Scathing Atheist 614:

The “Matt-a-tat-tat” Edition

Players:
Eli Bosnick
Heath Enwright
Noah Lugeons
Don Ford, Voice of Fantasy and Adventure
Cecil Something Italian
Anna Bosnick

Sponsor:

This week’s episode of the Scathing Atheist is brought to you by ... Better Help, Aura Frames ... And by ... the glimmer of hope we glean from knowing how much Big Mac is floating around in those arteries.

And now, the Scathing Atheist.

Intro:

It's Thursday!

It’s November 21st,

And it's National Pumpkin Pie Day!

You gotta celebrate the concept now, and then you'll be ready to eat it next week.

I’m Noah Lugeons,

I’m Eli Bosnick,

I'm Heath Enwright, and from Andy Kim's New Jersey; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Waycross, Georgia ... this is the Scathing Atheist.

On this week’s episode,

- Thats head of health and human services brain worm to you
- The Department of Defense is gonna be run by a very special proud boy,
- And the New Testament will finally stop edging.

But first, the Diatribe...

Diatribe

In the wake of Harris's loss, a lot of us are wrestling with the "what went wrong?" question. Not all of us. An awful lot of people seem to think her loss has suddenly validated any statement they ever made along the lines of "Kamala Harris will lose if she doesn't X," and for those people, there's nothing to wrestle with. They already agree with themselves.

But the rest of us are doing some serious searching, desperately trying to figure out where the leak is so that we can plug it in time for the midterms. Now, to be honest, I think a lot of people are probably making a bit too much of that; I don't necessarily think the Democrats need to completely overhaul their national strategies. The economics strongly favored the non-incumbent party, Biden was an unpopular incumbent, and the Senate map heavily favored Republicans. Yes, there were concerning red-shifts in blue areas, but if the Republicans had run a halfway competent candidate, I don't know that any Democratic candidate or campaign strategy could've succeeded.

That being said, the fact that we could lose to somebody as profoundly incompetent, incoherent, and insane as Donald Trump — after America saw what he did with the place — is shocking enough that it *does* demand answers. And the answer that a lot of people have landed on is one of "narrative." They managed to put together a more compelling narrative than we did.

And that's true. Our narrative was that the economic field is unfairly tilted towards the rich and if we can tackle a few serious issues with regards to health costs and the cost of home ownership, we can make real strides towards rectifying some of those structural inequalities. Or — I guess more often our narrative was "have you fucking seen the other guy!?", but in terms of our positive case for our side, that's pretty much the narrative the Harris campaign was selling.

Trump's narrative, of course, was all about fear and hate. The "others" from less civilized places were coming into America to take your jobs and eat your pets and the woke lefties won't stop them because they're too busy trying to turn your kids into a gay, trans communists. And when you set aside the racism and the lies — which *far* too many Americans were prepared to do — that is a *far* more compelling narrative. After all, structural inequalities are hard to change, gradually or otherwise. But if the problem is scary brown people, you can solve the problem just by getting rid of the scary brown people. Their problem is tangible, which makes it fixable.

So, naturally, a lot of people on our side are saying that the solution is finding a better narrative. And while I'll concede that we *do* need a more compelling narrative, we also need to temper our expectations in that department. Because if trying to sell atheism for a decade has taught me anything, it's that a narrative that is anchored by the truth will never be as compelling as a narrative that isn't.

I mean, there's no mystery why; evolution by natural selection. If I put a factual narrative out into the world, that narrative can evolve to be more convincing or compelling or whatever. Somebody else might think of a more memorable way to phrase it or a more approachable analogy. And given enough time, we might even learn more about it and be able to add meaningfully to the narrative in more compelling ways. But it will always be limited by the truth. The truth will act like an anchor, forever limiting the appeal of that narrative.

But you can't hook an anchor to bullshit. Bullshit can conform to any shape. It can fit into any mold. And there's nothing you can throw into a pile of bullshit that doesn't belong there. It was bullshit anyway. So if I put a *false* narrative into the world, it can grow in any direction it wants, unfettered by anything but the imagination and agenda of the people sharing it. And, without any conscious entity even directing it, it will evolve into its most compelling form. Because the most compelling additions will stick and the least compelling ones will fall away.

And what that means is that we're doomed to either forever lag behind our opponents in terms of narrative strength, or resort to lies of our own. And if we let ourselves be convinced that it's all about narrative, we're liable to do exactly that. We're liable to exaggerate, lean into hyperbole, allow our rhetoric to outpace our reality.

And I already see some of that. Look, given what we heard on the campaign trail, I think we're in very real danger of fascism. From what I've seen of his cabinet picks, I think we're in real danger of oligarchy. But we aren't there yet, so every time we use those terms to describe the present situation, we're weakening them; we're robbing them of the power of literalism. And to be honest, I think to some degree our tendency to do that enabled Trump's second term. We were too grandiose in our claims of how thoroughly he would fuck our country the last time that our warnings rang hollow to a lot of voters.

Now, granted, our warnings were pretty much spot on. Trump's handling of COVID was a powerful vindication of every claim of dangerous ineptitude we ever muttered. And the families that were forever separated by his border policies will argue that no condemnation of their inhumanity would be an exaggeration. And that's correct. But if we issue the most dire possible warning, we've created a situation where Trump needs only to stop short of *that* prediction to thwart us. If we say democracy can't survive another Trump term, then any level of corruption short of *ending elections* is a vindication to those who accuse us of embellishment.

And this works in both directions, right? Because if we allow our narrative to outpace reality on the other end, we end up making promises that are impossible to deliver on. We end up simplifying problems just so that we can offer up simple solutions. And we reach a point where, for example, the many very real and substantive liberal victories under the Biden administration barely leave a ripple in the pond.

Look, I don't know that the truth can win against a compelling lie. Everything in my experience as an atheist and skeptic leads me to doubt it. But if we can win it'll be because people

recognize the inherent value in truth. And if we're gonna claim that mantle, we need to be ready to carry all the burdens that come with it.

Headlines

Joining me for headlines tonight are Khufu and Khafre to my Menkaure, Heath Enwright and Eli Bosnick. Fellas, are you ready to get to the point?

Tall

Okay but Khafre better have series of deeply embracable characters

And quick, while I've got everybody's attention, I want to remind listeners that we *will* be taking a week off next week for American Thanksgiving. There'll be no new episode of GAM on Tuesday and no Scathing on Thursday. But we'll be back next week and we'll act like nothing ever happened.

And with that out of the way, we'll take a break for a word from our first sponsor this week, Better Help.

And now, back to the headlines.

In our lead story tonight, in "Alternative Vax" news ... Over the years, we've joked around about living in a world where satire is dead. Well, now *jokes* about satire being dead are also dead because the literal punchline happened in real life, when Donald Trump picked ROBERT F KENNEDY JR to be in charge of public health. This was just an idea being floated by a known liar for a while, but now it's official. Pending a Senate confirmation...or some other shenanigans...RFK Jr. will be the head of the Department of Health & Human Services.

Okay this is oviously terrible but can we talk about how much easier OUR job just became. Ya'll we had to create a GMAIL when joe bide was president for news. A GMAIL.

Yeah, the company's possum-nipple pizza budget is going way down next year.

So if you asked me a few years ago, "What's the opposite of health?"...I might've said "parasitic brain worm." Well...fast forward to last week, and satire got killed by a parasitic brain worm. There's never been a better piece of evidence that we're living in a simulation and the programmers are just doing pranks now. And apparently they've been setting up the prank for years with RFK Jr's backstory. Of course we all know he's a rabid anti-vaxxer. And we've already talked about his "homicidal drunken falconry bear corpse escapade"...a truly insane collection of words that are 100% accurate. <Well… ursacidal> And speaking of insane phrases, we've already detailed how his Taboo card includes "whale chainsaw." So today, I wanna review the ideas of RFK Jr. that specifically relate to public health...for people whose lives do

NOT involve dead bear shenanigans and whale saws. I'll start with his theory on COVID and ranking the races. According to Kennedy: (quote) "There's an argument that [COVID] is ethnically targeted. It attacks certain races disproportionately. It's targeted to attack Caucasians and Black people. The people who are most immune are Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese." (end quote)

Yeah when have you ever heard of anyone in china being affected by covid

Well at least now we know how much racism it takes to balance out support for late term abortion for the Trump team.

And speaking of the Ashkenazi Jewish conspiracy, RFK Jr. said that people living under vaccine mandates had it WORSE THAN ANNE FRANK. And when every reasonable person ever responded by saying "you're a monster", he swore he never said that. Except he did...on video.

The only people who can hear me say that are ashkenazi jews and chinese people

Kennedy also believed that Bill Gates was sneaking invisible microchips into the vaccine. The idea being...Gates could track you down and make you pay for a Windows license? Not clear. <Yeah, big tech is dying for a technology that allows them to track our whereabouts all the time.> Regardless, according to Bobby Deuce: "I urge you to contact Bill Gates on his social media. Gently explain that tagging and tracking humans may appeal to his government cronies in totalitarian China, but those activities are inconsistent with American values and traditions."

You know what else is inconsistent with American values and traditions? You being allowed to keep using that surname.

And now that guy will be representing us…to OTHER health departments…IN china

Next up, we have a claim from RFK Jr. during an interview last year with renowned biologist Joseph Rogan...about cellphones causing cancer, and wifi fucking up your brain blood. Kennedy claimed that he was representing "hundreds" of people with glioblastoma brain cancer that was located RIGHT BEHIND THEIR EAR. Just for the record, that is NOT how it works according to a long series of legitimate studies. So naturally, as a follow-up question, Rogan said...NOTHING. So RFK Jr. continued, and explained how wifi radiation melts your "blood-brain barrier" and lets all the toxins in your blood go straight into your brain. Apparently the official medical term is "leaky brain." Rogan finally decided to have his producer Jamie look that up, and Jamie came back with an article that confirmed the wild claim. And Rogan said: "Okay, we gotta get rid of wifi." We later found out the article that Jamie found was from an organization linked to RFK Jr., rather than a real source with any real science behind it.

Jamie can we read one of roberts tweets back to him? Wow. Midblowig. Why aren't people talking about this stuff?

I can see why Joe Rogan perked right up when they started talking about “leaky brains” though.

And now we're gonna go DOWNHILL from the scientific bona fides of Joe Rogan, and talk about RFK Jr. sharing ideas with Alex Jones. And doing it while talking with Jordan Peterson. During an interview on Peterson's podcast, Kennedy mentioned a study that claimed to prove that a chemical called atrazine effectively castrated 75% of male frogs, and turned 10% of male frogs into females. That's right...the gay frogs thing.

I’m pretty sure the Onion owns all the jokes about that now.

Man I hope the price of eggs for people in pennsylvania like REALLY goes down cause this feels like it might not be worth it guys

And not that anyone needed a debunking of anything Alex Jones ever said, but atrazine is irrelevant to human beings, mostly because we're crucially...NOT frogs. <speak for yourself> <What did Anna do this time!?> And that brings us to one final moment in the tragic story of our public health chief nominee. He personally murdered 83 people in Samoa...with anti-vaxxer propaganda. Samoa had a big scandal in 2018 when two babies died soon after getting a measles inoculation. And RFK Jr. jumped on that, and showed up in person in 2019 to advocate against the vaccine. That led to a big drop in vaccination rates, which were already getting too low, and of course that spurred a giant epidemic of an old-timey disease that we eradicated with science and brought back with stupidity. Samoa's population is about 200,000 people, and 5700 were infected, leading to 83 deaths...many of which were young children. One other detail...the 2 babies who died in 2018 did NOT get a measles vaccination. They were accidentally given a steroid muscle relaxer instead.

Yeah, it’s truly amazing how many medicines fail when you accidentally switch them out with Folger’s fucking crystals.

But those babies died like SO chill you guys. SO chill

So that might be our next director of public health. Hopefully you can use all that info if you're discussing RFK Jr. with anyone who's not plugged in. But just a word of warning on that. While you're informing people, keep in mind that RFK Jr. *is* actually known for some good things too. Most of his career was spent being an attorney who went after big corporations for polluting the environment. And another focus for him is going after food companies for using unhealthy ingredients. He's just stupid and wrong about what that means in terms of the food lots of the time...thanks in part to the worm shaped hole in his brain. So acknowledging a bit of his good motivation in general can give you extra credibility while you debunk his many particular versions of dangerous insanity.

And hey, if you tell someoe that RFK thinks they’re turning the frogs gay and their response is about yellow dye…maybe stop wasting your time having conversations with that person

And they're wrong about the yellow dye.

Yeah, our best hope now is that all that actual good stuff he's done and believes will be enough to deny his confirmation in the Senate. And it might very well be.

Review of the health related ideas of RFK Jr:
https://www.wonkette.com/p/here-are-10-absolutely-bananapants

And in "Prayer of the Troller-Boy" news tonight, the failed efforts by Oklahoma school superintendent Ryan Walters to head Trump's Department of Education reached all new levels of grift last week — which is impressive, since the level of grift we were already at was "publicly bribing the president-elect by illegally funneling taxpayer dollars to Trump's bank account through Bible purchases that would've been illegal even without the funneling." And this escalation came in the form of a video of him praying for Trump that he circulated to schools and demanded they show to all students.

Okay, those are the rules now. I will be demanding they also circulate OUR video...which also has the phrase "dear god"...so technically praying too.

Oh sure its all "stop sendig me your sex tape for notes" but then when you need it for the show…

So in the video, Walters announces the creation of a new department called "The Department of Religious Liberty and Patriotism" … which are conflicting goals if you're intellectually honest, but don't worry, he isn't. He also condemns (quote) "woke teachers unions" (end quote) for mocking patriotism and pushing (quote) "a hatred for this country" (end quote). Then he bows his head in prayer — arguably *encourages students to join him* — and prays that Donald Trump will save our country from the Wokes.

By which he means: saving the kids from...checks notes...people who teach real things.

Somehow this man has turned an unsolicited dick pick into a state act. I'm impressed

Now, for their part, most of Oklahoma's schools seem to have told Walters to eat dicks. The state's Attorney General issued a statement making it clear that Walters has no authority to force schools to show students the video — just like he has no authority to force schools to use Bibles in their lesson plans. But "most" isn't "all" and "can't force" isn't "can't allow," so that's far from a satisfactory response. The fact that the motherfucker can even send out these videos without being impeached is a pretty damning blemish on his state.

Right like keep in mind that if I sent this video to my local school district in NJ I wouldn't be able to drop my kid off at preschool anymore. The idea that this dude is still the state superintendent is TERRIFYING

You'd have to walk around town going door-to-door while staying 1000 feet from any schools.

It's also worth emphasizing that the students in Oklahoma were never the intended audience for his sycophantic video. The phants this sicko was trying to get into belong to one Donald Trump and as long as the video got his attention, it was successful. This came alongside his creation of a "Trump Education Advisory Committee" that he tasked with implementing whatever changes in education Trump might fancy. He also offered an update on his embattled effort to spend three million dollars of taxpayer money on Trump Bibles. While lawsuits (and a competing bid that wasn't a Trump Bible) forced him to cancel his original three million dollar plan, he *did* put out an additional video where he bragged about at least buying 500 of the Bibles for use in AP Government classes.

The end of the video is "Hey Donald...do you like me?...yes/no/maybe...circle one."

Laura loomer watching at home "have some dignity man"

Now, we learned the day before this record that Trump will *not* be selecting Walters to lead the department of education. For that role, he chose WWE co-founder (and co-defendant in an ongoing trial about enabling and ignoring the sexual abuse of teenagers) Linda McMahon. Which is terrifying for a lot of reasons, not the least of which is that when I heard that, I breathed a sigh of *relief* knowing it wasn't gonna be this crazy prick.

Latest on Ryan Walters:
https://oklahomavoice.com/2024/11/15/oklahoma-superintendent-has-no-power-to-make-schools-show-trump-prayer-video-ags-office-says/ and
https://www.friendlyatheist.com/p/oklahomas-ryan-walters-bought-500

And in "Uholy Union" news ... The older I get the more I notice myself prone to nostalgia. Video games used to work on the day you bought them, youtube used to have pirated television on it, and the term religious freedom used to mean something other than believers wanting to be exempt from laws. It was, as the young people are calling it, pretty skibidy ohio. But we got a reminder of just how synonymous the two ideas have become this week when a university in milwaukee refused to acknowledge the unionization of their employees in the name of religious freedom.

If there ONE good answer to "what would Jesus do?"...it's supporting unions. He was the original union carpenter. But as long as we're taking power away from groups that collect regular tithing and lobby for government influence...I'd like to make a suggestion.

The main message of the New Testament is "take care of the poor" and the main message of the Old one is "welcome immigrants." In case you're wondering how far we've fallen.

So first off big thanks to josh for sending us this story to scathingnews@gmail.com. If you send us atheist news to scathingnews@gmail.com when we establish a commune in the new independent nation of Bosnickia you get an extra pass to the blowjob hut on alternating wednesdays. Scathingnews@gmail.com

Not sure why it has to be a hut. We're also talking about an open-air blowjob gazebo if that's your thing.

I'M NOT HAVING THIS FIGHT ON THE AIR!

People like a nice breeze.

Bosnickia? Your surname literally means “Bosnia,” Eli. You’re nationalizing yourself wrong.

Right so this is Marquette University, a catholic college in Wisconsin where dozens of non-faculty employees from the university’s Klingler College of Arts and Sciences have spent most of the past year organizing a union with the United Campus Workers of Wisconsin. Most of the non-faculty staff have signed cards authorizing UCW-WI to represent them, according to the union but the university is refusing to recognize the union and is invoking a religious exemption to sidestep a National Labor Relations Board union election…cause ya know…jesus didn’t say nothing about bargaining with caesar collectively or something.

Ah yes, the famous Gospel of the Scab from the New Testament.

And we pointed this out at the time, but as soon as the court accepted this argument for vaccine mandates, they removed any possible limitation from long-standing beliefs. Or “at all” standing beliefs. Legal precedent let’s them make up whatever bullshit they want as they want.

Exactly, and I should point out that sadly there is already separate legal precedent for this on the books The NLRB has already said that religious institutions are exempt from board oversight QUOTE “under a broad interpretation of religious freedom,” and if you're wondering why? It's because <You didn't vote for Hillary Clinton?> Yes...and because unions assure things like anti-discrimination policies and fair wages and in case you weren’t aware religion literally cannot do any of the shit they do when they have to follow those rules.

If nothing else, their fight against anti-discrimination rules in the name of anti-discrimination has proven that there’s no amount of irony that can rip open spacetime, and that’s comforting.

So what did the university have to say in defense of religiously…union busting? Well in an open letter to students and staff, acting president and provost Dr. Kimo Ah Yun said quote “To protect the direct relationship with our faculty that is critical to our Catholic, Jesuit intellectual life at Marquette, the university is invoking its legal right for a religious exemption from National Labor Relations Board oversight,...Ultimately, the religious exemption is about the Constitution’s First

Amendment protection of religious freedom from government regulation — widely regarded as one of America's most important rights."

I think that's actually a quote from the famous theologian...atheist Ayn Rand.

He concludes quote "Continuing our strong partnership with faculty and staff — without engaging an outside third party that may not share our same values — is the best way to deliver our Catholic, Jesuit mission and serve our students. We will continue to work directly with our colleagues as we become, together, the Marquette University we are called to be."

So strong the majority of them want union representation. Look, if your institution acts as a "bigotry shelter," that's what it is. Anything else it does is secondary.

So yeah just a reminder next time someone tells you they're worried about religious freedom, this is the bullshit they're talking about, and at this point if I was religious I'd be way more worried about Dr. Kimo telling folks jesus was scab than I would be about anyone coming for the dumbest of my beliefs.

University refuses union recognition on religious grounds: https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2024/11/15/marquette-university-refuses-union-recognition-on-religious-grounds/#google_vignette

And on that note, we'll take a quick break for a word from this week's other sponsor, Aura Frames.

HEADLINES B:

And we're back. And in "More like Woah-Hi-Oh" news ... For many of us the horrendous consequences of democracy are approaching slowly over the horizon. We watch as they march ever slower towards our liberal bubbles knowing that there is nothing we can do to stop them, and that the notion we have of stopping them in the first place is inherently flawed. But its important to remember that for many in our nation the horrors arrived long ago, set up camp, and are building monuments to themselves and shit. Which is why the people of ohio are unsuprised that this week the Ohio state Senate passed Senate Bill 104, a transgender bathroom ban for all students in the state, including those in higher education.

Alright, well it's illegal for me to invite everyone to take a public shit in the Senate of Ohio...while singing a delightful song...so...I'm done with my thought.

If I'm a trans person in Ohio, the urge to mail a box of my shit to Senate Republicans with a note that says "Then you dispose of it" would be overwhelming.

The bill, entitled the "Protect All Students Act," passed 24-7, and says in part quote "A school shall designate each student restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room that is

accessible by multiple students at the same time, whether located in a school building or located in a facility used by the school for a school-sponsored activity, for the exclusive use by students of the male biological sex only or by students of the female biological sex only."

I'm just surprised there wasn't a "and no kitty litter boxes" rider.

And look this bill brings up all sorts of questions that dumb bigoted laws always bring up. Because while the bill does have exemptions for children under 10 and people with disabilities there's no understanding of enforcement. Are people supposed to take a quick genetic test to make sure their alleles are in order before they get to pee? Are they gonna install bathroom monitors to check people's junk before they walk in? No, this is about preventing schools all the way up to the university level from making inclusive choices. It's about making equality illegal.

And speaking of illegal again...it's illegal to invite everyone to a shit-in protest...even with such a delightful title. So I'm NOT doing that.

Yeah, the Republican project over the last 20 years has been to redefine the word "equality," in such a way that they never have to admit they're against it.

So look, I'm gonna say something that your gonna hear me talk about a lot over the next four years which is that this shit doesn't happen without participation. A lot of the reason for systematic democracy is so that folks can go "well I participated at the voting booth so I get to shrug my shoulders now. Too bad this bad thing is happening" but unfortunately that isn't the case. So whether you live in ohio or not when stuff like this gets passed (and it will) your job is to actively resist it in any way you can while staying physically safe and out of jail. Cause nobody gets to vote on that but you. UNLESS….you see one of the 24 lawmakers who voted for this thing using the bathroom in which case you are hardoare believer in this law and your gonna need some proof of peen right away.

Ohio Senate passes "cruel" transgender bathroom ban:
https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2024/11/ohio-state-senate-passes-transgender-bathroom-ban/

And finally tonight, in "DoD Minus" news ... Donald Trump's nominee to be in charge of the entire Department of Defense is Christian Right lunatic Pete Hegseth. We talked about him briefly while discussing other insane cabinet picks on The Skepticrat, but in case you missed it, he's an Army veteran who never had a serious leadership position, he's the author of a book about how diversity led to the downfall of the American military, he supports a ban on women serving in combat, and he's a host on *Fox & Friends Weekend*. So he's not just a member of the Fox News team...he's a member of their B-TEAM. And he looks like he got attacked by a very greasy comb inside a wind tunnel.

Yeah podcast listener leading up the the show we were like "oh should we do ANOTHER story about the cabinet appointments we already covered that on skepticrat" but then he appointed

doctor oz and linda mcman and we were like ‘you know what? I think we’ve got fresh stuff to chat about”

It’s like the early part of a Mega Man game where we’re establishing all the bosses.

So here's the latest of Pete Hegseth. We got a reminder this week that he's been accused of sexual assault, paid the accuser to keep quiet in a settlement, and has a tattoo that says "DEUS VOLT", which means "GOD WILLS IT" in Latin. And that's a rallying cry used by Christian soldiers during the Crusades, and also used by neo-nazi hate groups right now.

I’ll have you know that I have a deep historical interest i the symbology of hinduism…and 88 is my favorite number

It’s pretty fucked up that “it’s the get ready, get set, go” of the Crusades isn’t the most disturbing aspect of it.

And a big thanks to Hemant Mehta for covering the story over at the Friendly Atheist. So where does that leave us? We have to decide if the incoming Secretary of Defense has a neo-nazi tattoo...or if he's just really psyched about the Crusades. So AT BEST, he's a big Crusades enthusiast. Either that, or he's a neo-nazi enthusiast. OR...the correct answer in my strong opinion...he's both. Especially considering two other details about his tattoo selection. First of all, "DEUS VOLT" is written in a font that's VERY similar to something called "Fraktur", also known as "the German typeface." It was in regular use in Nazi Germany, and remains in use today by neo-nazi groups. Could be a coincidence, but there's SO MANY FONTS. And again, best case scenario, he really likes the same font as literally Adolf Hitler by chance. ALSO a deal breaker.

And again, it is my recommendation that if you have to poit out that someone’s nazi tatoo is in the nazi font to covince them a thing is bad maybe DONT WASTE YOUR ONE PRECIOUS LIFE talking to this person.

Although it *does* increase the likelihood of them getting their Nazi tattoos in Comic Sans to throw us off the scent, which helps to redeem the investment, I think.

Also worth noting...right next to the "DEUS VOLT" tattoo, Hegseth has an American flag with a modern assault rifle under it. Which feels a lot closer to a Proud Boys thing than a medieval crusader thing.

Yeah, at a certain point “let’s do a crusade with assault rifles” and “I’m a Nazi” aren’t different propositions.

So what happens when someone points out a MAYBE neo-nazi tattoo?...Anna... [*Christian Freakout*] That's right, we get a Christian freakout, and cries of anti-Christian persecution. And as if to prove just how stupid their persecution complex can get, they literally went full

Godwin-*denier* this time. Because the Godwin question was fully justified. People were like: "Hey...that might be a nazi slogan." PERSECUTION! And the outfreakers included JD Vance, who responded to a related article from the Associated Press...actually he responded to a tweet ABOUT the article he clearly didn't read...by posting: (quote) "They're attacking Pete Hegseth for having a Christian motto tattooed on his arm. This is disgusting anti-Christian bigotry from the AP, and the entire organization should be ashamed of itself."

Yeah wait till he hears how anti-christian those assholes down at the hague were

And yes, listener, this is *exactly* the same as calling opposition to Swastikas "anti-Hindu bigotry."

Yeah so no word on the Associated Press listening to JD Vance, and releasing a statement of organizational shame yet. We'll see how it goes. Regardless, this would be a national meltdown for Republicans if the situation was reversed. If a guy had "GOD WILLS IT" written in Arabic on his arm, and he got nominated for anything ever, we'd have militia lunatics scrambling stealth fighters that don't even fly. The guy could have "I LOVE JESUS CHRIST" written in Arabic, and they'd panic. But zooming back out...Pete Hegseth is a dumb evil person and shouldn't be in charge of anything...regardless of tattoos.

Right worth pointing out that even this guy wasn't very obviously a nazi he'd STILL be a bad pick. The nazism makes it worse…something I think we'll be saying a LOT over the next four years

Pete Hegseth's "Deus Vult" tattoo requires a better explanation:
https://www.friendlyatheist.com/p/pete-hegseths-deus-vult-tattoo-requires

And on that note — that note, again, being "a neo-nazi is about to be in charge of our nukes" — we'll wrap up the headlines and get under our desks for a bit. Heath, Eli; thanks as always.

And when we come back, it'll start to get a little crowded in here.

Biblepiece Theater

rob riggle (joe from family guy) [*Patrick Warburton...HOW DARE YOU?!?][Thank you, Heath.]
No its deeper and palsy-er

Like this?

Deeper

eli

My voice doesn’t go deeper

It’s true it doesn’t

Hey guys, you ready for bible piece theater?

You mean the part of the show where we act out the bible so our listeners don't have to read it? We sure are. Jesus was about to die right?

That's right he was

Aw. I’m kinda gonna miss him

Really?

I mean don’s sassy gay version

Ok yeah I get it

Yeah me too. But first were gonna check on judas…who I assume is still me because I went to a pug cafe without you?

Correct

How many more episodes?

4

I feel like your math is off

No I’m counting the dnd minus bonus content

Okay well that’s just weird

I DONT MAKE THE RULES

You do though…

swoosh

judas
Hey jewish guys

jew voices

I mean its the bible man. You need to be more specific

You know who I mean

Sure. Judas right? What do you want?

Look I've been thinking about it and it was wrong to betray jesus…here take your money back

We dont want the money man. We just wanted to kill jesus

Well I don't want it. Take it for the temple

We can't take it for the temple...it's blood money

It's your money!

Yeah but we gave it to you to kill a guy and now its blood money

Ooh you know what? We could use it for a potter's field

Actually That's a great idea

beep

Sorry Noah, why are we spending so much time on judas' refund policy?

The same reason we ever spend any time on anything

It's a Jeremiah prophesy?

Yep...Jeremiah says: "And they took 30 pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value"

Right. Got it

beep
judas
Okay well… I'm off to hang myself.

…okay

Did you want us to say something?

I don't know… just thought you guys might try to stop me.

Nope...we're good

Wow. fine. I'm gonna go hang myself then!

yep/mmhmm

far
I'M DOING IT…any second now

I cannot wait for tumblr to exist so there's another place to do this

Same

swoosh

Alright so now it's time for Jesus to meet Pontius Pilate

swoosh

pontius voice
So you are jesus

I am

And are you...as they say...king of the jews?

You say that I am

Uh…no I was asking you

pause

Are you…not gonna respond?

pause

Wow…boring conversation. Okay um…are you aware of what you're accused of?

pause

Nothing. Great. Okay well um…swoosh?...I guess?..... No?...okay…just…kinda waiting...still nothing... Cool. Hey have you guys ever noticed that when you're at the vomitorium, you never

get the ass sponge first? What's the deal with that? Like how early do you have to get there to get the…sponge first…no?...okay

swoosh

Okay so since its Passover, the Governor liked to pardon one prisoner so now it's time to choose that prisoner.

Wait what?

Yeah, like as a celebration thing.

Like pardoning the turkey

Pardoning the turkey?

The president. He pardons a turkey on thanksgiving

Dude what are you talking about?

No that's true

What's true

The president pardons a turkey on thanksgiving

NO HE DOESN'T

He does. google it

YOU CANT JUST MAKE STUFF UP AND SAY GOOGLE IT

No, he does man.

YOU GUYS ARE MESSING WITH ME

We're not. People vote on the turkeys and then he pardons one of them

AND THEN THEY MURDER THE OTHER ONE?

I mean that's the implication, sure. But they don't usually murder the other one…

You know. Now that I'm saying it out loud it does seem weird

OH DOES IT SEEM WEIRD DON?

Anyway the point is they do that in Rome and the people are gonna choose between Jesus and Barabbas, a well known prisoner

Wait How is a prisoner well known?

Well in John-

For the record if I had known about the turkey thing, I woulda known for sure that Trump was going to win

Heath we're moving on… in JOHN, he's described as a bandit but in Luke and Mark, he's described as one of the rebels who fought the Romans.

Okay that makes sense then

In 2023 the turkeys were named liberty and bell

Don?

I'm done.

swoosh

pontius
Okay jews...who do you wanna spare?

Lady voice
Um ponchus hon?

Yes darling?

I just really think you shouldn't kill jesus

Yeah, I mean neither do I. That's why I'm doing the pardoning thing

Its just I had a bad dream last night

Okay well I'm doing the pardoning. I don't know what else you want me to do

Wow. sorry for telling you anything

Feels like you're just picking a fight now. ANYWAY who do you guys wanna spare?

Jew voices

Spare barabas

Yes barabas!

And what shall happen to jesus?

Crucify him!

Why so? What evil hath he done?

…crucify him?

Okay you know what? I wash my hands of this. You guys wanna kill him?...YOU kill him

Oh wow. If you wanna kill him you kill him. great job

What do you want me to DO here?

If you don't know. I'm not gonna tell you

His blood be on us, and on our children.

Alright relax mel gibson

What? It's in the bible.

swoosh

So now it's time to crucify Jesus

Oooh what if we actually do it to don

Wait do what to don?

We CRUCIFY don. Think of the headlines. Podcast host crucified to prove point of religions harms

Aw. You guys think of me as a host on the podcast?

Really Don? That's what you took away from that?

I'm a positive person

WERE NOT TOUCHING A HAIR ON DON'S HEAD

I mean he's bald

YOU'RE BALD

IM BALDING. THERES A DIFFERENCE

Guys. Eli has a point

I knew it. Don are you left or right handed

No, not about that part. That the crucifixion is used to stir up like… emotions of sympathy and stuff and we shouldn't give in to that.

…exactly my point

…so…keep it light?

Keep it light. Exactly

swoosh

Alright jesus you ready to be crucified

I guess so

Hey guys…guys look. I put this crown on thorn on him cause he's like..the king of the jews…all hail the king of the jews

You're making it weird man

What? I'm just having some fun

Hey buddy what's your name
Uh simon

You gotta carry Jesus's cross.

I actually have brunch plans

Do it or we'll kill you?

This cross right here?

Yep that's it

Yep...got it

swoosh

Alright…all crucified. How ya doing up there jesus?

Bad

Yeah…hey did you guys see the sign I put up there?

Jesus king of the jews. Yeah we saw

Cause of the crown bit You liked earlier

I didn’t say I liked that bit

I feel like you lol’d. you wanna gamble for his clothes?

What is with you man?

What it's’ in the prophecy

Fine but I get to be the hat

No, I called permanent hat.

You can’t call permanent hat

other guy getting crucified
Hey jesus...if you're the son of god, why don't you come down from there

different voice
Yeah why can’t you…savior…self

Nice

Thank you

You two are literally being crucified with me

Yeah but we didn't say we were the son of god man

No yeah that's a fair point.

swoosh

So now it's time for Jesus to die… but actually for real this time

swoosh

Hey, did you notice that the sun went out for the last three hours?

You know I did. I just thought it was like a cloud or something

Right?

Oh god why have you forsaken me

He's calling for Elijah

Lets see if elijah comes to save him

beep

Okay what? Why do they think jesus is calling for elijah

Right so there are two theories here. The first is that they misheard him

In the bible?

I didn't say they were both good theories. The second theory is that it's people mocking him because of the prophecy that Elijah would come before the messiah, like, "better get Elijah here quick. The messiah is dying."

Man the crucifixion is really roasty

Much roastier than you'd think yes

beep

You know what? Bleh

tearing sound

What was that?

It was the temple it broke it two

everbyody
Brains/brains/donfordvoiceoffantasy and adventure

Are those fucking zombies?

Those appear to be zombies yes

Ah fuck..you think he really was the messiah?

Yeah man… I think he was the messiah

Aaahhh

swoosh

pontius
Okay well if you don't have guns, SPEAR the zombies in the head. I don't know what to tell you

Hello, are you Pontius Pilate?

Yeah man. Can I help you?

I am Joseph of Arimathea. I am here to buy jesus' body

Yeah you can have it man...I'm kinda dealing with zombies and earthquakes and stuff

Nice they're giving away free bodies in there

No I'm just doing the one

Someone giving away free bodies in here

Dammit you see what you did?

Sorry

swoosh

Okay so have we tried like a big…thread? On the temple?

Excuse me pontius pilate?

Hi yes can I help you

It's about jesus

The guy you killed and it made zombies? Yeah I've heard of him. What now?

So when he was alive he said he'd die and come back and three days…

And then the zombies will go away?

He didn't say. But we were wondering if you could put a guard outside his tomb so that his followers dont come and steal his body and say he rose from the dead

You guys have guards. Go guard the body yourselves

I mean…I guess

And if he comes back-

We'll ask about the zombies

Thank you

swoosh

Can you believe this is the first time I'm being fucking introduced

You think you've got it bad? I'm Jesus' mother and they call me "the other Mary" in this passage. Just "the other mary"

Yeah thats fucking rough

SHS
Hey yo ladies...be not afraid and junk

Oh god not you again

Who's this broad?

She's told me I was pregnant

She's a paramedic at an imagine dragons show?

No she's an angel and she's here to roll back the rock

You said it sister

rock rolling back sound

Alright there you go

Are…you just gonna sit here?

Bible says I rolled back the rock and sat on it. You guys want some jerky?

no/is it shrimp?

Anyway you should go tell the disciples that jesus is back and stuff

We will angel/Answer the question. Is it shrimp or what?

swoosh

Hey…hey are you fockin peter?

Yes. and I'm a follower of jesus by the way…in case your wondering

Too little, too late

Okay "other mary"

IM LITERALLY HIS MOM

SGJ
Behold followers I have returned

Oh wow!/hey is that jesus

Indeed it is I…jesus….tell everyone that I-

NOW WAIT JUST A FUCKING SECOND

Uh…sorry?

You's told me to come down here and fucking tell everyone you were back. And now your stealing my fucking thundah

But…but I"m jesus

IM FUCKING PREGNANT

Okay…okay

Anyway…jesus is back..and he's gonna meet you in galilee

Cool.

swoosh

Meanwhile the priests are bribing the guards

swoosh

Hey guards if anyone asks jesus's followers came and stole his body okay

Okay but why would we say that

Just…if anyone is arguing about this…when matthew is being written…I'm letting you know right now that we…the jews who killed jesus…we started that rumor

Got it. Little sloppy

Tell me about it

swoosh

Alright here we are…the disciples

That's right and this is where jesus said he would be

haaaa

Echoey sassy gay jesus
Hey disciples it's me jesus

wow/Amazing

Eh

Seriously dude?

Sorry man the bible says some of us doubted. I'm not convinced

Weird vibes…anyway…go tell everyone how awesome I am… amen

swoosh

Aaaand that's Matthew

Phew. so what did we learn

I mean… the story of Jesus

No I know it's the story of jesus but like…what's the message of matthew compared to the other books

Well like I said Matthew is about settling arguments between early proto-Christians about what Jesus is all about

Like a sales pitch?

Don't love that terminology

Yeah kinda

Got it. I'll take it from here.

Is this gonna be problematic?

Not if I sing it! Anna?

Listen up my fellow jews
I come with happy news
So happy that your sure to do a jig
The savior's time has come
So get up ya bunch of bums
Cause at last this means we all can eat some pig

You might grow a smaller nose
Wear some color in clothes
Filled the prophesy that stands in holy text
Which means that you and me
can have a shrimp or two or three
And throw out that holy sheet we use for sex

What?

GOOGLE IT!

Jesus
gonna free us
If it please us.
We'll be smoothly shaven

mitzvahs
now who needs em
Have some ham
Cause it turns out we were wrong

Hams!
CLAMS!
Bay-con-nay-ter

Here’s comes the messiah
Such an awesome guy-uh
Lets join his empiah
And escape hellfiah

Polo shirts
Christmas trees
Names like Karen And Chad

But then again..what about our history
We’ve survived two htousand years of miseries
can

cantor section

Hams!
CLAMS!
Bay-con-nay-ter

Here’s comes the messiah
Such an awesome guy-uh
Lets join his empiah
And escape hellfiah

Country clubs
Disney Land
Girls who swallow when you cum