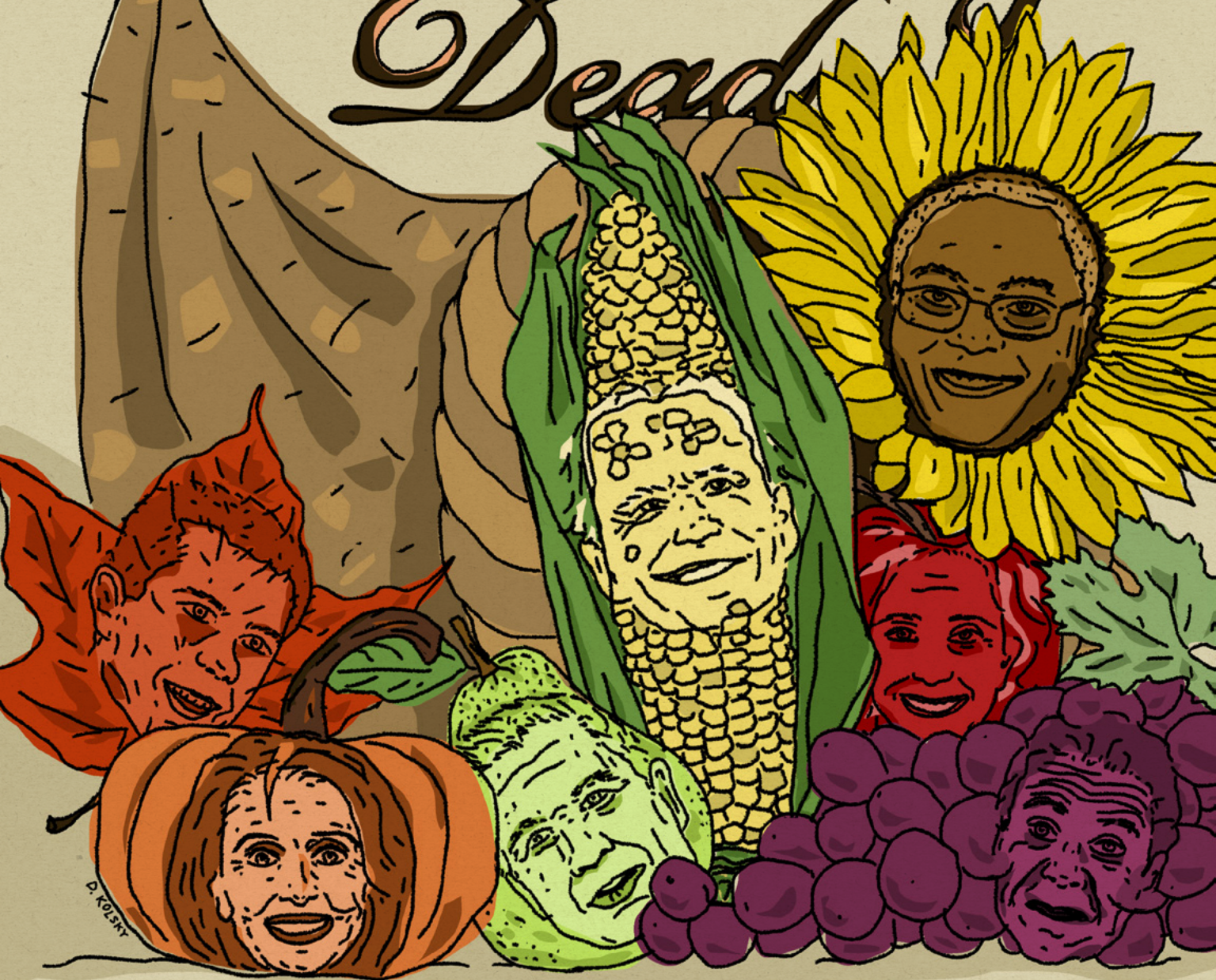


NOV. 23, 2020//VOL. III, ISSUE 1

Functionally Dead



God is dead.

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Thanksgiving. It's a day with a complicated history that means different things to different people. Nevertheless, the fable of the Pilgrims and Native Americans sitting down to break bread reminds us of the power of compromise—sweet, miserable compromise.

In the spirit of one side completely dominating the other under the guise of working together, we at *Functionally Dead* would like to offer you this Centrist Corn(Pop)ucopia, bursting with fruitful platitudes and vegetative right-wing talking points. May our government continue to offer us scraps and nothing ever change.

Solidarity,



DRIVERS ARE FREE TO CHOOSE TO HAVE NO HEALTHCARE and Other Changes to Lyft Now That Prop 22 Passed in California

//MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN

CONGRATULATIONS CALIFORNIA! This November, you sent a clear message that corporations should write public policy. After we plastered your state with over \$250 million in ads, you came to the conclusion that Lyft drivers should be exempt from California law and remain classified as independent contractors. You also agreed that, just like every other normal law written in the name of freedom, choice, and workers' rights, this proposition can only be overturned with an unprecedented seven-eighths majority of the state legislature. The passing of Prop 22 is a huge victory, not just for Lyft, but for indentured servants all across the gig economy. Let's talk about what Prop 22 means for YOU, the rideshare customer.

A Lyft Vehicle No Longer Needs to Classify as a Safe Working Environment

Prop 22 states that Lyft drivers are not Lyft employees. Therefore, the car is not a workplace, so vehicles do not need to meet any cumbersome safety standards. This means that you and your independent contractor driver have the freedom to:

- defecate
- urinate
- fornicate
- vomit
- rub one out
- experiment with bio-hazardous materials
- build weapons of a chemical or radioactive nature
- sage
- show off a rash and ask, "ya ever seen somethin' like this?"
- slurp on a days-old tuna salad
- violate any number of treaties, conventions, and human rights
- be Jeffrey Epstein
- watch *Liar Liar* at full volume
- murder
- have one of those late-term abortions everyone's always raving about
- get a colonic—for God's sake, you're in LA!
- just plain old huff glue

All of this can be done inside the vehicle, regardless of whether it's moving or parked!

Riders Cannot Sue Lyft if Their Driver Injures Them

Again, Prop 22 states that drivers are not employees, despite what fringe extremists such as the "courts" want you to think. Therefore, Lyft is not legally responsible for drivers' behavior. A driver can do anything (and we mean *anything*) they want to a rider, and Lyft is off the hook. Once you step into the car, it's YOUR responsibility to ensure that you step out. That's the freedom you voted for! >>

>> Drivers Cannot Sue Lyft, Either

However, the reverse is also true. Hailing a ride is *The Purge* on wheels. Ever wonder what the inside of a human skull looks like? CA law and Lyft will no longer impede your discovery. After all, as we've argued in the past, Lyft is just a platform, not a place of employment. If that platform is used to connect drivers' frontal lobes with riders' ice picks, that is a valid expression of American choice.

Drivers Are Free to Choose to Have No Healthcare

Prop 22 has also lifted the unfair burden of employer-based healthcare. Drivers can once again enjoy the freedom of trying to earn as little as possible to qualify for MediCal or find a Bronze plan on Covered California with deductibles that rival a mortgage payment on a Beverly Hills home. If Prop 22 failed to pass, drivers would have no choice but to take a sick day and see a doctor. Thankfully, drivers can now get as sick as they want, whenever they want, without the fear of Lyft having to care about their well-being or the well-being of their vulnerable passengers.

You Too Will Become a Lyft Driver

We anticipate Prop 22-style legislation sweeping across the country, with every state standing up in support of the lack of rights of independent contractors. Free of unwieldy workplace protections and guaranteed hours, you too will come to appreciate the flexibility of declining wages that Lyft drivers have been coerced into supporting. Imagine a future where everyone is driving everyone else, to nowhere, forever. Socialists like to say that a better world is possible. Well, the passage of Prop 22 has shown that not only is a better world for Lyft shareholders and management possible, it is inevitable. Honk honk! 🚗



IN UNPRECEDENTED DISPLAY OF BIPARTISANSHIP, JOE BIDEN ANNOUNCES BIDEN/TRUMP CO-PRESIDENCY

//DIANA KOLSKY

"FAT ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE, AND NOW IS A TIME FOR UNITY," President-elect Joe Biden proclaimed from the back seat of his Corvette on Monday. The former Vice President spoke from where he had been napping for the better part of the morning, parked askew on Field 2 of the Washington Monument Grounds.

This bold move to share the highest office in the land was seen by many Capitol Hill denizens as an unprecedented display of bipartisanship, even for the elder statesmen, who cut his teeth drafting draconian legislation in the name of law and order and eulogizing flagrant segregationist, Strom Thurmond.

"We can put aside our differences and heal this great nation," continued Biden, breathlessly gumming a Fig Newton. (A nearby aide could not speak to the absence of the compromising politician's trousers or left shoe.) >>

>> As news of a potential co-presidency spread through the Capitol, Washington was abuzz:

"I think it's a fantastic demonstration of American heroism, and I can't wait to say something pithy about it on Fox News," said the smug former Mayor of West Bend, Pete Buttigieg. He continued, "if there were a pill I could take to not be a Democrat, I would. Moderna's clinical trials are promising but that pill is at least one election cycle away."

"My plan was never to deliver the state to Biden," a source close to John Kasich quoted him as saying, "it was to deliver Ohio to America." When pressed on further thoughts regarding bipartisanship, the former Ohio Governor came in his pants to death.

"Sure... #NeverTrumpToHalfTrump" tweeted The Lincoln Project.

"This disgrace is less 'reaching across the aisle' and more of a reach-around tug job," tweeted AOC, her take echoing many progressives' chagrin at the Democrats already-spineless cabinet picks and wet Kleenex of a mandate.

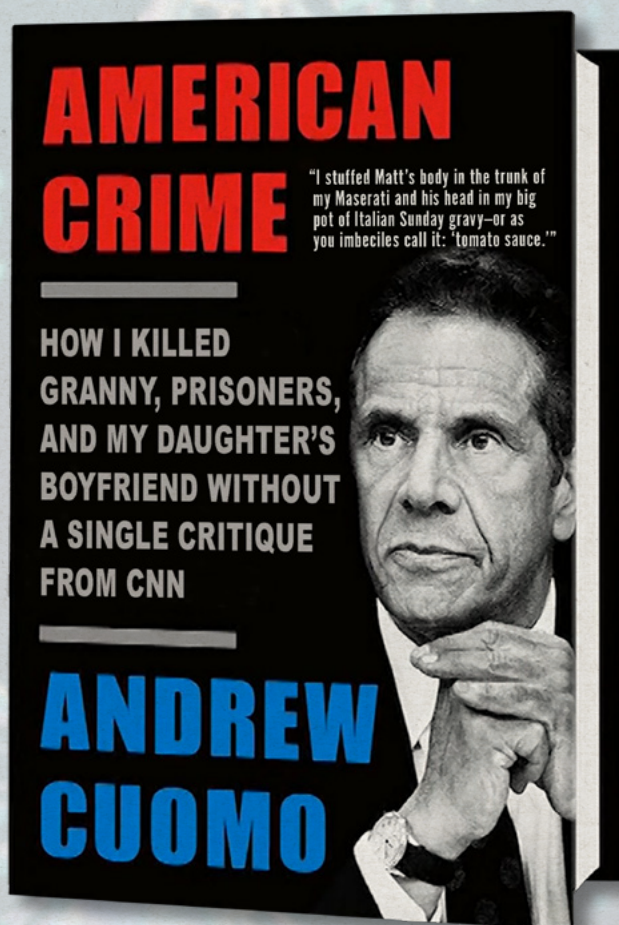
"I actually don't really care," commented junior Arkansas senator Tom Cotton. "Biden, like slavery and free-market capitalism, is a necessary evil. This pathetic show of unity won't affect my continued strategy of gaslighting the Dems." He then winked and shot a confetti cannon into the sky revealing "Cotton/Trump 2024" in Comic Sans, subsequently maiming a bald eagle.

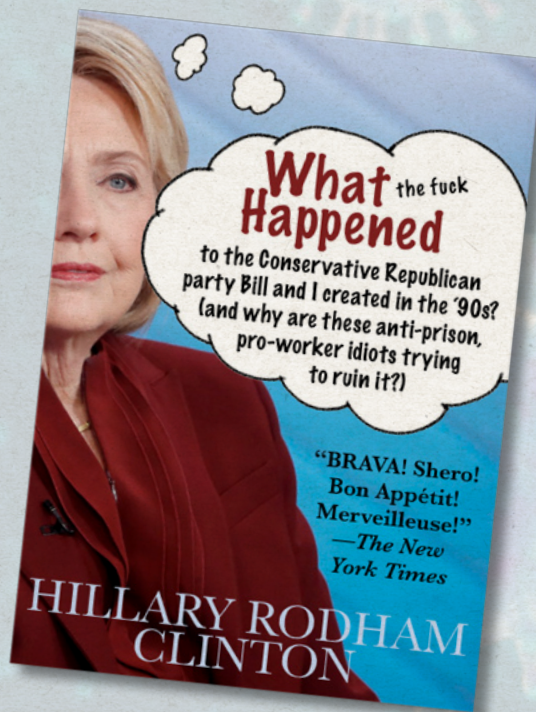
When asked if he's run the aberrant idea by President Trump, Biden muttered, "Ya know I've tried, but I can't find his damn house." 🐼

FIRST BOOK LOOK

WHAT WE'RE READING IN THE TIME OF COVID

//ROSIE WHALEN





This Year I'm Thankful for... uhh... Democracy?

//BRADY O'CALLAHAN

IN A YEAR CHARACTERIZED BY TURMOIL, dread, and an overwhelming sense of helplessness as a pandemic ravages the world (but mostly the United States), I feel I speak for everyone when I say this holiday season is beyond needed. While we won't be able to join our families face to face to celebrate due to radical inaction by those in power, I'm relieved to know mine will be scheduling a Thanksgiving video conference.

This year we have to fight to keep traditions alive, and one of the most important Thanksgiving traditions is going around the table one by one to say what you're thankful for this year. It's a practice to provide perspective, humility, graciousness, and it's one I look forward to every year.

I'll go first: This year I'm thankful for... uhh... democracy?

I guess that sounds right. We're lucky to live in a country where everyone has a voice, so long as they are above the age of eighteen, literate, fortunate enough to work a job that allows time for voting, wealthy enough to feel represented by either political party, haven't been caught up in the prison system, and live within reasonable travelling distance of a polling location that didn't close this year. Even if,

ultimately, one former politician can call all his buddies in power to concede in a primary and rally around one uninspiring legacy politician in order to tank the chances of a politician who would do anything to improve the world.

Hmm... maybe that one's not so great... well, I guess I could be thankful for... no, not health. I got COVID-19 and almost died. Now I have seemingly permanent kidney damage and brain fog (this took hours to write).

Well, this food seems pretty good! I'd be thankful for it, if I could taste it. I lost my sense of smell from COVID-19 in April, and it hasn't come back yet. Never realized how much food and health are intertwined until this moment...

How about... prosperity? No. My student debt is crushing me, and I often fantasize about veering into on-coming traffic. Plus, it's not like I'm ever gonna be able to afford to move out of the one bedroom apartment I share with three roommates. >>



//MAX KNOBLAUCH

>> Eh, democracy's fine, I guess.

Oh, I got something! I'm thankful I don't live in a socialist country where the COVID response has been bad, unless of course socialized medicine and universal amenities have helped. What's that? They have? Oh.

Well I'll tell you what, at least in our democracy we are lucky enough to have some, even if few, leaders that are regular working class folks! People like AOC, Rashida Tlaib, Cori Bush, & Jamaal Bowman give me hope for a better future. They are the future of the Democratic Party as long as... umm... Democrats recognize that they're actually incredibly popular and... uhh... working toward helping the working class instead of a select few wealthy donors is... well... necessary for the survival of our democracy.

AOC recently said the way other Democrats treat her is really demoralizing, right? Even though she speaks truth to power and does incredible work representing her constituents and all those people who feel like they don't have a voice in our democracy? Feel like I read that in the *Times* profile. That kind of sucks. I'm certainly not thankful for that.

Well, Christmas should be fun. Can I, like, pass? 🗿



MITCH'S HOLIDAY CRAFT CORNER



//BRADY O'CALLAHAN

COVID SCOLDS ON THE ROAD

Sent From My Luxury Quarantine Retreat

//JAMES DWYER

THE SUN SLINKS THROUGH MY LIMITED EDITION ROLEX CURTAINS to whisper a gentle “guten morgen” as I wake from my blissful slumber at the historic La Quinta Resort, the very place where Clare Crawley changed the world mere months before in the current season of *The Bachelorette*. “Sunday morning,” I reply. Clare came here to find love. I came here to escape my son(s) until his catamaran school returns to in-person learning. I feel a kinship with Clare, which is why I sought this place out. Clare and I? We both want the best for ourselves. Like Clare, I too have once told a man that I am in love with him after nothing other than slightly longer than average eye contact. And yes, I too am oft-acused of “seeming drunk a lot of the time” despite the fact that neither of us drink (vodka doesn’t count). The La Quinta Luxury Bubble & Temporary Day Casino warmly responded to us both by saying “I showed up.” It took me almost a month to get here in the Land Rover because this country is *still* riddled with coronavirus and my best friend-turned-permanent-assistant Melissa Ethridge (pronounced EFF-ridge) insisted on circling the country thrice for safety. And so, dear followers of what started as a mommy blog and until more recently was a forum for catamaran school parents to anonymously complain about their wicked children, it is time for my weekly COVID scoldings, observed on the road while traveling in my exclusive Celine Dion edition Land Rover:

AN AMC THEATRE EMPLOYEE HAD HIS NOSE ABOVE HIS MASK AS HE EXITED THE TOILET LOUNGE AT THE WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN AMC!

“Mind keeping the disease to yourself, young sir?” I asked.

“I can’t understand what you’re saying. You have a giant ziplock bag wrapped around your head,” he seemed to reply. I unzipped my bespoke face shield to make sure he heard this one:

“Your COVID is showing,” I wryly screamed at the top of my lungs while pointing to his snuffer. Frightened by the volume of my scold, he pulled his mask back over his snout. Emboldened by the arches of moral superiority, I re-zipped my spittle-spattered ZipLock by Swarovski face shield. I could now watch *Tenet* for the third time this week in peace.



//AKMAL TAJIHAN GUEST CONTRIBUTOR @uglystinkybad

A GROCERY STORE MANAGER HAD THE GALL TO INCH WITHIN SIX FEET OF ME WHILE I DINED ON THE FREE SAMPLES AT WEGMANS!

As I realized he’d broken my special distance without permission, I sternly remarked, “how dare you approach me at my most vulnerable, the brief moment I am unmasked in public. You don’t seem to understand boundaries so let me show you how it feels.” I pantsed this man in front of his employees, his penis bared for the olive bar to see. “Now you know the vulnerability of briefly being unsheathed,” I exclaimed before reapplying my mask.

Embarrassed, he left to dispatch an assistant manager and two security guards to inform me that there are “no free samples” and they “don’t know where you got these pigs in a blanket from.” A likely story. >>

**>> AN ANONYMOUS NE'ER-DO-WELL PROBED MY PROBOSCIS
WITHOUT MY CONSENT AT THE LA QUINTA LUXURY BUBBLE AND
TEMPORARY DAY CASINO'S POPCORN SHRIMP AND HIGHBALL
MASQUERADE NIGHT!**

It all happened so fast. I was standing in a line with a handsome vulture capitalist-turned vulture-activist in a top-mask (eyes only) when a man in full doctor cosplay stuck an off-brand Q-Tip up my nostril. I reacted the only way I know how—I screamed, produced one of the three guns I always keep on my person, and demanded answers.

“He’s a doctor. We were in line for the regular COVID testing we consented to in order to enter the bubble,” exclaimed the now formerly attractive profiteer. “Don’t shoot him.”

“Fine, have it your way,” I said as I released this supposed doctor from my line of fire. I turned to the growing crowd as I felt a *Jerry McGuire* moment bubbling up through my veins.

“If I had understood the tests would be in-nostril, I never would’ve consented. And I must ask: would any of you have consented had you known this? Have we gotten so accustomed to the daily trials of COVID-19 that we’re willing to tarnish our nasal cavity with these indelicate swabs? Our noses used to be reserved for smelling what the world had to offer: fresh daffodils on a dewy summer morn, a newborn baby’s bottom in the park when their mother isn’t looking, or a little pick-me-up at the club because you just can’t go home before talking to The Countess at the after-after party. Is it not time we demanded that these tests be less intrusive, ask fewer questions and simply say “negative” whether or not we’ve taken them? Have our standards sunk this low? I say we refuse to take the test for the rest of our stay here at the La Quinta Luxury Bubble and Temporary Day Casino! Who’s with me?”

It is at this moment that I was tazed unconscious and ejected from the premises. Luckily, after crying on the phone to management later that day from the hotel jail, all charges were dropped, and I was allowed back into the bubble as long as I promised to temporarily surrender my firearms and receive the tests from now on.

As my time in le Michael Bubl  draws to a close (the catamaran school goes back to in-session learning on Thanksgiving Day), I cannot help but feel once more like Clare Crawley. We each entered this bubble a heroine. But in the eyes of our fellow bubble companions we will leave a villain. Our crime? Staying true to ourselves in these trying times. Stay safe and stay sane, mon ami! 🍷

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO FORGIVE UP TO ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS IN STUDENT LOANS

//MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION has officially announced its plan to forgive up to a hundred and fifty dollars of student loan debt when (if?!) they enter the White House in January.

“The important thing is to be pragmatic,” a spokesperson for the Biden transition team said. “While some on the left were hoping for more, we don’t want to overwhelm the economy with hundreds of thousands of new workers that have a new lease on life.”

Biden’s plan applies to all students, except for those who have “good student debt” from graduate school, trade school, or a private college. The plan also exempts those who make more than one hundred thousand dollars a year, those who were born under a bad sign (to be determined later), and anyone the Biden administration deems “weird.” Still, the Biden transition team is hopeful that this forgiveness will help those who need it most. “Student debt is an issue that disproportionately affects people of color, particularly women,” the Biden spokesperson added. “The Biden administration is sending a clear message: marginalized people deserve marginal help.” >>

>> “The economics of this are sound,” said Paul Krugman, a Twitter user with a proclivity for economic theory and being consistently proven wrong. “It’s like the frog in boiling water metaphor, but instead, we’re ever so slightly turning down the burner, and the frog barely notices it’s not boiling to death. The frog still dies, but it takes longer. And economically speaking, that’s a good thing.”

“Forgiving student loan debt can be done by executive order,” said Senator Chuck Schumer, recently and inexplicably reelected to lead Senate Democrats yet again. “You don’t even need to go through Congress! Isn’t it amazing the kind of things you can do with power? This is what Mitch McConnell must feel like!” Senator Schumer giggled and clapped his hands before adding, “Please do not primary me, AOC.”

As to what Americans will do with this extra one hundred fifty? “I’m going to buy a PS4,” said Deb, 24, a recent graduate of The College of New Jersey. “Like, a used one? No, that’s still too much. Maybe a couple of Meat Lovers’ pizzas, an eighth of some mids, and a sixer of one of those double IPAs with a name like ‘Incorrigible Hellion?’ Fuck it, I’ll just bet the money line the Jets lose on Sunday.” 🍷



PUTIN MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR TACO BELL DISCONTINUING MEXICAN PIZZA BY RACHEL MADDOW

ON NOVEMBER 3RD, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE wrested democracy from Donald Trump’s authoritarian grasp, severing the puppet strings that ran from the Oval Office to the Kremlin. But the fight against Russian espionage is far from over. No one knew that on November 5th, just days after Trump’s defeat, Taco Bell’s parent company Yum! Brands would remove the long-storied tradition of the Mexican Pizza from the menu. Make no mistake—Vladimir Putin is responsible and must be held accountable.

The Mexican Pizza was every bit as American as apple pie: perfectly seasoned ground beef between two crisp tostadas, topped with enchilada sauce, melted cheese, and fresh-diced tomatoes. It reflected the diversity of our great nation, fusing antibiotic-pumped meat and Mexican flavors with vaguely Italian sensibilities to create a uniquely American fast food dining experience. And with one phone call from Vladimir Putin, our culinary melting pot came undone. >>

>> Why would Putin target one of our most cherished fast food establishments? For the same reason he targeted our elections—to sow discontent and animosity among Americans. Putin knows an America without affordable south-of-the-border flavors will turn in on itself. It starts with the removal of the Mexican Pizza. But what comes after that? The Grande Meal? The Double Decker Taco? The Nacho Cheese Doritos Locos Tacos Supreme? Let's face facts: in an already fractured and divided America, Mountain Dew Baja Blast is one of the only things keeping us from erupting into civil war.

On May 5, 2016, Donald Trump [tweeted a photo of himself](#) eating a taco bowl in Trump Tower. Could this have been a coded message to Moscow confirming Putin's orders to alter the Taco Bell menu? We learned from the Mueller report that Trump, Paul Manafort, Roger Stone, and many others in his compromised inner-circle, communicated in code with Russian operatives. I have no evidence that this is one of those codes, but I also have no evidence that it is not. So we are left to assume this is but another of Putin and Trump's quixotic public games.

It is perfectly clear that the hallowed Taco Bell menu is just the tip of the iceberg. If Russian intelligence did indeed meddle in Taco Bell's menu, other fast food chains are in danger. Yum! Brands also owns Pizza Hut, who [Trump has been entangled with since the '90s](#). Has Russia been quietly grooming Trump to influence menu items for the past twenty-five years? Will the Personal Pan Pizza with extra pepperoni be the next to fall? Is the P'Zone p'doomed?

Or perhaps Trump's famed love-affair with KFC is next in his sights? He's been spotted on many a private flight with buckets upon buckets of Original Recipe. If Putin gets his hands on those secret herbs and spices... Are you ready to live in a world where RT tries to convince us Original Recipe always included a strong taste of lavender? I am not ready for that world.

American intelligence has no way of knowing how long the Kremlin's drive-thru window to America's fast food industry has been open. How many beloved menu items have been ripped away

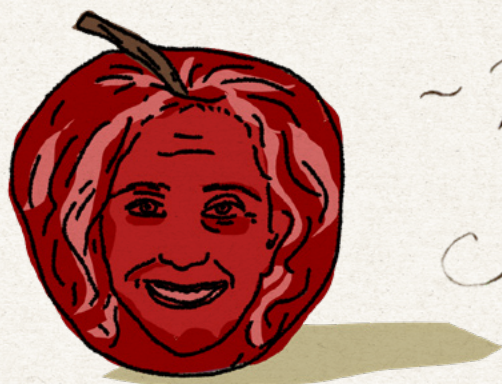
from us before our children could taste them? Countless young people will never know the magical dance Mexi Nuggets do on one's tired tongue. They'll never experience the savory crunch of a KFC Double Down sandwich. The moment Joe Biden is inaugurated, the Justice Department must think outside the bun and immediately reinstate Robert Mueller as special counsel to investigate Russian interference with Taco Bell's menu. Executives must be indicted and questioned by congressional task forces. Phone records, emails, text messages, financial statements and flight logs must be subpoenaed. No stone should be left unturned until we know the extent to which the Kremlin interfered with millions of fourth meals.

Will the history books show that we sat idly by while a hostile foreign government captured one of our greatest institutions? Or will they show that we stood up to strongmen like Putin? We must *Live Más* in this pivotal moment. We must do so for every child who can no longer take a bite of a Mexican Pizza and think to themselves "I can be anything when I grow up—even a CIA analyst or a McKinsey consultant." 💀

Guest contributor Mike Knackstedt, or "Portland Mike" as we here at Functionally Dead lovingly refer to him as, lives in—wait for it—Portland, Oregon. Find him on Insta @mknackst



“
Don't say socialism
ever again...
We will get fucking
torn apart.”



~ Rep. Abigail
Spanberger (D-Va)



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FUNCTIONALLY DEAD

BLACK FRIDAY

These deals won't last because... capitalism!

And don't miss our Cyber Monday & Made-by-Children Saturday Sales!



iPhone 12 Pro
Was \$999, NOW \$899

Get the latest in tech! You deserve it, but if a poor person has even one luxury like this, they deserve to have the government dictate that SNAP food benefits can only be used on real apples!

\$100 off!

Kandypens Special-K Vape Pen

Was \$99.95, NOW \$84.95

Dissociate with a little WEED this holiday season.

**NOTE: New Yorkers, you still can't have this, even though FUCKING NEW JERSEY of all places can AND WILL. How embarrassing.*



15% off!

Tear Gas Canister

Was \$26, NOW \$21

We can't seem to keep these in stock this year! They've been FLYING off the shelves! We've heard your protests to get them back in stock, so no more need to go BLUE in the face!



20% off!

96% off!

EpiPen 2-Pak

Was \$645, NOW \$25

Can you imagine if life-saving products weren't prohibitively expensive because private companies didn't gouge prices for exorbitant profit? It's our socialized medicine special! One day only! Your president doesn't believe in this!

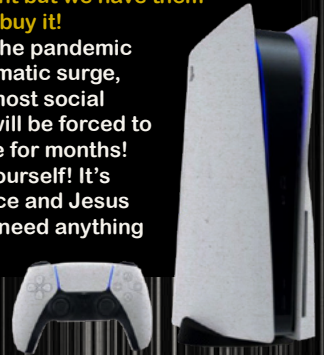


C'mon!

PS5

No discount but we have them and you'll buy it!

Now that the pandemic is in a dramatic surge, even the most social butterfly will be forced to stay inside for months! Distract yourself! It's fucking nice and Jesus Christ we need anything right now!



40% off!

Mail-Order Spouse

Was \$2500, NOW \$1000

Face it—you're lonely! Jerking off into stockings and getting dark online isn't just for incElves anymore. Take advantage of your country's imperialist position in the global economy!! Traffic a discounted companion from one of the many exotic locations the U.S. has decimated to the point of abominable desperation!

**NOTE: Comes in Dead-eyed Babe or Shell-shocked Hunk*





FUNCTIONALLY DEAD **This one's real!**

DNC All Stars Tote Bag

20% OFF!

The Democrats are back in power (kind of?), ushering in a return to normalcy where America still cages children, deports immigrants, and prioritizes military and police funding over education and health... except liberals won't care about any of it. Alright! Show your disdain for the status quo with a fashionable tote featuring the grotesque heads of some of our most craven Democrats. Their neoliberalism might be ruining the world, but it can greatly enhance your style!

FD EXCLUSIVE

Tote is Made in USA, Union printed, and 15% of all proceeds are donated to [Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee \(IWOC\)](#), a prisoner-led section of the Industrial Workers of the World. That's good at least!



Come by the **FREAK SHOP** for all your ethically-sourced gift needs, including tote bags, face masks, postcards, stickers, buttons, and more!

Everything is 20% off through the end of the year - use code **20DEAD**

Please Pass to the Left: Progressive Dishes to Bring to Your Friend's Thanksgiving Potluck

//ERIC SILVER GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

UH OH! YOUR FORMERLY POLITICALLY-ENGAGED FRIENDS have taken to posting selfies in Biden/Harris facemasks. Rather than risk being a Leftist scold at your Friendsgiving, try insinuating the work has only just begun with one of these clever and EASY Thanksgiving dishes! Your arguments can reach their hearts through the most tried and true route: their stomachs.

Automatic Voter Rolls

There's nothing like a freshly baked dinner roll to remind your fellow diners that the only reason we're not reading tweets by Alyssa Milano and Debra Messing about #Resistance for another four years is because of a Herculean effort to register new voters in swing states—and that was despite continued and redoubled efforts to disenfranchise American citizens. Imagine if we could remove just one of those obstacles by automatically registering every eligible voter so that all they have to do is show up and cast their ballot! Sop up those disenfranchised voters (gravy) in your district (plate!) and show your friends (family) how this democratic carb is positively saturated with voter turnout!

Medicare for Almondine (Green Beans w/ Sliced Almonds)

With all those starches and proteins on the table, it might be a nice change of pace to throw in a simple and satisfying vegetable dish. It's healthier, too! Not in the same way that free regular check-ups, preventative medicine, and cancer treatments would be, but fiber keeps things moving forward. Most importantly, it drives the message home that no one's going to get any of this shit unless *someone passes it*.

DeFondue the Police!

As you dip fresh, honking chunks of baguette into this cheesy treat, the table will be reminded that “state-sponsored programs

to retrain officers” just means earmarking more “bread” for militarized police departments. Though we have elected a “law and order” candidate and a vice president who routinely called herself “California's Top Cop,” we'll need to make them *roux* the day they took office if they refuse to listen to the American people! Let's re-allocate that gruyere to education, medicine and social programs (party guests!). Haha! It's cute!

The Green New Dill

Is this just a plate of pickles? Yes. But also, it's a plan to invest in clean vinegar and salt brine over the crude oils pooling on top of the scalloped potatoes. It's a stimulus package to put your digestive system back to work. It's a plan to save this dinner party! If your guests comment that you just bought a jar of pickles and put them in a bowl, tell them you *curated* these pickles and put them to work in a bowl full of opportunities.

Full-Term Egg (Roast Turkey)

Instead of bringing down the mood as everyone's removing their Biden/Harris facemasks to chow down, why not take this opportunity to be both the Thanksgiving hero who provides the turkey *and* gently nudge your buddies that each successive court case will strip away any remaining protections for abortion rights until *Roe v. Wade* is completely hollowed out? Pro tip: if you're feeling generous, you can also bring deviled eggs to let your guests know they can stop the hysterics about their own reproductive >>

>> future because they live in a Blue State and you're pretty sure they're economically secure.

But we can all avoid entering the Textualist Dark Ages of civil liberties if we treat ourselves to a big helping of...

Judicial Stuffing

The secret to stuffing is that the more ingredients you add, the more it masks the flavor of the bad stuff you already added. Think of Justices Alito, Thomas, Roberts, Kavanaugh, Barrett, Gorsuch, and the other 194 federal judges Trump appointed as the raisins. You need to add in a bunch more good stuff to counteract those shriveled grapes. And no, we can't fix this by throwing in a Garland of Merrick Garlic. Jesus Christ, stop negotiating like there's a boot on your fucking throat! By the way, if you double the recipe you can also fry up the leftovers to make the "bread" for a dope Thanksgiving sandwich while you're apologizing to your friends via text for getting "Malbec Angry."

Twice-Baked Potatoes

Did you know that the literal translation of the French word for "potato" is "Earth apple?" Scientists around the world concur that OUR EARTH APPLE CANNOT SUSTAIN THESE GLOBAL TEMPERATURE CHANGES. Don't even bother to explain this one. Just serve it and swish your cocktail glass around, watching the ice melt. Wryly eye your dinner companions as they tuck into it, knowing that the realization will eventually dawn on them. What? Don't I want to eat? I ate! I had that soggy dinner roll and some green beans, and besides, I'm saving room for that last unopened bottle by the cornbread. Eat your fucking turkey—the Amazon is *still* on fire. 🍷

Eric Silver is a New York-based comedian and co-host of Hell in a Cellphone, a wrestling podcast about The Attitude Era. (He's the one who knows nothing.). Find him on Twitter @primesilver

**DRIP DRIP
HUNNI!**



RUDY'S SPECIAL GRAVY

- Preheat oven to 350°
- Leave Rudy's leaky head in roasting pan for up 6 hours
- Have some wine (don't forget to remove mask first)
- Mute your family Zoom BEFORE telling relatives to fuck off
- Enjoy!

//ROSIE WHALEN



Jon Ossoff is heading to a runoff election in January. If Ossoff wins, Democrats will gain control of the Senate. I don't need to explain to you how important that would be.

But here's the problem: **Jon Ossoff is actively trying to lose.**

Since day one of this campaign, we've been up against the fact that Jon Ossoff is an awful candidate. By actively opposing policies popular across the political spectrum like Medicare for All, the Green New Deal, defunding the police, abolishing ICE, and expanding the Supreme Court, Ossoff is sending a clear message that he does not want to win. **That's why we desperately need your help getting this dog across the finish line.**

I'm going to be honest: the odds aren't in our favor. According to *The New York Times*, "Democrats have lost nearly every statewide runoff in Georgia for the past 30 years, including Mr. Ossoff, who lost in a runoff for a House seat in 2017." Ossoff is chomping at the bit to blow this one again, but the stakes are too high. **We can't let him trip over his own dick.**

I have done everything I can to get this turd to adopt a winning message. I've shown him the numbers proving Democrats who support progressive policies win and centrist Democrats who sound like Republicans eat a big ol' spoonful of shit. But Ossoff has a clear strategy to lose by double digits and let Republicans block any meaningful legislation until Trump wins again in 2024, **and it's working.**

I'm going to be blunt: **we are in desperate need of funds** to find a furnished basement to keep Jon Ossoff locked inside away from voters until the election. If people don't hear or see him and just project their own hopes and beliefs onto him, *he just might win*. **But the Joe Biden strategy might not be enough.** Jon Ossoff, like the moron that he is, is out there talking to people **every. single. day.** And the moment he opens his stupid mouth to decry policies popular with over eighty percent of the electorate, voters immediately check out. I've seen it with my own eyes—people want to support Ossoff because they think he represents real, meaningful change in the material conditions of their lives, but then Jon prattles on about "means testing" and they pull out their phones to Google "how do I unregistor to vote?" I cannot stress this enough: **working on the Ossoff campaign is like constantly sitting down on your balls, each time hoping "but surely my balls won't dangle under my thigh this time..."**

It's now or never. Yes, we're up against an unpopular Senator who illegally shorted PPE stock after receiving private Senate briefings, opposes same-sex marriage, wants to repeal the ACA, and voted to make boycotting Israel a federal crime. But our candidate is an incompetent boob who could find a way to strike out in tee ball and brag about it. 112 co-sponsors of Medicare for All won their races this year! This is a slam dunk gimmie election if he simply offers his constituents ANYTHING! But no, Jon's gonna put up a billboard that says "Make America Reach Across the Aisle Again" and lose the under-40 Black vote.

Let me reiterate: if Democrats don't win the Senate, **corporations will probably get the right to conscript your first born into indentured servitude.** To give you an idea of how dire things are on the campaign, I shot our latest commercial on a camera with no film in it (he wanted to shoot on film... which is a whole other email), so I could be like, "ahh shucks, guess we can't use this." But then Jon was like, "no problem, I actually had my phone recording it this whole time." The one fucking time this guy is on the ball! Jesus Christ. You know I've actually spent millions of dollars developing a Jon Ossoff android that can seamlessly replace him on the campaign trail. But like the mamaluke that he is, when we showed Ossoff the android, he said "what's this button do?" and broke it. **Fucking imbecile.**

DONATE HERE, I GUESS.
FUCK.

LITERALLY
THE
FASHION
POLICE

5 FASHION MOMENTS: Kamala Edition

AT SOME POINT, EVERY WOMAN has asked herself: what do I don while shooting down ballot initiatives that would ban the death penalty and close property tax loopholes? Well, look no further, sartorial suffragettes! California's self-proclaimed "Top Cop," Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, has addressed all of your most daunting fashion queries:

#1: Timbs



"Suede
Timbs on
my feet
makes
my cipher
complete."

Pairs well with... refusing to investigate the police shootings of two Black men in 2014 and 2015

#2: White Power Suit

M.L.L.F. (Mom I'd
Like to Formerly
incarcerate!)



Pairs well with... supporting a 2010 law making truancy a misdemeanor, thereby disproportionately punishing single moms whose children skipped school

#3: Sequined Pride Jacket



"Somewhere over the
human rights violation"

Pairs well with... denying gender affirmation surgery to transgender inmates

#4: Sneakers

Pairs well with... declining to prosecute OneWest Bank or its then-CEO Steven Mnuchin for financial fraud and widespread misconduct when foreclosing on homes in 2013



Holding the powerful responsible?
Quite the converse, actually!

#5: Pearls



Dressy or casual? This flexible
accessory can go either way.



Pairs well with...
shitting on
Medicare for
All after
originally
backing it

December Horoscopes

CONJUNCTION JUNCTION!

//CATHRYN MUDON

Star lovers, prepare thyselfes for the winter solstice, December 21, 2020, and the Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn! Great conjunctions happen about once every twenty years—where Jupiter and Saturn's orbital cycles bring them within such close proximity that they appear as one giant star.

Conjunctions, with their immense cosmic energy, have been long regarded as celestial omens: it's theorized the Star of Bethlehem was a triple conjunction circa 7 B.C.; Dante wrote of them, Shakespeare as well. In fact, Shakespeare wrote *Hamlet* under the cosmic influence of a Great Conjunction (a Great Mutation, more specifically, in which Jupiter and Saturn change elements, occurring roughly every 200 years).

It's important to note one final belief surrounding Great Conjunctions: according to astrologer Daniel T. Ferrara, whenever a conjunction occurs during an election or inauguration year, the president is likely to die. This held true of every conjunction from 1840 to 1960...and what sweeter finale to 2020 than for Donald J. Trump to invoke the Danish prince himself and shuffle off his bloated mortal coil and descend into hell.

Of course, we love all our conjunctions equally but the splendor of *this* Great Conjunction is special...



Dearest Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) WE LOOK TO YOU, Archer, to summon your half-human half-beast mystic strength in these final weeks of 2020. The Great Conjunction will occur on the final day of Sagittarius, December 21, 2020, the winter solstice, where Jupiter and Saturn's orbits will be merely 1/10 of a degree—that's less than 1/5th the diameter of the moon—away from one another. For non-astronomers, that's the telescopic equivalent to the sliver of light separating the Republican and Democratic parties. Virtually indiscernible. This year's rare conjunction is as close as a Kamala Harris-Lindsey Graham fist bump. The last time these two planets appeared so close was in 1623! And the next conjunction this close won't happen again until March 15, 2080. Capitalism will have long ravaged the natural world by then, and our grandkids will be selling our organs to survive the water riots— so make sure to enjoy this conjunction while you can!



Capricorn

(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

Alas, only one month remains in the foul slog of 2020—and like the dirty dog you are, you've aged seven years in one. As we enter December, fierce goat, celebrate the solstice pagan-style and burn the cursed relics of 2020—civility, compromise, and patience—as sacrifices to the gods.



Aquarius

(Jan. 21-Feb. 18)

The last Great Conjunction this close was on July 16, 1623— only 14 years after Galileo made his first telescope...or ten years before the State, run by willful ignoramuses and religious zealots, sentenced him to life imprisonment. Wow, uh-hh, the 1600s must have been *wild*! No one knows better than you that time is a flat circle, flowy water-bearer. Conjure up the shadows of your past lives and re-live the millennia of humanity's foils and follies in style.

//SIGN ART BY MAX KNOBLAUCH



Pisces

(Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

You're the most evolved house of the zodiac, Pisces, so power dynamics are no mystery to you. Take it from celestial superpowers, Jupiter and Saturn, it doesn't matter who's in the driver's seat as long as the coalescence of power and wealth is secured. What's the discernible difference, anyhow, to the hungry peons observing from down below? One planet has rings and one is against abortion.



Gemini

(May 22-June 21)

No one embodies duopoly better than you, tumultuous twin! Just like Melania's body double, you can fool almost anyone with a blowout and some Gucci sunglasses. But you can't hide for much longer—and why would you want to?—the solstice conjunction ushers in the portentous shifts. The planets are aligned, and you're not fooling anyone, least of all yourself.



Virgo

(Aug. 24-Sept. 22)

You are organized, focused, and ready for the new year. You pre-ordered your 2021 planner back in June, Virggie, and we know you've color coordinated all your to-do lists. First up, expand the court (pink). Second, primary every corporate Democrat for midterms to destroy the neoliberal death grip by 2022 (lavender). Then a sensible dinner (mint).



Aries

(Mar. 21-April 18)

This conjunction illuminates a real Coke/Pepsi situation here in the stars and in our government, Ram. You've always trusted your gut, and others turn to you for sound advice—so, sure, blindfolded you might be able to perceive a difference. But strip away the blue and red logos, and you've got two carbonated glasses of high fructose oligarchy.



Cancer

(June 22-July 22)

The closeness of the planets this month was inevitable, something scientists have known about for centuries. Yet somehow, kind Crab, it feels like a shock. Just like the closeness of Biden's White House advisor appointees to the fossil fuel industry—sure, nothing could be more predictable from a centrist who disavowed the Green New Deal. So lean in to your ability to see the big picture this month, Cancer, as Cedric Richmond and the Biden corporate all-stars accelerate America's descent into environmental oblivion.



Libra

(Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

The Great Conjunction in December is the beginning of a new 200 year cycle, wherein conjunctions will occur in Air signs for the next two centuries! Channel fellow Libra, Comrade Cardi B, as you carve out a fresh start for yourself. Reflect on what and who you want to carry with you, and what and who to leave behind, cuz you a bad bitch.



Taurus

(April 21-May 21)

Loyal Bull, did you know other democracies have three, four, sometimes five viable political parties? You, brave hodophile, are a great lover of travel so we thought you'd be the one to ask about such confusing and foreign systems. (We here at FD are writing this from a basement office in Staten Island and have never once felt the need nor intellectual curiosity to explore outside of New York, let alone the U.S.) Please advise.



Leo

(July 23-Aug. 23)

Let's hear you roar, lucious Leo! A vaccine is on the horizon, and you're ready to hit the town. You've been pacing back and forth in your cage and growing out your sultry mane for almost a year. No one's missed socializing more than you, darling, and those months of quarantine exercise have paid off.



Scorpio

(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

This year has seen plague and misery due to the cosmic tumult of the stars (but also craven American corporocracy). The foundation of our most trusted systems has been shaken by coming Great Conjunction (but mostly late stage capitalism). We haven't witnessed something this profound since 1623 (technically, the last financial collapse was in 2007, the last pandemic in 1918... but Jupiter and Saturn orbiting super close—1623)! Perspective and passion are your strengths, Scorpion Queen, and we'll need both to tackle 2021, so lead the way.

I READ THIS ZINE, AND THE U.S. IS GONNA SHOP 'TIL IT LITERALLY DROPS.

What do I do now?

//DAN LOPRETO

Here are a few places to do some ethical consumption for the holidays:

Ethix Merch

“Since 2002 Ethix Merch has been featuring wholesale promotional products made with respect for people and the planet. Here, you can find branded merchandise and promotional items made in the USA, which supports union workers, the environment, and is never produced in sweatshops with unfair labor practices. We help you apply your buying power to support workers and protect the environment.”

Labor 411

“Labor 411 is committed to building a national “Buy Union, Buy American” movement as a means of improving the safety and economic well being of union workers and their families... A one-stop resource for people who want to buy union-made goods and services, Labor 411’s print and online directory provides greater visibility to union products and union-made goods and services and helps union decision makers ensure that their dollars and their values are connecting with the community at large.”

Better World Books

“The socially responsible bookstore with cheap new and used books at bargain prices. Better World Books is a quality bookseller with free shipping that donates a book for every book sold... we’re more than just a business. We equally consider our shareholders, our customers, our employees, our community, our planet, and the lives changed by our common cause. Through our business we strive to enable people to make sustainable positive changes in this world.”

Thrive Market

“A better market offers food as it should be: made of real ingredients, safe for the environment, fairly priced, created for your needs, and delicious. The same standards should apply to the products we put on our bodies and in our homes: nontoxic, eco-friendly, affordable, and effective. And a better market is better for everyone—not just those who can afford it. That’s why every paid membership to Thrive Market is matched with a free one for someone in need.”

The Little Market

“The Little Market is a nonprofit fair trade shop featuring ethically sourced, artisan-made products. Behind each of our products is a person who created it—and a story. We seek to empower artisans around the world by extending their products’ distribution and supporting sustainable income opportunities. We are committed to upholding the dignity of artisans, celebrating their cultural techniques and traditions, and bringing attention to social justice and human rights issues faced by their communities.”

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

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: OOPS! JOE THOUGHT HIS CABINET WAS AN ACTUAL CABINET



You've been mostly dead all day.

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//ROSIE WHALEN//