

The Late Show with
Stephen Colbert
Writer's Submission Packet
July 2020

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MONOLOGUE:

Welcome To “A Late Show”, I’m Stephen Colbert. Well, I guess things in our country have gotten bad enough that Portland has found a way to get angry about it. Yes, a city that doesn’t have it in them to burn a car when the Blazers blow it in the NBA Playoffs has decided they’ve had enough of the presence of Federal officers sent by President “Plaintiff in Tell-All Book Lawsuit in Chief” Trump (INSERT GRAPHIC -- BOOK COVER) in order to quell the more than 50 nights of protests in the city’s streets.

(INSERT NEWS CLIP)

Portlandites have reported multiple incidents of excessive force by these Federal officers, including things like tear gassing, beating protestors with batons, and being detained without being read Miranda rights. Sounds like a Friday night in Jared Kushner’s cigar room with Roger Stone watching through a two-way mirror.

(INSERT GRAPHIC)

But many protestors are calling into question what others have wondered at previous protests in places like Minneapolis and Los Angeles in the wake of George Floyd’s murder -- were the officers sent by the DHS to protect the city...or take control of the city? According to The Guardian, (INSERT GRAPHIC -- QUOTE AND SOURCE) “There have been multiple reports of federal agents driving through the city in unmarked vehicles, picking demonstrators off the streets. In one instance, a person was handcuffed by two people in camouflage with “police” patches and taken into an unmarked vehicle.” To enforce this type of policing, Trump sent a box set of “The Bourne Identity” movies to the commanding officer with a sticky note that read “Thought this would be useful. Truly great, fascinating watch. Dominating the streets! Great, just great - Love, DJT”

(INSERT GRAPHIC -- MOVIES WITH STICKY NOTE -- STEPHEN READS IN TRUMP VOICE -- VO)

Protestor Olivia Katbi Smith said when her and her husband were dispersing from a protest on Friday, they noticed an SUV with four men inside dressed in camouflage. Over the weekend, we received a leaked memo from The White House and apparently to fill those positions, President Trump was seeking extras similar to Janet Jackson’s “Rhythm Nation” video (INSERT GRAPHIC -- CASTING CALL WITH CAMOUFLAGED SOLDIERS) , saying quote “You know that was my jam back in the day!”

(STEPHEN READS IN TRUMP VOICE -- VO)

This past Sunday, Portland mayor Ted Wheeler has called for federal officers to stay away from the city, saying “We have dozens, if not hundreds of federal troops descending upon our city. And...they are sharply escalating the situation. Their presence is actually leading to more violence and more vandalism. It’s not helping the situation at all. They’re not wanted here. We haven’t asked them here. In fact, we want them to leave.” (INSERT GRAPHIC -- QUOTE AND SOURCE) When asked to comment, Vice President Mike Pence said “Welp, you don’t have to tell me twice!” and proceeded to leave the empty football stadium he was sitting in.

(INSERT CLIP -- PENCE LEAVING NFL GAME -- STEPHEN VO)

As usual, Trump finds a way to deflect from the actual intentions behind his governing or as it’s known in the White House: “Fine Job Dart Board Policy Picker”.

(INSERT GRAPHIC -- TRUMP LINING UP DART TO THROW AT BOARD FILLED WITH HORRIBLE POLICY DECISIONS AND VARIOUS EXECUTIVE ORDERS -- STEPHEN VO IN TRUMP VOICE)

On Sunday, Trump tweeted (INSERT GRAPHIC -- STEPHEN READS TWEET IN TRUMP VOICE): “We are trying to help Portland, not hurt it. Their leadership has, for months, lost control of the anarchists and agitators. They are missing in action. We must protect Federal property, AND OUR PEOPLE.” Though to his credit, “Anarchists and Agitators” does sound like an ultra woke music festival in Portland where Bernie Sanders would fly in on a zip-line while Rage Against The Machine plays to a sea of sunburned white hippies. (INSERT GRAPHIC) And just like when we used to have things called concerts, Ticketmaster would still find a way to put a convenience charge on your order. (STEPHEN DANCES TO “GROOVE IS IN THE HEART” INSTRUMENTAL -- FREEZE FRAME AND INSERT STAMP GRAPHIC READING “JOKE THAT REMINDS US WE’LL DO ANYTHING FOR LIVE ENTERTAINMENT”)

Speaking of paying unnecessary charges just to see live entertainment, the NFL has been heavily criticized by fans, media, and players alike for their lack of clear direction on COVID-19 protocol in order to keep their players safe, and even be able to have a football season to enjoy. Star players like Drew Brees, Russell Wilson, J.J. Watt, and Stefon Diggs have all tweeted about their displeasure and concern regarding the NFL’s perceived lack of leadership on the issue. (INSERT GRAPHIC -- TWEETS FROM LISTED PLAYERS) In a showing of support, President Trump tweeted at NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell “@nflcommish Less Tests Equals Less Stress! Looking forward to a tremendous NFL Season -- GO [INSERT TEAM THAT BEST FITS MY NARRATIVE OR WHEREVER TOM BRADY IS PLAYING]!! #NoFauciNoOuchie (INSERT GRAPHIC -- STEPHEN READS IN TRUMP VOICE -- VO)

And beyond the disagreements on the best way to actually play football games, some NFL owners, like Las Vegas Raiders owner Mark Davis, are unsure if they'll even attend games this season. Davis told The Athletic: "I won't go if the fans can't go, and the way it looks right now there won't be any fans at our games". (INSERT GRAPHIC -- QUOTE AND SOURCE -- VO) Yes, this is a picture of Raiders owner Mark Davis and despite what you may think, his hair looked like this before the pandemic started. (INSERT PICTURE NEXT TO STEPHEN OF MARK DAVIS WITH EMPHASIS ON HIS DAVIS' BAD HAIRCUT)

As with most issues in our society, money talks. Unlike the NBA, which has a *force majeure* clause in its Collective Bargaining Agreement in the event of unforeseen circumstances like the COVID-19 pandemic, the NFL does not, which is forcing them into an ongoing and ever changing negotiation with the NFL Player's Association. (INSERT NEWS CLIP)

According to ProFootballTalk.com, both sides are negotiating "a lengthy and detailed schedule of payments to be made in the event the season is suspended or canceled." (INSERT GRAPHIC -- QUOTE AND SOURCE -- VO) Washington team owner Dan Snyder heard the words "lengthy and detailed schedule of payments" and quickly announced the new name and location of his NFL franchise -- the "Cayman Islands Cash Machines!" (INSERT GRAPHIC OF ISLAND AND NEW TEAM NAME AND LOGO -- STEPHENS READS ENTHUSIASTICALLY -- VO -- CASH REGISTER SOUND EFFECT)

The proposal calls for players to be able to "keep all signing, roster, reporting, or workout bonuses earned before cancellation of the season, along with base salary and per-game roster bonuses or per-game payments earned for any regular-season games actually played." (INSERT GRAPHIC -- QUOTE AND SOURCE -- VO) But if the season is canceled before training camp opens, players wouldn't get any more money for the season. And considering that NFL players have been known to mismanage their funds like a restaurant owner that *definitely doesn't also not pay his taxes*, (USING AIR QUOTES -- STEPHEN READS SARCASTICALLY) we would hate to see some of our favorite players have to take on second jobs. But just in case, here are some business ideas we've come up with -- First, we have Brees' Bandana Emporium! (INSERT GRAPHIC -- DREW BREES STANDING BY STOREFRONT WITH "BUY ONE GET NINE FREE!" AMERICAN FLAG BANDANAS SIGN -- STEPHEN VO) Then, we have Watt's House 'O Lights! (INSERT GRAPHIC -- JJ WATT STANDING INSIDE STORE WITH ALL DIFFERENT TYPES OF BLINDING LIGHTS -- STEPHEN

VO) And finally, Diggs' Dirt Removal! (INSERT GRAPHIC -- STEFON DIGGS STANDING NEXT TO A MOUND OF DIRT IN AN OLD COUPLE'S BACKYARD WEARING "DIGGS' DIRT REMOVAL" T-SHIRT -- STEPHEN VO)

But perhaps the biggest thing that NFL fans wonder about going into the 2020 season is what will happen if or when players test positive for COVID-19? Will teams simply step over them and move onto the next player available like Trump treats his press secretaries (INSERT COLLAGE PICTURE GRAPHIC OF TRUMP'S PREVIOUS PRESS SECRETARIES -- NEXT TO STEPHEN) or will we see something like the 1987 NFL season, where replacement players came in to play games after a labor dispute shortened the season and forced players to choose between money and their morals. The irony is, the team that won it all that year was Washington, the organization currently feeling the hottest flames of criticism due to its offensive team name as well as a well documented culture of sexism, racism, and incompetence. (INSERT GRAPHIC OF VARIOUS HEADLINES FROM NEWS CLIPPINGS -- NEXT TO STEPHEN) Or as Trump would say about them, "A tremendous organization, one of the greats." (STEPHEN READS AND ACTS OUT AS TRUMP)

We've got a great show for you tonight. I'll be talking with former presidential candidate and Joe Biden's VP sweepstakes hopeful, Senator Kamala Harris. Stick around, we'll be right back! (COMMERCIAL BREAK BUMPER)

COLD OPEN:

While our country continues to wait out the COVID-19 pandemic which has a projected end date of "FebuMarJuneLyUst 32nd, 2026", (INSERT GRAPHIC -- CALENDAR -- NEXT TO STEPHEN) some folks around the nation are growing understandably frustrated with their fellow citizens who just won't do their part. (INSERT NEWS CLIP -- BEACH INTERVIEW -- YOUNG PERSON WHO WON'T WEAR A MASK) Well, it turns out that during all this down time, we've been developing a new product that may help some of those people feel a little bit differently the next time someone asks them to put on a mask...

(INFOMERCIAL -- FADE IN)

(VO WITH DESCRIPTIVE CLIPS BASED ON CONTENT)

Are you tired of going to the grocery store just to see people taking off their masks as soon as they get into the aisles? Or when you're walking your dog and your neighbor decides to talk a little too close with no face covering? Has your daughter's boyfriend posted an Instagram story of one of the "COVID parties" he went to, and he's trying to get her to sneak out of your house? The solution is clear -- get "RONA B GONE!"
(INSERT GRAPHIC WITH LOGO AND TEXT -- COMIC STYLE WITH FLY IN TO FRONT)

"RONA B GONE" is the fast-acting, behavior-changing spray that will create the distance you need to protect yourself from the Coronavirus. Simply spray liberally into the face of an unmasked person and watch as stress leaves your body and enters into theirs! (INSERT CUTAWAY -- GROCERY STORE SCENE)

VO Subject: "Sir, can you please put on your mask?"

Man: "Can you please mind your damn business?!"

VO Subject: Sprays "RONA B GONE" into Man's face

Man: "AHHH!! Jesus, lady! Ok! Ok! Here's my mask I'll put it on I swear!

(VO SUBJECT TURNS TO CAMERA AND DISPLAYS SPRAY BOTTLE WHILE MAN PUTS ON MASK AND POURS MILK INTO HIS EYES AS HE MOANS)

(CUTAWAY)

(VO SUBJECT WALKS DOWN HER STREET WITH HER DOG)

Neighbor: "Oh hi Janice! How's your da--AHHHHH WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!"

(VO SUBJECT SMILES AND SPRAYS "RONA B GONE" IN NEIGHBOR'S FACE WHILE PASSING BY WITHOUT MAKING EYE CONTACT WITH NEIGHBOR)

(CUTAWAY)

(DAUGHTER WALKS DOWN HER DRIVEWAY SLOWLY LOOKING OVER BOTH SHOULDERS AS SHE APPROACHES HER BOYFRIEND'S CAR. SHE STOPS TO SEE HER VO SUBJECT IN THE FRONT WINDOW. VO SUBJECT SLOWLY RAISES

BOTTLE OF RONA B GONE AND DAUGHTER SIGHES, BLOWS KISS TO HER BOYFRIEND, AND RUNS BACK INTO THE HOUSE)

(VO CONTINUED)

Call now and get a second bottle of "RONA B GONE" free! (SPED UP LEGAL DISCLAIMER VO) The makers of "RONA B GONE" are not responsible for any temporary or permanent blindness, loss of taste or smell, and are indemnified against subsequent legal action that may result in the use of our product.

(CUTAWAY TO STEPHEN)

We'll be right back with former vice president and presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden!