

That's all Folks



FUNCTIONALLY DEAD

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Vote every day, bitch.

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DEMOCRATS: IF WE DON'T MOVE, MAYBE VOTERS WON'T SEE US

//JAMES DWYER

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In preparation for the 2022 midterm elections, Democrats are taking a bold, new strategy to avoid losing seats in the House and the Senate: simply hope voters don't notice them.

On a recent call with their caucuses, Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer rallied their members towards a strategy directly inspired by the hit dinosaur success story, *Jurassic Park*. “If we don't move, the voters won't notice us. If they don't notice us, they can't hurt us by voting against us,” Senator Schumer reportedly said on a private Zoom with donors, according to several members who were on the call.

Pressed for comment, Speaker of the House Pelosi said, “This is going to be a very important election, so we're looking to unconventional ideas, like freezing and doing nothing, because none of the other things we haven't done have worked.” When asked why not support broadly popular policies like Medicare for All or erasing student loan debt, Pelosi responded, “Get real. I'd rather use tried-and-true methods that have a history of success, and no one denies that the practices in place at *Jurassic Park* were an inspiring display of integrity. And Democrats will be the fruits of those methods this November. I will be a guava and Chuck will be a pear.”

Senator Schumer took a more grounded stance on the Democrats' strategy for the fall. “Yes, *Jurassic Park* is a work of fiction,



but a lot of it is built on popular science. As the only party that believes in science, it is our duty to follow the science. And the science is clear: voters will not be able to perceive us if we remain perfectly still.”

Just when we thought we had the quote, Schumer continued: “Did you know Dennis Nedry is an anagram for ‘nerdy sinned?’ If Americans are sick and tired of Republicans' nerdy sins, such as banning abortion and sacrificing children to the blood altar of the 2nd Amendment, they can make their voices heard in November.”

When *Functionally Dead* raised the point that *Jurassic Park* notoriously ends in disaster, Senator Schumer replied, “Only after they moved. If they had stayed there, completely still, for long enough, I'm sure all their problems would have just gone away. We just need something to keep us frozen long enough.”

In an effort to bolster their strategy, Dianne Feinstein has offered to be the first from the party to preserve herself in amber. “I am committed to the Democratic strategy, even if I don't know what it really means. I believe I'll be draped in sweet honey. Honey pots... I have a memory of Winnie the Pooh. Mischievous sort... he had a tiger friend who would bounce around on his tail, that's what you call a “power bottom” but I always knew him as Ralph—” Feinstein rambled to *Functionally Dead* before being ushered away to her ambering by Capitol Police. 🐻

A SIMPLE 37-STEP GUIDE TO FINDING A THERAPIST

//JEN FREYMOND GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

1. Go on psychologytoday.com. It's so easy to use!
2. Filter the list for your zip code. You'll definitely—well, probably—be able to find someone within a 6-county radius. They will, however, not be taking new patients.
3. Filter the list to providers who are taking new patients.
4. Filter the list by specialty. For example, if you have depression, find someone who specializes in depression. Easy!
(PRO TIP: IF YOU DON'T HAVE DEPRESSION, YOU WILL BY THE END OF THIS PROCESS, SO MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE DEPRESSION IN YOUR FILTERED SEARCH.)
5. Filter the filtered list to provide providers who take your insurance.

6. Don't have insurance? That's OK! You'll end up paying out of pocket either way!

7. Yeah, that's because even when a provider *says* they take your insurance, there will absolutely be some loophole or reason *your* particular plan is not accepted. This is the step where you mentally steel yourself for this inevitability.

8. Find a provider who seems perfect! Perhaps they say they take Premera and you have Premera. I'm telling you it's not going to work out.

9. Schedule a session with said provider. Say it goes well, so you schedule another session and *it* goes well, and you're feeling good about it! Now it's time to receive a bill for several hundred dollars that informs you that your insurance absolutely does not cover this. >>



10. When this happens, call your insurance company. No, not the number on the back of the card that it *says* to call. When you call *that* number, they tell you they've never heard of your insurance company.

11. You call the number on the back of the card anyway and they act like you're totally unhinged. "I know!" you'll say. You go on to tell them this was the number on the back of the insurance card, and they suggest you get a therapist. Perhaps you could try psychologytoday.com, they say. It's so easy to use.

12. Go to the dark web and, after seeing a few dead bodies and multiple failed attempts with numbers you found online, do an exhaustive search to find the correct number for your insurance company.

13. Find a suspicious, but possibly real number, Call it and enjoy the hold music.

14. Hum along with the hold music to really get yourself in the zone. You're going to be here for a while.

15. Drum a little rhythm with the hold music. Really make it your own.

16. Write some lyrics to the hold music. Make it an ode to your pet iguana, Sarah Koenig-uana (you fucking nerd).

17. Grab that hair brush and really go for it. Take Sarah out of her cage and serenade her. She doesn't show much emotion, but she's loving it.

18. Consider the possibility that maybe you don't need therapy. Maybe you just need a little more joy in your li—

19. Oh shit! They answered the phone!

20. Explain to the poor sap working in your insurance company's call center (who has apparently been on the call much longer than you realized) that yes, you did actually name your iguana

Sarah Koenig-uana, and you don't think it's *that* nerdy (in your heart, you know it is though) and that your song wasn't *that* bad (no comment).

21. Wait longer than you think is reasonable for them to stop laughing.

22. Remember *with a feeling of sinking dread* that this call may be monitored or recorded for quality assurance purposes.

23. Once the poor sap working in your insurance company's call center is done laughing, explain the insurance situation to them. This will not be helpful.

24. Tell them No, you do not have a pre-authorization because they told you the therapist would take your insurance and also because you're not entirely sure what pre-authorization means.

25. Set the phone down and let them keep talking.

26. Search "alternatives to therapy" on your laptop.

27. Discover forest bathing. This is a fancy way of saying "spend time among trees." That sounds pretty good.

28. Go outside. Get yourself to the nearest forest and walk into the woods.

29. Lie down and gaze up at the sky as it peeks through the branches. Feel gratitude. Breathe. Now *this* is therapy.

30. Head back home, refreshed and calm.

31. Find your phone. The poor sap is yammering on about flexible spending accounts or some shit.

32. Ask to speak to the manager. Be firm but respectful. Let know you are not to be trifled with.

33. Enjoy the hold music for give or take infinity more minutes. >>

>> Do NOT sing, even if Sarah Koenig-uana clearly wants you to.

34. Explain the situation to the manager. This will not be helpful.

35. Stop crying! Why are you crying already? Remember, you are not to be trifled with!

36. Hang up the phone before you embarrass yourself further, you miserable crybaby. Wow, “crybaby?” Why are you being so hard on yourself? Well, don’t *throw* your phone. Now you have a broken phone *and* no therapist.

37. Damn, you really do need a therapist. Go to [psychology-today.com](https://www.psychologytoday.com)! It’s so easy to use! 🤖

Jen is a writer, podcaster, educator, mother, and complete jackass living in Olympia Washington with her family. You can find her work all over the internet, in places like McSweeney’s, The Offing, The Rumpus, The Belladonna, Points in Case, and many more. Her podcast, called “I Never Saw That,” is about the two years she spent in a “therapeutic boarding school” in the mid-’90s and the pop culture she missed as a result. Find all of her work and more information on her website: [jenfreymond.com](https://www.jenfreymond.com). Twitter handle: @jenfreymond



PLEASE PROTEST IN PRIVATE

//BRADY O'CALLAHAN

I GET IT. There’s a lot of controversy surrounding abortion rights, police violence, climate inaction, voting rights, anti-trans legislation, etc. You’re angry. I’m angry. Now is the time for us to prove why we live in the greatest nation in the world. Let’s gather together, focus our anger, take action, and exercise our right to protest.

But, please, do so in a way that doesn’t affect or inconvenience anyone.

We’re Americans, not animals. There’s no need to loot, riot, or harass the people in power who are stripping away our rights piece by piece. We can have just as much impact by signing a petition, retweeting someone you agree with, or quote tweeting a tweet that you don’t agree with from your private twitter account with 24 followers to say “they’re saying the quiet part out loud.”

Believe me, I hear you. I’ve got just as much to lose, but my losses? They’re reflected in the stock market. That’s why I’m ready, willing, and thrilled to protest with you, as long as we have the decency to do it in the privacy of our own homes, in silence, away from media attention.

I hear horror stories about people standing outside the homes of these officials who are almost single-handedly setting us back half a century, and I have to wonder, did these people ever consider that the people they are protesting might not appreciate that? I’d like to think that if any of us dehumanized entire segments of the population and implemented laws to reduce them to cattle, people would leave us alone to hopefully come to the realization that we can’t live with ourselves. After all, if that were us, we’d simply be doing our jobs. Ever hear of “don’t hate the player, hate the game?” That probably applies here.

So please, be reasonable. Think twice, or you may have an impact in the only way that can conceivably make a difference. 🤖



AS A FATHER, I'D DO ANYTHING FOR MY MARKETS

BY PETE BUTTIGIEG

//MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN

THE BABY FORMULA SHORTAGE IS A PARENT'S WORST NIGHTMARE. While the Biden administration is doing what we can to import formula from Europe, domestic production won't be set to resume for eight weeks.

This crisis hits particularly close to home. I am a father of two nine-month old children. Along with countless other parents, I've had to send out both night nannies to scour the shelves for formula, paying ten or even twenty times what a container of formula should cost—almost Chasten's entire monthly allowance. Some are calling for the federal government to step in and nationalize production. As I said recently on *Face The Nation*, we are a capitalist country, and in a capitalist country, the federal government should not be making baby formula. While some on the left believed this to be callous and cruel, I take umbrage with that. I am a father, and as a father, I'd do anything for the wellbeing of capitalism.

See, when you become a father, you gain a whole new perspective on life. Once you hold your little ones in your arms for a photo op, the only thing that matters is the health and safety of your precious markets. You would do anything, and I mean any-

thing, to keep the means of production out of the hands of the workers. And if that means sitting idly by while other people's babies starve to death, you better believe I'm prepared to make that sacrifice.

And when someone threatens capitalism? Oh brother. As a father, all you feel is rage. You can say whatever you want about me—that I'm a spineless hack fueled by unyielding ambition and contempt for the working class—but don't you dare say anything about the market. The mere idea that the government would provide a social safety net for its citizens is enough to make me red in the face. It makes me mad enough to want to go out and do something that would land me in jail (if we lived in a country that would prosecute violence against leftists).

I wasn't always like this. I used to stay out late, spend all night committing war crimes in Kabul, and throwing wild fundraisers for my billionaire donors. But as a father, I have different priorities. My kids are crying for milk, and this bear market is keeping me up at all hours of the night. I'm keeping a lot of balls in the air to ensure profits soar while wages stagnate. But when I look at how much money Abbott is making in stock buybacks, it's worth it. 🙄



I'M A TIKTOK INFLUENCER AND HERE'S WHY IMPOSING MY OPINION ONTO THE DEPP VS. HEARD TRIAL MAINTAINS JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY

//LIZ WIEST

Hey fam!

I'm writing this to all of you in my Notes app while my latest TikTok live recounting the Depp vs. Heard defamation trial uploads. I've been waiting in line with the dozens of other influencers here for hours and the service *literally* sucks.

But no cap, now that *Euphoria* isn't coming back for at least a year, it's been actual torture trying to find a fight as spicy as the iconic Cassie and Maddy tea that was literally nominated for an MTV Movie Award. Lucky for me (and now all of you!), the Depp vs. Heard trial has invaded the zeitgeist and now there is a hella buzzworthy new topic to exploit for internet clout. Nothing tastes better than low hanging fruit!

As we all know, the basis of feminism is that there is one objective truth always at any given time. And that objective truth is my opinion as a cis white neoliberal woman. The #MeToo movement was spearheaded by women just like me, Amber Heard, who held rich and powerful men accountable for their actions when it was convenient for their political agenda to do so for this reason alone. Ugh, well-meaning social justice causes are literally so impactful once they're co-opted by late-stage capitalism!!

We know the US justice system is indisputable, and whatever a judge deems to be reality is exactly what the black and white situation was. Voting is the backbone of our country, so we could never vote in someone who was wrong. As an >>

>> influencer/journalist, I can say with authority that in legal situations there is always one good guy and one bad guy, and no case has EVER been a clearer example of that than this one.

And I know what you're thinking, "Yes, there's no doubt Johnny has done some very awful things and he should no doubt be held accountable for that, but Amber's track history is certainly not clean." Let's make something clear: the damning clips of Amber, as well as her multiple abuse allegations by queer women that no one is mentioning, are obviously irrelevant since the general public can't reconcile what that means for society at large. If we start acknowledging that these types of cases don't fit within the narrow archetypes we've created for them, then that indicates

we will have to start having nuance, and certainly no one wants that!

Those saying this is all a media circus simply don't understand that media is reality. Just because the Kardashians and everything we know about them has been perfectly tailored by a PR team doesn't mean that's the case for every other celebrity. Like, come on, that's literally one example. No other famous person has ever lied or branded themselves a certain way in the history of pop culture.

And not to mention, conflating the experiences of two insanely wealthy out-of-touch celebrities to the experiences of regular working-class people has never once been inaccurate or objectively insane. I mean what better way to evaluate

a discourse about power dynamics and structures than by using the Hollywood elite? After all, they are just like us, so how could polarizing the general public about a defamation case have any long-term consequences on society?

So remember, instead of putting your energy and resources toward social justice/public health issues that will create a tangible positive impact in your community and the world around you, please continue to project your own personal agendas on the Johnny and Amber trial on the internet—modern American journalism depends on it!

Anyways, remember to like for a part 2 and follow for more hot takes! 🤖



RELAXED COVID GUIDELINES CLASSIFY ASTHMATIC CHAIN-SMOKING COAL MINERS AS “MODERATE RISK”

//OWEN RILEY GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

THIS WEEK, IN AN ATTEMPT TO COMBAT the soaring rate of whininess among public health experts who insist there is still a “pandemic,” the CDC issued new guidance on COVID-19 risk levels for Americans to completely disregard.

Per the new guidelines, groups that had previously been considered “Severe Risk,” including asthmatic chain-smoking coal miners, recent lung transplant recipients, and Steve Bannon, are now classified as “Moderate Risk.” The elderly, people with other existing respiratory conditions, and the immunocompromised, who had all previously been deemed “High Risk,” are now considered “Hope for the Best” and “Too Worn Down to Care Any-more.”

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said of the revised advice, “We are entering a phase of the pandemic primarily defined by my staff’s disillusionment with the field of public health. Hopefully these new guidelines will shut everyone up for a while, but who knows, I haven’t actually read them.”

When informed by a reporter that the revised guidelines for hospitals had removed mask mandates in surgery rooms and instead simply asked “doctors and whoever else is in there to try not to sneeze into the hole,” Walensky replied: “just be grateful we still have hospitals at all, OK? I mean, it boggles my mind that anyone is still actually working in those cesspools. I would’ve quit this job a year ago, but they pay me \$261k a year and I don’t actually have to be responsible for public health anymore. This job is great now, but a year ago, when they still cared a little? No thanks.”

In the same press conference, Walensky was challenged by a Fox News reporter who accused the new guidelines of being crafted on the backs of “snowflake-deep-state-lizard-people science.”

Sighing, Walensky replied, “I can assure you that these guidelines are based on no science of any kind whatsoever. Here at the CDC, we are committed to continuing to provide the public with up-to-date, easy to access, completely inaccurate information and guidance for them to duly ignore. Nothing I’ve laid out today has been peer reviewed or looked at by anyone at the CDC other than the interns we pawned this project off on, because, and I can’t stress this enough, none of it seems to fucking matter.”

Some were expecting the new guidelines to remove the negative test requirement for international travelers entering the United States, a restriction that has already been dropped by most countries worldwide. A White House statement released shortly after Walensky’s press conference stated in response: “While we understand the grave economic toll that this restriction takes on the tourism industry, we are committed to ensuring that no American has to endure being infected with COVID-19 by a foreigner. Our goal is for all Americans to have the equal opportunity to catch the virus from a born-and-bred U.S. citizen.” 🦠

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Cops Wait 45 Minutes After Eating to Engage Active Shooter

//DIANA KOLSKY

UVALDE, TX – The local police department has come under fire for their bungling of the Robb Elementary School shooting which resulted in a massive loss of life, but new evidence suggests they were merely complying with doctor's orders to wait 45 minutes after eating before engaging in any strenuous activity, such as “protecting the public” or “not being cowards.”

Twenty officers entered the school after exchanging gunfire with the shooter, Salvador Ramos, but did not attempt to apprehend him. Lieutenant Christopher Olivarez claims that was the right call—his team had just eaten a late breakfast and didn't want to risk cramping up on the job.

Lt. Olivarez explained, “we were hanging out by the massacre, but we didn't jump in. It was pancake breakfast day down at the station. Didn't want to get a tummyache and risk being incapacitated, resulting in more kiddos being shot, or worse, an officer passing gas in a place where a civilian might hear it.”

Chief of Police Peter Arredondo added, “they weren't ‘standing around,’ as has been reported. The unit was waiting after a meal consumption, per their doctor's note that we cannot show you at this time because this is an active investigation. People may disagree with our approach, but these were doctor's orders. No one can say it was irresponsible.”

U.S. Border Patrol did eventually tell a janitor to unlock the door so they could enter the classroom after Ramos fatally shot 19 children and 2 teachers, but by then, the damage was done. A report has one officer rubbing his belly while taking in the carnage, saying on body cam footage, “if I had been in here earlier, I totally would have puked.”

Per Arredondo, the brave men of local law enforcement—a department which costs the citizens of Uvalde over 40% of their municipal budget—had a shooter armed with an AR-15 barricaded in a fourth grade classroom on one side, and potential abdominal discomfort from piling on banana walnut pancakes mere minutes before their arrival onto the gruesome scene on the other. “Nobody can say with any certainty what they would have done in that moment, especially if they had the lumberjack breakfast we had.”

Even as students repeatedly called 911 from inside the school, officers failed to act. “Those students called so many times. It's like, Jesus, we get it. Leave us in peace to digest and we'll come inside when it's safe for our bellies. Too much commotion will only elongate the process. Those calls are stressful, so we need some peanut butter and celery snacks and then the clock starts all over again. Clearly, the 911 operator did not communicate this to the children, and they need to answer for that failure.” >>

>> When asked why the SWAT team was able to take action in restraining, tackling, tasing, and handcuffing distraught parents who were listening to their kids being shot inside the school, Olivarez replied, “that’s different. Those parents were yelling in our faces while we were trying to relax after a big meal. They posed an immediate threat to our digestion.”

“Also,” another officer added, “they weren’t armed. It’s a lot less strenuous for us to deal with an unarmed parent of a victim. Last time I checked, Pepto doesn’t fix bullet holes.”

Some officers, in spite of their full stomachs, were able to breach the school to gather and escort their own children to safety. “Here’s the thing,” Olivarez said, “those officers were first in line at breakfast, so they could save their own kids no problem.” When asked why they rescued their own kids but not anyone else’s, Olivarez replied, “they’re selfish. I mean, what else do you expect from guys who insist on having first pick of the pancakes?”

Texas Governor Greg Abbott applauded the officers’ actions, calling them “Texas-sized heroes” with “Texas-sized appetites” and plans to appropriate 6.3 billion dollars for additional tanks, automatic rifles, and a Bloody Mary bar at the next pancake breakfast. 🤖



SMILE

//DAN LOPRETO

“Keep smiling, because life is a beautiful thing and there's so much to smile about.”

—MARILYN MONROE

AMERICA IS A FAILED STATE. How do I know? It isn't because our political leaders are openly and willingly letting a virus spread through the country unimpeded. It isn't because we're experiencing a baby formula crisis while Congress feeds more billions into the war machine. It isn't because we invade countries, occupy them for decades, demolish everything, and then simply move onto something else, like a plague of locusts. And it isn't because Americans know more about the Johnny Depp/Amber Heard trial than how to grow their own food.

No. I know America is a failed state because of the Saluting Face Emoji. The Saluting Face Emoji suddenly appeared on my phone last week. Maybe it has been there for a while, but I use enough emojis to give [LeBron James](#) a run for his money, so I feel like I would have seen it earlier. The Saluting Face Emoji is the truck nuts of emojis. It is, as absolutely no political scientists will tell you, the number one indicator that the country is in free fall and we are just a few inches from hitting the ground. The Saluting Face Emoji is the simplest, most perfect embodiment of a species that is (barely) having a debate about *whether or not* to destroy the planet that we are currently, all of us, living on. It is everything that is toxic, stupid, and absurd about this crane game of a country.

It is fitting that the first ever [Smiley Face](#), the origin of all subvariants of our current smiley face emojis, was created in the 1960s by an ad man who was commissioned by an insurance company that wanted to boost employee morale and brighten the mood of its workers after a series of destructive mergers and acquisitions. In many ways, this was always the point of the Smiley Face. To convince capitalism's losers to suck it up and deal with their exploitation. *Watchman* artist Dave Gibbons explains the appeal and malleability of the smiley face: “It's just a yellow field with three marks on it. It couldn't be more simple. And so, to that degree, it's empty. It's ready for meaning.” If the Smiley Face is a blank canvas with which the artist can say essentially whatever they want, what does Apple want to say? What message does a company that runs [sweatshops](#) surrounded by suicide prevention nets in order to produce devices that [spy](#) on us and [steal](#) our data want to convey to us? Salute. Support Our Troops. Love It Or Leave It. Suck It Up And Deal With Your Exploitation.

I wish the Saluting Face Emoji was a physical object that could one day serve as an artifact for future archeologists. When the United States is unearthed by a future civilization, it would be great if those scientists could come across—under the mountains of Culver's wrappers and Jar Jar Binks [lollipops](#)—a smiley face sliced in half with a weird little hand jutting out the forehead. I would imagine these scientists would smile back. 🙄

THE YMCA ASKS TODDLERS TO DO THEIR PART

//VANESSA BAEHR-JONES
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Students must be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination prior to attending their first day of [swim] class. Any accompanying adults and children (including younger siblings) must also show proof of vaccination to enter the building. Masks are recommended but not required.

—YMCA OF THE EAST BAY COVID-19 POLICY

Mothers of young children are a jumpy sort these days. You want to approach us slowly in public, use calming, neutral words, and certainly, whatever you do, do not explain to us how cute our children are, or, God forbid, tell us how you wish you had a “little one” to bring joy to your life during this time of civilization collapse. (Sometimes, I can’t tell if Boomers are actually psychopaths who relish the thought that their great-grandchildren will slowly succumb to deadly heat waves.)

Oh, I’m sorry, the coming end of humanity distracted me for a moment.

Also, do not dare mention the FDA. If you happen to see us out when we’re walking with our toddlers, it’s best to avert eye contact and cross the street discreetly. And if my five-year-old happens to relieve himself in the nearest bush, please do not stare. You try potty training your child when all public restrooms have been locked shut and roped off with yellow hazard tape for two years.

But really, I don’t expect much from anyone anymore. It’s clear by now that those of us who have lived through two years of being hit, bit, and screamed at while trying to shove a mask on a two-year-old every morning, are inhabiting an entirely different world from the rest of you.

And so, I wish I could say it was with some understanding that I greeted the twenty-something manning the front desk at the downtown Berkeley YMCA on the afternoon of my five-year-old’s first swim class since the beginning of the pandemic. I wish I could say I responded patiently and kindly when she informed me that I could not enter the building with my unvaccinated three-year-old in tow.

You see, their COVID-19 policy is meant to protect everyone! Toddlers must do their part and stay at home! She even had the chutzpah to smile at me.

Now, I am a native New Yorker and I’ve lived abroad in the People’s Republic of China. I know how to cycle through every human emotion to overcome bureaucratic dead ends. So, I started off friendly, smiling back at her and explaining how the FDA has not yet approved vaccines for children under five because no one in the FDA apparently has children under five, nor knows anyone with children under five, and frankly, it’s now clear that no one in the United States gives a flying F-U-C-K about children under five. >>

>> She had the gall to act surprised that my younger child could not be vaccinated. She even asked with half-hearted interest, “Oh, really, what’s the latest on that?”

To which I may have yelled back, “You want him vaccinated—why don’t you give me the needle right now and I’ll stick it in his arm myself?”

When she looked up at me with faux sympathy and mumbled, “I’m so sorry,” I leaned across the counter, narrowed my eyes and hissed, “Your COVID-19 policy is salt in my wounds.”

Did I then turn to my five-year-old, shove him through the turnstile, and scream, “Make a run for it”? Yes, I may have. And when the smug twenty-something got up from behind the counter to stop him, I may have grabbed her arm and tackled her to the floor.

Spare me your judgment. I see you, you unmasked Boomer walking by with your gym bag in tow, looking askance at the crazy woman pinning the front-desk girl to the floor. All I have to say is *SHAME* on you, you climate-destroying nihilist!

When my three-year-old started pulling at my hand and asking, “Mommy, are you happy,” all I could do was scream back, “No, Mommy’s not happy because the world doesn’t give a crap about your future!”

So there I lie on the floor, directing every ounce of the rage fueled by the inaction and disinterest of the powerful governmental bodies into restraining this minimum wage worker in flip-flops and Y-issued red swim trunks who in no way should have to bear the burden of protecting the nation’s most vulnerable. Hurt people hurt people, they say, and I have known the pain of childbirth. Please tell me who to hurt.

When they dragged me out of the lobby of the downtown Berkeley YMCA, my three-year-old crying “Mama,” after me while the twenty-something gingerly held him back, I heard myself cackling uncontrollably. A voice from somewhere deep within shouted at the guards, “Take me! Go on, take me! Who wants to watch a three-year-old on the pool deck anyway?”

In sum, you should know that I am continuing the species for all of you. Yep, the future of humanity rests with me! But it’s become abundantly clear that you have no interest in continuing this thing. So, fine, bring on the Apocalypse. Whatever comes next has gotta be easier than keeping a mask on a two-year-old. 🤖

Vanessa Baehr-Jones is a writer, composer, advocate, and mother. A former prosecutor of child sex crimes, she left the Justice Department to write a memoir and a musical about her experiences. You can find [her music here](#).

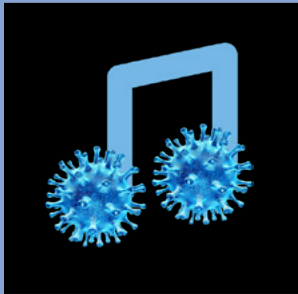


BRADYBACHS™

//BRADY O'CALLAHAN

I'M DRUNK.

LET'S FUCKING MAKE MUSIC AND SHIT.



I'M A FAILURE BLAH BLAH BLAH who cares, man? You guys don't want to spend money on hot, exclusive scams, that's fine. But beer? Nobody wanted my fine beers? That's fine, too. I drank 'em and guess what, I'm hammered now. And guess what again, I've got another idea.

Let's do this: BradyBachs™.

■ WHAT?

Shut up.

I'm gonna learn piano and play classical music and you'll buy it. Buy music, Brady? Are you for real, bud? YEAH. It's gonna be good, so you'll get it. I'm drunk and guess what, I've got COVID, so I have plenty of time not working to learn piano.

■ WHAT?

Bach sounds like Box which is what Bocks sounds like and that's what idea I have.

Bach was a classical musician, which if you don't know is piano music. Johann Sebastian was his first name and second name. He did a bunch of suites, preludes, overtures, and probably sonatas.

I'm gonna ride this FINE BEER HIGH and order a Casio Keyboard and learn all of them and play them so good you'll buy them on CD.

■ WHAT?

Do you have a CD burner? My laptop doesn't have a CD slot.

■ WHAT?

Can you please pay my student loans?

■ ANOTHER WHAT?

Wait who is asking these questions-though? The bocks got me questioning everything, in a good way. So good that it's got me questioning why you haven't already bought the first batch of BradyBachs.

■ BATCH? I THOUGHT IT WAS A CD?

It's batches now. BradyBatch? No, it's BradyBachs. Please buy it. I have COVID and my only COVID wish is to sell one million BradyBachs. Let's hope I don't pick up Monkeypox and have to do BradyPox™ next time :(

I READ THIS ZINE, AND THERE HAVE BEEN 20+ MASS SHOOTINGS SINCE UVALDE.

What Do I Do Now?

//DIANA KOLSKY

WELL, FUCK. Half the country has no healthcare as the pandemic rages on, and, if you're lucky enough to evade being murdered by the police, you'll probably get gunned down by a mentally ill gentleman in possession of an AR-15. Joe refuses to forgive crushing student loan debt, there's no formula for babies, and we're backing horrific wars all over the globe. A general strike is the only way to force the hand of our greedy little kings. Let's start with our workplaces and shut this shit down:

JOIN IWW

"FOCUS ON THE FUNDAMENTALS:

The IWW is different from many other labor unions in our focus on the fundamentals of turning workplace problems into winnable union demands: the relationships you build with your coworkers.

Some people have the impression that organizing a union at your job is just a matter of you and your coworkers signing a piece of paper that authorizes the union to bargain on your behalf. But unless you are organized and ready to take action over issues that are important to you, the legal paperwork is just window dressing.

The only way to achieve lasting gains is with a durable, long-lasting labor organization at your job that is built on strong relationships among you and your coworkers ready to back up your needs with action. The IWW will provide you with support tailored for your situation to help you build that organization.

WHY RELATIONSHIPS?

Your ability to improve your working conditions depends on your collective power with other workers - meaningful solidarity needs organization and relationships. You can't go on strike to demand better if you don't know your coworkers and have some structure for making that decision.

DIRECT ACTION:

Getting to a formally recognized union at your job takes time and organization. If you have strong relationships with your coworkers you can already start winning improvements in your working conditions through concerted actions at your job even before formal recognition."

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

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: IMAGINING A SAFER, POST-MANGO LADY NEW YORK



Mom died, couple years ago.

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//