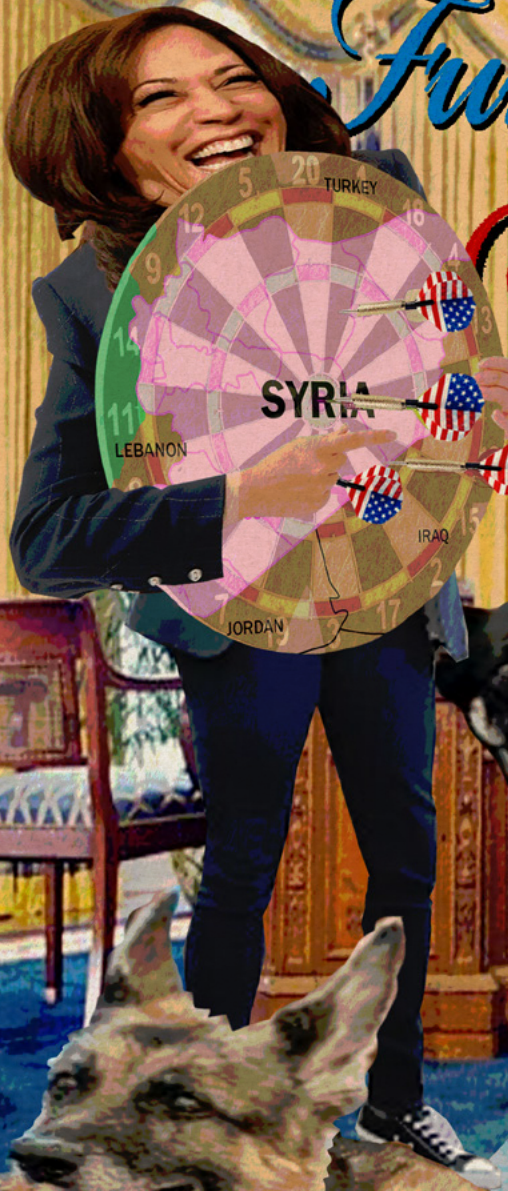


Functionally

MAR. 8, 2021//
VOL. IV, ISSUE 5

Dead



Hey, we're a playful guy.

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Latest Coronavirus Relief Package Mostly Gift Cards

//SEAN O'REILLY

IN A STUNNING TURN OF EVENTS, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) have announced the latest version of the \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill will no longer include a \$15 minimum wage or additional state and local funding. Instead, the Democrats are offering a new package that mostly contains gift cards.

“Congressional Democrats are excited to announce we will be finishing the work of getting Americans those \$1,400 checks they need. It’s just going to be in gift cards now,” Sen. Schumer explained. “It’ll be more fun this way.”

While the details of the compromise bill are finalizing, it appears that the Senate is prepared to pass a one time payment of \$1,400 in Dave & Busters Power Cards to all Americans making \$49,999 or less in adjusted gross income. “The cut-off was important to us. We cannot be sending workers who do not need relief to D&B while the vulnerable populations most severely affected can’t even game at home,” said Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV). Manchin was a key player in the new version of the bill, stating that the need to revive our country’s crucial theme restaurant infrastructure was also a consideration.

Rep. Pelosi released this statement earlier today: “People will be able to eat, have fun, and support local businesses like Dave & Busters >>



AMERICA'S GOVERNOR: A LEGACY

What We Love About Our Gov. :)



//MAX KNOBLAUCH

>> and Discovery Zone all at the same time. It's a win-win, and we keep the privileged from cutting the line." (Editor's Note: Discovery Zone shuttered its doors in 2001.) Those hoping for a cash payment may be disappointed, but DCCC officials are assuring Americans that this is better, because "[you're] going to go to these places anyway," and "you can receive a personal pepperoni pizza and a small Coke if you get your parents to sign up for the D&B credit card."

President Joseph R. Biden is said to have initially suggested Dave & Busters as the focus of the stimulus, saying in a statement released this afternoon: "Have you ever played that *Aliens* game they have there? While drinking a big 'ol beer? Listen Jack, you never seen a white boy like me go so hard on *Dance Dance Revolution*."

Many Republicans are excited about the new cutoff for relief as well as the lower price tag of \$900 billion. "Yeah, it turns out if you just suggest gift cards and be done with it, everyone is happy about that," said Josh Hawley (R-MO), who was said to be floss-dancing in the Capitol over the bipartisan bill.

Gift cards are said to go out to American citizens by April 9th, in time for the beginning of summer in what will assuredly be a fun, safe year. "Yeah just wear a damn mask, Fat, and go to D&B, that's all we really got for you," President Biden said. "The vaccines are coming and stuff, so I dunno what the hell do you want from me?" 🤔

MY PERSONALITY IS "MY BOYFRIEND IS AN ESSENTIAL WORKER"

//CATHERINE WEINGARTEN GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

SO MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED during the pandemic: over five hundred thousand Americans have died, we've hoarded toilet paper, and we've suffered in isolation with almost no government assistance. But most importantly—my boyfriend became an essential worker.

I used to have a complex personality—I enjoyed reading books about owls, playing flag football ironically on the weekend, and had a well-paying finance job bundling derivatives for the Hammer family (Armie, not MC), but now the only thing I think or care about is the fact that my man is putting his life on the line for you everyday, AKA is a total hero.

I'm sure you're dying to know the details of what kind of essential work Josh does. People get so, so curious about him and are always stopping me to ask for more deets, especially when I wear my favorite t-shirt I designed that says, "My Boyfriend Is an Essential Worker" (that actually comes in three colors: light green, beige, and leaf green—all available via my website). We also have a mini pots and pans keychain coming, so you can make noise for my boyfriend whenever you see him—or me, since he works so much.

So Josh works at this amazing organic grocery store; not sure if you've heard of it before, but it's called "Whole Foods." He works at the one in Beverly Hills that you can only go to if you're a famous person's assistant. He helps bag people's organic melons and kale chips and just overall healthy, nourishing,



lightly bougie food. He could be doing so many other things, like playing video games, pretending to apply to jobs, or collecting unemployment checks. But no! He puts his life on the line everyday to make sure actors are taking care of their bodies in a hip way in between Zoom taping sessions of *Kevin Hart's Celebrity Game Face*. Yes, now would be a good time to applaud. Is your BF essential? I think not! So just clap, OK?!

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MY FAVORITE T-SHIRT I DESIGNED
THAT SAYS, "MY BOYFRIEND IS
AN ESSENTIAL WORKER"

Now is such a hard time for our society, and I feel lucky that my boyfriend is helping people everyday. He's worked at Whole Foods for a while, and at certain times I pushed him to try to take his LSATs and make actual money to help pay for my light shopping addiction, but I'm so glad he told me to "shut it" and kept his current job. Little did I know he'd be fricking saving the world and people would be clapping once a day for him in the streets (and me, by association, since he works so much). >>

>> Whenever anyone starts talking about COVID-19, I have to chime in that my boyfriend is an essential worker, because it just brings a smile to people's faces. I'm not just a girl with a boyfriend who won't shave his beard ever. My life has a deeper meaning now—he's not just a normal boyfriend, he's an *essential* boyfriend. Like, he is so essential to society, and of course also to my heart, if only he could learn essential skills like

cleaning the bathroom LOL. So no, I won't donate \$5 to the Red Cross. I'm supporting my essential worker boyfriend, so I'm already doing enough. 🐼

Catherine Weingarten is a Brooklyn-based playwright, comedy writer, and wedding cake lover. Twitter: @sarahkaneissexy



Hi! I'm Orin. I have all my shots. You can find me on Twitter @orinaubrey

//ORIN AUBREY GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

AWESOME JOE'S OVERFLOWS

The Coolest Migrant Child
Facilities EVER!

Child Separation?! YUCK!
How about WILD SEPARATION!
Awesome Joe's got the coolest
migrant child facilities EVER.
Check out these sick
overflow digs.

BALL PIT:
It's not a cage if there's
balls in it! This pit is
filled with real baby
skulls that we call balls!

PEDIATRIC MEDICAL ATTENTION:
Who knows kids' health better than... other kids! We threw a rusty
stethoscope into the ball pit for everyone to use—sharing is SO FUN!



PATH TO CITIZENSHIP:
When you're ready, walk down the path to citizenship
and enjoy all the rights and privileges afforded to U.S.
citizens, like freedom of [pro-capitalist, right wing] speech,
free healthcare, quality public education, clean[ish] water
[offer not valid in Michigan]

NO MORE CAGES:
Technically speaking!
You're locked in a trailer,
but there's no chain link
fence or literal bars.
AWESOME!

FREE THE KIDS:
Free them up to have a
good time sleeping alone
away from family but
with something
more than
a mylar
blanket!

**NO
PARENTS
ALLOWED**



EDUCATION:
Having to navigate
seemingly endless
bureaucracy in a place
where you don't even speak
the language would teach
ANYONE a whole new set
of interpersonal, language,
and writing skills!



Each **AWESOME JOE'S
OVERFLOWS** comes
with a **FREE PAIR** of
binoculars, so you can see
your homeland ravaged
by U.S. sanctions!

BIDEN RESCINDS COVID RELIEF BILL IN SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES TO COVID

//MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN ANNOUNCED TODAY that he will no longer support the COVID relief bill, citing the fact that it would not be right to give money to Americans when so many other Americans died before they could receive the checks.

“The President believes that it just wouldn’t be fair to the five hundred thousand Americans who lost their lives before they could receive any financial relief,” White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said in a statement. “We didn’t help them, so why should we help you?”

The Democrats took back the Senate earlier this year on the promise of two thousand dollar checks coming “immediately.” That number was then whittled down to fourteen hundred, before being scrapped all together.

“When I was elected Senator, did I tell the American people they’d get their two thousand dollar checks sent out in a week? I sure did,” Senator Jon Ossoff said. “But then I got to thinking

about it with some of the policy geniuses over at the CIA who showed me some really interesting footage regarding the Kennedy assassination. You see, these COVID relief checks are a lot like canceling student loan debt. People took out student loans, people got COVID-19. Some people paid off their debt the right way, and we shouldn’t punish them by rewarding others with debt cancellation. Those who died of COVID also did it the right way by not burdening the government with the responsibility for their health and well-being.”

“It disgusts me how some people would be so selfish as to want their government to take care of them with the tax dollars they pay them,” Joy-Ann Reid said on MSNBC this morning. “It’s toxic masculinity.”

The Biden administration held a ceremony at the White House lawn Friday to honor the decision to not send out COVID relief checks. In a touching display of unity with the dead, billions >>



>> of dollars in cash was then thrown into a bonfire, symbolizing the end of any potential relief effort. “May this burning pile of money serve as an eternal reminder of the half a million people who never got any help,” President Biden said. “Those who died have suffered, so we must suffer with them. They cannot do anything, so we won’t do anything. But we will keep this flame going forever in their memory. We’ll also keep bombing Syria. And if there’s some child concentration camps we can do on the cheap, I won’t say no.”

In a touching display of unity with the dead, billions of dollars in cash was then thrown into a bonfire, symbolizing the end of any potential relief effort.

The ceremony ended abruptly when the President turned to the podium behind him and became confused over which container held gasoline and which held water. “The water is in the water bottle, and the gasoline is in the gas can,” Vice President Harris said.

“It doesn’t smell like water. It smells like gas,” President Biden said.

“Because you’re holding up the gas can.”

Some progressive Democrats, such as Senator Bernie Sanders, have issued strong statements against Biden’s new “Give Up Better” policy, calling it “ridiculous, cowardly, and a disgrace.” But most Democrats welcome the change.

“The Biden administration has eased the burden of Senate Democrats of having to actually do something for a change, and for that, the American people thank you,” Senator Chuck Schumer

said in a press release. “Corpses do nothing, and the Senate will play dead in solidarity with those who have lost their lives.”

We reached out to President Biden for comment, and he surprisingly offered us an exclusive sit-down interview.

“I told Americans if they elected Ossoff and Warnock to the Senate, we’d send out the checks immediately,” Biden slurred, after scratching his left eye for three and a half minutes without saying a word. Finally: “And that was a promise. Did I break that promise? Probably. Man, I don’t even want to be here. Hello, Marine.” The President stared at the window, presumably looking at some Marine. Biden’s handler poked him in the chest, snapping the President back to the conversation at hand. “I don’t know, man,” the President said. He then sighed, before getting up and wandering off.

“Don’t go near the money bonfire!” Biden’s handler said, chasing after him. “Remember, it’s hot!” 🔥





RAD! THE PENTAGON VOWS TO INCORPORATE SELF-DRIVING CHOPPER TECHNOLOGY INTO ALL CIVILIAN PROJECTS EXCEPT GIVING TEXAS WATER

//LIZ WEIST GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

WASHINGTON, DC – Amidst the competing crises of year two of the pandemic, the latest severe weather emergency, and the continued detention of migrant children, the Pentagon has finally announced they have developed a solution to the problem on everyone's minds: the lack of automation in the US military.

"Capitalism breeds innovation, and it rewards it too!" said a government source who wished to remain anonymous. "It's kind of why our national grid hasn't been updated since the '60s. There's no real incentive to cut into profits for utilities that do nothing except sustain human life, but pilotless jets to send on drone strikes? Now THAT'S what we're talking about," they said, wiping a tear from their eye.

When asked why resources were not being allocated to those without power right now, both our government source as well as Texas Senator Ted Cruz did not respond for comment. We assumed that our request simply did not reach the Senator at the front desk at his resort in Cancun,

but we were later informed that from here on out, his prepared response to all difficult interview questions is: "Whatever it was, my daughters asked me to do it, and I just wanted to be a good dad."

If the news that an entire state's electrical grid could completely fail due to one overnight snowstorm seems alarming, fear not! According to *The Wall Street Journal*, the Marines have announced they are partnering with Kaman Corp. to "devise ways to use autonomous choppers to deliver supplies to remote outposts," such as Afghanistan. Currently, none of those resources are being used to treat domestic crises, but seeing as 68% of utility companies are privately owned, the Marines felt as though that would be "kind of overstepping" on their part to try to intervene and actually fix the problem.

The Executive Director of Task Force on National and Homeland Security has said that "a prolonged collapse of the electrical grid could cause a coast-to-coast blackout for up to 18 months and result in the

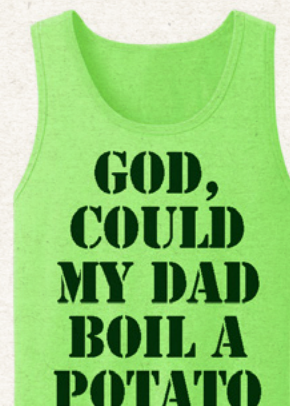
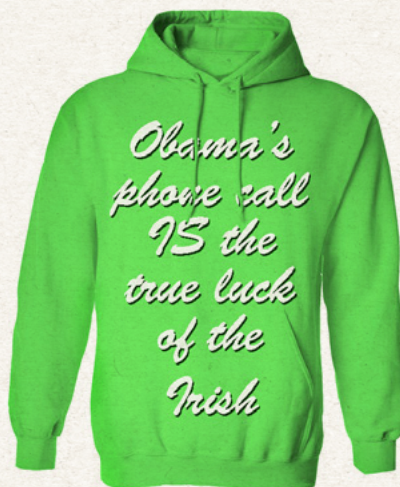
death of up to 90% of the American population." Instead of altering our priorities to help Americans in need, just think about the fact that the Army is developing a new version of the Bradley fighting vehicle that doesn't require human operators! And someday, that very same technology might be used in your iPhone or even your Android (for our poorer readers). So despite the fact that America continuously experiences more blackouts than any other developed country, know that your hard-earned taxpayer dollars will inevitably go to fix it while we go to war with someone poorer than us.

This article was brought to you by our sponsors at Lockheed Martin. 🤖

When she's not writing satire or bogged down at her job as the CEO of meme-making, Liz Wiest works in television and is a Philly-based comedy writer. Twitter: @liz_wiest, Insta: lizhawiesta

Celebrate heritage.

My fellow Americans: Sorry we couldn't do much about relief for the novel coronavirus—we were working hard on these novelty tees!



PRESS RELEASE

AN IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM AL YANKOVIC



//BRADY O'CALLAHAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - MARCH 8, 2021

To my many adoring fans:

In these turbulent times, I have found myself reflecting quite a bit on my role as an artist, as well as my place in the country as both a citizen and patriot. It hasn't been an easy year for any of us, and I have come to the conclusion that it is my responsibility as a major voice in the novelty recording industry to take a semi-bold but career-wise safe stance against fascism.

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor." I've heard that quote many times before, and I used to think it was just a funny line I could riff on for a song called "If You Are Shampooing in Situations of Injustice, You Have Chosen the Side of the Hair Dresser." No longer. I refuse to be silent, and it starts with a bit of a rebrand.

Henceforth, I will no longer be "Weird Al" Yankovic—a sophomoric moniker for a simpler time.

I am adopting "THIS 🍌 IS 🍌 NOT 🍌 NORMAL 🍌 AL 🍌 YANKOVIC" as my official public persona.

My blend of polka stylings with modern pop song structure and parody lyrics was undoubtedly "weird," but this moment demands more. I'll still lampoon today's biggest hits, but I will no longer sing about just *Star Wars*, being fat, or the modest Amish lifestyle. I feel compelled to write about big ideas, like addressing climate change through metal straw bans, raising the minimum wage to \$11 an hour by 2045 through slow procedural means (if we even can at all), and how socialists online are being pretty mean to the children of Kennedys.

I have been hard at work in the studio creating songs I hope you'll love, such as:

- "hivers license" - Olivia Rodrigo's "drivers license" parody that celebrates the amazing community that lifts up our QUEEN in the Vice Oval Office while mercilessly attacking anyone online who raises critiques about her history of harmful incarcerations and anti-trans actions. Jonathan Van Ness has already signed on to be in the music video! >>

- “zillow” - Taylor Swift “willow” parody about a helpful group of community activists trying to clean up their city and raise the value of their property by imprisoning (or whatever) scary homeless people who have the gall to sleep on a public bench.
- “Spacefan” - Nick Jonas “Spaceman” parody about how Joe Biden is (amazingly) keeping Trump’s (ugh—no thanks!) Space Force BUT he’s a Democrat. Jonathan Van Ness has already signed on to be in the music video!
- “Gasoline” - HAIM parody that actually keeps the same title, but this time I’m going to sing about how it’s fine if Biden continues to bomb the Middle East, because the United States has a good reason for it, probably. I’m going to see if I can donate some of the proceeds to help build Mohammed bin Salman’s amazingly progressive city, NEOM.
- “This Is Unfair-ica” - Childish Gambino “This Is America” parody song pointing out the injustice of right-wingers having internet access. The song ends with a pledge from Verizon, Spectrum, and AT&T to charge more for slower, unreliable Internet to keep these fascists offline for good!
- “The Star Spangled Manners” - Francis Scott Key “Star Spangled Banner” parody song that’s just about being nice outwardly even if you’re completely vile on the inside. Unfortunately, Jonathan Van Ness cannot commit to the music video because he is busy shooting branded content for Apartments.com about how landlords of color deserve the right to charge 30% more on rent during Black History Month.

I’ll also be re-recording some of my older albums to improve them for the modern age, so be on the lookout for an update to my 1999 record, which will now be titled *Running with Cis-Her*. I’m thrilled to share that it will be a concept album about the

dangers of Democratic Socialist idealists who can single-handedly sabotage the chances of an historic presidential candidate except in terms of race, class, and politics (from the perspective of Tim Kaine).

I understand that I likely will not lose fans or, more importantly, money by doing any of this. Thank you.

— 🍌 AL 🍌



Die poors!

functionally dead

Left Feel'd



hosted by
matthew brian
cohen

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

Topic of
the week:

**NEERA
TANDEN**

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



[OUR PATREON](#)

Quiz: Are You Legally Insane, or Are You Just Andrew Yang's Twitter Account?

MATH

//DIANA KOLSKY

IT'S BEEN A ROUGH YEAR, and we all feel a bit unhinged. In such an era, it can be difficult to parse whether you've actually lost your marbles or you're just Andrew Yang's Twitter account. Luckily, *Functionally Dead* is here to help! Take this short quiz about your recent whereabouts to find out once and for all.

1. EARLY MORNING ON JANUARY 15TH, YOU WERE:

- A. Doing an impromptu Naked Cowboy/Joker Times Square mashup appearance
- B. Tweeting a video of Andrew Yang bumbling around a bodega, fondling bananas and double-fisting green tea in an attempt to seem relatable to the large portion NYC denizens who did not flee the city during COVID
- C. I don't remember anything

2. ON THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 23RD, YOU WERE:

- A. Trying to lick a pigeon's asshole in Washington Square Park
- B. Tweeting—and subsequently deleting—a photo of yourself next to the West Village's "Gay Street" sign in some desperate attempt to appeal to New York City's LGBT community, even though said street was named for a confederate general who most certainly didn't GAF about gay rights
- C. Where am I?

3. ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, YOU WERE:

- A. Mailing one of your toes to each of your seven Troll Doll progeny
- B. Tweeting what appears to be a sad poem about trying (and failing) to "love all of your children the same" in an attempt to strike a chord with real NYC families
- C. I'm cold

4. ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 21ST, YOU WERE:

- A. Eating a bowl of your own hair bathing in oat milk while playing Oregon Trail on an Etch-a-Sketch
- B. Begging Elon Musk to turn the Big Apple into an oligarch-run apocalyptic Sims game like the technocrat sycophant you are
- C. I'm scared

5. AROUND NOON ON FEBRUARY 24TH, YOU WERE:

- A. Fashioning a facemask from a raccoon taint you stumbled upon in Prospect Park
- B. Tweeting a YouTube link to the official video for the 1996 song "Ascension," by Maxwell, sans explanation, in an attempt to... I can't with this
- C. Goodbye

6. ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 1ST, YOU WERE:

- A. Lapping up the moisture triangles passengers left behind on their A train seats
- B. Tweeting "I love going express from 59th to 125th" in a vain attempt to sound... relatable? I honestly have no idea
- C. Beep beep! All aboard the D (for "despair") train going straight to hell!

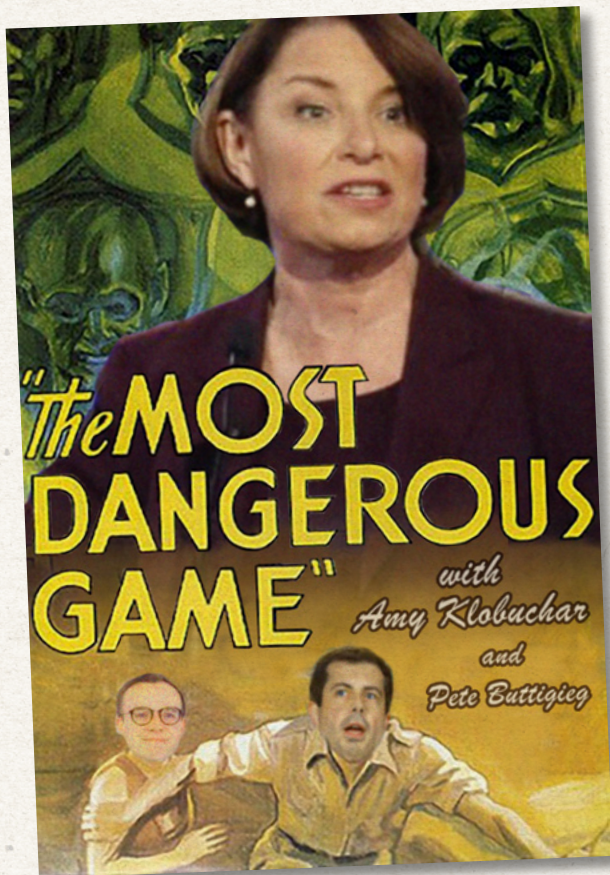
MOSTLY AS: Okay, turns out you're not Andrew Yang's Twitter account, but you are a nut. Diagnosis is the first step to recovery.

MOSTLY BS: Unfortunately, you are Andrew Yang's Twitter account. What's your fucking deal, man? Honestly.

MOSTLY CS: Phew—that was close! Looks like you're none of the above and fall squarely into the WTF category with the rest of us. Welcome, friend. 🐼

AMY KLOBUCHAR: NOW THAT I'VE BEEN VACCINATED, I CAN GET BACK TO TRACKING AND HUNTING PETE BUTTIGIEG

//JAMES DWYER



WE HAVE SPENT THE PAST year confronting the fact that our lives will forever be changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some people lost loved ones, many lost their jobs, others went into medical debt that I'd rather not talk about right now. For me, one of the biggest realizations was that I would, at least for a time, be unable to pursue some of my passions outside of my role as an elected official for the great state of Minnesota (Go Sota!). However, now that I've been vaccinated, I'm proud to say I'll be able to focus once more on my greatest passion in life: tracking down and hunting Pete Buttigieg like the no good rat-faced dog that he is.

You may not know this, but I had no intention of winning the Democratic nomination for POTUS, and I LOLd when *The New York Times* endorsed me. I'm quite content combing my salad from the confines of my Senate office. However, once I learned that Pete Buttigieg was going to run, I knew it was my best chance to do what I'd always wanted to do ever since I met that little squealer at the 2016 DNC. I'll never forget that day. The staff member that likes it when I throw phone books at her (I think her name is Tink?) pulled me aside to introduce me to "Mayor Pete from South Bend." I greeted that gnome as warmly as I could, but I felt a chill in the air as soon as I got in his orbit. That freak proceeded to shake my hand and say "and who are you?" I stared into the mealy eyes of that phony cornpone, McKinsey-manufactured void and said, "Get a good look, Notre Dame. This is the face you see before you die." As I stormed away to look for a phone book to throw at Tonk, I could hear Chasten performatively whine "awwwwkward." >>

I NEEDED TO FIND THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE DOWN THE FIRST GAY MAN TO EVER SERVE IN THE ARMY AS AN INSURANCE CLAIMS ADJUSTER."

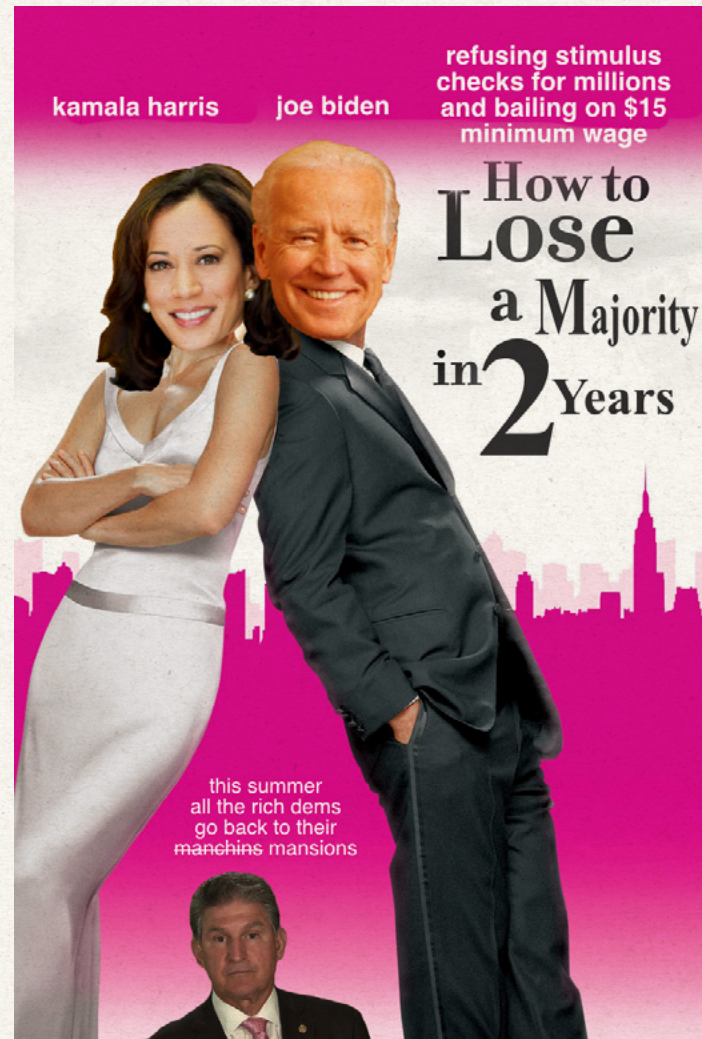
>> I would spend the next three years plotting my revenge on this book-reading-but-never-been-to-a-library-ass-nerd. It might seem like a lot to devote one's life to destroying a person just because they were rude to you once, but you have to understand, I really enjoy destroying weak people. And Mayor Pete is as weak as they come. I needed to find the right opportunity to strike down the first gay man to ever serve in the Army as an insurance claims adjuster. The 2020 Democratic Primary was my best shot, and I couldn't finish the job. When Obama called to offer each of us a walk-on role in *American Factory 2* (instead of a documentary, Netflix wanted to make it an ensemble comedy with Amy Poehler attached to direct) if we dropped out of the race, I said, "I can wait a few months to off that grade grubber."

Then COVID-19 happened to me.

At first, I was devastated. My plan to drown him in a boron bath flew out the window faster than that factory's foolish hopes of ever forming a union. But then I realized that now is the perfect time to plot his demise. So I've been training. Lifting weights. Running fifteen miles a day. Eating nothing but raw eggs (shells on). I'm stronger than ever. Now, I let Mother Earth tell me where to find my prey. My tracking skills have soared to new heights. I practiced by tracking down Dennis Kucinich outside his CSA pickup location based solely on a photo of him eating vegan cheese on Instagram. So yeah... *I'm good.*

Now that I'm vaccinated, I'm ready to hunt big game. I know where it works. I know where it eats. I know where it sleeps. And I know

you're probably reading this, Pete. You'll probably throw every trick in the playbook at me. But I just threw my last phonebook at Tunk, geared up at Cabell's, and went off the grid before queueing up this Medium article to publish 24 hours after I wrote it. By the time you read this, I'll already be huffing your rodent scent. And when I find you, I'll make sure you know my name. 🐭



AN IMPORTANT COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM FREAKTOWN SEX PARTY MANAGEMENT

//SYLVIE WANG GUEST CONTRIBUTOR



Dear Valued Guests,

During these very troubling times, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on life and share an update about our company. We understand how hard this year has been on the sex party community, and we are doing the best we can to fight against COVID-19. After hearing the confusing recommendations from Governor Cuomo, we have made the important decision to close the doors on Freaktown Sex Party, Inc., effective immediately. We have heard the feedback—we understand this decision is more delayed than some people would prefer. We know that the pandemic has raged for nearly a year and perhaps we should have shut down earlier—maybe when cases were spiking in the spring? But hindsight is 40/40, as the clubs that Jay-Z owns would say.

Rest assured, even when Freaktown Sex Party, Inc. was operating from March 2020 to January 2021 (and for a one-night only special on February 14th), we were taking the utmost precautions to implement COVID-19 safety regulations. All of the twin mattresses in our Sweat Dungeon were, at minimum, six feet apart. We also placed a little bowl of condoms next to each mattress for ease of access (and because we value all kinds of safety). We always, always cracked a window open in all our rooms that have windows—the Red Room, the Punishment Palace, the 69 Den, the HBO's Euphoria Emporium, the bathroom—to allow proper air circulation, even if clients complained that it made the rooms "more than a little chilly." Patrons would warm up pretty quickly when the sex started, so they were really making a big fuss over nothing. Sometimes people are complaining just to complain, you know?

We enacted new policies for our sex parties: everyone had their temperature taken at the door, and we had a very strict "no spitting in each other's mouths right now" rule. 20% of profits from the door cover fee were donated to our top employee, Gina Morano, to help pay for her medical bills. She recently had elective surgery to get, in her words, "the fattest, juiciest tits money could buy," and our donations will go a long way in helping her pay those bills. If you were a frequent guest at Freaktown, you might recognize Gina—she was the one with tiny tits handing out mints. You might wonder what this surgery has to do with COVID-19, but according to Gina, "if it wasn't for COVID-19, I never would've realized how bad I needed a set of big, honkin' tatas." Everyone takes stock in their own way.

Thanks to half a dozen civil lawsuits and a court order from the Chief Judge of the State of New York, we realize now that it would be irresponsible to our employees and our guests to remain open during this time. While Freaktown Sex Party, Inc. has no reports of COVID-19 that we know of, we want to do our part in the fight against the spread of the communicable virus. We look forward to welcoming you each back—brat tamers, doms, submissives, vanilla-heads, switches, rope bunnies, voyeurs one and all—when appropriate.

Although our indoor location will be closed for the foreseeable future, please note that we will be opening up an outdoor pop-up location under the Verrazano bridge once the weather gets warmer. As one of our valued guests, you can sign up now and get a 10% discount with our early bird admission fee as well as a butt-plug shaped bottle of hand-sanitizer!

Sincerely,
Freaktown Sex Party Management

Sylvie Wang is a writer, performer, and comédienne based in New York. Follow her on da gram @sylvieliningsplaybook



FUNCTIONALLY DEAD REVIEWS THE SCENES CUT OUT OF THE PETE BUTTIEGIEG DOCUMETARY

//MATTHEW BRIAN COHEN

MAYOR PETE, DIRECTED BY JESSE MOSS (*Boys State*, *The Overnights*), the documentary about Pete Buttigieg's quest to be the first openly gay president (first gay president was James Buchanan, natch) in United States history, has landed a home at Amazon Studios. The documentary will give viewers an inside look into the lives of both Pete and his husband Chasten as they travel across the country on the campaign trail, giving speeches, talking to voters, and ultimately dropping out before Super Tuesday to endorse a guy who thinks LGBTQ are the free letters you get on *Wheel of Fortune*.

Like all documentaries, there's more footage shot than made it into the final cut. We at *Functionally Dead* worked our connection with the editor (all editors are leftist, natch) to see some of the best stuff that hit the cutting room floor. Since we cannot show you the footage without getting the editor in trouble (his boss was a big time Kamala Harris doner, natch), I'll describe each scene for you below:

**

Pete housing a chili dog at the Iowa State Fair, then having to house another one because he housed the first one too fast for the shot. "Please don't eat it so fast," the cameraman asks, but Pete just can't chew slowly to save his life. "Is this better?" Pete asks, spewing bits of kidney beans and ground beef all over his Oxford shirt.

"Sure," the cameraman says.

"Grade me on it," Pete snaps at the cameraman.

"Uhh, A-minus?" Pete starts to cry. "A-plus, A-plus, I mean!" Pete smiles wide and looks straight to camera, eyes burning with malicious ambition. >>

**

Pete refusing to sit in the front seat while Chasten drives their Honda Accord rental car in New Hampshire. “It makes me look more important if it looks like you’re driving me around,” Pete says.

“But you’re my husband,” Chasten says.

“Let’s get one thing clear,” Pete says, poking his finger in Chasten’s chest. “You’re my husband, bucko. Nobody knows Chasten without Pete. Nobody.” Chasten is eventually able to physically restrain and buckle Pete in the front seat. Pete pouts.

**

Pete falling asleep during Act 2 of *Hamilton* on Broadway. When he’s nudged awake by a handler, he stands up and applauds in the middle of a song, breaking Lin Manuel Miranda’s flow. Unnerved, Lin wings it and rhymes “Constitution” with “menstruation.” Lin, now dripping in panic sweat, starts beatboxing. The white audience cheers. Lin then invites them all to “wave their hands in the air like they just don’t care.” Pete claps his hands like a toddler who’s just figured out that if he puts his hexagon block in the hexagon slot, the toy lights up and makes a trumpet sound. “I’m going to be a hip hop president!” he says. Chasten, sitting a row behind Pete, sadly does the ‘High Hopes’ dance.

**

Pete mounting a TV on the wall at home. “I like the wall-mounted TV because it feels like it’s an art piece,” he says. He turns on CNN. “Let’s see if they’ll talk about me.” Fifteen minutes go by before they get to a segment on the campaign. When Pete’s face finally appears on screen, he says, “Look, I’m modern art!” Pete smiles broadly, and his cold eyes stare dead ahead, unblinking.

**

Pete meeting some employees of Shadow, the company that developed the Iowa caucus reporting app. “Here’s the money for the ‘technology services’ we purchased from you,” Pete says with a huge wink. “I love how naughty this feels.” Pete hands over a big bag with a dollar sign on it.

“There’s nothing in the bag,” the Shadow representative says. “I know! I’m not an idiot. I’m not going to commit election fraud on camera,” Pete says.

“Why the fuck are there cameras here?” the Shadow rep says.

“Just try to ignore them,” Pete says. “This is all supposed to feel naturalistic.” The Shadow rep yells at the camera person to “delete this footage” and knocks the camera out of their hands. Pete gets on the ground where the camera now sits and stares into it like a cobra before it eats a baby.

**

Pete hiding in a storage room with the lights off, lifting his finger to shush the camera crew. “Shut the light off, you idiot! She’ll see!” Pete says.

Amy Klobuchar’s voice is heard softly in the distance, growing louder. She mutters, “Here Petey, Petey, Petey. I just want to ask you about your *experience*.”

“Does she have a stapler? Can you see through the door crack?” Pete says. Suddenly Klobuchar bursts through the door. Pete screams. Tape ends. 🗿



A NEW AMAZON DOCUMENTARY
FROM HIGHER GROUND PRODUCTIONS
ON THE DANGER OF CELEBRITY IN POLITICS

**"THE INTERVIEW WITH
JAMES MAYNARD KEENAN
WAS THE BEST!"
—NOAM CHOMSKY**

HOLLYWOOD AMERICA

**"MONEY TALKS,
AND IT SAYS
SCARY STUFF!"
—BRUCE
SPRINGSTEEN**

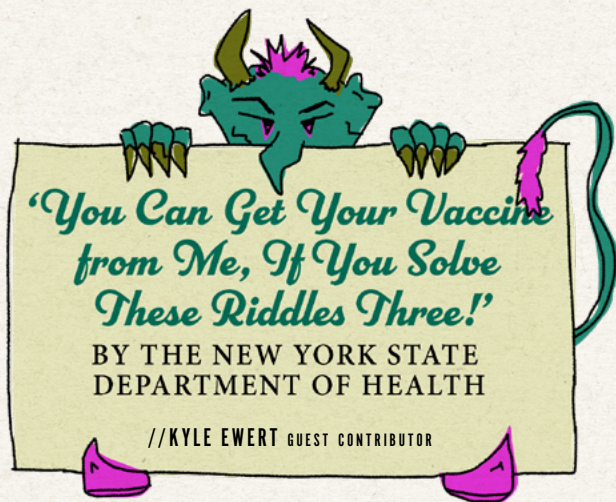
**FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
TRAVELS TO D.C. AND HOLLYWOOD
TO INTERVIEW CELEBRITIES AND POLITICIANS
ON THE DANGER OF CELEBRITY AND POLITICS**

**"OBAMA IS A GENIUS, STAR-QUALITY TALENT.
WHEN HE AND AL PACINO TALKED ABOUT TRUMP... WOW."
—POD SAVE JONS**

INTERVIEWS WITH

/ BRITNEY SPEARS'S DAD / SENATOR CHRIS TEAGAN /
/ THE SUPER COMPUTER THAT RUNS THE PENTAGON /
/ DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY PETE BUTTIGIEG (COURTESY OF CAA AND BRILLSTEIN ENTERTAINMENT) /
/ THE ENTIRE CAST OF *MODERN FAMILY*, IN CHARACTER / FDOTUS, MAJOR BIDEN /

amazonstudios



SALUTATIONS! I SEE YE' ARE wantin' to get a COVID-19 vaccination... NOT SO FAST! Ye' will have to get through me 'fore ye' are allowed safe passage to a vaccination site, ye' see? Who am I? Why I am the New York State Department of Health gatekeeper of COVID vaccines, and at the direct orders of the governor I am NOT cooperating with the city-run Health + Hospitals! Yes, I am a troll who resides 'neeth the Williamsburg Bridge with IMMENSE power to determine who gets a life-saving shot and who does not. Oh, ye'll be able to get your vaccine from me, but first you must solve these riddles three! With each riddle solved, I reveal one more thing ye' need to know to get a vaccine appointment.

Riddle one!

What is always in front of you, but can't be seen?

That's right! The future! Very good... I see I may have a worthy adversary in my midst. As a reward ye' can now search for available appointments at <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov> or <https://covid-19vaccine.health.ny.gov> or <https://somosvaccination.mdland.com/p/covid/> or the websites of many different pharmacies!

Ye' might be asking, why am I making this so difficult by having so many different websites to book appointments and layering that under riddles? Great question. I'd love to answer it, but it's time for...

Riddle two!

Which month has 28 days?

All of them! How did ye' know?! Blast! Ye' are one step closer to vaccination. Alas, ye' have earned this information... 1,000 vaccine slots have become available at the Medgar Evers College mass vaccination site in Brooklyn, and I see that ye' qualify because ye' have a comorbidity. But this bureaucratic troll who inexplicably talks in the third person like a cartoon pirate has one more trick up his sleeve!

Riddle three!

Are you a robot? Check the box that says "I'm not a robot"... OK, now click all the boxes that show a traffic light. Good. OK, now click all the boxes with a motorcycle... is that one a motorcycle or a moped? If you click it and it's a moped, will the site think you're a robot? Nobody knows!

Congratulations, you are not a robot! However in the time it took ye' to complete that CAPTCHA, all appointment slots have been claimed, and you'll have to start over. I know it's not fair and the last riddle wasn't even a riddle, but nothing about this process makes sense! Imagine if ye' weren't tech savvy and had to do this! Disaster!

Now, if ye' will, leave me be. I must decide the next group that qualifies for the vaccine entirely at random. I'm thinking I will allow jockeys, librarians, and those street performers who act like statues to get it. If anybody pretends to be in this group they will be given the death penalty and we will pour gallons of Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson into the East River!

Now, now. Don't pout. Ye' could be in California. The trolls there surf and just straight up give you COVID. Good luck with all the known variants around New York City... and the as of yet unknown variants! HEEHEEHEEEHEEHEE!!! 🤪

Get more from comedian Kyle @kyleewert

I READ THIS ZINE, AND ELIGIBLE PEOPLE STILL CAN'T GET VACCINATED.

What do I do now?

//ROSIE WHALEN

We have lived through an entire year where millions of students were forced to complete their studies online, yet in New York City alone, 500,000 households lack Internet access. That need for high-speed internet access is amplified by vaccination efforts driven primarily by online reservation systems. For the health, education, and social connectivity the Internet helps to provide, we must treat home Internet access for all as a civil rights issue worth fighting for. Below are some organizations helping to get Internet access to more people:

EVERYONE ON

A nonprofit that connects low-income families to affordable Internet service and computers.

DEVICES FOR STUDENTS

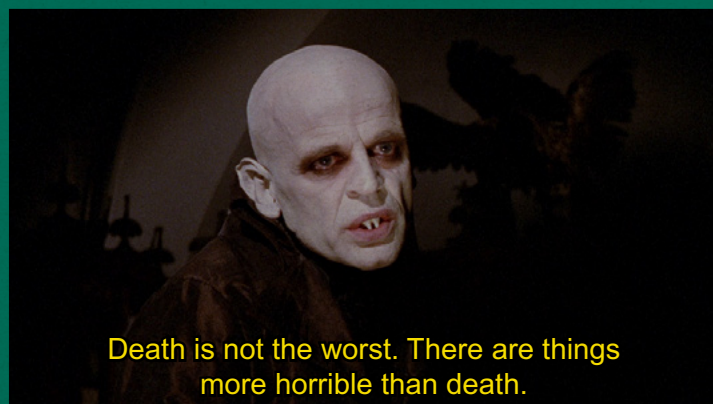
A coalition of tech employees, educators, and nonprofits working to provide laptops and WiFi to students in need.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION LIFELINE PROGRAM

Lifeline provides up to a \$9.25 monthly discount on Internet service for eligible low-income subscribers and up to \$34.25 per month for those on Tribal lands.

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

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: RAHM EMMANUEL SEEN SKYWRITING OVER WHITE HOUSE "FUCKING LET ME IN"



Death is not the worst. There are things
more horrible than death.

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//