemies within a 15 foot cone double over with laughter. They lose their next 1d4 turns.

BONUS SPELL

NAME: XENI JARDIN

CLASS: NEOLIBERAL 5 / BLOGGER 6 /
FRIEND OF EPSTEIN 3

ALIGNMENT:

CHAOTIC
NEUTRAL

SPELLS & ABILITIES:

NEOLIBERAL

As a Neoliberal, Xenia derives her powers from ritualistic worship of Norms. Each long rest, Xenia can choose one policy that was "not normal" under Trump that Obama did and Biden is also doing. Gain +10 resistance against learning about that policy.

In addition, when Democrats control Congress, Xenia gains +2 to all attack and damage rolls. When Republicans control Congress, Xenia retains her bonus, as the political agenda of both parties is functionally the same.

BERNIE BANE

Xenia's sworn enemy is Bernie Sanders. If she encounters a Bernie Voter, she becomes enraged, gaining +5 to all Twitter threads, while suffering -5 to all Intelligence checks.

EPSTEIN ASSOCIATE

Xenia has mastered the arcane arts of America's wealthy and powerful, due to her close association with Jeffrey Epstein (which she can't stop bringing up.) At level 1, Xenia gains +2 to receiving massages and -2 to all checks related to consent. At level 5, Xenia can use her knowledge that both Ghislaine Maxwell and Jeffrey Epstein are/were both gay to gain +10 to defenses against Epstein once per combat. At level 20, she learns the true name of the person who killed Jeffrey Epstein, and cannot die.

GANSTA CHECKIN

Xenia draws from her experience listening to Snoop Dogg one time and rushes toward an enemy of her choosing. Target immediately becomes prone and has no desire to listen to Snoop Dogg ever again.



THINGS WHITE PEOPLE CAN STILL LIKE

//JIBRI NURIIDIN GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

CANCEL CULTURE IS EVERYWHERE. From local militant law enforcement to those Dr. Seuss books you never read (so what if you enjoy stereotypic racist imagery?), it seems like everything you as a white person loved growing up is being taken from you. “Now I’m appropriating yoga? Great, what’s left for me to even like?” you’re asking yourself daily. What’s a non-political, neutral-in-all-areas white person to do? Not to worry! Here’s a leftist Black-approved list of things white people can still enjoy.

MAYONNAISE. Mayonnaise is still a safe bet for all of your summer dishes and treats. You don’t have to stop slathering it on sandwiches and using it as a flavor substitute. You may have thought mayonnaise was doomed when the potato salad controversy broke out, but so far your favorite condiment is safe (for now).

OPRAH. Good old standby Oprah has been making white people feel comfortable since the ‘80s. Though she’s gotten significantly more—how shall we say—*urban* in her last decade, Oprah and her media conglomerate remain safe for white consumption. You’re welcome.

BANANA LAFFY TAFFY. Yes, you can get your bland sweet fix AND still enjoy a saccharine joke at the same time. Laffy Taffy will be the perfect snack for when both humor and flavor are outlawed for whites.

FRISBEE. No national anthem controversy, no customized ‘Black Lives Matter’ player names, just good, clean fun. Tossing these lil’ discs around can’t possibly connect to generations-long systemic oppression of any other group, nor can people claim it is

prohibitive to a certain demographic. From Compton to Detroit, everyone has access to a disposable \$8 and a safe space to throw these puppies back and forth. **YOU CAN’T TELL ME FRISBEES ARE A POLITICAL STATEMENT.**

COSPLAY. Yes, it’s still OK to dress up as your favorite characters to make some lighthearted humor and show how silly, edgy, or niche your interests are. Word to the wise: stay away from dark full-face make-ups of any kind.

PRETENDING YOU ENJOY CLASSICAL MUSIC. Is that Chopin? You don’t fucking care, you just want other people to know you know Chopin. No one actually **LIKES** classical music, but even if you do, it’s still safe to do so. Seriously, it’s all you.

\$9 COFFEE. It’s a status symbol. Get that coffee, but make sure it’s fair trade! And fill that fucker with oat milk. Live a little!

DOGS.

GAY FRIENDS. You’re so accepting, you even have gay friends. >>

>> No, don't get rid of them—we're not taking them from you! Keep the gays, and if you feel so inclined, add a lesbian, queer, or trans person to your list as well. That too much for you? That's OK, just stick with the gays and keep the rest of your homophobia closeted. You did post that selfie together, didn't you? The one with the rainbow Bud Light? Very cool.

PATAGONIA JACKETS. Sustainable outerwear for all seasons, your Patagonia puffer is safe from the PC police. Sourced from local materials and with a lifetime warranty, I dare any liberal lunatic to tell you there's something wrong with that. What would they say? This monolithic outerwear brand decimates competition in the areas they claim to serve and capitalizes on the branding of indigenous people? No way!

VERMONT. Very few states can boast a 94% white population. Vermont is the undisputed whitest state in our nation. BUT THEY'RE PROGRESSIVE. They fucking love Black people (in theory) and fully support democratic presidential candidates. Vermont will never be canceled as the land of winter sports, summer hikes, and lake jumping. Don't worry whites, you don't actually need to support us to support us.

SHORTS IN THE WINTER. Do we get it? No. Is it harmful? No. You run hot, huh? Yeah I see, good thing that Patagonia vest keeps you so warm.

THE WIRE. Before woke was woke, you were watching *The Wire*. You get it, and we'd never take that from you. It has such powerful insights into Black culture that you could write a dissertation on it. In fact, you *did write your dissertation on it*. Its long lasting effects and lessons stick with you to this day, giving you the understanding to recognize that Black people in engineered socioeconomic situations are still people. Put that DVD box set on your shelf to let your Black friends know: You're safe here, friend.

FRENCH CULTURE. J'aime les baguettes, et la confiture, et les croissants. The Cannes Film Festival, St. Tropez, oh, and Paris. J'adore Paris!

IKEA.

WILL SMITH. Just a good wholesome fella. If you don't like Will Smith, something's wrong with you. We're not canceling Will—his talents and palatable sense of humor makes everyone comfortable. And that dad bod? Yummy.

DOGS. They're on here twice because I know how afraid you are of losing dogs. We're not canceling dogs!

HGTV. It doesn't count as gentrification if you're fixing the neighborhoods up!

MARIJUANA. Present or past use, the green is all good. Yes, there are literally millions of Black and brown folks in jail today for selling weed, but it's legal in so many states now. No need to feel guilty—just puff, puff, pass (to another white person who had their record expunged).

VEGANISM.

JELLY BEANS. Snacks of color!

WINTER SPORTS.

BREWERIES.

EXPENSIVE JAMS. You've done well for yourself—you don't have to apologize! Spend that disposable income on luxury preserves. You didn't waste time in grad school and get a job at your uncle's company just to live hand-to-mouth. You deserve to splurge, and we can't take that from you. Democrats, Republicans, conservatives, liberals... we can all agree that jams are just fun. They're the perfect compromising treat. Leave that political talk at the doorway and let them know this kitchen is not taking a stance! 🍓

Find more from Jibri Nuriddin @jibri



//PRIYA PATEL

What We Need Is More Kink at St. Patrick's Day

//BRADY O'CALLAHAN & SEAN O'REILLY

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF DEBATE about kink's place at Pride this year. As two cis-het white guys, we don't really feel like we have any place to comment on that, nor do we think anyone wants to hear what we could possibly think about it.

But as two Irish guys, we feel that we have a responsibility to make the following public statement:

What we need is more kink at St. Patrick's Day.

We think it might help to destigmatize kink in other public venues as well as destigmatize the Irish and St. Patrick's Day, which is commonly known as pretty much the Blackout Drunk Festival. Hard to imagine a world where this isn't a win-win, but if you're still on the fence, we've got a couple examples of how we think this whole kink at St. Patrick's Day could go down:

Faerie Circle Chokers

Every good Irishman knows not to cross a faerie or they'll punish you without remorse... which... we could be into. Take those fairy rings and strap them tight around our necks, Danny Boy.

Selkie Roleplay

As green-blooded men from Éire, we might not be inherently into furry play. If you dress up as a seal who sheds its skin, though, that all goes out the window. These Irish eyes are sizing you up.

Ball-and-Sag Pipes

Oh m'name is McNamara—I'm the leader of the banned S&M edition of the lovely drone bag instrument!

Stilt Kilts

The Irish wore kilts too? Hmmm maybe you can look it up... or you could step on under and look up at our Blarney Stones.

Leather Paddy

Did St. Patrick forget to drive one last snake out of Ireland or is this parade getting a lot more festive?

Green Bukhake

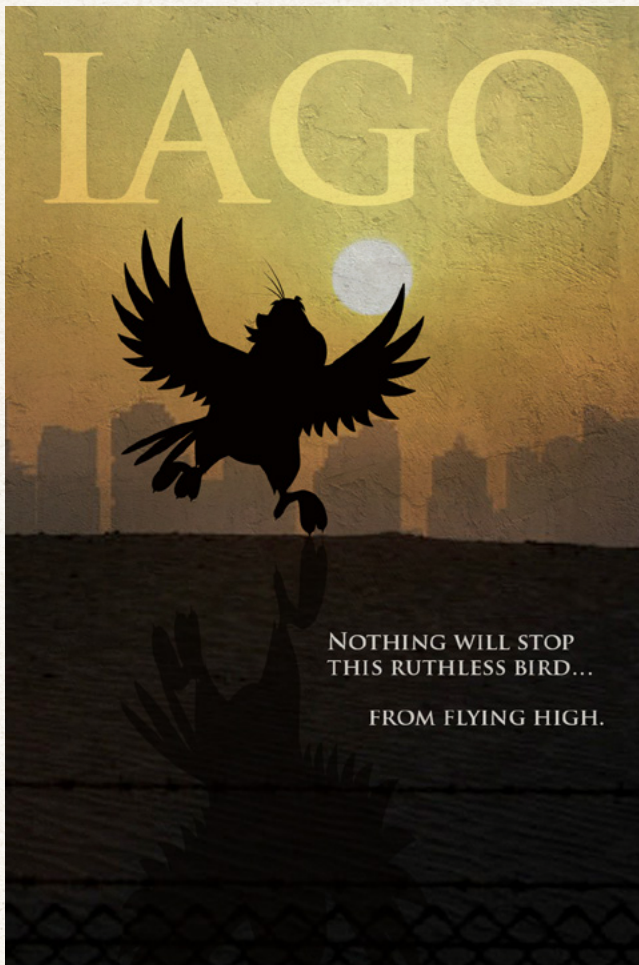
I mean, Jesus Mary & Joseph, we dye the beer green, don't we?

We do have cops, but... hear me out... they LOVE to be punished!

Our people have a bad rep for being dirty cops, and all we're saying is... what if we made them dirtier? Sláinte! 🍀

7 ELEVATOR PITCHES FOR MINOR DISNEY VILLAIN SPINOFFS

//NATHAN KAMAL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR



MALEFICENT. CRUELLA. MALEFICENT 2. After years of trying, The Walt Disney Company has finally stumbled across the one storytelling device that will never fade: humanizing transparently evil characters for monetary gain! That's right, Disney will continue to pump out increasingly thin excuses to recycle existing IP indefinitely. And frankly, we would like to get in on that sweet, sweet villain backstory cash. So, without further ado, here's our pitches for tenuous retellings of Disney villain origins:

IAGO

Ever wonder how a scarlet macaw came to be the right-hand man of Agrabah's Vizier? Ever wonder how a bird indigeneous to Central America made it all the way to the halls of power in a problematically exotic, vaguely pan-Arabic kingdom? In this reimagining of the iconic parrot, Iago is now an ambitious intern in the Agrabah Ministry of Justice, backstabbing and conniving his way to the top. Nothing will stop this ruthless bird... from flying high.

BUTLER

We all know that classic Disney character Edgar Balthazar was the wicked butler who tried to get rid of the titular spoiled cats in *The Aristocats*. But what this movie dares to ask is: what if he was something more? In the tradition of *Downton Abbey* and *Gosford Park*, this dark peek into the dangerous, sensual, and unforgiving caste system of the British serving classes will be sure to have you wondering just what it takes... to buttle. >>

CHAPERON

Monseigneur Claude Frolo is one of Disney's most chilling villains. Tyrannical, hypocritical, lustful; all of these describe the antagonist of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. What if all those terrible qualities... actually came from his hat?! That's right, Frolo's iconic chaperon hat finally has the rich backstory it deserves, from its origins in a haunted millinery to its climactic destruction in a pit of molten copper as it renounces God Almighty Himself. For in the end, doesn't the clothing... make the man?

A PIRATE'S LIFE

Heavily influenced by Claire Denis' masterpiece *Beau Travail*, this impressionistic journey through the lives, desires, and torments of Captain Hook's crew has its centerpiece in the passion and pain of Mister Smee. A fearless examination of the homoerotic dyad of a sailor and his captain, this tale will show the true meaning of... first mate.

SID: PORTRAIT OF A DELINQUENT

What is it like to be the only person in the world to know a terrible truth? Sid Phillips, the bully of the original *Toy Story*, is the only human in history to know that toys are alive. *Sid* follows his slow descent into madness as the burden of knowledge alienates him from humanity and toys alike. This chilling yet sympathetic portrayal of a young man on the margins of society and sanity will be sure to trouble you and leave you with questions no one can answer. This is Sid's own... toy story.

EASY

The City of New Orleans is the antagonist of *The Princess and the Frog*... not Dr. Facilier, the Shadow Man. The rigid class structures, generational poverty, marginalization of esoteric religious practices—these are the characteristics of the true villains of Disney's fairytale. This grim, unsparing documentary (unique among the Disney canon) delves into the seedy underbelly of New Orleans, chronicling a history so harrowing that it will make viewers weep. Because even in the Big Easy... nothing is *Easy*.

BARGE

Beauty and the Beast has one of Disney's all-time great villains: Gaston. Barge goes all the way back to Gaston's childhood to examine the true monster: his personal trainer, Lucien. It is Lucien who forced young Gaston to eat four dozen eggs every day, taught him to heartlessly hunt down defenseless animals, and formed Gaston's very biceps into the weapons they will one day be. Barge is a psychological battle in the mold of *Whiplash* and *Black Swan*, an examination of the destructive nature of the pursuit of perfection. Lucien will stop at nothing to make Gaston roughly the size of a... Barge. 🐻

Disney: Call us. We're waiting.

Nathan Kamal is a writer and comic performer based in Chicago, IL. For more information, go to nathankamalwriting.com or look to the stars in wonder. Instagram: @nathankamal



functionally dead

Left Feel'd



hosted by
matthew brian
cohen

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

Topic of
the week:
**BEZOS IN
SPACE**

Hey, while you're reading this, you could be listening to
Functionally Dead's new podcast, available to our \$5 tier
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[OUR PATREON](#)

FUNCTIONALLY DEAD PRESENTS

Some Lesser Known Senate Parliamentarian Rules

THE SENATE PARLIAMENTARIAN RECENTLY THREW a dart at the Liberty Wall and arbitrarily announced that the Democrats can only do one more automatic budget reconciliation this year. This in turn throws a wrench in the Democrats' plans to pass key legislation, despite the fact that the Senate parliamentarian is an unelected position that solely exists in an advisory capacity with no real political power and can be overruled at any time. This ruling came as a shock to the American public, who naively assumed they live in a democracy, and the job of elected officials is to pass legislation the vast majority of Americans want. Not so! There are rules and norms that must be followed, and those rules and norms state that it would simply be unfair for the winners of elections to pass beneficial laws.

Even more shocking than the ruling on budget reconciliation were some of the other rulings the Senate parliamentarian decreed. These have been curiously underreported in the mainstream media, but luckily, *Functionally Dead* is on it.

By the order of the Senate Parliamentarian:

No open-toed shoes allowed on the Senate floor. Looking at you, Dick Durbin.

Senate Democrats can have one "Chaos Day" where they can pass anything they want if one Senator is willing to cut off their arm.

Reading the lyrics to Barenaked Ladies "One Week" is no longer an acceptable filibuster, unless it is sung—and we're looking for commitment to craft here.

Side bets on whether legislation will pass or not shall not exceed \$1500 cash. Further, the action shall no longer be the juice. >>

>> Senate Democrats get to have one session outside, if the weather is nice. Whether the weather is nice shall be determined by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. If his hands are bloodied, it's six more weeks of winter.

Any piece of legislation promoting skin care lines, bath salts, or nutritional yeasts must be labeled as sponsored content.

Entourage's Jerry Ferrara is hereby permitted to break ties in the event that Vice President Harris just doesn't feel like it.

When the presiding officer of the Senate recognizes a Senator who wishes to speak on the floor, they must announce whether the Senator is a member of Team Solomid, Team Liquid, or any other eSport team.

Senators may no longer address Congress with the phrase: "What up fam, it's ya boy."

Any bill regarding a pay raise for Senators must be proposed with an eye roll and a jerk-off hand motion. Any attempt to turn this jerk-off hand motion into a mimed blowjob shall be prohibited. Looking at you, Chris Coons.

Republicans can no longer tack on funding for Ben Sasse's prog-rock band "Knights of Destiny" until they have booked a show at a venue of significant size (Hammerstein Ballroom or bigger).

Former Boston Red Sox Pitcher, Pedro Martinez, can be a proxy for any Senator on the floor during a vote and has express permission to roll Senator Cruz to the ground like he's Don Zimmer if Senator Cruz becomes unruly.

In the event of a 100-0 or 0-100 vote in the Senate, President Joe Biden must appear on the Senate floor dressed as the Six Flags guy and dance to Cotton Eye Joe.

The Senate will have a Field Trip Day once a year and the Senators can choose to either go to a Ford factory to take photos with workers while wearing hard hats or they can go to Pizza Hut Buffet for lunch where they can engage in a contest to see which of the guys at their table can eat the most pizza. 🍕



ViHo™: Virtual Reality Housing For The Unhoused

//MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN

UNHOUSED PEOPLE. YOU'RE SEEING THEM more and more these days, and even though you've fled New York/Los Angeles/San Francisco for the gloriously low tax rates of Austin, Texas, you just can't seem to step over them in the street and go on with your day like you used to. We have a housing crisis in America, and it's becoming a serious nuisance for those of us who have the misfortune of accidentally looking them in the eye as we wait for our Uber. And it's probably pretty bad for the unhoused people, as well!

As is with all things, Big Tech has a solu-

tion. And it's not some inelegant, Luddite fix like "housing." That's a 20th century solution to a 21st century problem, like reducing global emissions instead of sending a SpaceX rocket to colonize Mars. Denying the reality of the housing crisis has only gotten us so far. Instead of denying reality, we need to create a new reality—*virtual reality*.

That's where ViHo comes in. ViHo (short for "virtual home") is a revolutionary tech startup with eighty billion in VC funding despite having no tangible product or business model, so you can only imagine

how valuable it's going to become once it actually gets those things. Founded by Damon Buffett, the result of Warren Buffett's attempt to impregnate a hundred dollar bill back in 1985, ViHo's mission statement is "always do good, but in VR, for a lot of money." Who says capitalism can't be compassionate? So what is ViHo? Unlike those other startups that claim to be "Uber, but for X," ViHo is Bird Scooters, but for Health and Human Services. ViHo's mission is to give every unhoused person in America a virtual reality headset. This headset uses >>

>> cutting-edge technology to allow the unhoused person to feel, despite living on the street, like they are currently inside their very own home. Well, not *their* own home—it's actually a virtual apartment that they rent from a virtual landlord. We assembled the virtual landlord's personality by studying thousands of landlords across the country and compositing their behavior. So when the toilet overflows and there's a foot of water seeping into the bedroom, the virtual landlord won't respond to texts—just like in real life!

That's the beauty of ViHo. It's all about using the latest and greatest in technological advancements to replace a precarious existence with a slightly less precarious one. While the unhoused might be sleeping on a bench covered in metal spikes, in their minds, they're snug as a bug in a cozy, twin-sized bed. Why twin-size, and not a California king? ViHo VR is hard-coded to simulate an apartment the equivalent of a Rutgers dorm room, specifically one built in the '70s by the same company that developed much of New York's public housing. We don't want the simulation to be too comfortable—then there would be no incentive for the unhoused to find work!

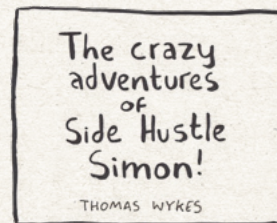
Speaking of work, we're not giving the unhoused access to virtual reality paradise without some sweat equity compensation. Each VR headset is equipped with a state-of-the-art heart rate monitor. The energy they burn off each day is used to mine a variety of cryptocurrencies. Each unhoused person starts with what we're call-

ing a ViHo premium-interest loan (covering the cost of the \$300,000 VR equipment we're generously providing upfront, plus a 500% interest rate). After they pay off their debt, whatever they earn, they can keep (minus a standard 15% service fee, of course). If that seems exploitative, know that we're reducing that service fee to just 13% for the month of June—Happy Pride! It's all about giving back to a community that gives so much.

Some of you hippies out there might be asking, "why not simply give unhoused people the money instead?" And that's a great question.

One other thing to note is that the battery life on the VR headsets is, to use the industry term, poor. Unhoused people will need to charge their headsets regularly, but that won't be a problem if they have their own USB-C charging cable and USB-C power brick. Headsets that run out of juice won't be able to mine crypto, and their owner will be subject to fines that are tacked on to the principle of their ViHo premium loan. But other than that, everything is straightforward and easy to use, thanks to the headset's brilliant UI design by none other than Radiohead guitarist Jonny Greenwood (we meant to hire former Chief Design Officer at Apple Jony Ive, but there was obviously a mixup, and it's too late to go back now).

We're planning on taking ViHo public this fall, so start your investing engines! If ViHo is anything like every other tech startup, it's bound to go great. 🍀



Thomas Wykes is a writer, cartoonist and occasional prankster living in London, UK. His work has appeared in NME, Metal Hammer, Weekly Humourist, Campaigne, Slackjaw, and once drew the wrath of Infowars. Know him better at thomaswykes.com

Ask the Functionally Dead Teen Team*!

How Do I Get a Guy to Notice Me?

//BRADY O'CALLAHAN

We hear it all the time.

"I like him, but he doesn't even know I exist?"

Look, we get it. Sometimes it feels like everything will fall into place once you get a guy to notice you. You could be right! First impressions are key, and we've got a few helpful tips (and the hot celebs who swear by them) to get your foot in the door so the lucky guy can get busy falling head over heels for you. xoxo!

Make Eye Contact!

Don't stare, but how can you expect a guy to know you're interested if you don't even seem interested. Lock eyes and smile! Smiles are contagious, and a look can say a lot! Take it from Timothée Chalamet.



"Ninety-eight percent of all human communication is non-verbal."

Accessorize!

You're gorgeous, but we could all use a little glow up. Try incorporating some fun accessories that show off your sense of style and personality, so you really stand out. Not sure where to start? President Joe Biden, after seeing an elementary school-aged girl, professed his appreciation for a good barrette!

"I love those barrettes in your hair, man. I tell you what!"

Perfect Posture!

You don't want to come across as desperate or anything. So relax! No guy is going to want to get involved with someone who's high strung and immature. Relax your shoulders, or maybe even try crossing your legs. You'll come across as more mature. It seems to do the trick for President Joe Biden, who is 78.

"Look at her, she looks like she's 19 years old, sitting there with her... like a little lady with her legs crossed."

Wear a Fragrance!

Didn't catch his eye? Double your chances by catching his nose! Try wearing a subtle but lovely perfume or using an amazing smelling shampoo. How do we know it works? Just take a look at this picture of President Joe Biden, who, remember, is 78, getting lost in the sensory pleasures of a freshly fragrant head of young hair. ;)

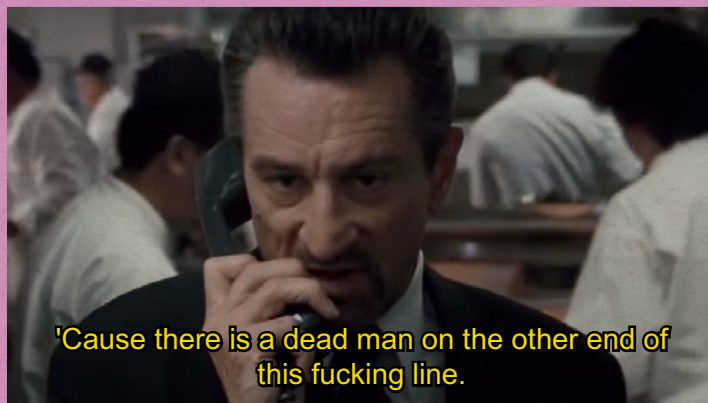


Be Yourself!

At the end of the day, the best thing you can do is be yourself. If you can't do that around a guy, there's no chance you'll ever be happy. And if he's worth anything at all, he'll be crazy about you. For example, Joe Biden, the 78 year old President of the United States, seems to find himself being inappropriate with women of all ages who are just trying to be themselves. 🐼

*2-3 men in their 30s

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: HOG-TIED AND ROASTING OVER A SPIT, BIDEN HOLDS OUT HOPE FOR A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION



'Cause there is a dead man on the other end of this fucking line.

FOLKS TO BLOCK:

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