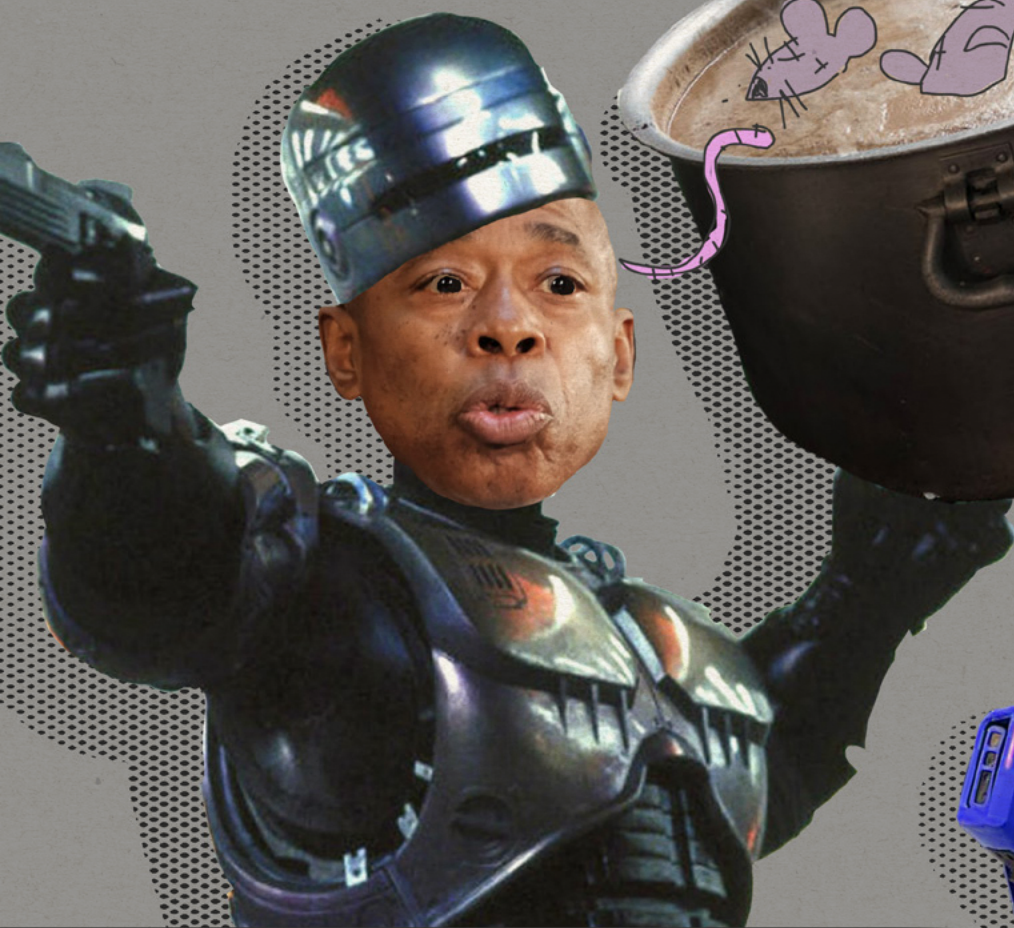


MARCH 1, 2022//VOL. VII, ISSUE 2



FUNCTIONALLY DEAD



EMMA
NOBLE

We picked the wrong day to stop sniffing glue.

//COVER ART BY EMMA NOBLE GUEST CONTRIBUTOR Check out more of Emma's work [here](#) and follow @madebyemmanoble on Insta

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EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

THE WHITE HOUSE

For Immediate Release - March 1, 2022 //LIZ WIEST

EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM

MEMO NO. 71-22

TO: AMERICA

SUBJECT: U.S. Government Abandons American Dream, Announces Less Problematic Model in Development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

Due to the repeated inaction of the current regime holding office, the United States government will be abandoning the previously held model of the American Dream, effective immediately.

This endeavor was initially set for abandonment further down the line in the Biden administration, but per a unanimous decision amongst all parties involved, it has been agreed that the construction of a new, more secure narrative is pivotal to avoid total societal collapse.

Obviously, this is going to take a great deal of just completely starting from scratch. Realistically, we would probably have to trace our steps all the way back to Manifest Destiny and just totally reinvent the wheel there, but as I'm sure you can understand, we simply feel as though that's way too much work for any one governmental body to achieve.

Our next objective is to figure out a way to completely co-opt the Lost Generation writings. After all, Taylor Swift just re-released her own version of all her own songs, and people seem to like those even better. *The Great Gatsby* should be entering the public domain in 2025, so we thought it could be cool to essentially publish the exact same version but with a green light metaphor that ends with Gatsby staying a totally rich and cool party bro at the end. The American Dream—it works! See?

But then we were like, who would even write that—James Patterson? Stephanie Meyer? We couldn't match their rates, so we had to scratch that entirely. >>

>> The “lesser of two evils” narrative was undeniably effective at the height of the 2020 Presidential campaign and the January 6th Capitol riot, but as it is becoming increasingly apparent that aimless pandering and the weaponizing of identity politics to the generally pissed-off public will only get us so far, we had to abandon that one, too. As tensions mount and anxiety surrounding the next few years spikes, we once again find ourselves back at the drawing board.

Therefore, we ultimately came to the conclusion that since there are a great deal of next-gen American writers and artists who are struggling due to COVID, we should open up the floor to them! That’s right—we’re crowdsourcing the American Dream. If you or someone you know thinks they have a great idea for the next great one, please email it to our marketing interns at whitehouse@gmail.com.

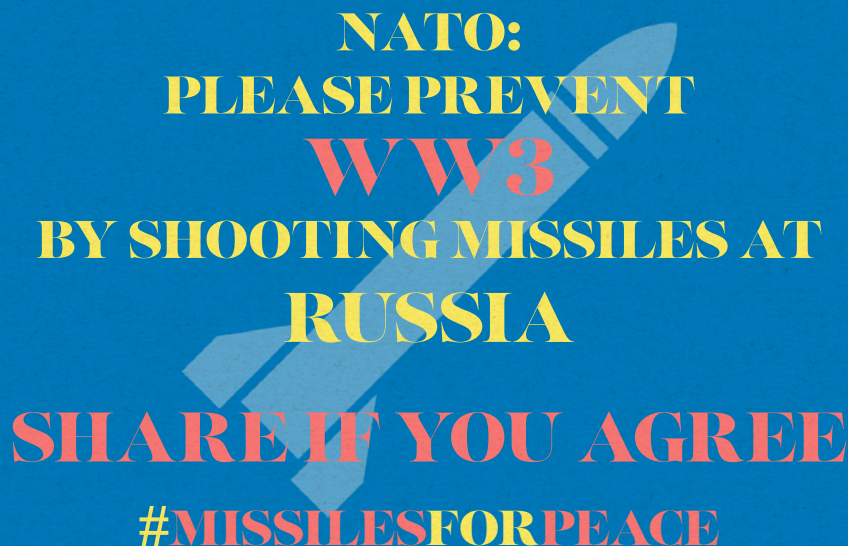
Similarly to the esteemed early 2000’s Danimals *Suite Life of Zack and Cody* sweepstakes, there will likely be one winner who never receives any sort of credit or accolades for their entry other than bragging rights of knowing they won, which they will be free to share with their Twitter followers (we will not publicly corroborate).

Stay safe and healthy out there all!

Warm Regards,

The U.S. Government

#



NATO:
PLEASE PREVENT
WW3
BY SHOOTING MISSILES AT
RUSSIA
SHARE IF YOU AGREE
#MISSILESFORPEACE



Why Has No One Asked Me, Kings of Leon Frontman Caleb Followill, to Sell Their NFTs?

//JAMES DWYER

WE ALL REMEMBER WHERE WE WERE on the night of January 24th, 2022. I was in my garage, trying to self-install the wall charger to my Tesla Model S without having to turn off the power because I didn't want the hot tub to cool down. After my third mild electrocution and second medium one, I decided to take a break, so I limped to the den. That's where I saw it. Paris Hilton and Jimmy Fallon discussing their Bored Ape Yacht Club NFTs on live television. The soulless passion with which they spoke said it all: they got paid to do this. Meanwhile me, the lead singer of Kings of Leon—the band that produced the 2008 billboard hit “Use Somebody”—doesn't have a single million dollar JPG to hang his hat on.

Just explain to me how that's fair.

Why do Paris Hilton and Jimmy Fallon get to be the joyless faces of NFTs on television while I go to my local Gamestop to get bullied by the employees for asking if they have any Bored Apes in stock (perhaps in the back if they don't mind looking)? >>

>> Why does Brie Larson get to post selfies with captions like “who knew drinking water could be so exciting” in exchange for ultra rare JPGs, while I’m stuck posting selfies of me at the doctor’s office getting an infected hangnail removed with the caption, “haha here we go again,” and the only thing I’m offered in exchange is \$10,000 by Sephora to delete my account?

Why does Larry David get to be in a SUPER BOWL commercial where he pretends he doesn’t even like NFTs, but I have to wander around the parking lot of SoFi stadium with a sign that says “NFTs are in the past, the future is DHT”? Why do I then have to explain that DHT stands for “Digital Ham Token” and explain that, soon enough, people will want to spend millions on digital hams that they can digitally eat, digitally digest, then digitally shit out to make DSTs so that you can finally shit where you eat and make money doing it? And why do I then have to explain that I’ve eaten 10 DHTs today and need to go home immediately because I’m about to juice 10 DSTs and if I don’t have a cold wallet to dump my DSTs in they’re not only lost forever, but will contaminate any water sources within a 10 mile radius of my ass?

Why does it have to be like this?

Was there a fucking meeting where every celebrity except me got offered “fuck you money” to pretend to give a shit about these things and my invitation was lost in the mail? Do people assume I don’t want a piece of the crypto pie because I grew up super Christian and Jesus hated the banks? Or is it even simpler than that? Do you think I wouldn’t be “OK” with a pump-and-dump money laundering scheme because I seem like a pretty decent guy (I assure you, I’m not)?

If that’s the case, let me make something clear right now: I am a celebrity just like any of the other guys. No matter what my politics may be, being a celebrity comes first. And if there’s one thing that’s true at this moment, any celebrity will sell their soul to be the face of a crypto ad in 2022. I simply ask that you give me proper consideration as well. 🙏



Spitting out ALL my borscht to stick it to Putin

THE ONLY ARTFORM THAT HASN'T BEEN COMPROMISED BY CAPITALISM ARE

THE INSTRUCTIONAL JERK-OFF RECORDINGS I LISTEN TO ON REDDIT

//SIMON BOWER GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

CAPITALISM'S CHOKEHOLD ON THE CHICKEN that is the arts seems to squeeze tighter and tighter with each passing year. The Disney movie machine clogs the cinemas with soulless superhero blockbusters to pacify the masses. An industry-crafted façade of authenticity allows musicians to more effectively sow neoliberal ideals into the hearts and minds of their young fans. Celebrity autobiographies and romance novels promoting archaic gender norms are the only books that get any kind of prominent display on store shelves. Presently, there is only one form of artistic expression that remains untainted by the interests of capital: audio recordings of women instructing and/or encouraging me to pleasure myself.

Many of you will instinctively recoil from this suggestion. How could something so base, so crude, so pornographic, be the truest artform of our time? That's just what the gatekeeping elite want you to think, as these performers don't post their work on NSFW subreddits for any monetary gain. They do it because they feel a burning need to express the vari-

ous different techniques one can utilize to massage their genitals for sexual pleasure, and that lack of financial interest gives their art an integrity that your favourite "socialist" Netflix show can never have.

While Hollywood censors challenging subject matter—with the exception of incessant and gratuitous violence—out of mainstream movies in order to release their projects in as many markets as possible, JOI artists have the freedom to use their platform to challenge the establishment. For instance, let us examine /u/slutslutgoose22's *seminal* work "Jacking Your Way Out of a Speeding Ticket."

In this scathing critique of the police's abuse of power, writer/director/star Ms. Goose chillingly portrays a patrol officer who pulls the listener over for speeding. She then takes advantage of both his low socioeconomic status and her authority over him, by ordering him to pull his pants down and masturbate for her sadistic enjoyment. When Officer Goose mockingly told me, "You have the right to moan like a dirty little whore," I found her twisting of one of the most recognizable declarations of legal rights into >>

>> something degrading and perverse to be such a powerful metaphor... almost as powerful as the orgasm that followed (while I moaned like a dirty little whore).

Another advantage that the creators of these auditory masturbatory aids have is a deeper connection to their art and audience. Artists in most fields suffer from a version of Marx's theory of alienation, where they feel a detachment from both their work and the product of their labor. Screenwriters have scripts rewritten and "punched up" by other writers, visual artists have their work stolen and turned into NFTs that sell for insane sums, musicians on Spotify can have a song heard by hundreds of thousands while receiving little-to-no payment and remaining virtually anonymous. But since jerk-off instructors put their work out with no intent of financial gain, on platforms like Reddit where they can communicate directly with their audience and peers, there are fewer obstacles preventing them from feeling satisfied by the response to their art. I don't have to worry about whether /u/WAPsmear feels appreciated for the effort she put into making "Big Titty Goth GF Bets You Can't Last 20 Minutes," because I wrote a very long reply to her post explicitly detailing just how much appreciation came out of me (2 ounces).

Of course, capital always finds a way, and it is probably only a matter of time until this pure creative medium—specifically, voice recordings telling me the best way to beat my meat—finds itself exploited in the interests of the bourgeoisie. But until that inevitable day when "Step-Mommy Laughs at Your Pathetic Baby Dick" is playing in the background of a Volvo commercial, jerk-off instructions are the *only* artform that can still be considered praxis to engage with. Just be sure to wipe the praxis off of your keyboard. 🍑

Simon Bower has written for comedy sites such as *Cracked* and *Hard Drive*, and swears he only listened to all those JOI audios for research. Follow him on Twitter: @bower2thepeople

STATEMENT from MAYOR of NEW YORK ERIC ADAMS

RE: THESE ARE THE VIBES

As the FIRST Mayor of New York City to run a vibes-based City Hall, I'd like everyone to be aware, this is a vibe-check. Take note of these vibes as they will be the vibes going forward:

- Burning sage on the subway
to smoke out the unhoused
- Bucket hats *and rat buckets*
- Reading Susan Miller's
monthly horoscope in bed
*and threatening to send her
to Rikers when she's late*
- Crystals and chillereum,
*my new cryptocurrency,
which I'm forcing all city-
workers to be paid in*
- Sunday strolls, *and stops,
and frisks*



SO SAD THAT DR. JILL BIDEN WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

We didn't it, Joe.

//BRADY O'CALLAHAN

WHEN DR. JILL BIDEN WAS ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL for her husband Joe advocating for free community college, I gotta admit, it really hit me in my heart. I got so emotional thinking about this amazing woman taking a stand for her man, but also taking a stand for herself. Some women would be complacent standing in the shadow of their husband, but not Dr. Jill. She wanted to go to community college. She wanted to make something of herself.

But now that hope is dashed, all thanks to Joe. I can't believe it.

This was supposed to be her ONE piece of advocacy. The ONE place she was going to have an impact with the added benefit that she'd get an Associate Degree for herself. And now Joe's saying it's a no-go. Dr. Jill will just never be able to go to community college and become an IT support specialist or an automotive technician, I guess.

As someone who struggles with student loan payments every month, I know what a barrier they can be to higher education and a comfortable life thereafter. The fact that 12 years after graduating I owe more than my initial loan despite making monthly payments the entire time, all for a degree that in any other reasonable nation in the world would be free, makes me acutely aware of what Dr. Jill must be feeling right now.

With free community college, Dr. Jill Biden could invest in herself and lay the groundwork to become something incredible... like a scientist, a professor, or even a doctor. With Joe Biden as president, though, it looks like she'll just be Dr. Jill Biden, *wife*.

How could you, Joe? I'm begging you to change your mind. Not for me—I already have a college degree that cost me more than your generation paid for their first house. For her. 🧐

Above The Law and Out For Justice: San Francisco On Deadly
Ground and Under Siege From Shoplifters (The Worst Criminals
Of Them All)

Written by
Matthew Brian Cohen

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1st and Final Draft

ATTN: Agents and Managers reading this: if you try to take 10% of this, I will hunt you down. The capoeira I describe within these pages is no joke. My feet are registered as deadly weapons, and a former federal judge who is friends with my parents told me that if I kicked someone to death with them, that would qualify as MURDER.

INT. CVS - MORNING

PAN: across a CVS. A slow, moody piano version of "The Star Spangled Banner" PLAYS in a minor key.

Some assorted toiletries have been knocked on the floor. An EMPLOYEE sweeps some dust and minor debris.

You would think everything was totally normal and not at all a big deal, but savvy NY Post readers like ourselves know the truth.

CLOSE UP: A pair of really badass cowboy boots walking into the store.

We PAN UP to see their owner: it's not a cowboy, but a detective. A detective who used to be a Green Beret. His name? STEVEN SEAGAL. NOTE: if we can't get Steven Seagal, we'll still use his name.

Steven Seagal walks over to a single toothbrush. He picks it up, opens it, and STICKS IT IN his mouth.

STEVEN SEAGAL
(with toothbrush in
mouth)

You can't brush this crime away.

CHYRON: "Out For Justice: Shoplifters. It's A Real Thing.
Crime Is Rising and It's Out Of Control."

EMPLOYEE
Can I help you?

Steven Seagal BLOW-DARTS the toothbrush out of his mouth. It perfectly pierces a Cadbury Egg and keeps flying forever.

STEVEN SEAGAL
Name's Seagal. I'm a private
detective who used to be a Green
Beret. I'm also a practitioner of the
ancient art of
(pronouncing it VERY
authentically)
capoeira.

EMPLOYEE
Brazilian fight dancing. You're a
legend in the capoeira community.
(beat)
Gary!

GARY, the manager (dorky, eats too much pussy), walks over.

GARY
Detective Seagal!

STEVEN SEAGAL
Operator Detective Seagal.

CLOSE UP: The Cadbury Egg leaks fondant onto a perforated shelf.

GARY
(nods)
Thank you for coming. There's been a--

STEVEN SEAGAL
Robbery, I know. The whole place looks like an a-bomb went off.

EMPLOYEE
At least the a-bomb was morally justified. They were Japanese civilians -- barely even people. But this?!

The employee TSKS and SHAKES his head for a minute and a half.

STEVEN SEAGAL
What's the damage, compadre?

GARY
Shaving cream, dental floss. A couple sticks of deodorant.

STEVEN SEAGAL
It's always deodorant. That's the thing with shoplifters... they stink.

GARY
We've always had shoplifters, but it's never been this bad. Ever since California raised the felony threshold of shoplifting by a few hundred dollars... I don't know. Something's changed.

STEVEN SEAGAL
Everything's changed. How many bodies?

GARY
Nobody got hurt. Perps didn't have guns, or really any weapons.
(MORE)

GARY (cont'd)
It's almost like it wasn't that big a deal.

STEVEN SEAGAL
You misunderstood. I wasn't asking how many people they dropped... I was asking how many you want me to drop.

Steven Seagal WHIPS OUT a Desert Eagle. He TOSSES it in the air, and then, in one fluid* (*clunky, but we'll fix it in post) motion, JUMPS UP and SPIN KICKS the gun.

It fires a bullet directly at a picture of the Employee on the wall, right through his eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SEEDY DSA MEETING - NIGHT

Steven walks into an East Bay DSA meeting. It's full of your typical leftist lowlifes spending their energy trying to make a more just and equitable world.

A DSA JERKOFF (29, doesn't understand property values) is leading the meeting.

DSA JERKOFF
...which is why we need to abolish the police and let the criminals run everything.

Steven walks up to a DSA JERKOFF.

DSA JERKOFF (cont'd)
And you are?

STEVEN SEAGAL
Name's Marx. Stalin Marx.

DSA JERKOFF
OK, Stalin Marx. We all have names like that, so that sounds totally plausible. Why don't you take a seat? We're just talking about our crazy plan to better utilize our city's resources.

Instead of sitting (no one tells Steven Seagal to sit -- he only sits when he's filming one of his direct-to-streaming movies), Steven Seagal walks over to a LEFTIST SCUMBAG (32, never experienced the joys of owning a payday loan business).

4.

STEVEN SEAGAL
I'll take a seven and seven.

LEFTIST SCUMBAG
This isn't a bar.

STEVEN SEAGAL
My fault, chief. I forgot to tell you
my pronouns. I'm Steven Seagal, he/
him. I identify as a Green Beret-
turned-private eye.

DSA JERKOFF
Sorry, why did you tell us your name
was Stalin Marx?

STEVEN SEAGAL
(ignoring that)
I'm looking for the piece of trash
that stole \$11.75 worth of toiletries
from the CVS. Know anything about
that?

LEFTIST SCUMBAG
No.

STEVEN SEAGAL
You talk tough. Nice.

LEFTIST SCUMBAG
What?

Steven Seagal GRABS the Leftist Scumbag by the collar. He
INHALES his scent deeply, almost erotically. Straight women
are surely masturbating by this point in the film.

STEVEN SEAGAL
Smells like Degree. Cool Rush
Advanced Protection, right?

LEFTIST SCUMBAG
I have no idea. My hairy, braless
significant other got it for me.

STEVEN SEAGAL
OK, you want to talk tough? Let's
talk tough, you chickenshit pussy
motherfucker.

DSA JERKOFF
OK, that's enough--

5.

EXTREME CLOSE UP: Steven SPINS and DUCKS, rotating his body
endlessly as he unleashes a flurry of kicks that vaguely
approximate capoeira.

BACK TO WIDE: Everyone at the stupid meeting is on the
ground, their ARMS and LEGS completely severed from their
torsos.

Steven walks up to the DSA Jerkoff, who is bleeding
profusely.

STEVEN SEAGAL
I need a name.

DSA JERKOFF
(coughing up blood)
Richie. Richie Marx.

STEVEN SEAGAL
There. Was that so hard?

Steven pulls out his Desert Eagle. He AIMS it squarely at
the Jerkoff's temple.

STEVEN SEAGAL (cont'd)
Meeting adjourned.

EXT. HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

SFX FROM THE PREVIOUS SCENE: GUNSHOT.

A bunch of pigeons FLY AWAY. It's very cinematic
(appropriate, since this is a movie).

STEVEN SEAGAL walks with purpose towards the tent city.

An UNHOUSED WOMAN (no sympathy) stops him.

UNHOUSED WOMAN
Got any change?

STEVEN SEAGAL
Sorry, I used up all my change voting
for Barack Obama in 2008. How'd that
turn out for you?

UNHOUSED WOMAN
Huh?

STEVEN SEAGAL
This country has become a socialist
gutter thanks to him.

UNHOUSED WOMAN
And you voted for him.

STEVEN SEAGAL
I did. And how'd that turn out for you?

UNHOUSED WOMAN
I'm confused.

STEVEN SEAGAL
So am I. Because you wouldn't be in this situation if you pulled yourself up by your bootstraps and backed the blue.

UNHOUSED WOMAN
I don't understand what you want me to do.

STEVEN SEAGAL
Listen, I live by one rule: I don't spin kick women or white children. Don't make me break my rule, OK?

UNHOUSED WOMAN
OK.

STEVEN SEAGAL SHIMMIES his shoulders, looking really cool to all of us who downloaded some grainy footage of capoeira off Kazaa in 2002.

STEVEN SEAGAL
Richie Marx. Bring him to me.

UNHOUSED WOMAN
Richie?!

RICHIE steps out of his tent. Like all unhoused people, he's armed to the teeth with a 50 cal rifle and grenade launcher strapped to his back.

Richie aims the rifle directly at Steven, yet Steven remains as cool as a Barstool Sports podcast host.

RICHIE
Look who it is! Operator Detective Steven Seagal.

STEVEN SEAGAL
You know who I am.

RICHIE
(heavy Colombian accent despite being named Richie)
Everybody knows you, amigo. And soon, they'll know you as a corpse.

STEVEN SEAGAL
We can handle this like men. Not little girls. Put down the rifle and hand over the single roll of toilet paper you stole.

Richie CACKLES madly. He's completely unhinged. He FIRES his rifle in the air. More pigeons SCATTER (cinematically).

RICHIE
The unhoused run this city! And soon, every single CVS, Rite-Aid, and Walgreens will close their doors for good. That means no more multivitamins, no more ribbed tip condoms, no more 2-for-1 cans of Arizona Iced Green Tea.

STEVEN SEAGAL
I knew you were crazy, Richie... but I didn't think you were nuts.

RICHIE
You think I was after some basic necessities, esse?! If I wanted hygiene products, I would have become a gig worker.

STEVEN SEAGAL
Best kind of job there is. Be your own boss, set your own hours.

RICHIE
Don't you think I know that?! What I want to do... I want to destroy commerce.

STEVEN SEAGAL
And then what?! People have their basic needs met by their government, pursue meaningful work and relationships? Where does it end, Richie?!

RICHIE
It ends... when I say it does!

STEVEN SEAGAL
Then you should say it ends tonight.
Because this ends... tonight.

RICHIE
You'll never take me alive!

STEVEN SEAGAL
That's funny. Because I was only
going to take you dead.

IN SLOW MOTION:

Richie aims his rifle at Steven Seagal.

Steven crouches, getting into a capoeira position.

Richie fires.

Steven somersaults toward Richie.

The bullet from Richie's gun travels toward Steven.

Steven pops out of the somersault, KICKING THE BULLET.

The bullet FLIES back toward Richie.

RICHIE
(screaming)
Nooooooooooooo!

The bullet PIERCES Richie's skull. Richie is FLUNG backward,
landing on his grenade launcher.

REGULAR SPEED:

STEVEN SEAGAL
Hasta luego, Richie.

Richie EXPLODES, blowing up the tent city with him.

Steven Seagal walks away, silhouetted by the explosion.

STEVEN SEAGAL (V.O.)
I may have been too late to recover
the toiletries they stole, but it's
never too late... to vote blue. Wait,
I mean, back the blue. Or vote blue
if they back the blue. Most Democrats
are in the pocket of law enforcement,
anyway.

CHYRON: THE END

Movies are 8 pages long, right? I think we can pad it out
with some fight scenes if we need a few more minutes.

FAUCI: AMERICANS UNLIKELY TO CONTRACT COVID WHEN SPENDING OVER \$25

//DIANA KOLSKY



IN THE LATEST GUIDANCE from head infectious disease specialist Dr. Anthony Fauci, Americans who are spending over a certain amount of money in public are less likely to contract the Coronavirus than those who don't. "The individual's commerce stimulates the market and creates a personal immune response that can last up to three hours," the gain-of-function investor said Tuesday. "Four if it's a really fun—read: pricey—night out."

Many find this information baffling amid contradictory statements from various virologists and the Center for Disease Control, but Dr. Fauci assured the public at a briefing this morning to "trust the science... economics IS a science, after all."

Dr. Fauci's recent direction coincides with current efforts by blue states to open back up and loosen mask mandates despite the immediate Omicron surge and overcrowding of hospitals across the nation. "There has to be a reason it's OK to go to an indoor restaurant now, coming up on one million Americans dead and counting," said Seattle local Penny Crust. "Let's just say I'm getting a booster—dessert!"

"I did feel safer removing my mask while spending three hundred bucks at Lowe's," Scranton native Herbert Nipps Jr. reported after throwing a prefab shed on his credit card and his face shield in the trash. "I felt a wheezing woman's hot breath on my neck while fighting for the last snow shovel, but I knew I was covered for at least the afternoon [coughs]." Nipps Jr. had to step away from chatting with us to hack blood into a bandana.

Fauci isn't without his critics: "He just wants us to go die for the f***ing market to enrich the one percent! Look how he handled the f***ing AIDS cri—" Bronx-born bookseller Robert Pants was heard shouting before he was snapped in half by a robotic dog deployed by the NYPD.

"Got him!" Mayor Eric Adams cackled sinisterly from a nearby limousine before speeding off. Neither Adams's nor Fauci's offices could be reached for further comment. 🤖

SOOTHING IMAGES TO DISTRACT YOURSELF FROM YOUR INCUMBENT POLITICIANS SEEKING RE-ELECTION

//BRIAN KELLEY GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

TODAY'S MODERN WORLD AFFORDS US so many opportunities to deal with the nasty or unwanted elements of our life by thinking of more pleasant things instead. My therapist calls this repression, but if repression means a calming and pleasant sensory experience, then repress me up, baby!

A MEADOW

You hear the caws of birds in the distance. You hear the wind rustling in the trees. So nice, so serene, you don't have to think one bit about Governor Kathy Hochul seeking a full term. Oh, yes, this beautiful locale is far too powerful to let that neoliberal girlboss shill marinate in your skull goo. Just focus on the flowers, the pathway through the trees, and all that this green (for now) earth encompasses. It's really quite a marvel of nature... almost as marvelous as when Hochul debt-shamed Jumaane Williams in a campaign ad. Quite a cocksure politician for a pervert replacement! AH! Nature! How beautiful. >>



Get more Brian Kelley - Twitter: [@iambriankelley](#) or Insta: [@briankelleywastaken](#)



A TROPICAL BEACH

Just picture yourself taking a deep dive through those serene waters... not a jellyfish in sight. All those mean, stingy jellyfish are gone, except for the one in the New York Senate Seat who's shown far too short a backbone for a jellyfish. So glad his prospects are going unfettered! He can confirm all the Trump picks he needs to. He can always get in front of a press crew and make a dad joke about our government doing the bare minimum. Never quite seen a jellyfish with full glasses get pushed around by an extraneous office worker. It's almost like you're forgetting that you're supposed to forget this.

NEWBORN KITTENS

Okay, okay, maybe the whole nature thing needs a rest. Take in another sight soothing to the human psyche: adorable little kittens. Completely innocent in nature. They don't have votes, or prejudice, or erratic media consumption habits. They're just kittens, and that's pretty darn swell. Just lovely, furry kittens with no defenses, no guards. Take a stroke of their belly, feel how soft that is. The little meows, so musical. What's that? Tim Ryan's not seeking re-election? Oh, fuck the kittens for a second, that is terrific. Oh, that is soothing indeed.



Take in the news that the fucking boy scout who told that uppity progressive to pipe down about healthcare but started yelling himself when his livelihood was at risk will be stepping down. And also these little furry things, but mostly that relaxing Ryan news. Oh god, that hits the spot. And don't pay attention to the fact that you just learned he's running for the Senate seat in Ohio, which means he'll have even more power, or else we get another nattering jackass in there who shows his dog's asshole to the press crew while the world falls apart and—kittens! Beautiful kittens. As furry and friendly as can be. >>

DELICIOUS ICE CREAM

Something sweet, perhaps, to wash the taste of bile out of the mouth. Delicious ice cream, oh, what a treat. Nothing takes the sting out of the extracted surplus value of your hot sweaty labor like a sweet, delectable drip of cream extracted from a factory-farmed cow down the side of a sugar cone. Your mouth watering at the sight of it. Maybe even some sorbet for you dairy-free freaks out there. Just taking a nice soft bite to let go of the fact that we may very well have to go through seven more torturous goddamn years of this presidency.



MIGRANT MOTHER

I'm kind of losing my drive here. The woman in this picture, gee, isn't she inspiring? Kind of makes you feel okay about the world. And oh, the children, the children are our future. Such young, hopeful faces in the midst of a cratering economy. Oh, wouldn't it be nice to have lived in the middle of The Great Depression? This family didn't even need to think about NANCY GODDAMN PELOSI GRIPPING ONTO HER SEAT WITH THE COLD STRENGTH OF DEATH ITSELF!! Ooh, what circus acts are we in store for now? Is she going to rip up Biden's dementia medication prescription?

No! No! You are at peace. You are inspired just by looking at this scene. Nothing can penetrate the sheer relaxing force of Migrant Mother. Poverty is so soothing. Just slap some masks on these people and we're back in the comfort of home! Away from all the Trump legislation Nancy pushed through or the fact that she doesn't see any harm in owning stock while in office! What a delightful, care-free country you live in! JESUS! H! CHRIST! YOU ARE SO! GODDAMN! CALM!!!! 🤖



BRADY BOX™

A DIFFERENT GET-RICH-QUICK SCHEME
SOME IDIOT'S BOUND TO FALL FOR!

//BRADY O'CALLAHAN

NOT A SINGLE PERSON SIGNED UP for my cloud based storage solution (still accepting applications btw), and I am not getting any less in debt. The debilitating sense that I will die without a similar economic security that the past few generations enjoyed has left me grasping at straws. Still, the “hustle mindset” TikToks that are thoroughly entrenched in my algorithm have me wondering if there really is a way out. Because of this, I am *thrilled* to announce the premiere of my monthly subscription delivery service:

■ HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each month, you'll get a special delivery of some of my favorite things I probably don't need anymore, some things I like but don't have any storage space in my Brooklyn apartment for, and least favorite things I maybe bought as a joke or just have buyer's remorse over. I guarantee a box of goodies unlike any other subscription box on the market today!

■ WHAT CAN I EXPECT IN MY BRADYBOX™ DELIVERY?

Here's just one example:

- One Levi's black denim trucker jacket, size Medium.
Why do I have 5 trucker jackets? Would love to get this down to four.
- *The Last of Us 2* for PS4, which is a beautiful achievement in video game narrative and gameplay, but there's no way I'll actually sit down and play this again.
- The Tune Wranglers' 1936-38 LP, VG+ condition, which is a fun collection of bluegrass tunes except for one where they say the fucking n-word a few times, which is kind of a real bummer to hear after spending \$10 on it at a record store because you liked the cover.

- Five 3 oz. bags of Trader Joe's Grain Free Cat Treats with Turkey, which my cat doesn't like, but maybe yours will.
- A few coffee mugs. Nothing special, but nice mugs. Just have too many mugs. I never have 8 people over all drinking coffee, but if I do, I can probably also use mason jars.
- Mason jars. Have too many mason jars.

■ HOW EXCLUSIVE IS IT?

I'm not going to lie. I have a lot of shit. I tell myself I like to collect things, but I think I have what many would call an “emotional spending problem.” I can probably dish out 10 boxes a month for a year or until we all burn out on the idea, whichever comes first (probably the burn out).

■ WHAT IS THE MONTHLY COST?

\$75 per month, but I'll do it for \$50.

■ ARE YOU OK?.

I'm afraid I might be addicted to things..

■ HOW CAN I SIGN UP?

DM me, same as last time. Let me reassert that these DMs are wide, wide open. 🧐



U.S. GOVERNMENT NO LONGER ISSUING PRODUCT RECALLS

*“Just Too Much Other
Stuff to Worry About
Right Now”*

//JEFF DWYER GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Food and Drug Administration has announced that it will no longer be issuing product recalls under a new order by the Biden administration which claims there’s “just too much other stuff to worry about right now.”

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki first announced the directive while speaking to reporters earlier this week. “With everything going on between Russia and Ukraine, climate change, inflation, COVID, scam calls, the bird thing, and the lasting emotional impact from the 1979 Iran Hostage Crisis,” Psaki said, “we can’t keep spoon-feeding the American consumer.”

The order calls on the FDA, who is responsible for overseeing the safety of food, drugs, cosmetics and apparently vaccines, to stop reporting potentially dangerous products to the general public. In short, the food you buy from the grocery store may not be safe to eat. Unless you shop at Walmart, which has successfully circumvented this directive to offer unsafe dining options for decades.

“This has the potential to save the government millions of dollars,” Psaki said. “Normally, recalled products are donated to

homeless shelters off the books, an extremely wasteful practice. Now those products can still be sold in grocery stores, providing a massive jolt to our economy!”

In response to the directive, Acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock said, “Americans have been put to the test before. We know you can handle salmonella, and at worst, some fentanyl-laced Tylenol. What’s a couple of bad eggs?”

The order was unveiled just moments before the FDA was set to issue massive recalls on romaine lettuce, a few hard-to-pronounce and even harder-to-spell foreign vaccines, and most dairy-based milks and cheeses produced here in the United States.

Woodcock offered one final piece of advice: “If a product is labeled ‘Made in America’ then you may want to put it back on the shelf. If it’s labeled ‘Made in China’ then it’s probably fine.” 🇺🇸

Jeff Dwyer is a frequent daydreamer and future beach bum. More of his ramblings can be found on Twitter @JeffScape

I READ THIS ZINE, AND WORLD WAR III IS HAPPENING IN FIVE MINUTES I GUESS

What Do I Do Now?

//DAN LOPRETO

AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, there is a massive geopolitical and humanitarian crisis occurring in Eastern Europe due to Russia's military invasion of Ukraine. Many Americans are scrambling to figure out what is going on Over There, what these things called Other Countries are all about, and why the United States—which has miserably [failed](#) in every military intervention it has launched since 1945—is now looking at potentially taking yet [another L](#). Here are some resources to get a better idea of this complex, insane, and tragic situation.

[PUTTING THE UKRAINE-RUSSIA CONFLICT INTO PERSPECTIVE](#) //DEFENSE PRIORITIES

[UNDERSTANDING THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN WAR](#) //WAR ON THE ROCKS

[THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE](#) //COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

[WORSE THAN A CRIME: IT'S A BLUNDER](#) //AMERICAN PROSPECT

[THE HUMAN COST OF PUTIN'S WAR](#) //WILSON CENTER

[BIDEN'S ESCALATION WITH RUSSIA OVER UKRAINE IS A TERRIBLE IDEA](#) //JACOBIN

[THE UNITED STATES MUST PUNISH RUSSIA BUT REMEMBER THE LIMITS OF POWER](#) //CARNEGIE
ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

****You can donate to Doctors Without Borders [HERE](#)****

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

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: UH, WE HOPE THERE IS ONE... SOMEONE'S GOTTA COVER WWII



You're dead motherfucker, you hear me?
You're fucking dead!

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//