



FUNCTIONALLY DEAD

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M'aidez m'aidez.

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CHARLES WARNS MANSON GIRLS AGAINST UNIONIZING: "WE'RE A FAMILY"

//DIANA KOLSKY

MOVE OVER BEZOS, SHULTZ, AND WHOEVER the CEO of Verizon is, there's an unlikely new family man in town: Charles Manson. Joining the ranks of anti-union daddies, Charlie has adopted the age-old "but we're a family" strategy—in conjunction with massive amounts of psychedelics—to manipulate his hungry-to-organize flock.

Overtime LSD for night jobs, scheduled bathroom breaks on the way to do murder, and updated weaponry are among the Helter Skelter United (HSU Local 666)'s demands listed in the manifesto scrawled in blood on the side of a barn at Spahn Ranch, the Manson Family's residence overlooking the San Fernando Valley. Other more elusive items found on the structure's veneer were "political piggy," and "WAR," though union leaders have since made it clear that they are not in disagreement with Charles on all of these points.

The ghost of Susan Atkins—de facto speaker for the Family's grievances—also mentioned wanting "some soap" and "updated uniforms," claiming the blue denim dresses she and her "sisters" wear are itchy and "smell like jizz on hay." When asked for



comment on the HSU's demands, Manson's right-hand ranchman Tex Watson stabbed this reporter forty-one times. Ouch.

"The conditions are not very groovy," Family member Leslie Van Houten added Tuesday. "Charlie plays his own terrible music and the food is rotten. He gives us all weird names, plies us with drugs, and makes us practice shooting guns for well over eight hours a day."

"Manson's a classic fatcat bossman," Patricia Krenwinkel chimed in. "While he's off partying with the Beach Boys, we're out in Topanga Canyon doing his dirty work while he sits back and collects all the infamy."

When asked for comment from his prison cell in hell, the sinister minister himself replied "beelzebubbaalkdbuubnunununmobdadabababattttzznatatatabuuuhbuuhfffftaahwahheehawwwlalacoppotatabrgatatabuhbuhbuhnananahissszzzzftahyipponnono." *Functionally Dead* stands in solidarity with the Manson Family and workers everywhere organizing for better conditions. 🗿

"I'm running to scold the Left for daring to imagine a better world."

Hello. I'm the centrist who is running to unseat Lauren Bobert/ Marjorie Taylor Green/the AR-15 that has a racial slur painted on the side of it. But more importantly, I'm running to scold the Left for daring to imagine a better world.

By now, you have seen my TikTok where I announced my candidacy (but mostly chided Leftists for thinking a socialist could win in a country where the most popular politicians are socialists). First, I want to let everyone know I am OK, both emotionally (from being canceled by the Woke Left) and physically (I filmed the TikTok while driving and I hit a family of deer). Nothing, not even a one hundred seventy-five pound animal smeared across the front of my Jetta, can stop me from unseating my far-right opponent and (again, most importantly) throwing shade at Leftists.

Despite what Twitter thinks, leftist policies like teacher unions, the five day work week, and \$3.75 student debt forgiveness just won't fly in a deep-red district like mine. Instead, we're going to win by appealing to the center. We're going to win by talking to those reasonable voters who know that both the right and the left have valid points. The voters who believe our large military should be run by a small government. The voters who believe a marriage can be between ANY cisgendered people. The voters who believe Black lives matter, but also that Black people really shouldn't be voting so damn much.



Centrist Campaign



Why I Am Running

I'm running because both the Left and the Right are out of whack. The far right believe America should be a white ethnostate where a handful of billionaires preside over the end of human life as we know it. The far left believe that everyone should be able to go to a doctor. It's crazy, and it's got to stop.

I'm running to bring a sense of freaking decency back to my district. I'm running to take us back to a time when politicians could slash social services and take kickbacks from real estate developers and you wouldn't have to read about it because they didn't call a reporter a pedophile. I'm running because the only way to defeat right-wing extremists is to offer them most of the same stuff they are getting, but less of it. I'm running to make America great again (not in *that* way!). Unlike the Woke Left, I'm proud to be an American. And unlike the loony Right, I'm not so proud to be American where I am a racist. I am just the right level of proud, where I can acknowledge that America is a country founded on stolen land and built by slaves, but think that's a good thing.

If any of this doesn't make sense to you, you must not be a centrist, and that's fine. I don't want your vote! You're just a Leftist on Twitter/TikTok/Instagram/PornHub and you don't vote in my district! That's why I'm spending the bulk of my campaign talking to you, to let you know I don't need your support! Sips tea. Wait, are you supposed to type that out? Does that look weird?! Wait

Centrist Campaign

My Story

I got my political start interning for John McCain, where my duties included denying poor people social services and calling his wife a cunt “or you’re fired,” and for 7 of the most important months of my life, I was never fired once. But my love of centrist politics started when I was just eight years old. As a homosexual, I was often bullied for being gay. I thought to myself, “wow, these people hate me for who I am and believe I don’t deserve to exist. I can’t wait to compromise with them!” I told my bullies to be reasonable and beat me up only three days a week. They didn’t listen, but that’s politics for you!

But even harder than growing up gay is being an adult centrist. With the woke Left out of control, there is no longer a home for the status quo. And as a centrist who is vehemently opposed to the sight of homelessness, this is unacceptable! Who can decent centrist Americans turn to for guidance, save for the President, Vice President, Speaker of the House, Senate Majority (soon to be minority) Leader, etc? It wasn’t easy finding my tribe, but after watching cable news once, I knew I had found my people.



Centrist Campaign



The Issues

Let's talk the issues:

Healthcare: Sorry, leftists, but Americans don't want Medicare For All. What they actually want is the option to choose between three different providers who bill them every month, and then every time they go to the doctor, and then every time they need medicine, and then sometimes just for fun to see if some sucker will actually pay it. Who doesn't love a little scamp like that? Americans (especially women) love to shop—let's not take away our God-given right to shop around for the insurance plan that rips us off in the way that's the best fit for our family.

Immigration: Borders are what literally define our country. Telling Latinos they can't come here is how we define who we are. But Trump's border wall goes too far. Instead of a wall meant to divide us, why not dig a moat intended to unite us? With the far right, the cruelty is the point. With the center, the cruelty is just an afterthought. In this house, we believe Black and Brown families belong in cages together :):):).

Qanon: Qanon is fake. The far right thinks there is a secret cabal running the world from behind the scenes. That's so stupid. As a centrist, we know the real secret cabal is the Russians who stole the election for Donald Trump. Everyone knows Trump didn't win by appealing to Americans by blaming the horrifying problems of capitalism on convenient scapegoats. He won because of Putin, somehow.

Centrist Campaign

Donate and Volunteer Today

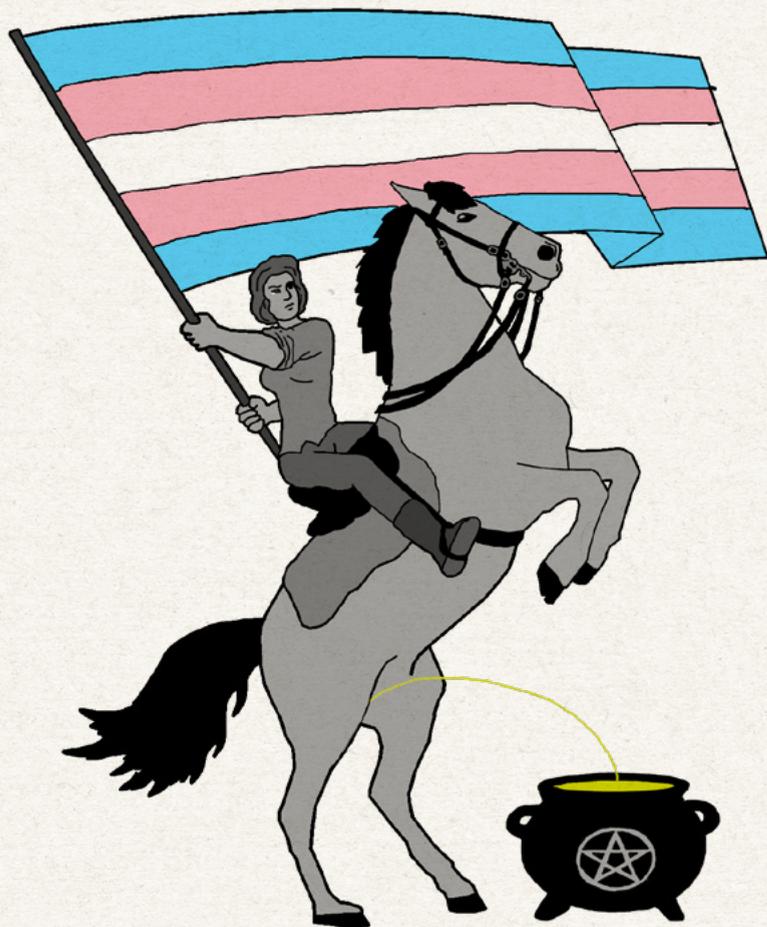
Take action now! For some reason, my brand of mealy-mouthed liberalism hasn't built any kind of grassroots enthusiasm. But I have hired 27 different consultants and they all tell me that it will, eventually. And even if it doesn't, I'm crowding the field to dilute the impact of an actual Leftist.

Our very democracy is at stake! At my opponent's rally, they're giving away free guns to help defend Israel from "the Jewish threat." We know this is not the way to uncritically support Israeli apartheid! Join our movement today!



YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO PRY THE HORMONES OUT OF MY COLD, DEAD TITS

//AUDREY CLARK GUEST CONTRIBUTOR



THOSE WACKY CIS PEOPLE ARE AT IT AGAIN! All across the globe, some assholes are trying to make trans healthcare illegal. Unfortunately, conservatives are a bunch of fucking freaks who are obsessed with going through a “natural puberty,” so they want to outlaw the store-bought kind. If, like me, you’re a trans person who enjoys being hot and not wanting to kill yourself, here are my top tips on how you can do your own trans healthcare at home.

HIT THE GYM

It’s not just transmasculine people who take testosterone. There’s definitely a few cis dudes at the gym who do it for the gains, and I’m pretty sure they’re not getting it through a licensed endocrinologist. If your reps are trying to literally take the T out of LGBT, it’s time to start hanging out with some sketchy gym bros. Yeah, you’re probably gonna have to get super into Joe Rogan for a bit, but sometimes that’s the price you gotta pay for non-government-sanctioned trans healthcare. When the guy selling you test asks>>

//AUDREY CLARK GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

>> if it's working, just tell him "Fuck yeah, I'm getting huge, brother." He doesn't need to know you're talking about bottom growth.

MUG A MUM

Menopausal women are the transfemme equivalent of gym bros. Every estradiol patch I've ever bought has been incredibly clear that it is only intended for use by middle-aged cis ladies. Sorry to be a bitch, middle-aged cis ladies, but you already had your go on the estrogen. Usually, I'm super into women supporting women, but if I need to peel a mum to get my medication, blame the legislators!

BUY A HORSE

If you've been doing feminizing hormone therapy, you might already be aware that the classic HRT drug Premarin got its name from the conjugated estrogen found in the urine of pregnant mares. I'm not

here to boss you around, so I'm just gonna give you the plain and simple scientific facts: horse piss is a magic potion that turns you into a girl.

Fellas, I don't know if there's a masculinizing equivalent. You could try eating a stallion's boogers or something, I guess. I'm not a doctor. Just buy a horse and figure it out.

REPLAY CELESTE

If you beat "Farewell" deathless, your genitals turn inside out.

GET ON THE DAMN PHONE

My grandma always warned me that if I kept my mobile phone in my front pocket, the radiation would make me infertile. She also warned me that if I watched girl cartoons it would make me gay, and that turned out to be pretty much true. Worth a try!

GO DRACULA MODE

Remember when you realized you were trans and you instantly grew those two giant, syringe-like fangs? The reason we have those is so that in times of great need we can hunt down some deserving transphobe and just suck the hormones right out of their neck, leaving them a withered husk. It may seem harsh, but is it really that different than what they wanna do to us? The answer is, yes, it is different, but only in the sense that when we do it, it's good and cool.

YOU CAN LEGIT JUST BUY HRT ONLINE

Ha ha, buy a horse, hit the gym. We love comedy here. Anyway, you can order hormone stuff online. There's a subreddit with a bunch of links and info, it's r/TransDIY.

DIY hormone therapy isn't perfect. Ideally, everyone should have the support of medical professionals, but clearly that's not the world we live in. And fuck, dude, starting HRT literally saved my life. You gotta do what you gotta do. Just make sure you do your research and ask smarter people for advice. Like I said, I'm not a doctor.

SIMPLY DON'T HAVE DYSPHORIA

Lots of trans people don't experience gender dysphoria and don't need to medically transition to be comfortable in their body. To those people, I want to be perfectly clear: you are completely valid, and you make me so jealous I could scream.

For everyone else: let's go Dracula mode, baby! 🩸

Audrey Clark is an actress and comedian from Sydney, Australia. She was elected Prime Minister in 2019 but quit to pursue her dream (opening a hotel for dogs). You can follow her on Twitter @audreynotfunny or IG @audreynotphotos.





WARPIG NFT

THE FIRST EVER BLOCKCHAIN-GOVERNED SOLDIER

//JAMES DWYER

The past few years have been unstoppable for the blockchain, thanks to the rise of NFTs, DAOs, and hot crystal witches who talk about cryptocurrency on TikTok. The blockchain is proving itself to have applications in virtually every industry, thanks to recent advances in hypothetical counter-arguments, but the blockchain has struggled to establish a clear use case in the one industry that has the best market outlook over the next 50 years: war. War is typically fought by governments, backed by paper currency, and doesn't in any way involve NFTs. So how can the blockchain burrow beneath the skin of the military industrial complex and lay its eggs?

With WarPigNFT. That's how.

WARPIG NFT? WHAT IS THAT?

WarPigNFT is the first ever blockchain-governed soldier. By purchasing an official WarPigNFT, you not only receive an original selfie camera photo of a soldier as an NFT, you also receive a voting share in the day-to-day >>

>> autonomous rights of real life WarPig, Army Private First Class, Darren Chunks. That's right! You own a piece of this guy! Have you always wanted to participate in war without any of the actual sacrifice that an actual army enlistee must endure? Now you can, thanks to WarPigNFT.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each day, the WarPigNFT shareholders hold a meeting to decide what they want Darren Chunks to do, and then they vote on each proposed action. Should Darren Chunks simply do as instructed by his commanding officer? You can tell him to do that. Should Darren Chunks shoot an unarmed civilian at a checkpoint because you feel they look suspicious? Vote on it! Should Darren Chunks shit his pants in the mess hall and yell "clean up, aisle me" at the top of his lungs? If you take it to a vote, I can say with near certainty he will have to do that! That's the War 3.0 guarantee.

IS DARREN BEING FAIRLY COMPENSATED FOR HIS WORK ON THE PROJECT?

Darren is being more than fairly compensated in the exposure provided by being a Private First Class who will actively disobey orders when told to by a group of libertarians on the Internet.

WHERE CAN I PURCHASE A WARPIGNFT?

WarPigNFTs are being auctioned daily on OpenPee, not to be confused with OpenSea. OpenPee is an NFT auction site that conducts all of its transactions using

PiddleCoin, the world's "second best urine-forward cryptocurrency" according to XHamster. We are capping WarPigNFTs at exactly 1,000 so as to not dilute the WarPigNFTs in circulation.

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE WARPIGNFT HAS SOLD ALL 1,000 SHARES OF DARREN CHUNKS' AUTONOMY?

Once we've sold 1,000 WarPigNFTs we can officially launch WarPigNFT-1000, Colonel Josh Chips, a high-ranking Army soldier who looks a lot like Robert Patrick did in *Terminator*. Each time we sell off the 1,000 NFTs associated with our latest WarPig, we'll be able to launch the next one. We hope to control 10% of the military by 2025, but that can only happen with your help.

HOW CAN I MAKE MONEY FROM WARPIGNFT?

As war becomes the way of the future, the desire to control those who wage war will only increase. You may pay \$3,000 for a WarPigNFT today, but when the United States invades Mexico for their avocados, don't be surprised if you're able to sell that WarPigNFT for \$500,000.

IS THIS ETHICAL?

Everything is ethical on the blockchain.

WarPigNFT's future is bright. Enlist in the WarPigNFT army and decide if Darren Chunks should go AWOL today! ☺



CIVIL WAR GHOST KNOWS A LOT ABOUT STATES' RIGHTS

//NATHAN KAMAL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

LEXINGTON, Mo. – After moving into the old Warner house on Bowery Street, Alan and Deidre McIntyre have experienced spectral visitations from the ghost of a Confederate Army soldier who appears to be extremely concerned with the nature of states' rights under the U.S. Constitution, sources report.

“I warned those McIntyres, I did,” said Daryl Nichols, next-door neighbor of the newcomers. “That house has been haunted ever since the War Between the States. Some people say it’s because a soldier’s soul can never rest once he has been defeated in battle. Some say it’s because

the spirit of rebellion never dies. Most of those people are straight-up racists, though. In any case, that ghost in the Warner place has a reputation for really talking your ear off about the ins and outs of Federal vs. State responsibilities and authorities. Legendary for it.”

“Yeah, Alan and I were pretty terrified at first,” said McIntyre, ignoring the full text of the 10th Amendment (Rights Reserved to States or People) as it appeared dripping in blood on the wall behind her. “When the ghost first visited us, floating above our bed and smelling of gunpowder and horseshit, it really seemed like we were going to be dragged into a netherworld or something. As it turns out, he really just likes to get into the specific details of why he thinks it is important that centralized authority not be given complete power and that the autonomy of independent states is important, even when others may not agree with the decisions made by said autonomy.”

“He’s just talking about slavery,” McIntyre added. “It’s just slavery.”

Corporal Ezekiel Warner, a 182-year-old ghost who died at the First Battle of Lexington fighting for the Confederate Army in the Civil War, was happy to tell his side of the story.

“I am shackled from beyond,” said the former Corporal Warner, his non-corporeal body fading against the light of day. “I am caught in the veil between life and death and know no rest, no satisfaction, no end to this existence beyond existence. All the same, it is important to know that despite historical hindsight, what we did back in the 19th century was part of a way of life. While cultural beliefs and more may have changed, the secession from the overreach of the Northern-controlled Federal government was completely legal, and whatever other issues we might have experienced, we did what we did as a force for positive good. All it takes is to remember the lessons of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which left it up to individual states where to—wait, where are you going?”

Corporal Warner emailed *Functionally Dead* insisting we mention in this piece that he always found the people his family employed on a permanent, unpaid basis to be “happy,” as far as he could tell. 🙄

Nathan Kamal is an editor at Giant Freakin Robot and contributes to The Onion, The Hard Times, and McSweeney’s Internet Tendency. Instagram: @nathankamal



DNC **Midterm** **Slogans**

Midterms '22: We Can Do Better Than You Think

Midterms '22: If You're Not Too Busy

**We Can't Do Any Of The Things We Didn't
Do This Past Year Unless You Vote**

It's Not Like We'll Lose Every House Seat

Wait, Is That This Year? Are You Sure?

Abolish Abolition

**Blue Wave Bye-Bye To Trump
(We Have To Keep Waving Bye-Bye!)**

We'll Say Gay Every Day (At Noon)

ACAB (A Cop for All Bodies)

Don't Even Think About Sniffing The Scent Of Socialism

WTF! The Eleven Year Old Boy I Nanny Hasn't Said ACAB Even Once

//AIR DURNELL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR



I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT when I started a new job as a nanny six months ago that I would actually enjoy spending all of my time with a tween boy. But it hasn't exactly been smooth sailing. Even though I escort him daily from his private school in midtown to his house in Dumbo, passing many cops along the way, I've literally never heard him say "ACAB." Not even once.

I mean... what the hell is that about, right?

I know what you're thinking. It's not about age. He's 11 years old and in honors classes. I know he has the capacity. You only need

to know 4 letters to say ACAB. I've quizzed him numerous times on each of those letters. He knows the whole alphabet plus how to scream "I don't know this person" when he wants people to look at us weird and then he just giggles. Trust me, it's terrifying how smart he is.

So it should only make sense that he declares his stance against the police department and their inherent racist structure.

One time, I pointed to the unmasked cops watching Pornhub on their phones in the train station, and you know what he said? "I have a whole LEGO police force." My heart sank. I've cleaned up most of his toys, but never noticed the pig LEGOs. It's a liberal nightmare that I'll never be able to shake.

If he were my son, he'd never get away with this!

Not only that, but his favorite topic is World War II. That's giving very sus vibes, right? Every day after school he says his cute little catch phrase, "pull up Roblox. No I won't say 'please', just do it." Then he plays the most graphic war game I've ever seen while laughing and calling other children cucks. To be fair, they are cucks, but how does he know?

Will he ever right his wrongs? Time will tell, but likely not. I do have a Powerpoint presentation on standby the second he's ready to learn a thing or two about the reality of our twisted country. I wish I believed in God so I could pray for him, but I'll just have to settle for burning sage in his bedroom and consistently teaching him about how some jobs seem cool but actually suck because of systemic racism. 🙄

Air (they/them) is a New York-based comedian who performs original characters and sketch comedy. Air most recently was a winner of the 2021 Yes And Laughter Lab sponsored by Warner Media, Comedy Central, and NBC with their pilot DevOUT. They previously acted on Maude Night at UCB Theater in NYC as well as hosted a show there called The Witching Hour. Their writing has been published in McSweeney's, Reductress, Women In Comedy Festival Daily, Robot Butt, and The Higgs Weldon.

BRADYBOCKS™

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO FALL FOR ANYTHING.
I JUST WANT TO GET-RICH-QUICK HONESTLY.

//BRADY O'CALLAHAN

I'VE FAILED THREE TIMES NOW to scam idiots on the Internet into giving me their money for useless goods and services. No one needs or wants arbitrarily exclusive cloud storage, a monthly subscription care package full of used junk, or a digital fitness program predicated on the decimation of my body. You live, you learn.

And I've learned that there are no shortcuts to financial security in this life. You've got to buck up and get to good, honest work. I'm finally ready to do that... honestly.

But I want it to be cool, and not, like, an office job. That's exactly why I've decided to start brewing beer in the comfort of my own home.

Introducing: BradyBocks™.

■ HOW DOES IT WORK?

Every brewery needs to have some sort of focus. Some choose to focus on complex IPAs—doubles, triples, sessions, sours—experimenting with various hops and starches until they find a perfect, robust beverage. Some elevate the pilsner to a perfectly crisp and refreshing sipper.

I'm just going to make bocks, which are mostly fine. I personally don't love them, but maybe I can figure out a way to make them really good, or at least OK. You know, something you can have in your hand during bar trivia night and take a few sips of while you're thinking about how many state capitals begin with the letter "T". That's a good enough goal to shoot for.

■ WHAT CAN I EXPECT IN MY BRADYBOCKS™ BEER?

I'm not sure what the difference is between doppelbocks, maibocks, eisbocks, weizenbocks, or dunkles bocks, but I'll probably try doing a bunch of each to see what works.

Bocks are pretty malty, which I personally hate, but these are going to be so fucking malty in a way that's really *good* (or at least, really *OK*). Trust me, as someone who likes beer, I'm not going to settle for making a bad pint.

■ HOW EXCLUSIVE IS IT?

I plan on making this bigger than Budweiser. BradyBocks™ will be in every bar and second garage or basement fridge in America. It's beer. People like beer. Who is not gonna buy beer? So I guess, to answer your question, the plan is to make it not very exclusive at all in the long run.

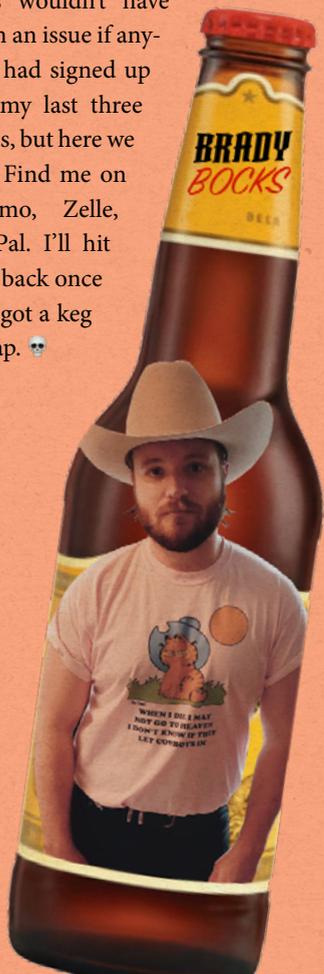
Right now rent takes up close to 50% of my monthly income, and I'm sick of it, so I'm going bigger than ever. I'm going to be the richest man in America. I'm going to buy Twitter from Elon Musk at a 50% markup, and I'll still laugh at how much more money I have than that asshole. >>

■ WHAT IS THE COST?

I still want to get rich quick, so I think \$20 for a 6-pack isn't insane, but it could go as high as \$40 if the shit brews *really* not bad.

■ HOW DO I GET SOME BRADYBOCKS™ BEER?

I need seed money. This wouldn't have been an issue if anyone had signed up for my last three ideas, but here we are. Find me on Venmo, Zelle, PayPal. I'll hit you back once I've got a keg to tap. 🍺



“JUST RAVIOLI”: RESEARCHERS HAVE DISCOVERED NEW SUPER-DIET

//MITCH RUSSELL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

SUPERFOODS AND DETOX DIETS are forever going in and out of fashion among food bloggers and nutritionists alike. We have all read the headlines: Kale reduces wrinkles, acai berries improve brain function, eating nothing but salmon and tzatziki will render you immortal within the week—if the nutritional influencers of the hour are to be believed, that is.

But exciting new data from a handful of researchers in New York may be poised to flip the narrative of big nutrition on its head—these scientists believe they may finally have the elusive answer to the eternal question:

What should we really be eating?

“Just ravioli,” posited Dr. Sophia Xi of Ithaca’s National Food Laboratory, at a recent press conference announcing her findings. “Day in, day out. Beef paste and bleach flour, congealed in a can of room temperature marinara. Generic stuff, Chef Boyardee—it doesn’t matter. As long as it’s a can of ravioli, it will do the trick.”

After a long beat of stunned silence, she added “That’s it. That’s the whole diet.” >>

>> When pressed to account for the high concentration of salt, fat, empty calories, and chemical preservatives found within the average 15 ounce can of prepackaged ravioli, Dr. Xi grabbed us violently by the lapels, slapped us several times across the face, and screamed at us to “Wake up” and “Look at what’s happening around you.”

Xi then collapsed to her knees and sobbed unsparingly into her hands for several minutes.

“We have destroyed this planet. We have obliterated hope for our children’s future. We have spit in the eye of God,” she wept, wiping her eyes on the sleeves of her lab coat before adding in a voice thick with cold resolve. “A daily diet of canned ravioli embodies just the right balance of components which are (A) antithetical to human life and (B) comforting enough to subdue us into a state of acceptance of the extinction we so clearly deserve.”

Dr. Xi then wordlessly turned her back to us and walked slowly down a darkened corridor of the laboratory until her receding silhouette was entirely subsumed by shadow.

Though not everyone agrees with Dr. Xi’s findings.

“This notion that ravioli is somehow the most effective form of dietary self-termination is preposterous,” said Dr. Richard Alvarez, Dean of Nutritional Science at Berkeley. “I respect Dr. Xi and everything her team has achieved, but her theories run contrary to even the most basic data sets available.”

“While Xi’s model of a 100% ravioli diet does project the most *gradual* decline for a mammalian population, we here at Berkeley have been feeding mice nothing but Sour Patch Kids for over a year, and we have found this diet tends to generate a highly desirable state of sugar-induced ecstasy before their hearts explode in their chests, killing them instantly, long before the effects of Chef Boyardee could even *begin* to perpetuate organ failure.”

We asked Dr. Alvarez if there were any new vegetables we could eat to increase blood flow, but he promptly cut us off with a low, joyless chuckle that crescendoed into a high-pitched peal of manic laughter.

“Idiots! Look here! Look out this window!” he shouted, pointing to the California skyline. “You see how the sky is the color of ash? You see how every year the ocean eats more and more away from our shores? You know what that means? It means THIS IS IT. It means GAME OVER. It means, and I don’t know what the fuck you *want* me to tell you, *no amount of pomegranate juice is going to save us from what we’ve done.*”

Dr. Alvarez then collapsed into his chair with an exhausted sigh, opened up a bag of sugary sour candy, and threw a few careless handfuls into his mouth.

We considered our bodies then—frail, soft, at times unsightly—and felt for the first time their impermanence. And, because of their impermanence, we found them beautiful. Flawed, degenerating, and ultimately doomed—we were beautiful, in that moment, not as subjects of some rigorous diet, but as we were.

“Wait!” Dr. Alvarez shouted. “I’ve just received reports that dandelion greens can marginally improve bone density!”

“Whew!” we thought. “That was a close one!”

We promptly forgot about all that shit we just were thinking about and immediately ordered 17 pounds of dandelion greens off Amazon Prime in the hopes that we might live forever. And we think you should, too! 🍷

Mitch Russell is a writer and teacher from Spokane, WA. You can find his work in Slackjaw, Points in Case, and Little Old Lady.



I READ THIS ZINE, AND AM CURIOUS: WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE ORGANIZATIONS? What Do I Do Now?*

//DAN LOPRETO

We've been churning out new issues of *Functionally Dead* for well over a year. Each week we like to highlight organizations or resources related to what's happening in the news, but just because a specific moment has passed, that doesn't mean the fight stops. We thought we'd commemorate over a year of *Functionally Dead* by highlighting a few of our favorite organizations who continue to do the work to improve the lives of people in their communities and around the world.

REBUILDING ALLIANCE

"Rebuilding Alliance is dedicated to advancing equal rights for the Palestinian people through education, advocacy, and support that assures Palestinian families the right to a home, schooling, economic security, safety, and a promising future."

CRITICAL RESISTANCE

"Critical Resistance seeks to build an international movement to end the Prison Industrial Complex by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes us safe. We believe that basic necessities such as food, shelter, and freedom are what really make our communities secure. As such, our work is part of global struggles against inequality and powerlessness."

THE RED NATION

"The Red Nation is dedicated to the liberation of Native peoples from capitalism and colonialism. We center Native political agendas and struggles through direct action, advocacy, mobilization, and education... We formed to address the marginalization and invisibility of Native struggles within mainstream social justice organizing, and to foreground the targeted destruction and violence towards Native life and land."

STREET WATCH LA

"Street Watch stands apart from progressive and non-profit homeless outreach efforts because we explicitly acknowledge that the housing and homelessness crisis cannot be solved through charity within the capitalist framework. Capitalism itself is the cause of this crisis. Therefore, we acknowledge that it is not only the private sector's control of housing policy that forces people to live on the streets, but also the private control of health care, labor, law enforcement, and government."

EMERGENCY RELEASE FUND

"The mission of the Emergency Release Fund is to ensure that no trans person at risk in New York City jails remains in detention before trial. If cash bail is set for a trans person in New York City and no bars to release are in place, bail will be paid by the Emergency Release Fund"

**Previously published in our November 2021 issue... still feels right.*

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

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: ELON MUSK REVEALS HOW HE MANAGES TO RAISE SEVEN CHILDREN WHILE POSTING ON TWITTER ALL THE TIME



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//