

IN A WORLD LIKE THIS
WHAT'S THERE TO
BE THANKFUL
FOR?

IM
THANKFUL
IM
FUNCTIONALLY
DEAD

NOV. 1, 2022 //
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'Tis the season for genocide

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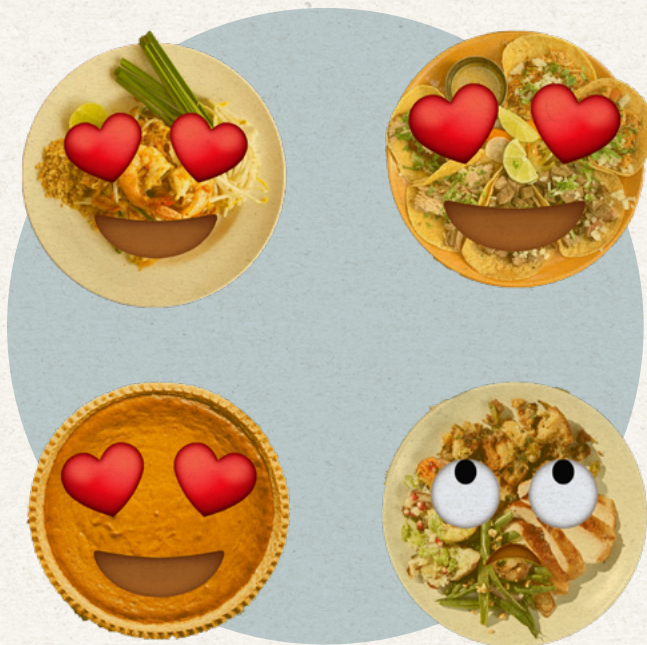
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If We Want to Stop Black Friday, Thanksgiving Needs to Be Better

//BRADY O'CALLHAN

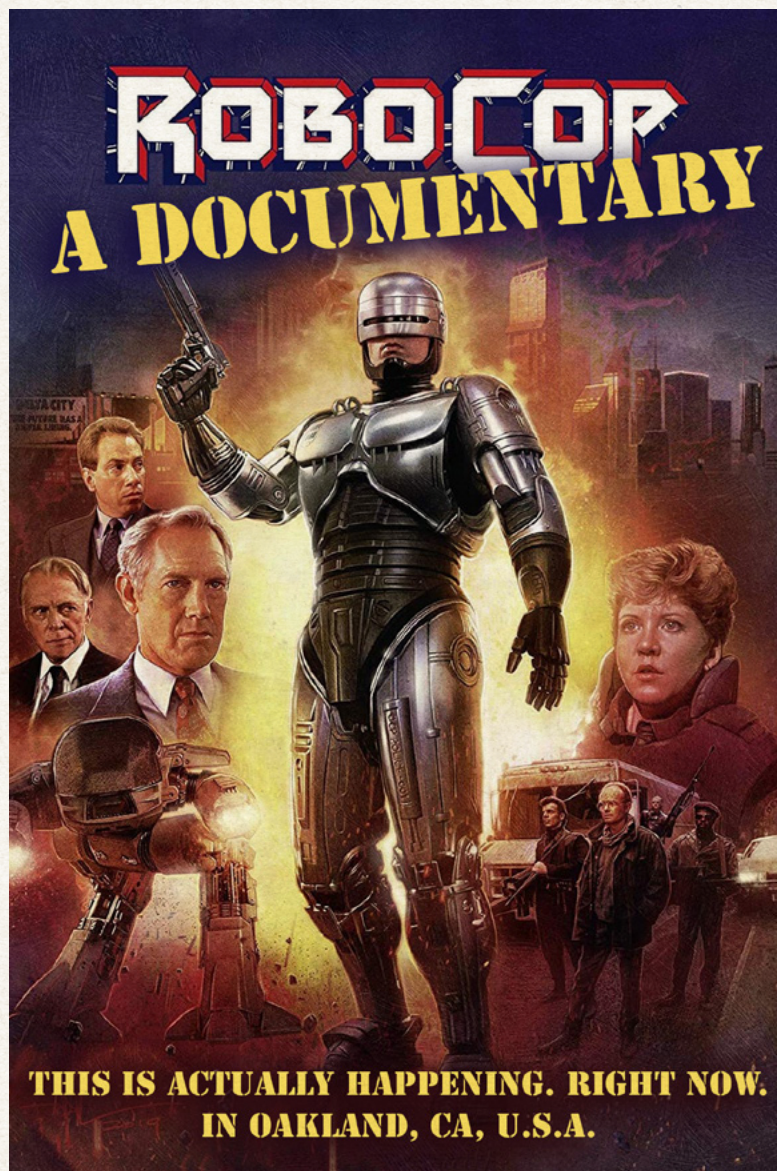


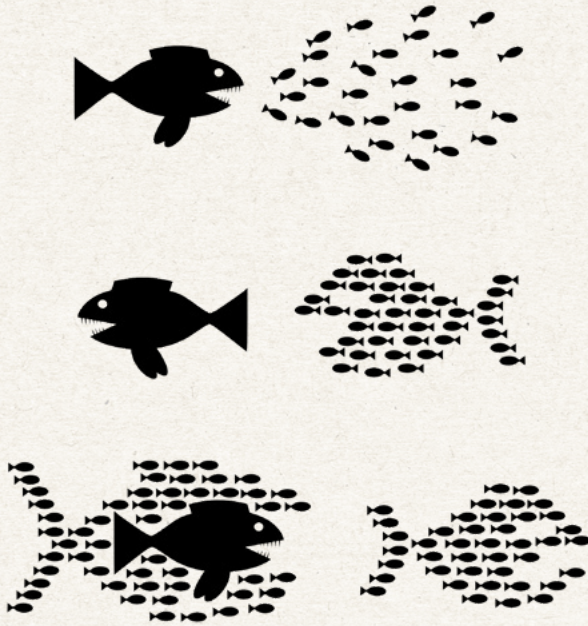
LOOK, I HEAR YA: BLACK FRIDAY is a disgusting American tradition driven by the capitalist gluttony that fuels nightmares. It would be incredible if we as a society just abandoned this spending holiday centered around THINGS to supplement the least important/romantic aspect of Christmas. What if instead of people anxiously awaiting their alarms at 2 AM to make it in time to get trampled by a woman making off with a 72 inch Samsung flatscreen, they slept in, hung around with family, and got trampled by their cousin Brian in a game of touch football?

I really think it is possible to stop Black Friday, but in order to do that, Thanksgiving needs to be better. Let's face it, Thanksgiving kind of sucks, and in its wake people are desperate for that rush of saving money they don't have on things they don't need. Here's a few proposals for a better Thanksgiving:

- **The observed holiday weekend starts on Wednesday.** This way, everyone can head home a day earlier, and the biggest bar night of the year can be that Tuesday night (Turkey Tuesday, mayhaps? We can work on that). While everyone should be happy with an extra 24 hours of holiday, this move is purely a merciful olive branch to those who normally spend the first half of Thanksgiving hungover. Everyone gets a full day to recover or a full day to prepare. That's a win-win.
- **We need some official Thanksgiving music.** Halloween's got spooky, surfy tunes. Christmas has heartfelt carols and gentle jazz pop vocals. Thanksgiving should give a reason for people to want to stay in the room after a meal and crack open another bottle of wine. I'll throw out Delta blues as an option (simple and repetitive lyrics that are easy to pick up on and sing along to), but I'm open to suggestions. >>

- **The parade needs a visual scavenger hunt lottery system.** Every household in America is sent a bingo card with criteria like “90’s novelty lip sync” or “Ronald McDonald falling” on it. Bingo winners can mail in their card for a \$10k tax write-off. The whole family can gather round and get involved and invested, together. Winners have reason to celebrate the entire weekend.
- **Let’s have Mexican food or Thai food or Indian food or literally any food with some spice and flavor.** Thanksgiving food exists for leftovers, which are fine, but the actual meal is a slog that makes you sleepy. We can do better.
- **That said, the desserts can stay.** No notes there. Everyone loves the pies.
- **Any employees that work Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday of Thanksgiving week are paid 3x their normal rate or given 3 days of PTO per day worked.** Cost of goods allowed to double on Thursday and Friday. This discourages employers from forcing people to work unless necessary and discourages consumers from consuming unless they are willing to take a financial hit for the “convenience.” Workers are rewarded regardless.
- **Friday, while part of Thanksgiving, is deemed Christmas decorating day.** Each town will employ city workers to drive through its streets dispersing hot cocoa, coffee, and egg nog to those outside decorating their houses and lawns for the enjoyment of the neighborhood. Jews can stay inside and have leftover Thai for Shabbat dinner. Leftover Thai is among some of the best leftovers of all time. 🤖





JOIN YOUR LOCAL **SCAB** UNION

//AUDREY CLARK GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

HEY SCABS! SICK OF GETTING PUSHED AROUND by union thugs when you're just trying to earn an honest day's pay by backstabbing your fellow workers?

WE HEAR YOU!

Being a scab is one of the noblest and most underappreciated jobs out there. People call us traitors, scumbags, and pieces of shit, just because we're a bunch of traitorous, piece-of-shit scumbags. But in the scab union, we appreciate ALL of our wonderful scabs—and we want to make sure your voice is heard.

Not convinced? Here's what you need to know:

SCABS ARE WORKERS TOO

We do the exact same jobs as union workers! Legit, the exact same jobs. We go in, and we do their literal jobs for reasons that are not worth exploring further.

WE WORK HARD

While lazy union workers are lazing around on their lazy strike, us hardworking scabs are there making sure the flow of capital never ceases. We don't get breaks, sick days, or weekends. We just show up, do the work, and occasionally get GRINDED UP in

the machines because none of us got trained to use the machines properly.

WE DESERVE RESPECT

Union thugs use their collective bargaining power to demand better pay, benefits, and working conditions. This is why employers turn to scabs like us, who are willing to do the job WITHOUT the reward. And you know what? We deserve a reward for that! A reward like better pay, benefits, and working conditions! >>

SCABS ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

If you demand better treatment as a lone scab, the company's just gonna fire you and get another scab to take your place. After all, they managed to replace their regular workers when they went on strike. That's the whole reason we're here. But if ALL us scabs demand better treatment, what are they gonna do? Fire us? Who's gonna take our place? Scabs? We ARE the scabs, dumbass!

FUCK UNIONS

Except this one! The one filled to the brim with scabs. This one is good. It's the only good union.

FUCK JACK LONDON

Author Jack London once said:

After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad, and the vampire, he had some awful substance left with which he made a scab. A scab is a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a water brain, a combination backbone of jelly and glue. Where others have hearts, he carries a tumor of rotten principles.

My medical situation is PRIVATE! Fuck off WOLF BOY!

FUCK THAT BIG RAT

We hate it when the union guys blow up that big rat! You know sometimes when they go on strike and they have one of those big inflatable rats? They blow it up, and then they all point at it, and they say, "This is you, you SCAB FUCK!" Give us a fucking break! You know how many of us got GRINDED UP in the machines today because your whole safety team is on strike, demanding they make the machines safer?

WE'RE GONNA STEAL THE BIG RAT

That'll show those union thugs. We're gonna take that rat, and then we're gonna find out if it's HARD. If it's hard, like a hard plastic or something, we're gonna smash it up. If it's SOFT AND BOUNCY, then we might keep it and play around with it for a bit. Even scabs like having fun!

WE HAVE CHANTS, TOO

"Hey, hey! Ho, ho! Abuse of scabs has got to go!"

"Show me what strike-breakery looks like! This is what

strike-breakery looks like!"

"What do we want? Better wages! Who do we want 'em for? Just us, not your usual staff!"

WE BELIEVE IN THE EIGHT HOUR MOVEMENT

Eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for getting the shit BEATEN OUT of us by union thugs who have no respect for an honest day's work by a bunch of guys who only get to work because they don't respect an honest day's work!

WE HATE UNION THUGS

Those damn union thugs! Every time a strike succeeds and the bosses agree to negotiate, we all lose our jobs! How is THAT fair?

WE ARE WORKING ON A NAME CHANGE

We get it! "Scabs" isn't exactly the most flattering name for what we do. It sounds like those disgusting little crusty things you pick off your sores. Don't worry! We're working on a new name! Our current frontrunners are "Warts," "Ingrown Hairs," "Those FREAKY BUGS That Lay Eggs In Your Skin And Then A BIG ASS GRUB Grows In There," and of course "Strike-Breaking Cunts."

YOU BETTER SIGN UP

If we find out you're doing scab work without joining your scab union, we'll BREAK your fuckin LEGS.

WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

If the bosses try to push us around, we'll tell them HELL NO! But if they're only trying to push one or two of us around, and they're actually being pretty chill to the rest of us... tough luck, my man! Consider yourself OUT OF THE UNION!

IF ANYONE KNOWS HOW TO USE THE MACHINES

That would be really great. A lot of us have been getting GRIND-ED UP out here.

WHAT ABOUT UNION BUSTERS?

Not a problem We convinced all the union busters to start their own UNION BUSTERS UNION, and then they busted themselves, and now they are all DEAD.

SCABS OF THE WORLD, UNITE! ☠

Audrey Clark is a comedian from Sydney, Australia. She is so funny and nice and you love her.

HEY Y'ALL. IT'S ME JAY DAVEY AKA JONATHAN DAVIS, THE LEAD SINGER OF KORN.

When I first started this Discord server for “Unleashed Freaks”-level Patreon subscribers of the *KornKast*, it was with the intention of curating a community rooted in trust around our collective obsession with the nu metal stylings of my band, Korn. However, I feel that sense of trust has suddenly taken a hit, at least for me. Today, I discovered the “Corn Kid” TikTok music video for the first time. A 54-year old man named Chuz dropped the HTML link into the comments of my most recent Instagram post—the one where I announce that the Korn store will be selling [high-quality custom leather and woven nylon leashes](#). I copied and pasted that link into Microsoft Edge and it was then that I saw Corn Kid in all his glory. It's an incredible video featuring an even more incredible song that hasn't left my brain since. So, I just want to know, how come no one mentioned it to me? I really feel like I missed the boat on this one and like, you guys should've told me?

I know direct messages to me are officially banned because I'm allergic to feet pics, but I'm shocked to see no one dropped a link to the video in the “#RandomKorn” channel, the “#Unrelated” channel, or even in the channel we've dedicated to corn the food called “#CornTheFood.” You guys pay \$20 a month to access this private server and no one thought, “Hey, Jonathan would really get a kick out of this?” Now I can't even talk to people about the video because they'll inevitably be like “oh you're just seeing that now?” It's 2022, and I am the frontman of Korn. I can't let people think that I'm out of touch. People expect me to be abreast of the latest happenings in popular culture. And I feel as though you have all failed in aiding me in this little experiment I call Life.

As much as it hurts feeling left out of the cultural conversation, it's all the meme opportunities I missed out on that hurt the most. I don't know if you know this, but Korn and corn are basically the same word that mean almost the same thing. When people think of “corn” they sometimes think of “Korn.” Like, I've got so many ideas right now... and all of them? Past their prime. Not happening for me. Completely useless. “It has the juice?” More like boom na na noom na na no it doesn't, not for you, Jonathan Davis, the frontman of Korn.

Sorry to dump so hard, y'all. You know I appreciate your support. I just think we should learn and grow from this moment. If corn has its moment again? I want to know right away. Doesn't have to be corn even. I mean, porn rhymes with Korn. Maybe people online like porn. The Gorn, from *Star Trek: The Original Series*? If people are talking about them, I want to know. When Lorne Michaels dies? Well we've already got something planned for that, so you actually don't need to let me know about that one. But if there's another viral moment that rhymes with Korn, hit me up. My time on this Earth is limited, and if I'm not using that time to capitalize on fleeting viral moments, then that is time wasted.

Thank you.

-JD



//JAMES DWYER

JONATHAN DAVIS: JUST
HEARING ABOUT THIS
CORN KID. REALLY FEEL
LIKE I MISSED THE BOAT.

Joe Biden announced an upcoming blanket pardon for all those who have been convicted of marijuana possession at the federal level. RT IF YOU THINK EVEN MORE PEOPLE SHOULD GO TO PRISON TO MAKE THIS THE BIGGEST PARDON EVER

Lindsey Graham continues to back Georgia Senate candidate Herschel Walker, calling the reporting on Herschel Walker's domestic abuse allegations a "media conspiracy." RT IF YOU THINK LINDSEY GRAHAM SHOULD FIND SOMEONE WITH BETTER MORALS TO VOTE ON HIS FEDERAL ABORTION BAN

The January 6th committee announced it will subpoena Donald Trump. RT IF YOU THINK EVERY SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD SUBPOENA HIM, INCLUDING THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Joe Biden announced that the LA City Council members recently caught on tape making racist remarks should resign. RT IF THEIR BLATANT RACISM IS DISTRACTING FROM THE REAL ISSUES: TAX BREAKS FOR REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS

Election experts are saying record inflation could hurt the Democrats in November's midterm elections. RT IF YOU THINK THE ONLY THING THAT'S INFLATED IS DONALD TRUMP'S HAIRLINE



TWITTER

//MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN

Michigan's latest anti-trans bill would threaten parents of trans youth with life in prison. RT IF YOU THINK PARENTS BELONG WITH THEIR KIDS, SO THEY SHOULD ALL GO TO PRISON

Vladimir Putin announced he'd be willing to use "all available means of destruction" in his war with Ukraine. RT IF YOU THINK THIS IS THE GAYEST WAY OF ANNOUNCING NUCLEAR WAR

Elon Musk is shutting off his Starlink Internet in Ukraine unless the Pentagon subsidizes the service. RT IF YOU THINK UKRAINE DESERVES THE SAME SHITTY INTERNET AMERICANS GET... 4G SERVICE FROM T-MOBILE

The SEC will explore classifying cryptocurrencies as securities. RT IF YOU THINK A PERCENTAGE OF EVERY CRYPTO TRANSACTION SHOULD GO TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL

A Texas sheriff certified that the migrants trafficked by Florida governor Ron DeSantis were victims of a crime, making them eligible for visas. RT IF YOU THINK EVERY IMMIGRANT DESERVES TO BE VICTIMIZED

Megan McCain said that John Fetterman's auditory issues caused by his stroke should disqualify him from becoming Senator. RT IF YOU THINK FETTERMAN'S SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE SHOULD DISQUALIFY HIM INSTEAD 🗿

**BEST
HOLIDAY
STEALS!**



THESE ARE THE PLACES TO STEAL FROM THIS BLACK FRIDAY



It's TIME TO BUY, BUY, BUY as the crushing energy of the holiday shopping season is upon us! But if you're anything like the millions of Americans whose purchasing power is virtually unchanged since 1964, you just opened your empty wallet to the sight of a moth that just unalived itself. Don't fret! *Functionally Dead's* got you covered with the Black Friday's BEST HOLIDAY STEALS AKA the best places to rob blind after you've stuffed your gullet with fixins to celebrate our stolen land.

THE WEIRD SNACK SECTION OF BEST BUY - Ignore the local media camped outside hoping to catch someone die in a stampede and make a beeline for the snack section as people dogpile for TCL tvs loaded with proprietary software that stops working in exactly one month. Here you'll find Maple Cheez-Its, Takis Wets, and Limited Edition *Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol* Doritos in Blue Gatorade Flavor (lightly expired). And the best part? No tags means no trouble scootin' past security as they feign concern over the man who got brained near the exit.

COSTCO - No membership? No problem. The red-vested workers at the one by my apartment are so tired, they don't chase you even if you're three poors in a trenchcoat who "forgot their card." It's a massive maze of consumption, so don't get lost in the 30 identical dad flannel aisles—you're better than that. Head right for the trampoline section. You'll find it by following the screaming children who have leapt to great heights, only to be impaled on snow shovels a few lanes over. Pro tip: the big bouncers are liability nightmares. If you don't buy it, Costco can't be sued by you. At \$49.99 apiece, Costco can't afford not to miss out on the future litigation so they'll be happy to turn the other cheek as you slap them in the face with the bundle of tramps on your way out. Just don't jump too hard: those little springs will fly off and take your eyes.

THE WALMART GUN COUNTER - We get it, guns are bad and the toxic culture around gun ownership in this country is even worse. But when it all finally turns to shit after they make water illegal, you'll be happy to have a couple of long boys and a shipping container full of buckshot with you in your hovel to protect your Princess Diana Beanie Baby from roving Brand Raiders. Luckily, the vibe at Walmart on Black Friday is exactly the same as Walmart during the first 24 hours of a zombie apocalypse. If there is ever a time for you to just waltz in and smash and grab some artillery, where the only pushback you'll encounter is a scared math dad who yelps "I'm just here for insulin man," that time is Black Friday. And hey, it'll be nice practice for the future!

AMAZON - Just fucking report all of your packages as having not been delivered. It's that easy! These dumbasses have so much money they'll probably just send you a new whatever it was with extra sauce. Time to stock up on heavy metal branded canned water and Amazon exclusive nostalgia packaged Fun Dip candy. Want to go for double trouble? Amazon has brick and mortar stores now. Steal a book from one since they stole the whole idea of bookstores away from all of us.

WALGREENS PHARMACY - Did you know that your health insurance will cover up to 4 free at home COVID-19 rapid test kits per month? Did you know you could just steal them and not have to fill out paperwork, instead? 🧐

I'M BORED

ASKING EVERYONE AT JURY DUTY IF I SHOULD WATCH ANDOR

//BRADY O'CALLAHAN

I HAVE ONCE AGAIN BEEN CALLED UPON to fulfill my civic duty. I can't overstate how frustrating I find this. I'm tired. I'm spread too thin. I have real life shit I need to get done. And yet here we are again. Every year or so I receive the same notification: "Brady, the new streaming show on Disney+ is actually pretty good. You should watch it." Fuck, man, can't I catch a break?

Plus, I got jury duty.

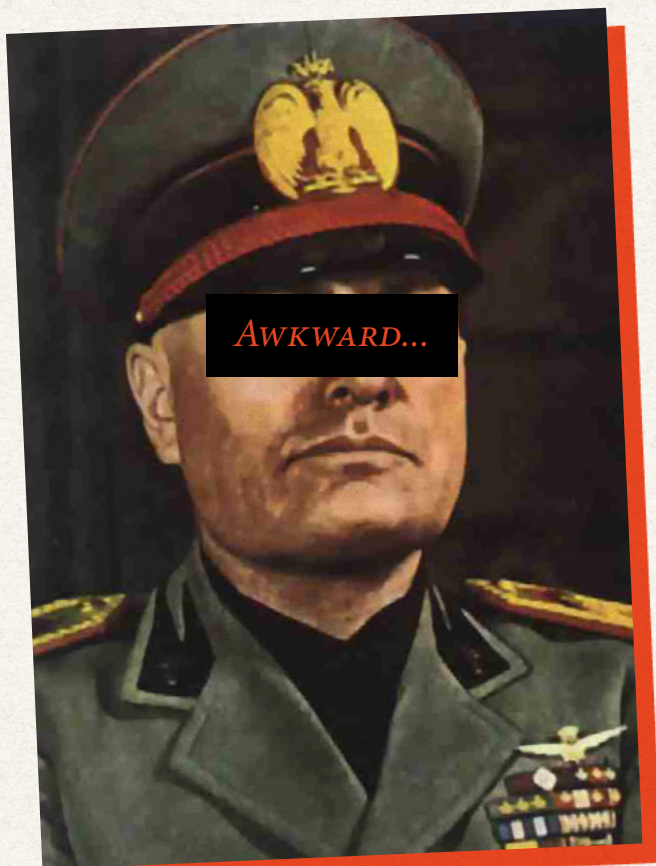
I'll be the first to admit, my friends seem to watch all of these shows. Marvel, Star Wars, Lord of the Rings—it doesn't really matter. If it's a prestige intellectual property limited series, these guys are all over it, and I'm likely to follow suit. I hate being left out of the conversation, but none of these shows have been all that good in the past (*The Book of Boba Fett* was one of the slowest hours of television I've ever seen before I gave up on it—and I generally thought *The Mandalorian* was decent fun). Since I can't trust my closest friends, I've decided to ask everyone who's serving jury duty if I should watch *Andor*. If I'm going to be here, it's at least going to be productive.

Right off the bat, the security police scanning my messenger bag seemed confused about the whole thing. "You just need to go into the room on the right and wait for your name to be called." Buddy, I wish it were that easy. *Andor* is slated to have 12 episodes, about 40 minutes each. That's so much time and effort. He started harassing a black teenager, so I shuffled into the aforementioned room to look for someone who wasn't preoccupied.

In the room, everyone seemed annoyed that I'd even bring *Andor* up around them. "Please just leave me alone. I'm just waiting to hear if my name is called so I can get this over with or go home." Exactly how I feel. PLEASE leave me alone. I still haven't finished *Justified*, and I'm not itching at the chance to leave behind that Appalachian thrill ride for a *Rogue One* (a heist movie where they don't do the heist for like the whole movie) spinoff.

Ugh, but what if it's good. "The only thing that matters is if it complies with the law as written. What is it that you don't understand about this situation?" I'll tell you what I don't understand: I'm hearing this is the best of the Disney+ shows so far, but they said that about *Wandavision* and *Loki* and honestly someone said that about the *Frozen* sing-a-long videos, I swear to god. Everything new can't be better just because it's new, unless what came before it is garbage. I hope that's not true. I have wasted so much time giving these shows a chance. I just don't want to get burned again.

Ultimately I know, as much as it pains me to admit, I'm going to watch *Andor*. It was decided long before I entered the courtroom and asked the judge if I should. And it was certainly decided after they threw me out and told me to never come back unless the circumstances aligned that they could give me the chair. I told them I'm fine with my couch at home, because it has more space. I make my girlfriend watch all these shows with me anyways. 🐶



ITALY ELECTS FIRST FAR RIGHT PM SINCE... YOU KNOW...

//ABRAHAM TADESSE GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Rome, ITALY – Political turmoil seems to have taken hold over the Italian government: tensions are high between leaders within the right-wing coalition comprised of Matteo Salvini's The League (9%), ex-Premier Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia (8%), and the winner of the 2022 Italian election, Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy party (26%). With the coalition having won 44% of votes, it, uh, seems kind of, ya know... never mind.

Turnout for the snap election fell to a record low of 63.91%, paving the way for a new right wing government, and the country's first female Prime Minister and a right wing politician since, ya know, the ughhh... that guy.

"It's a historic win to say the least," Mateo Francisco, a Fresca wholesaler said. "I mean, first off, a woman? What an amazing triumph and what it means for the history books! And a right-wing politician at that? We haven't had one since, ya know... don't make me say it."

The 45-year-old politician was supported by voters who found appeal in Meloni's railing against the dangers of "ethnic substitution," "the LGBT lobby," "globalist," and "Brussels bureaucrats." Even with the support, Meloni's new government formation is beginning to see cracks.

Just as had happened in the 2018 general election that produced a hung parliament, the centre-right coalition is beginning to see political headaches as it begins to take the reins of power completely.

"The last right-wing leader of Italy wasn't a cool dude, to like, anybody," says Harvard historian Michelle Sterns. "Look, by all accounts, it's a wonderful step for the country to have elected a woman to the highest office, I don't want to underscore that, but this is like fucking a relative who is also ugly—you got to have sex, but at what cost to your soul? Because... well shit, you know."

Far-right parties such as Meloni's have focused on a rebranding campaign to soften up their images, which in turn led to the snap election victory. >>

>> “I’m not a racist, I’m a family man who likes pasta and wearing black and brown shirts exclusively. I just want what’s best for my family and the future of white Italian children everywhere,” said Tabiot Roshane. “I can’t quite put my finger on it, but she reminds me of a guy I heard about once—nice man, loved pasta and family, created the world’s first totalitarian state in modern history...”

Earlier this month on the Senate floor, the eldest member of the Senate and survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp Liliana Segre, gave a speech to remind senators of the upcoming 100th anniversary of Mussolin—I MEAN... THAT DUDE’S—March on Rome, which gave rise to the fascist dictatorship.

Representatives on the floor of parliament from the Mushroom Kingdom, led by right-wing plumber-turned-politician, Mario, hurled turtle shells at a recent meeting. Mario’s brother, Luigi screamed at the top of his lungs that they should be “invading Bowser territory while the enemy is dying like a dog.”

“This doesn’t seem right to me, this is not-a the Italy I know and love,” political commentator and activist Waluigi stated. “I call this place home. I do not want to see this place slide back into people wearing... black and brown shirts... If you know what Waluigi means.”

It seems that all over Italy, Meloni is not only the new face of the Italian right, but that of a far right contingency that has taken hold across Europe.

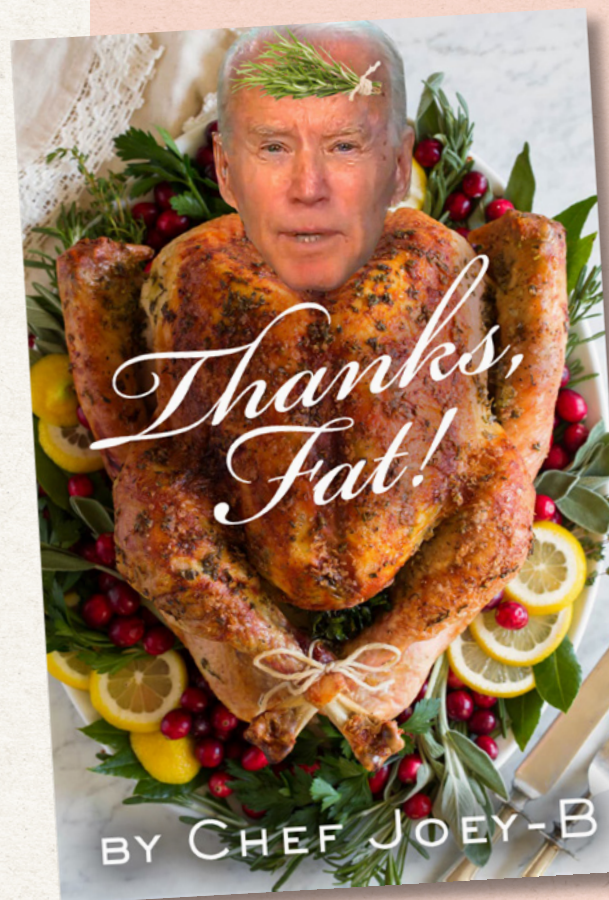
One could almost say she’s a Hitler mustache away from being, you know....

At press time, the Ethiopian Embassy in Rome issued a statement to Meloni, congratulating Italy on a successful election and ending the letter, “if you are thinking of war with us once more, you can fuck around and find out a third time!” 🐼

Abraham Tadesse is a standup comic and writer. He’s performed at the Bumbershoot Music & Arts Festival, Intersections Comedy Festival, Seattle Sketch Fest, PNW Black Comedy Festival, and the Milwaukee Comedy Festival.

He’s also a contributing writer to satire publications Flexx Magazine, The Needling, and Functionally Dead. Send him a death threat on iG @abriyay.

FROM THE *Functionally Dead* VAULT



OLDIE BUT GOODIE, 2021

HOW I GOT OFF MY PHONE AND STARTED LIGHTING MYSELF ON FIRE

//DIANA KOLSKY

I'LL START WITH SOME HONESTY: it wasn't easy to put my phone down. I, like you (the person reading this 'zine right now on your phone), am totally, truly-madly-deeply in love with my phone. Or was. From the moment I tore into that dented Gazelle box (once my neighbor brought it over after it had been misdelivered), I never looked back. My neighbor—Kevin? Curtis?—was the last human being I ever saw in the flesh. The intoxication from the death-blue glow of those apps, man, I get a sick shiver from my 'purchase' finger to my TikTok toe just thinking about it.

I plugged her in and let her rip. I was watching satisfying slime reels; I was heart-ing videos of people I went to high school with's kids learning how to walk set to the disturbing audio of Jordan Peterson quotes on the topic of pre-school masculinity; I was peeping recipes I'd never in a million years attempt. But more than that, I was *reading*. Not books. No, I was obsessively consuming The News. CNN's "Why Trump Is a Little Orange Bitch." *The Atlantic's* "Putin Just Went PuPu in his Red Diaper." The PAPER OF RECORD's "How Evicting People Made Me a Feminist-Slay Landlord"... and on and on and on. I could not get enough of the hard-hitting journalism gushing like PCP lava from my tiny computer straight into my dehydrated veins.

The brilliance of the US's geopolitics were deeply intimidating to my feeble brain. "We" could tell the difference between the ostensibly identical non-NATO country's war crimes and our own fight for freedom; "we" could tell the difference between starving Ukrainians (bad) and starving Syrians (fine); "we" knew how to spot and squash the authoritarian communism heavily cloaked beneath socialist candidates chosen in "free"

elections by what appeared to be a long-silenced vox populi, struggling to wriggle out from the heavy thumb of neoliberalism—all this buzzing cozily within swarms of ads for fast-yet expensive-fashion. In the end, this incredible ability of the West to parse who deserves to die *and* what I should be wearing to an autumn potluck drove me insane. I am weak and I could not understand any of it. To me—a complete idiot—it all seemed like horseshit.

I kept scrolling for answers. I stopped sleeping. Zzzs interrupted my much-needed hours of research. I stopped eating. How was I going to fit into all of these garments I bought on a whim at 4AM with the tickle of a screen? I stopped cleaning my body. How was I going to peruse all of the tweets and their ensuing "THIS" responses while showering? In the end, the dirt helped me start the fire.

It was sometime on someday—I really don't have any idea. It felt like there was light streaming in the window, but I can't be sure if it was sunlight or the glow of my hot little phone. I had been awake for a few weeks. The irony isn't lost on me that the story that put me over the edge was about a man lighting himself on fire. Wynn Alan Bruce was a climate activist who self-immolated on the steps of the Supreme Court to bring attention to the climate catastrophe our government is genius enough to ignore. (They must know something we don't!) The News called him an arsonist. They didn't report on his message, but I found it deep in the bowels of the Web. It broke me. I leaned over to my nightstand, grabbed a lighter, and lit my... pajamas? And myself on fire. My skin melted! My phone melted! It was spectacular. I've been on fire ever since.

KANYE'S BEEN GETTING A LOT OF BUZZ recently for his blatant, well-documented antisemitism. He's been hanging around with fascism fangirl Candace Owens and has agreed to purchase her husband's failing right-wing echo chamber social media platform Parler. He's donned "White Lives Matter" t-shirts to provoke the entire fashion industry and buddied up with Piers Morgan to invoke ableist language to talk about the President. At this point, I feel like I can definitely say that Kanye's older stuff was better.

College Dropout, *Late Registration*, and *Graduation* changed rap forever! So many good songs: "All Falls Down," "Through the Wire," "Touch the Sky," "Stronger." All of them so full of life and character. It's hard to believe that he still had *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, one of the best rap records of all time, in him. Man... I really just think that stuff is so much better than him being antisemitic all the time. Wish he would've stuck to that sort of thing.

Don't get me wrong, I'll be the first to admit that he's still prolific. He's among one of the most productive and attention grabbing bigots in the world right now. He's one of the most popular conservative Christian zealots going. He's found new ways to consistently make uglier and less practical versions of Crocs year after year! I'm just more into good, fun music I guess.

Yeah, no doubt about it. His old stuff was way better.

I guess I just don't understand the appeal. I like Jewish people and don't think you can paint them in broad strokes that inspire genocidal language from Nazis. I believe in the systemic racial injustices in our society that need to be addressed—if not completely rebuilt—in order to establish a caring, equitable world. I like normal, good shoes and rap music.

What's wild is it reminds me a little bit of Weezer. How they were one of the best rock bands on the planet for like 2 albums and then decided they wanted to be pop radio fluff and a corny nostalgia act. Kanye's kind of like that, except he wants to be Hitler I guess. Such a bummer. I guess some of you out there are down with Hitler and Kanye trying to be Hitler, but it's just not my vibe. I like his older stuff.

I'm sort of just tired of hearing about all his new projects (billionaire worship, cop-a-ganda) when in my opinion none of the new stuff has been very good. Kind of wild that they're trying to keep him relevant, when he hasn't done anything good since a couple parts of *Life of Pablo*. Maybe everyone should just let him slip out of the spotlight so he can rediscover why he got into the business in the first place. He could've been one of the greatest rappers of all time, but I guess he kind of wants to be one of the worst men instead. Just feel like we've had enough of those. 🤡

KANYE'S OLDER STUFF WAS BETTER

//BRADY O'CALLHAN

**'I can say
anti-Semitic
things, and
Adidas can't
drop me.'**

impossible is nothing.



FORMER QUEEN OF ENGLAND SPOTTED ALIVE AND WELL IN ARGENTINA

//JEFF DWYER GUEST CONTRIBUTOR



Queen Elizabeth II died of natural causes on September 8, 2022. At least, that's what Buckingham Palace wants you to believe. And why wouldn't that be the truth? The Queen was 96 years old after all.

However, according to a number of firsthand accounts coming from an undisclosed remote town in Argentina, the once-believed-to-be-dead Queen of England is very much alive, very much well, and has been very much spotted throughout regions near the Andes Mountains as early as last week.

Self-proclaimed local resident, Floda Reltih, who seemed to be sporting an obviously fake mustache, claims to have seen Her Majesty.

"She was quite hard to miss, I mean, mein gott! She's been all over the news these last few years," Reltih regaled with an accent that seemed extremely German for this part of the world. "I don't know why she thought she could hide in this perfectly normal place."

Another individual, who wished to remain anonymous, said they noticed something unusual—an elderly white woman walking six corgis down a dirt road. Upon taking in the strange sight, they stopped to try and talk to the woman.

"We've never seen her in the area before and knew she didn't belong," the witness alleged. "The weirdest thing was she kept saying her name was Margaret Thatcher, and that she wanted to know about Argentina's extradition laws."

This account comes just days after officials announced they halted a ship in South American waters, seizing 23 pounds of undocumented British tea and a shipping container full of Sex Pistols vinyls.

The news has drawn the attention of conspiracy theorists from all over the world, especially in places like the U.K., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Users on the popular British conspiracy theory

website Queenspiracy.com, shared their thoughts about the alleged sightings.

Many believe the Matriarch faked her own death to escape the Royal Family, suspecting the Queen has been attempting to remove herself from the family for decades. Additionally, they claim she only recently lambasted Prince Harry and Meghan Markle for leaving because she was "jealous" they managed to get out with such ease. Others insist this is all an elaborate attempt to distance herself from her sweatiest alleged pedophile of a son, Prince Andrew. Oprah could not be reached for comment.

Functionally Dead must stress that the sightings have yet to be confirmed. But if history is any indicator, and the Queen is in fact still alive, she will almost surely have a promising career with NASA. 🛸

Jeff Dwyer is a frequent daydreamer and amateur ufologist. More of his ramblings can be found on Twitter @JeffScape

I READ THIS ZINE, AND THE DOOMSDAY CLOCK IS STILL TICKING

What Do I Do Now?

//BRADY O'CALLAHAN & DAN LOPRETO

BIDEN AND PUTIN CONTINUE TO ENGAGE in a seemingly endless cycle of issuing and dismissing threats of nuclear attacks. As the two nations that independently own about 2,000 times as many nuclear warheads as any other in the world, the United States and Russia hold the entire planet as collateral in their crosshairs. Understanding the true impact of these threats can be difficult—we've assembled our favorite resources on nonproliferation so you can get a firmer grasp on the need and possibility for a world free from nuclear threat:

THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS (ICAN) - "ICAN is a broad, inclusive campaign, focused on mobilizing civil society around the world to support the specific objective of prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons. The ICAN international structure consists of partner organizations, an international steering group and an international staff team."

BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS - "The Bulletin began as an emergency action, created by scientists who saw an immediate need for a public reckoning in the aftermath of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. One mission was to urge fellow scientists to help shape national and international policy. A second mission was to help the public understand what the bombings meant for humanity."

JAMES MARTIN CENTER FOR NONPROLIFERATION STUDIES - "CNS strives to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by training the next generation of nonproliferation specialists and disseminating timely information and analysis. It is the largest nongovernmental organization in the United States devoted exclusively to research and training on nonproliferation issues. It is located at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey."

NONPROLIFERATION POLICY EDUCATION CENTER (NPEC) - "The NPEC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, educational organization founded in 1994 to promote a better understanding of strategic weapons proliferation issues. NPEC educates policymakers, journalists, and university professors about proliferation threats and possible new policies and measures to meet them."

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

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: CONGRESS APPROVES 3 BILLION FOR UKRAINE, 7 "YAS QUEENS" FOR IRAN



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//