

Good evening distinguished panel of judges!

First off, I hope ya'll are doing well. In an effort to keep the purity of the game intact, I've been trying to keep my communication with everyone as limited as possible, besides an occasional snap or hello in a Mafia game. So, I can't wait to chat with ya'll again with the game nearing it's conclusion, and if you want nothing to do with me, I can't wait to give ya'll the personal space you need with the game nearing it's conclusion. As a snobby English major, I'm often encouraged to write grandiose, superfluous papers to impress, but I'm going to challenge myself to keep this as concise as possible. Good luck, me.

You're not wrong if you think Hayley and I played games with common objectives. For nearly every vote, we actively worked together to come to agreement on what would be best for our alliances, and voted in tandem almost always. Now, because of these very similar routes to the end, my objective of this speech is to attempt to highlight the differences in our games, the moves I made alone, and why I think they give me the upper hand; in addition to my motivations, and why I/we did things the way we did.

I guess we should start, as these things tend to go, at the beginning. The setup is important.

That first night, I made sure to be as active and friendly as possible with everyone. I heard these horror stories from various players that they didn't have all the players in the game added to their skype until weeks in and I'm just like, *wat*. It was important to strut my perky little ass off to try and ingratiate myself in with people I didn't know as well. Yes, I knew several people before the game, but didn't really **know** any except for two; Trip and Hayley. As much as I wanted to work with them in game, I knew I'd need to branch out. I figured we were casted to have this tragic storyline where friends would get torn apart, star-crossed lovers or some shit, Amelio would get a kick out of that; and so I needed to have back-ups. p

That first night, I entered into two different alliances; one with Ally and Gage, and one with Seplo, which were mammoth helps to my game.

In the early game, Ally was pretty much *THE* hub of information. So much damn info was going through her, and if you were on her side, you were privy to it. She was also in alliances that she was open about to me, and would let me know when some shit was going down. I, of course, returned the favour when I could. We always kind of had each others' backs until it was getting to crunch time, but in conjunction with the information Nikki was giving me, I could get Ally to confirm things as true, and vice-versa.

However, if the relationship and trust I developed with Ally was golden early game, Gage's was **platinum**. As short as his stay was, we made a final two together and kept each other in the loop about pretty much everything we could, until things started getting awkward, as these things sometimes do when you stick two gay men in a room together. However, without gaining his trust, I wouldn't have gotten that ticket to join The Gay Agenda (a day late, mind you, but **STILL**) and if I hadn't have joined, things may not have gone so smoothly for me. I knew I was at the bottom of the alliance, but just like the one before, I was going to make sure to get in the good graces with members in it so that if it did go far, I would always

be in the majority.

Entering, I knew that the younger gayz would likely be closer, so I made it my objective to sway one; seeing how tight Sammy and OLAC were, I knew which one I would work on. As soon as N1ed took it upon himself to gun for gold that first week, I knew that's where I could start. I was constantly reassuring him that I had his back, I was gunna help him win, that he could trust me no matter what. I offered to be the bitch. Of course, him winning and having great conversations together turned this into a more balanced relationship between us, I feel.

It was also this round I tried to get a relationship with dooze formed. I knew she was going to be a YUGE social threat, but I wasn't sure of the extent of it, so I wanted to make it clear that I had her best intentions. A bit carelessly, I offered her some cookies that first round despite having obligated all my cookies elsewhere, but I knew if she didn't get the cookies she'd have known I lied, so shout out to Killic for giving her three on my behalf. Little deals that get fulfilled can turn into a big deal, so I didn't wanna be caught lying to her my first chance.

Fast forwarding, I think it was the outing of the Survivor Lobby alliance that made me realize that as good as branching out is, if other people are defaulting to past relationships, why not default to mine as well. I knew I could trust Hayley and Evan, so let's try to keep each other informed.

Which is what we did.

Fastforwarding once again, Nikki and I had been discussing making an alliance. I figured her to be a power player, and she's not afraid to declare public enemies, so I figured, hey, best to be on her good side. When making an alliance, we decided to grab a partner we were both comfortable with; she wanted Olive, I suggested Hayley (because I knew she knew Olive before the game started) and when we figured we were to get a fifth, Trip was the obvious choice; it made sure that, once again, I could place myself into the majority of my alliance.

Around this time, Ally opens up to me about the 'Sandbox' alliance that had formed. She says, which I believe, that she had tried to get me an invite; and it seemed as if no one had any real objections, besides for Collokey. He brings up in this chat that he is cautious of me, and proceeds to tell them about my relationship with Hayley (ie. meeting in real life). I believe he does this not as a talking point, but as a reason as to why I should always be kept at arm's length, and that if I'm added, that essentially adds Hayley.

This is the point where I wildly distrust him. It's pretty much where my paranoid strung from. I know that it means either he needs to get the chop, or Hayley needs to get the chop so I won't be guilty simply by association.

Losing Gage was lame, but he had made himself such a public enemy at this point that it was better to let him go, plus there was that aforementioned awkwardness that had brewed. I do cast my vote to save him, however, despite knowing that he was leaving, so that the members of The Gay Agenda would know I was with them (because that's where the votes to save him were coming from) and that they could further trust me in believing I would

continue to vote with them. I, however, was going to blame that Gage vote on ashes if it ever came up so the rest of the house would think I'm in the majority, but it never really became an issue, despite planning for such an occasion overtime.

The next few rounds go relatively simple. Despite being a knowledgeable alliance, The Gay Agenda would have a member of it as a final nominee for **seven weeks** in a row. Despite losing Gage, I work to make sure that ashes and dooze, two people I enjoy but ultimately did not have a formal agreement with, went over N1ed and Sammy, two people that I was aligned with. I didn't want to face a situation like I could have faced with the Gage vote, so I was pretty upfront about how my vote was going from here on, I think.

It's at this point I'm surrounded with either people that I am aligned with, or Collokey.

Enter deandean's Hell Week. I can't say for certain; but I felt like it was going to be an obvious thing that I would be an easy nomination once Trip used their veto to save Hayley. Hayley had already got to discuss with deandean that I was in an alliance with her and Trip, so why not, right? Ultimately, I think it's because of the alliances and relationships I had with virtually everyone else in the cast besides Collokey (who, thank be to Moses, much like me was never granted a meeting with His Royal Magesdean despite penalty of execution) that people may not have wanted to see me nommed, and thus, OLAC went up.

Admittedly, I thought N1ed was as done as dinner. He was already under the magnifying glass from his actions week one, and perhaps he could have been in some serious trouble during the ashes vote if he wasn't... against ashes. I'm pretty resigned, but there was good news; N1ed told me that if he was going to leave, he'd give me his code, and I could have his F5HOH. Ultimately, I think numbers are better than power, but having that power was going to be a great consolation prize.

However, the attitude of deandean gave us an opportunity. He had salted Trip, who would find no greater satisfaction than seeing him not get his way. Hayley was fired up and wanted to take a swing at the Sandbox Alliance numbers, and frankly, so did I. Seplo seemed down; I'm not sure if I can take credit for his vote, due to our alliance from week one and constantly keeping each other in the loop, but I don't think it hurt at all to get him to vote with us. All we needed was one, and it seemed tough, but then a stroke of luck; Olive, who loves chaos, tells Hayley he's willing to flip, but don't out him. It's with this information that we take the risk and hope that Olive and Seplo are telling the truth and with 5-4 results, we got our way.

As good as it was to take someone out of that Sandbox alliance that I was denied entry to, it was even better reaching the majority of the struggling (but three proud) Gay Agenda, be in the good graces of the guy who had the F5HOH, and establish a stronger bond with Hayley/Evan/Seplo (sorry Olive, but I had to pretend I didn't know!) because there is this huge bonding moment when a group is able to pull off a big move, ya know?

I want to make sure N1ed, Seplo, and the members of Mishpocheh were kept safe, and I did not want to lose the momentum we just fought to take. Despite feeling relatively safe if Trip won the HOH, I was hearing that he wasn't really working on the challenge; and despite

Nikki being in an alliance with me and trusting her, we had just voted separately. I wanted to make sure I could prove my loyalty, and I wanted some damn challenge wins under my belt; plus, this win would guarantee me jury, damn it.

Nikki, Trip and I would pact to nominate Ally and Sammy, which was pretty optimal, but not quite. Either way, as a show of loyalty, I stuck to it. Ally had become The Poison Woman. Association with her was beginning to prove deadly, and her persona had given her a few enemies. Sammy leaving would completely isolate N1ed and I in The Gay Agenda, and there would be no more wavering there.

Ally winning veto was fine; frankly, I preferred her to stay over Sammy anyway, because I felt there was more opportunity and drive with her. However, the renom was a struggle to me; you see, just the round before, Collokey, Hayley, and I made an alliance. It was playful and fine, but my trust of him was still at like, minus half a percent. Him voting against my wishes of wanting to keep N1ed made it worse. Hayley had taken it upon herself to ask him why he had brought up her and I's relationship round two, and why he didn't want me in, and she had said "eh he kinda just changed the subject" and he never brought it up to me. I wanted him up, and he knows I wanted him up. Everyone. Knew. I. Wanted. Him. Up.

However, I had Hayley, Nikki and Ally all in some form asking me not to nominate Collokey.

Hayley, one of my closest relationships in the game, Ally, a relationship I was attempting to salvage, and Nikki, a key member of the strongest alliance, all wanted the same thing. I was jealous. I'm the kinda gay that typically gets along better with gals, and here are ALL THE GALS IN THE GAME GOING TO BAT FOR HIM. As much as that made me want him out more, I wanted to make the gals happy, because damn it, I wanted to work with them. Plus, at this time, I had agreed to a deal with Ally for not nominating Collokey. As much as it killed me, to let the members of Mishpocheh know I had thier back still, I had to throw Seplo as a pawn, but made it explicitly clear I wanted him safe. We agreed it was unfortunate, but perhaps people wouldn't pick up on our Final 2 this way, either. Thankfully, he stayed.

So, now I have an Ally/Collokey alliance; maybe they made it out of desperation to tug me away from Hayley, maybe I joined it because INTEL, but it existed. I was willing to ride it out and say I was COMPLETELY ON BOARD WITH IT IT'S **FREAKIN' AWESOME** WE ROOOOOCK if Collokey/Ally had won HOH, but Hayley won, and I knew Ally would be her target, so I simply it it die out. Ally was toast, and she was against N1ed, who I wasn't going to let go of.

Well, until the next round. With Trip nominating Collokey and N1ed, I first saw it as an opportunity to finally get Collokey out. Likewise, when I won the veto, I was tempted to save N1ed, but their low activity level was becoming problematic, and I didn't want to have Killic be forced, in an effort to keep Mishpocheh safe, to nominate Seplo, a game long Final Two.

Alliances work best when you both carry the load. I had been going to bat for N1ed over and over again, but their own work was less than satisfactory. This conversation in the Trip/Hayley/Me chat was honestly fascinating this round. I started the 24hrs thinking that

N1ed should stay and Hayley started the week thinking Collokey should stay and four hours before the vote we had completely swapped mindsets. With two rounds to go until the F5 twist took effect, I trusted N1ed, but I trusted Killic more. N1ed had abstained more and more, and our shorter conversations made me wary. Mind you, I was in an alliance with Collokey, but I still didn't trust him, and he was much more of a challenge threat; but he wouldn't give us a guaranteed F5HOH if he left. We discussed and discussed and there were such great pros and damning cons on both ends, but we flipped a coin and that was it.

I still wanted Collokey out, however. I still didn't trust him, and was beginning to feel more and more that he was way more with other than he was me. When he won the next veto, Hayley and I agreed that we needed to make sure he was weakened, and put someone up we could get out over Seplo. Olive having jumped ship to save N1ed earlier made me want to keep him, and Hayley's relationship with him made her want to keep him, and Nikki having campaigned so hard to save Collokey over N1ed, we knew they had to be working together. We had to give her the chop before her/Collo/Olive could give us the chop.

I worked on trying to patch things up with Collokey. With Seplo winning that HOH, I felt comfortable, and was eager to see where his head was at while with power; Hayley and I had formed a Final 3 with him shortly before, and we wanted to see if he was on board with us. Tigress, having won the Hidden POV the round before, was comfortable being pawned, and when I wasn't nommed with her I felt the trust. Even if this was a golden opportunity to get us both nominated so we'd be doomed, her hidden POV and my actual POV win would have kept us safe, and able to vote to save Trip. I wanted to cover base and use my POV to save Hayley, but she wanted to use her hidden one, and Collokey was thankful at first but then realized what was up, I suppose. And what was up was his game.

I guess the rest of the game goes rather predictably. Killic gets the F5HOH, thank you Olive for not stealing it, thank you Killic for telling us N1ed covered for you, and it is here that Hayley is tipped off by Olive that Seplo and him have a F2. Why, I dunno, but it happened. We debated as to which would be better to take to F4, but Olive's win made Seplo bite the dust, as his next win would make Trip bite it next.

So, I won the final HOH, right? You'd say I did the predictable thing and just took my friend, but I honestly feel like if I had taken Olive, I automatically lose. I think I'm up against a fabulous opponent who played a great game, but I have a better chance with her, honestly, and not solely because of her polarizing personality in the game. If I voted her out at F3, there is no way Olive would not take credit for the move, no matter how much I could argue that it was my own so that I could win. He would have finally defeated fuckin' Style and Tigress. He convinced him to vote out his ride or die. He would be the hero.

I was never blindsided. I won the most total competitions. I was aligned with everyone come the jury. I have the most amount of draft points. I was never nominated, pre or post veto; I was never in danger. Cool shit, right? Thank you for taking the time to read my statement (edited down from 9 pages!) and I look forward to answering any questions. Good luck to you, TheTigress, and a last minute shout out to the hosts for inviting me to play. L'chaim!