

S01E03 Bad Decisions and Repercussions

SPEAKERS

Ray Abel, Gretchen Hurd

Ray Abel 00:01

Hello, and welcome to research the news. This week's episode is brought to you by Aldi Fairtrade organic coffee. Now, again, we're not big enough to have a real sponsor. So this is just something that I like. And my pitch for all the fairtrade organic coffee is it This coffee is for those people who are true fiscal conservatives who want to spend wisely while helping people who deserve it. Because when you buy fairtrade coffee gets higher prices for the people producing the coffee. It's better social and environmental standards. Plus Aldi is really cheap for those fiscal conservatives. So I pay \$6 for a whole box of coffee and bag of coffee, which is like a half or a third of what it is that a Trader Joe's or Whole Foods. So that's our free sponsor the week, be a true fiscal conservative help people, but save money while doing it. As always, we're live. So there's going to be no edits, if you're listening to this on the podcast tomorrow. And we're going to be bringing on Gretchen here, my co host, right after our Intro Music All right, Gretchen, welcome. News. How are you? I'm good. How about you? Good, good, good seeing you. So I'm going to cover what we talked about last week. Kancil culture virtue signaling, we had peace icon, what do you think of peace?

Gretchen Hurd 01:29

She was wonderful. She was a lovely human being, which I've heard of her. I have a lot of musician friends in Pittsburgh. And all of them have had wonderful things to say about her. And she totally lived up to the hype.

Ray Abel 01:42

Her whole family is great. So hopefully, maybe we can have all the family members on that'll be great. And they can make music because it's her sister joy is a great artist as well. So yeah, actually, this is my second free sponsorship of the week, check out Joy Ike's Mr. Rogers cover song. Oh, it's so good. She does a really upbeat, fun version of itself. But also, after we did this show, both Gretchen and I posted on Facebook, a poll about canceled culture. And some things that weren't political, just kind of fun things that we went canceled. And so for anyone who's watching, I know, fun things, fun things. Everyone wants to be canceled. We're not gonna do it just yet, though. So if you're watching this, just to see if you made the cut, you're gonna have to wait till the end. That's like, that's good TV or whatever, radio podcast, it's good podcasting, you know, hold people till the end, or you just skip through. If you're listening to the podcast or skip through the last five minutes. You'll be able to hear it tomorrow. So and as always, you can check out research, the news.org, which is our Wikipedia page with all of the information in the articles that we're going to be talking about today. You can also go to research news.com. There's the video history. There's the old podcast, and there's also a link to the wiki page. But yeah, this week, we are talking about bad decisions and repercussions. And before we go into the game of what's your bias, I just want to say that this week, we're not having a guest it's just going to be

Gretchen and I because one of the things I've heard from the first two weeks is what we really like Gretchen, but we want to hear Gretchen, talk more. So no pressure. No, I mean, lots of pressure. I may just not actually speak for the rest of the time. I may just like stop. But all the press you want

Gretchen Hurd 03:20

to talk if you just want me to talk about my dogs the whole time that can be arranged?

Ray Abel 03:25

Actually. I mean, I would love that. I mean, I think there should be a podcast where people just talk about their dogs, I'm sure they're probably but therefore that'll be when we start branching out into other podcasts that can be that can be your side gig from recently, I guess so. But this week, we're gonna start out talking about Andrew Cuomo, because he's obviously in the news for a few reasons. But before we get started, I just want to play what's your bias when it comes to Andrew Cuomo and I asked Gretchen who she wanted to have start this and she said me so I'm going to go into my bias. I actually had a friend I didn't know if I told you this Gretchen but I had a friend who sent me when when he first started with his pandemic response sent she's lives in New York. She's She's She calls herself a man, a Manhattan liberal where she's very socially liberal. But fiscally, she's still more conservative. And she loved Cuomo and I was listening to him. I was like, Man, I like this guy. Like, I wish he was running for president like he actually I mean, it seemed like he had control the situation. And then I kept listening to him, and I just I disliked him more and more every time I heard him talk. I may break out a really bad Andrew Cuomo personation on the show. I'm terrible at accents and impersonations. But I every now and then it can break out a decent Andrew Cuomo and it'll probably fail if I try it. But the more I listen to him talk, the more I dislike the guy. It was more of like an arrogant, condescending attitude. I don't I just didn't like him. But I kind of fallen. There's two things that he's facing right now. There's sexual harassment charges and there's also charges I mean, obviously what happened in the nursing home so we'll talk about what exactly that was, but I'm saying before we get started and before I explain In the story, I It looks like he's guilty. But I'm also someone who's a big fan of letting due process play out. So if I had to be if I had to be a jury right now, based on the informations out there, I would say guilty on both accounts. But at the same time, I think there's a lot that needs to come out. And I'm I feel like for me, you know, we are innocent until proven guilty in this country, which I think is something we'll talk about, because are you really innocent if you're accused of things, but I do not like Andrew Cuomo. Alright, that was way too long. what's your what's your bias? Gracias. So

Gretchen Hurd 05:34

we talked about this i The nursing home stuff, obviously, I agree with you 100%. It just, we need to like hear what happened? Did you do it on purpose, all this kind of stuff. Then when the sexual assault allegations started coming out, that's when my opinion started to shift. And it becomes personal at that point. I mean, I semi open about things that have happened to me. During college, I think like a lot of women, I've been sexually harassed, whether it's cat calling, or guys just inappropriately talking about your body. Or, in my case, physical assault. And so and I know a lot of women who've gone through that, so that's where my bias comes from. Because I automatically and it's, it's because I've gone through it. i My very first reaction is well, he did it, you know, that's exactly what my first thought is. But then my, you know, the little voice in my back of my head is going, maybe not, maybe not give them credit, give him credit, he could he could be like, you know, or something could have happened that it

was misconstrued. So, in the back of my head, there's that little voice, but the, the sadness, and the emotional part of my past kind of takes me to a place that is hard to recoil from.

Ray Abel 07:03

And I first off I, I mean, thank you for sharing. And I think that's something that's really difficult. I think that's we talked about this a little bit. As a guy, I mean, I, I've gone through some things in my life as a kid, but as an adult, I've never I, we've, I'm a six foot four guy, I've never walked on the street and worried there's the woman who was just killed in London this week. And there's all those protests. And there's, I look at that, and I just, I don't understand it. Like there's times where I've been, you know, a little nervous about being in a situation where it was a, you know, I remember one time I was in LA was my first international trip. And I was in Italy. And I was walking home because I couldn't find an Uber and I went through some like, really crazy areas. And it was the first time I remember actually like running back towards my hotel. I'm a grown man. And I was like, There's no one here. And there's some weird stuff happening. And I remember just trying to get back to a main room. Exactly. Yeah. But that's a very unusual thing for me. In general, I feel like I'm, you know, I also being six, four, I've never had to be in a real fight. But people I think just kind of go, could I mean, he's Hall. So I feel like I don't want to mess with him. But if they did, they would just probably destroy me, because I'm just the I've never been in a fight. So. But that is I appreciate you sharing. And I think that's something that I think you'll have to remind me sometimes to maybe keep that in mind as I as we go through this if I if I'm if I don't focus on that enough, or if I don't think about the side of a woman because I just never had to experience it. So yeah. But with that being said, I think you wanted me to talk about kind of what happened, correct? Yeah. Yeah,

Gretchen Hurd 08:37

I'd love for you to go into the details.

Ray Abel 08:39

I mean, this is your show. So you just tell me what you want me to do. And Alright, so basically, there's a couple things going on with Cuomo. First, the and I think you had said this, not me, you said the bigger issue is that it's using I'm scandal, correct? Yeah, I

Gretchen Hurd 08:54

feel like it's because and this is coming even for me. Because that they're just allegations, the sexual allegations are just allegations at this point. So I feel like the focus for a lot of people is the nursing home scandal, but I also feel like the the sexual assault and misconduct has kind of taken over that. And so we're not able to really focus on the and I don't want to say the actual problem, because that's not it. And yeah, they're both problems, but the one that is immediate, the one that is we have the information for and we need to be focused on while the details of the others are still coming out, and then we can litigate that and go there. But I think like this is like super important to understand right now specifically because we're still going through it. Not that those women are not going through some kind of trauma, and to you know, make them feel like they're that is not important, but it is. But yeah, so that's kind of how I'm feeling about it right now.

Ray Abel 09:57

Yeah, and I think that's the thing that I mean, we can get into why That's taken over. I think obviously, as a country, typically anything that involves sex and scandals is something that just goes to the front page. But there's also I think, some other underlying reasons when we talked about researching the news to find out what actually is underlying, and making that come to the surface. But if you look at the background, basically, Andrew Cuomo, Mr. Cuomo sexual as the news called him, and, you know, the the star who won an Emmy for his presentation on COVID. And, and let me just be clear, I forgot one part of my biases. Again, I told you, I didn't like the guy. So you just know that, as I say, these things that you want to research this stuff yourself to make sure that well, you know, I'm probably gonna put my personal spin on it. But he won an Emmy for doing such a great job with his news conferences, and he was praised by everyone. And he was on his, you know, his brothers show on CNN, and they were joking around while this stuff was happening, and the thing that bothers me is there's a reporter that I mean, you and I talked a little bit about this this week, and you had never heard of Jana Steen. And she is a reporter who is now I don't know, she was she was originally on Fox News. But she is now and she has been talking about this for a while both of her husband's parents died in nursing homes in New York. And she was early on trying to bring this to the surface. And at one point Cuomo even said to her, you know, just go do the weather and I'm paraphrasing. So something go back to doing the weather. just dismissing her totally. And so yeah, this has been on like around for a while. And basically, what happened with from from the reports from Letitia James, the attorney general is that he miscounted how many people died in nursing homes. And basically, the number of deaths hasn't changed. But the number of deaths from nursing nursing homes if you were sick, and you left the nursing home to go to a hospital because you caught COVID and died at the hospital. They were counting that as a hospital death as opposed to nursing home death, which they were doing it there. His assistant came out and said we did that because there was a government investigation, federal government investigation, we were just trying to make our basically make ourselves look better. And this is frustrating for a lot of people because there were there was a ship that was set up there from the federal government, The USNS Mercy. I think that was the one in New York, yeah, was ready to accept people. And there was also the Javits Center, which was turned into a center for COVID. And neither of those were utilized by Governor Cuomo. And he basically made a role he had executive power to do whatever you want to do is merchanting power and said, Okay, if you are sick, with COVID, you have to go back to that nursing homes have to take you back, and we're gonna send you back to the nursing home. So it was it was a it was, I don't I there's not one part of me that thinks he was trying to kill old people. But that was a result of it because of poor execution. So correct me if I'm wrong on any of that stuff, as far as you know, is that did I harsh on him?

Gretchen Hurd 12:48

No, I mean, and I agree with you that I don't think he did it on purpose. But, you know, one of the things that I was struck with just researching everything for this week's show is that it really matters to me how people react when they get caught. That has a huge and I think a lot of people do, but I guess it just depends on who the person is, you know, what their political basis like and how far or how high they are? In their party or in their, and how much cred I guess they got? Yeah, but for me, I think it's the way he reacted. Oh, I froze, I think Oh, there I am. Hi. But if the way he reacted was dismissive, and a lot of excuses. So it just when people do that, I automatically start going, what do you have? And you know, what

Ray Abel 13:51

I think? I mean, clearly, there's issues there. And I mean, he hasn't apologized, and it's one of those things where it's it's a weird thing, but with politicians, I kind of expect them and it's not weird that I expect him to lie, but I expect politicians lie. But he tried this week. Did you see did we talk about the canceled culture thing he tried bringing up Yeah, so this is Mr. You know, he's he's a he's a liberal and canceled culture hasn't existed. And then he started bringing up that this was canceled culture run amok, and it was coming after him. That was like, Okay, I feel like you shouldn't maybe use that term that's like, cancel cultural appropriation or something. You're taking a term from the right. But he the bigger thing was he basically portrayed himself as a political outsider. And it just right there was like, I just lost all. The guy who was married to a Kennedy his dad was governor, his brothers on CNN and I just think if you're the outsider, then who are we like, how are Gretchen and Ray ever going to get into office when like we like if he's the outsider and had to really struggle to get an office? So when you start saying things like that, with no apologies, and then you start saying things that are just totally ridiculous. Yeah. It's really I just feel like well, I can't trust you about anything. I I already trust you as a politician. And now I can't trust you on anything was no good. Good. No good.

Gretchen Hurd 15:05

It feels Yeah, I think you were gonna ask me exactly what I was gonna say. Okay, so I wonder like, What in the world why why didn't he just say, we made a bad mistake? This was a horrible mistake. And we were doing what we thought was right at the time. And it was a horrible mistake. I mean, maybe they didn't think it was the right thing at the time. They were just doing it for political reasons. But I don't know, I feel like more people. I mean, I don't want to sound like I live in some like utopia, like, everything's gonna be great. But it's like, if somebody really does talk about the mistake that they made and what they learned from that mistake, and why they're not going to do it again, and how they can fix the problem. Or say, there's nothing we can do at this point. This was a horrible thing that happened. And you know, going forward, we just know we can't do this, you know? Yeah. It just want to use Hindsight is 2020. Right? So I

Ray Abel 15:58

think and he's a politician. So it's one of those things where like, I never expect that's the that's one of the biggest issue that politicians are when if you ask him, hey, what's two plus two? And they're like, Well, if you look at the theory of math, and you have to find out, it's like, no, just answer the question. But I feel like most politicians would be would be willing to say, hey, we messed up here, because this was something that was clearly clearly a big mistake. But um, I feel like I think you know, this, I'm I don't want to talk about Trump on the show, because it starts dividing people. And it just it's not a productive conversation, because there's too many strong feelings. It's too soon. So we'll bring him up later. But I think if you look at the way he responds to things, it's very similar to the way that Cuomo responds to things where it's it's, it's not me here it was, it was something else. He actually, at different times, he blamed God and took credit from God. I don't know if you saw this every time. So why did God do this? Okay, that was my accent or my impression about the British idol that was so bad forget. He said, Why did God do this, which was just crazy to me. And then at one point earlier, before this all broke, he was like, God didn't help these people. It was us. And it was like, Wait a second. So you blame God when people died? And then when it was like the vaccine, it was like, oh, no, it wasn't God. Just be clear. Like it was me Andrew Cuomo, we did not God, we did it. But why is it that you think? I mean, I think the

answer to me the answers, I think, twofold. There's an easy answer. And I think there's something a little deeper, but why do you think the I mean, we don't really talk about the nursing home part of it. It's all about the sexual harassment stuff. So what is your take on why that is the headline from the news?

Gretchen Hurd 17:30

So I think whenever politicians become vulnerable, that's whenever people feel more comfortable coming out, right? So it almost seems like when one person steps forward, or something happens like this to a politician, people automatically are like, alright, this happened to me, now's my chance to not, especially when you're talking about sexual assault. So coming from even my own personal thing that happened to me, I never did do anything about it, because it wasn't worth well, it could have been worth something. But it wasn't worth ruining my own life. interesting read. Because the person that did it was like, really well liked. And everybody liked him. And nobody really, you know, it was like, he's a sports guy, and everybody in my hometown, like the sports guys. So it's like, it wasn't worth coming out with all of it to people from home. And I feel like this is like on a huge level. So it's like, Alright, he's vulnerable. Now's our chance to actually get something done about it. So whether it you know, whether people are doing it for bad reasons, or good reasons. It's like, whenever you go through something that traumatic, it's almost like you, you make excuses to yourself, why you can't come forward, or why you shouldn't come forward. And then in this kind of a moment, when someone someone is actually vulnerable, then you're like, oh, okay, now maybe could be the time, and I would be listened to interesting, whereas I wouldn't have been listened to before I would have been dismissed, right? There's no merit to that. And then people just kind of move on and forget, but and then kind of taking over because you said it bleeds when it bleeds, it leads. So it really took over?

Ray Abel 19:15

Well, you kind of took my under the radar answer first. You've actually taken both of them. So good job. I mean, this really is your show this week. But I mean, I feel like yeah, number one, if it's sex involved, it's going to take the news coverage. But I think it's interesting that we have I think there's a couple reasons why it has kind of taken over. I think what you said is something that I wouldn't think of again, I think this goes back to there is a reality that as a man, we need to listen to women, because that's something I wouldn't really have thought of at all. Yeah. But I also think there's something on top of it. That makes total sense what you said. But I think there's also a part where you got to look at the politics and it's in politics. It's always you're, you're the star of the show. You're amazing until you not useful to me anymore. And the first thing I thought of when it came out about the nursing home scandal was, I looked up I didn't I had never heard Letitia James his name before. I mean, I've heard in passing, but nothing, nothing is as bold is what was happening with the scandal. And I was like, I wonder if she wants to run for governor. And when I looked it up, I was like, Oh, she does want to run for governor. And she's more progressive than Andrew Cuomo. I was like, ah, and then when everything else started happening, it was like, it was interesting to me, because I think that there were a lot of people focused on the nursing home scandal. And then these women came forward. And it distracted from the nursing home scandal, which also, it wasn't just New York that had this happen. And I think that's the interesting part. The the part that's important, because the whole idea what Cuomo got caught for was changing the numbers and fudging the numbers. But when you look at a lot of different states, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, I forget there are some other states but they were doing the same thing where they were forcing people into nursing homes. And Tom Ridge and Pennsylvania, his health and human

services secretary is now the assistant Health and Human circuit service health and human services secretary for the US government now. So she was promoted, despite the fact that was a pretty poor job in Pennsylvania with the nursing homes. And there was also a whole big scandal with she had taken her mom out of a nursing home, but send other people in and it wasn't really investigated. That's a part a problem I have, from what I've looked at, it doesn't seem like it was as bad as it sounded. But you never really saw real investigation into this. And I think, clearly, I'm not saying at all, let me be very clear, I'm not saying these women came out because of trying to cover up the nursing home scandal. But I am saying that I think that a lot of news organizations, politicians, this is a great way to number one, be able to, to, you know, help these women be heard. And at the same time, cover up the fact that it wasn't just Cuomo doing this. There were other governors that, in reality, and this is they were mostly Democrat governors that did that. And so it's like a good thing for the party, that there's something else to kind of cover up the scandal. And again, that doesn't mean it didn't happen. But I think this is something you and I talked about, I'd like to hear you talk a little more about is, you know, what is? I want to hear more about why how difficult it is to come out and talk about these things. And it what is the standard before you say all right for you? What is the standard to say, Hey, I've heard enough. I'm done because it sounds like you may already be there with Cuomo, but I'm not sure.

Gretchen Hurd 22:39

You mean with like, with the

Ray Abel 22:40

allegations with sexual allegations? Yes. i To me, I mean, would would you agree that something bad happened with the nursing home? Yes. Yeah. I mean, that's yeah, that's pretty

Gretchen Hurd 22:51

it's kind of hard to deny that at this point. I mean, you know, I mean, they're going to litigate of course and they should and figure out exactly what happened and why and all that but

Ray Abel 23:00

right so what would you what would you say is a good outcome there you talking about impeachment resign resigning waiting, what would be I think

Gretchen Hurd 23:07

it's gonna end up being probably just waiting because I think there's been a precedent kind of set in the last few years that it's like bad bad stuff can happen if you have enough support from your base it's you're not going to get pushed out. And it basically comes down to him that he would have to resign unless they do impeach him. I mean, that could be a real a real outcome. I mean, I don't

Ray Abel 23:28

think he's gonna resign I don't know and the guy gonna resign the sexual allegation so from what I understand and what the what I've seen so far, there's not a lot of physical evidence and when I say physical I mean like emails text messages, but there was a text message that to me was if you if you if you take an extrapolated with all of what the women are saying versus what was said in the email. Basically, his his assistant Stephanie bent, and it was Cuomo secretary, sent an email to one of the

accusers and said, You, the governor wants you to know, you could be sisters talking about looking up one of his ex girlfriends online. So look up my ex girlfriend, you could be sisters, except you're the better looking sister. And in my head that set up some alarm bells. Because not only it wasn't Cuomo saying that via text, he actually told us a system to say that and nowhere in that chain, what did she say? Governor? Maybe this isn't a good idea. And appropriate. Yeah, right. I feel like if you and I were like, had a guest on the show and was like, hey, you know, Gretchen, can you email this woman and tell her she she's like, looks just like my ex. I feel like it'd be like, Ray, you're being creepy. Please don't do that. Yeah, I mean, I think I know better, I think, you know, but it's it's weird to me that like that seems like something that a lot of people would dismiss but to me it's something bigger because like, clearly there's some kind of issue that that is acceptable to his assistant, and it's something that's normal,

Gretchen Hurd 24:53

and that he just wield so much power that she wants to keep her job either way.

Ray Abel 24:56

It's not good for him. It's not a good look. So yeah, that's Other than that, it's mostly again, it's like allegations. And that doesn't mean they're not true. I'm just saying that right now, it hasn't been proven yet that that's happened. So based on what you've seen, what is the line where you say, I think with with you having some experience in this area? Are you still under the mindset of we should wait and hear everything else? Should there be a trial? Are you kind of like, Alright, I'm done with him. These women are meant to be believed. And yeah, we believe them and we kick them out.

Gretchen Hurd 25:26

Right? It's interesting, because I put this out to Facebook, social media, just to see what people would say, cuz I wasn't quite sure. I mean, I had like, my initial reaction, but then my, that little voice in the back of my head, obviously is going yeah, they have to go through everything. They can't just say he did it. The hard part is, is when once it's we were talking about this once it said, it's hard to go back. Right. So when someone is accused of sexual assault, or just misconduct, saying something weird to somebody, you can't unhear that. And voters can't unhear that. So I think going through the full process, obviously, what should happen? Will it happen? I don't know. I don't know. If more more women will come forward. That's always something that if it starts piling on, then you know, you're looking at the things that people are accusing him of some of them are like creepy old man stuff. Yeah. But like, I think we all know what that is, you know, I'm not excusing that. It's just that happens a lot to girls, so we are not used to it, but we see it a lot.

Ray Abel 26:41

So I'm gonna I'm gonna, I'm gonna I'm gonna press here, though, if we if we ever have politicians in the show, I'm gonna say no politician answers. So I'm saying right now, based on the evidence that you've seen? No, I don't think he should be removed, or do you think it should be? We should wait,

Gretchen Hurd 26:55

no, no, we need to wait. We need to wait. We need to hear everything. Because I I know, they're the hard part. And we were talking about this the other day. The hard part is you have your bias, you have

the person that you you like, and you don't want to believe that they could ever do something like that. But at the same time, being a girl, I know that that stuff happens, I know that even the most normal of guys can do it. Hello. But it's like, you know, we want to believe we want to and we should listen, we should listen, but blindly believing without. And this is the hard part. Because you and I talked about this. It is sometimes so difficult to prove. And that's why this is such a hard thing to talk about. Because you know me, I can't prove it. I can't prove it. It's my word against this, like, there. There was another person, but they would not fall on my side. Yeah. So that had to do with why I didn't come forward to so you know, whenever women come forward, and they don't have any evidence, it becomes really, really difficult. And then it does become a he said she said, And the hard part about this is you start looking at this is going to ruin this person's life. How much? And how awful. Do I feel for that woman that she's gone through such trauma. But if in the very small chance that she could be lying, this could ruin his life? In the process, she's possibly ruining hers juice or who knows she may get a book deal out of it. I don't know. But you know, you're looking at all of these different play things in there. It's hitting you from all these different directions. And it is such a difficult thing to navigate, I think for even just the average person. And that's why a lot of us are just like, nope, cut and dry out, you know, and that's how a lot of my friends were on social media. They're like he needs to get out like this isn't even even the shred of him possibly doing this. He needs to go. And I understand that. I do.

Ray Abel 29:02

I think we talked about this a little bit offline. And I think this is the part that gets tricky. As a guy. Now again, I will never understand what it's like to be a woman in that situation. Because I and in general, I don't. I don't think I ever have to worry about someone sexually assaulting me at this point in my life. But I've been through some of that before in my life, and it does stick with you. And there is like a I understand I understand general conceptions of it. One of the things I have an issue though, you know, I this is not an we're not going to talk about, you know, the guilt or innocence of different people. But when we look at something like Brett Kavanaugh, I forget what you believe personally, just in that situation. One of two things happens there. One of those two people are lying. So either it's Brett Kavanaugh or it's Christine Blasi Ford one of those two people are lying either it happened or it didn't. And whatever you believe personally, if you look at just the outcomes of that accurate It's it's typically worse for the man with the accusations if they're not true, but it's worse for the woman of the actual act. So the act is worse like lying versus sexually assaulting someone. If I had to pick which one's worse 100% It's a sexual assault. But when you look at the aftermath of it, and when you because you said, Well, you know, she may ruin her life or she may get a book deal. And you look at something like Christine Blasi Ford. And this is not a Kavanaugh's innocent, or Blasi Ford is lying, or it's not picking aside but there are things that came out, she came out and accused him very specifically. And there was one person that backed her up, it was a friend of hers. And this this article, there's an article about this on the research news.org page. But her name was Leland Kaiser. And she actually said basically, at first she said she believed Blasi Ford because and kind of backdrop but then she said she no longer did. And she realized there are a lot of inconsistencies with the story. Even now she thought back like why would that have actually happened? So at first as a friend, she was like I'm I'm there for you. I'm going to support you clearly it happened. And then she kind of said no, that actually none of this really adds up. And then if you look at what happened with Blasi Ford, you know, she I will say that she we talked about how she raised a lot of money through a GoFundMe offline. I think it was near a million dollars and I'm not sure exactly what happened. But she did say she was going to give some of that

money to trauma victims which was which was good, I think sharing that but I'm not sure what the or the amount was. But she became you know, Distinguished Alumni Award at the University of North Carolina for speaking truth to power. She was Time magazine included her and it's like person the year list. The shortlist like to the finalists, she had that GoFundMe game. And really it's one of those things where she had if that was real Kavanaugh should be in jail. But like, if that was fake, that's a pretty strong accusation. And that's where I struggle with because I just as a guy, this is not a, you know, a very, it's not like oh, poor me as a as a man, I have to go through this. But it's come to a point where even me personally, and I would like to hear your thoughts on this. Like I have had interactions with women at work now where it's like, I have to take this whole other level where there's, it's not like bad jokes, or there's not things that I would say that are inappropriate, but I'm just so afraid of saying anything that may be taken the wrong way that it makes situations very uncomfortable. And that is I think there's a level there's always a balance. And where's that line? Because you know, like you said, Well, he's a kind of a creepy old man. We shouldn't accept the creepy old man lines and like, there's things that we should just be like, I look that's bad. And then there's some things where I hear them and I just go, that doesn't actually sound that bad. Like with Cuomo, there were some things that were clearly disgusting. The one part where he potentially groped a woman, you know, way out of bounds. But there was one where he said, like, you know, that's a nice dress. And I talked about this, like, yeah, if I if I hear I've heard women like objectify me, and I love it. I love being objectified by a woman. And that's the thing where, you know, as a woman differences between a guy and a girl. Yeah, yeah. And I think that's the thing when I hear your story, I can't understand what you go through. And I think that's a thing that has to be heard as well. Not in a poor poor man kind of way. But like, yeah, there is a situation where it's like, we we need to be taught instead of yelled at. I think as men, we have to hear like, oh, what you're what you're saying. Probably isn't right. And I've had friends of mine have told me, you know, like, hey, maybe say it this way. Or maybe, you know, don't say girl, if the woman's like in her 50s A woman and I, I tend to just generalize guy, girl that typically is my slang, but I've tried to be more careful about it, it's more respectful. But we have to be taught this and if you don't get taught that by being screamed at or being you know, being accused after the fact where at the time, you may not have been corrected. So I think that has to be a factor in the equation. But where is that line? For you? And do you feel bad for men at all? Do you feel bad for us guys that like to be objectified and, and try very hard not to be I didn't think I didn't think

Gretchen Hurd 34:04

I you know, here's the thing. I know, guys that are they came they get uncomfortable with women, you know? I'm sure they're very few. But I know a lot of women who really like attention, they like it. And it's it's an interesting thing. I mean, okay, so I'm going to share a little story. So yesterday, this happened yesterday, which is hysterical that happened. Yesterday. I went to one of our wonderful thrift shops in Pittsburgh, shout outs over the red, white and blue. Um, but I was standing there and people usually talk to me because of my hair. Everybody. You know, it's usually the very first thing people and usually it's people telling me they like it.

Ray Abel 34:44

For the people listening on the podcast. It shaved with like, when does that why would you have lightning bolts on the side?

Gretchen Hurd 34:49

There's just two lines there right now. It looks like a lightning bolt. I've had everything anywhere. So yeah, anyway, sorry. Yes. First he said you Your hair is sick. And I was like, thanks. And I, I'm always super, I'm a happy person. So I was very, very happy. I'm like, Thanks, man. That's really nice of you to say, and he left. And then I saw him turn around and come back. And he said, I don't want to make you uncomfortable. But even with a mask on, you're totally hot. And I was like, hey, thanks. And I was like, okay, and the funny thing was, I was wearing like an oversized sweater coat. Okay, with a T shirt and jeans and my Puma sneakers. Yeah. And I'm like, Okay, I'm not trying to look cute right now. I specifically didn't look cute. I didn't have makeup on. I didn't, you know, I just went to the thrift store. And this and I kind of all I took it as a compliment. Like, it was like, I'm not trying to look cute, thank you. But then in the back of my head, I'm going, that was probably really inappropriate. But at the same time, it was like, Okay, thanks. That was nice of you. Okay, thanks. And that there are moments and I think it has to do with honestly, I mean, even with the mask on, like, they're in their eyes. That sounds so weird, but it's like you can see in their eyes. Whether there's something nefarious going, because sometimes guys, it's like I was telling Ray, the other day, we were talking about this, we used to go my girlfriend's and I used to go to we affectionately called it the meat market. It was a club in downtown Pittsburgh. And you would just be surrounded by guys. And we actually had things where we would like save each other. When the situation would get like about they were about to start touching us. And we were like, Let's go, you know, and we'd like grab each other. You could see it in their eyes that was not coming over to be like, Oh, hey, you look really nice. Do you want to dance? No, no, no, this was about to be like, we're going to touch you. It's very inappropriate. You know what I mean? So you can see it in their faces. So this is the thing, it's like, when you're, when you're a female, and you're going out and you you have these interactions with guys, you start to become leery of men in general. And even when, and like you said, like you're thinking about these things that you're saying, which is great. Because a lot of guys don't they don't have that filter. They just say it. And I think quite honestly, I think it comes from just when we were kids like oh, the the boys will be boys mentality. Always just a boy. It's just what boys do in the locker room mentality to like we've heard it's just locker room talk. It's like, alright, locker room talk, are you gonna say that to my face, you know. But I think it really does come down to their approach. But even sometimes that's not gonna.

Ray Abel 37:53

So I would say this is interesting. So I feel like there's a couple things here you're talking about, like the locker room talk. I think that's one of the things I want to talk about. And also, I'm not going to go through the whole story. But one of my favorite interactions during COVID Was I was at Lowe's. And there was this woman who came in, who was a very tall woman, and she walked past me as I was waiting in the line for a return. And I turned to look at her and she turned Look at me. So we were both like, oh, we passed each other. And we turned back to look and I was like, oh, and then I realized that my mask on. So I like tried to smile at her. But then it was like, she can't see any smiles. And I just looked creepy because I'm like, I'm gonna just keep staring and you can't tell. And so I was like, whatever. And so I just went back to my return. And I go back to the vacuum cleaners because I'm an adult now. And I was looking to buy one. And I hear this woman come over and she's like, so you're looking for a vacuum. I turned. It's her. It's the girl that had passed me. And so we ended up talking, we exchanged numbers, and I called a friend of mine. I was like, I have this this should be a TV show, like a reality show of like, I don't know what this girl looks like. But this is like an exciting moment. Yeah, it's

so I mean, any guy it doesn't, it doesn't matter. What What if a girl looks at you, I mean, I don't wanna say any guy. That's gross generalization. But most guys I have never gone like oh, I can't believe my body. Like it's every time it's like, yeah, got it, Ray, whatever. And I think that's something where it's, it's clearly a difference. And I yeah, I feel like that's something that we have to I I think in general women tend to get more attention and clearly get way more attention than guys do. And deservedly so because most of us are just hairy and gross. And you know, we don't really keep take care of ourselves. But I think that's a totally different reaction. Even when you talk about the locker talk though. I think that's something so I see the difference in how men and women react. But I hear the locker talk conversation a lot and it's like, well guys, boys will be boys guys talk. I've heard you girls talk when you don't think guys are around or your comfort around a guy. And I'm just gonna say there's times where like, I've tried very hard in my life not to be a locker room talk kind of guy. It's just not my thing, but And I'm not I'm not someone who's like, I'm not, uh, you know, nervous to hear things or embarrassed but you guys make me blush sometimes with how you talk, like, and so I think it's a Do you think there's a double standard there? Because I think I think there's clearly a difference and reactions and how men treat women versus how women treat men. I think we treat women Yeah, worse, just Yeah, generalizing in general. But when we're talking, I feel like in private, are you? Are you girls really better than guys?

Gretchen Hurd 40:29

Well, okay, so it's, it's public versus private, right? In public versus private. So it's like, yeah, when I am super comfortable with people in generalized, I tend to share more, I tend to get a little bit of a potty mouth. And, you know, I, you get more comfortable around people. So and we even said, like, the first I said, like, I apologize about that. We, we were talking about virtue projecting and virtue signaling. So it kind of is that when you get into private, right, you're these guys and you're trying to be one of the guys. So then you start talking these, you know, these really, you might be a little bit more crass, you might be a little bit more open. Yeah. Or, you know, using worthy would not ever use around

Ray Abel 41:19

seriously using one of the guys. And this is where I'm gonna like for me in general. I know my friends now. I mean, when we were younger, I can't I'm not gonna comment on when we were younger, because we were, you know, I think anyone under the age of 24 should be excluded from like, any of this canceled talk, because your brains aren't fully functioning, and I look back at me at 22. And I'm just like, you're an idiot, right? But even even then, I feel like and now like, when I talk to my friends, like if anyone brings up locker talk, I mean, usually we if it's someone new to the group, we're kind of like, Oh, we don't want this guy around. So like, we kind of exclude that. But like I said, I think I think women so don't, don't bring that don't blame the guys in this one. I I agree with you on the public displays, but I'm going to push back on those private displays because

Gretchen Hurd 42:02

honestly, I've I you have told me these these these conversations that you've heard women have, and I have never had a conversation like that there are words that will never ever ever leave my mouth. Like the you know, like some people hate the word moist.

Ray Abel 42:18

Oh, that's just and that should be that word.

Gretchen Hurd 42:22

There you go. So um, yeah, there are words that our locker room talk that I would never in my life, say and when girls say it, it creeps me out. So it's like, and I don't think actually hitting my female friends. Well, maybe one.

Ray Abel 42:39

Well, look at us. We are so we are signaling our virtue right now. We're like, our friends are so great that we don't have to worry about

Gretchen Hurd 42:46

shout out to the Morgantown crew. Hey, go.

Ray Abel 42:50

We are we are just such good people that we don't have to worry about this. But so one thing I do want to talk about what the Cuomo stuff I am getting back to getting back to that something that bothers me and it doesn't matter who's doing it is and I even hate this term. But I feel like it's easy way to explain it as the What about ism. What I hope we start doing as a country and as a society as just looking at things in the moment. And I let me be clear. I'm not perfect. I do that I do this as well. But I'm trying very hard to get away from it. I think if there's one thing I would like to get across today in this podcast is that Cuomo should be held to Cuomo standards for what Cuomo did not what any other person has done in a similar situation. If he and if whether it's a, you know, a typically it's if it's a Democrat, then you're hear people saying, well, on the Republican side, we'll see. Take him down or if it's and if it's a Democrat, they're saying no, no, let's look into it. And if it was flipped, you know, if this was a Republican governor, that'd be like, the Democrats would say, take him down, and Republicans big no, no, we have to have due process. Just be consistent. There was actually a great quote I saw this week there was a woman Alexei McCammon, who just got to be the Teen Vogue Editor and college, she apparently made some anti Asian jokes. And there was someone on Twitter that was saying, you know, basically, the person was conservative and was going after and like, it said something along the lines of, you know, normally I would say cancel culture is bad, but she tried to cancel Charles Barkley. So she gets what she deserves. And I heard someone respond to him in this quote, I'm taking this from some random Twitter there was like Bill's mafia for something. It was a random Twitter account. But he said the sympathy may be lower, but the defense should be no less vigorous, the principle is all that matters. And there was so much deep thought from Bill's mafia for whatever whatever the guy's name was. The sympathy may be lower, but the defense should be no less vigorous, the principles all that matters. And I think when you talk about they were talking specifically about how they were defending against just not giving someone due process, but I think that flips for giving someone the same level of anger that you would if it was your party or against your car. And that's something interesting I've seen with, you know, kind of with with Cuomo is I've seen people who are liberal but not like far left saying things like, well, we got to wait for this to play out. And I see a lot of my friends who are progressive far left, you know, they are saying no, like y'all are terrible because he clearly did this and he should be taken out of office now. Again, I don't agree with that. I'm someone who I wait for due process. It looks bad. But you know, let's really

Gretchen Hurd 45:26

interesting. Yeah. When I yeah, when I put this on Facebook, it was kind of interesting, because the people that I thought would be like, No, he should wait, you know, we should wait. They were like, get out. Yeah. Oh, my gosh, whoa, I mean, I totally understand. Yeah, it's it was very interesting. We've been putting a lot of polls on our personal pages. And it's been very, very interesting to see how our circle of friends are reacting to things.

Ray Abel 45:52

Yeah. Well, I think I think you actually posted an article that's on, on the on the wiki page about holding government accountable. And I think you may have had some things you want to talk about with, but two things pop up out of that article that I think apply to what you're saying there. Number one, the talks about the founding of our government, the key to the Republic. So we are not a democracy, Republic, democracy, Democratic Republic. And it's all about making sure that as Madison, Washington, Hamilton all wrote, it's the accountability of the government, it needs to be governed, meaning like, we can't just give control of government, let them do whatever they want. And they warned against the practice of endorsing or dismissing an idea merely because it's characterized as liberal or conservative. And, in general, that's one of the things I don't know if I ever told you this. But when I was at Mount Rushmore, in September, I went there on a trip for the national parks. I get so mad when I saw that on the national and the Mount Rushmore plate for George Washington, they listed him as a Federalist as his political party. He did not have a political party, he actually said, I don't want I'm not part of a political party, political parties will be the death of this country. And I mean, how prescient was that, you know, 200, and some years ago that he said that that would be the death of the country. I'm not saying we're in a death spiral. But I'm saying that over time, we've seen that political parties have been so disruptive and so destructive to our democracy. And the article actually said it, endorsing or dismissing an idea because it's characterized as liberal or conservative as a lazy citizens way of avoiding the hard work of citizenship, which requires analysis of the relative merits of an idea proposal. Basically, all I'm saying is, I liked the article you posted, I think that goes along with this where we have to take a look at the situation and decide if he is guilty or not, and then take them out of office. But I'm going to say that no matter how bad the charge is, how how guilty they look, we still deserve due process, I think. But for you, how? How much do apologies hold wait. So if if Andrew Cuomo would have came out, instead of just defending it and blaming God and taking credit from God, when worthwhile, if he would have just came out and said, You know, I screwed up and talking specific about the nursing nursing, I'm done, I screwed up. This was an issue. What do you think would have happened? Or how would you have taken it?

Gretchen Hurd 48:19

Yeah, whenever I was looking up these like, how do we how do we hold public officials responsible? It was it was it I knew in the back of my, you know, head, like, how right voting and all these kinds of things. But I didn't think about just our regular bias and how we look at our candidates, or people from our own political parties, and how much weight things like them apologizing for things. How much weight that can really hold. So if if he if he was like, I was so wrong, this is horrible. I realized that I did this and this was bad. I think quite honestly, a lot of Democrats would be like, wha slow down. Now everybody just you know what I mean? Like everybody would be like, slow down. But since you know, the the I didn't do it, and it's their fault, their fault and their fault. That kind of stuff makes people just go

Shoo, shoo, just get out. So, you know, one of these articles, I think it was in the Atlantic they interviewed I can't remember his name. They interviewed a guy and they were just talking about the tricky psychology to holding government accountability accountable because we're, we have all these things going on in the back of our heads constantly that we're not paying attention to. So you know, you're you're in government is trying to they're almost making decisions based on what they think they can get away with. Yeah, so and that's not usually a coherent thought that they're having. Hopefully, some of them it's just like, it's an automatic like, okay, my constituents want this So this is my response. And you know, or this is the decision I'm going to make. When you get to like someone like Cuomo or someone that wields a lot of power, they start feeling like they can act however they want, because they're not going to cave in to what they're, you know, what their constituents are asking for. Which I find that's the moment where I think a lot of people start turning on candidates, because they're, they're realizing that they're in it for their own preservation and not for the people who elected them.

Ray Abel 50:35

So I agree with most of that. And I would say, though, that I do think people would have still came after him, because they, if you're a politician, and you smell blood in the water, oh, sure, wouldn't have stopped if they wouldn't have stopped. But what I didn't what people would have stopped are people like me, yeah. That would have solved two things. If he would have just apologized and said, Hey, this was a this was a problem. I made a mistake. Number one, like you said, he took accountability for it. Because if he's not taking accountability, and saying, it's it's God's fault, it's whoever else's fault. It's, at one point in one of his press conference, he said, look, look, we're, I'm not gonna blame anybody here. If you want to blame someone, blame the federal government. I was like, Wait, okay. Again, that was terrible impersonation. But it was like what you just said, we're not going to blame anyone. And then you blame the federal government, you blame somebody, but it's not taking accountability shows that you're not going to learn from the issues, and you're not going to change. And the second part is that also would have solved the problem I have with him with his arrogance. Like he really is an arrogant person. This is a very random reference. But if any of the listeners have seen the commercial for Quicken with that guy who has like the weird smile, and he's talking about how he was wife thinks he's a catch. He's one of the most smug and arrogant or if you're an office, fan, smudge, and arrogant people I've ever seen, and he reminds me of Cuomo, and personality. And so I feel like that would have solved part of the arrogance issue to where it's like, oh, wait, this guy can actually like, take take responsibility and say he's going to change it. Because at the core of it, I think that's the important part. The issue to me isn't that he made a mistake, because we were all dealing with something that we did not know how to deal with. There were things happening. But I two parts are frustrating for me. Number one, it became very political. In the sense of, you know, you had the the Mercy ship there from the federal government, you had the Javits Center, they went almost unused. The press didn't cover that there was nothing in the press about how that was being wasted. He was on CNN laughing, joking, he won all these awards, he wrote a book about how to properly manage a crisis in the middle of the crisis. It was just he got held as this hero and it. And even when you're knocked off your pedestal, you still can't say, Okay, I made this one mistake like people. Yeah, if he would have just said that he would have been okay in the public side. But I think there's still an issue there. The bigger issue for me is the fact that because he was politically expedient, the people who were wanting to get the president out of office, were very clear about here's an example. And they were talking about him as the attorney general. And there was nothing he could do that was wrong. But these issues showed up a long time

ago. And then right after the election, they all came out. And that's a problem. And if you flip it, and if this was something with with a Republican governor, and the same thing happened, and they waited until after the election to release these things, I'd be just as frustrated. I feel like the the role of the news and this is why we call it research, the news is to bring any any any reporter any journalist any investigator should be investigating. If you're on Fox News, you should be investigating Republicans just as much as you're investigating Democrats. And if something doesn't make sense, you should be asking hard questions. And if you're on CNN, you shouldn't be doing an interview with your brother, in the middle of a pandemic, you should be doing it with someone who's going to challenge you in the hard things. Why Janice Dean was saying, hey, my parents were killed because of this policy. Why is no one investigating? This was months and months ago that this was coming out and everyone brushed her aside, including Cuomo with that very dismissive talk of, we'll just go be a WEATHER GIRL. Like, that's, that's frustrating. So I agree with you. I don't think at this point, though. Now they want him out of office. So I don't think that the politicians would stop coming after him. But I do think people will be a lot more lenient and say, yeah, he apologized. And yeah,

Gretchen Hurd 54:17

yeah, yeah, that's what I kind of assumed it would be more people, not politicians. Because yeah, like you said, like, there's blood in the water. Like, that's exactly, yeah. Unfortunately,

Ray Abel 54:27

as someone who is considered running for office and still wants to, that's my, my, I feel like I don't know how anyone good does it like, I feel like if I run for office, I'm probably not a good person. I feel like that that quote is gonna be used against me. For future campaigns a

Gretchen Hurd 54:42

real thing though, like you really do have to have a pretty major ego to run for public office, right?

Ray Abel 54:48

Yeah, actually, that's the second time you've said something which seemed like you were like subtweeting me or to use a different term, but

Gretchen Hurd 54:55

you gave me crap. First, the first episode of you it's coming back.

Ray Abel 55:00

You want me to tell people that you were in Portland doing some more Antifa burning last night? Like you were? She loves people? She has. She even has the shirt with the Antifa flag. No, I don't know. I just again, we got to be better at saying things or sarcasm because you sound like you're

Gretchen Hurd 55:15

incredibly sarcastic people.

Ray Abel 55:18

I really believe you have an anti fur shirt though. Now. That's yeah,

Gretchen Hurd 55:21

I don't It's all I have is Puma. I'm wearing one right now. It's like, oh my god.

Ray Abel 55:25

Alright, so now that we I think we've we've solved the issue, I think I mean, basically

Gretchen Hurd 55:34

the world Ray if we ran the world, how different would it be?

Ray Abel 55:38

I don't I don't think it actually would be a good idea. I don't know. I feel like more so me than you. Man, I would I would

Gretchen Hurd 55:46

handle all the like big policy things I can like make it make sure people don't drive on the left side of the road

Ray Abel 55:51

or Oh, my goodness. Wait, are you talking about like driving in the fast lane? Or the driving slow that crap? Yeah, you're stealing my okay. We're

Gretchen Hurd 55:58

gonna I mean, that was one of mine, too. Okay, nevermind. All right,

Ray Abel 56:01

maybe maybe we should team up because I feel like any politician who would say that if you drive. I have a whole theory that okay, let's wait, because we're gonna start here shortly, the the polls from the Facebook page about what should be canceled. But before we do, is there anything else you want to say? I mean, is there anything? Okay, we always want to wrap up with what you may have learned from the conversation about this specific instance? And is there anything else you want to say about about Cuomo before we wrap up?

Gretchen Hurd 56:26

Um, I think one of the things that Well, I know that one of the things that I continually learn about myself, is that my personal, the things that I go in my personal life really do take precedent when I'm making decisions about who to trust in my personal life, but also with candidates. But I understand that my bias comes in a lot, it comes in a lot. And I think whenever we were, we were having a conversation the other day, and I, I got quite upset with Ray, I'm not to the point of hating him, I assured him that, but um, and really, it was more I was starting to get frustrated with myself. And I think that is a big hurdle. For the normal person. I consider myself like a normal person, a normal news. Somebody that does not watching news 24/7, that just takes in what they're seeing and what they're hearing and what they're reading on a smaller level. But I think having that moment of realization, it started to make me slow down and keep my emotions in check. And realizing that, and I think this is the big thing to like

everybody who nobody likes to be told they're wrong. Nobody likes to, you know, like, You're being unreasonable. And that that was a moment when Ray said, I think you're being unreasonable. And I was like, Do you really think I'm being unreasonable? Really, I don't feel like I'm being unreasonable. And that moment, it's like, when that happens, you, you turn back on yourself, and then you start to get mad at yourself. But at the same time, it was a learning moment for me. And so I hope that that had a bigger impact than just this week, I hope that it continues my growth as a human in this crazy world that we have.

Ray Abel 58:24

Well, I mean, I like I think that's something where, you know, I, this is, I think, typically a lot of times I come at things from and we've talked about this as well, I come at it from to have a logical of a perspective, I think, logically, this makes sense. So why why are you worried about I mean, if you do this, this is going to happen. And if it doesn't work, let's move on. I just I'm a very, I'm a very analytical thinker. But I've realized from you today, like and I appreciate the fact that you took that to heart. And I think for me, it's, you know, I'll often say things like, well give me the data, like, look up an article. Where did you get that news from? Because I am too much of a consumer of news. I enjoy trying to find out what the truth is, between all of the headlines and between the different news sources what they're saying. So that logical side I'm pretty good at but the emotional side, I often kind of gloss over and something that you said today that's really going to stick with me. I mean, already, I told you before, like the thought of not not knowing what it's like to walk down the street and being afraid of any kind of assault, sexual assault is something I won't be able to experience and I need to get better at just thinking about what it's like to be in and in your head. But at the beginning, you talked about specifically, how when women were those women coming out once one woman comes out, then it makes it more comfortable because women are coming out because to me that's something I've looked at it hasn't made a lot of logical sense where I see Well, why are there six women now why didn't they say something before it and that doesn't mean I don't believe them. It just means like, why this doesn't make logical sense in my head. And that was the first time someone's explained it to me and While you see someone else doing it, and then that person power seems more vulnerable. And that was actually a big thing for me to hear this week. So I thank you for that. Because, like I told Gretchen, even in our conversation about, you know, being reasonable, I said, you know, make sure you call me out on times when I'm not being reasonable. Or when I'm not seeing the, the, the emotional side of things. And I think that is a, to me a powerful moment of, I think, as men. You know, we have to, we have to think about it not from being the way we've been raised, and boys will be boys and all this different, all these different things. We feel generally safe and dark alleys, we feel generally safe. And we can kind of understand that because it's like, oh, well, we're the, you know, typically we're a little bigger, we've, you know, we don't have to worry about those things, but the emotional side of it, that protection from having someone in power, doing these things. That's something I think we need to be better at as men. So thank you for that. And that's something that actually will definitely stick with me and make me hopefully a better person too. So look at that we're helping each other man. And I think that actually leads right in to something. You know, of course, Tupac before. I think he's one of the greatest philosophers, if not the greatest of the 20th century, but the person I think that rivals him is Mr. Fred Rogers. My fave, I love Fred Rogers.

Gretchen Hurd 1:01:21

And one of the basic cry, like anytime, any and every time I cry, I just cry.

Ray Abel 1:01:26

I don't want to say this, but I can Okay, so there's, there's very few movies that get me choked up. And I watched the documentary of him, not the Tom Hanks movie, but the documentary. And I, I couldn't help it. I was on a date with my girlfriend at the time. And I just I had a lot and she was fine. She was like consoling me. And I'm like trying so hard not to bring like bring the tears out. And I will say quick side note, I walked outside. And there's a great scene in the movie where Mr. Rogers brings up this this kid in a wheelchair that he had to show and 20 years later, he sees this kid at a, they surprised him at any award show. He ran up on stage knew his name, it looks so happy. And I walk outside after the movie. I'm like, already emotional. It was down in a place called the waterfront in Pittsburgh. There's all kinds of shops and I see a kid who was about 18 years old, who we had helped with Zoho my my product that I worked on full time that helps people disabilities. And I went over to talk to him and he uses an eye typer. So uses eyes to type with because he can't speak. And we caught up I asked my he's doing and then the end, he was like, Would you mind giving me a platonic kiss on the cheek. And I was like, Come on, man. Like, after all this, I came out, I was trying to like I let I let the girls dating go into the store. So I could like calm down. And then there's this kid that we helped out who's like, you know, just so friendly. And it was I mean, I was I was a mess after her. I may cut this from the podcast or so people don't know that I have a hard heart. But with that being said, one of the things we talked about was what is the alternative to cancel culture that stills while still allows us to fix the problems. And I found a great quote from Mr. Rogers that I think is important. Now, to be clear, this was Mr. Rogers quoting a guy named Dr. William or but it was written in his book. There's a link to the video of him talking about it on the research studies.org page, but he says, there's one thing that evil cannot stand and that is forgiveness. And I think that's a powerful thing. Because I mean, in general, I don't think there's a lot of forgiveness for Cuomo when it comes to the sexual assault part of it. But I think if you take that out that take that out of the equation, and you look at the nursing home deaths, if he was really trying to do the best thing he could do at the time, and that happened, and he took responsibility for it. Yeah. And even if he does now, even if he comes out now and says, You know what? Yeah, he should have done it a long time ago. Yeah. But there's still a level where we have to say, alright, as a society, we're gonna forgive you, we're gonna move on. And there's one thing that evil cannot stand and that's forgiveness. And for me, the alternative to cancel culture is saying, hey, you know what, you made a mistake, whether that's governor, whether that's someone who posts something inappropriate. Let's talk through, let's see what you could do better next time. Here's how you can grow as a person. And if that person doesn't accept responsibility, you can't forgive them. Because yeah, they're not. They're not asking for it. But I think that's that, to me is something so a way we can solve it. So anything to add to that? Or do you want to wrap up with our

Gretchen Hurd 1:04:19

Mr. Rogers is amazing. Perfect. All right.

Ray Abel 1:04:24

All right. So we are you ready to do now what we're gonna do here? So we went ahead, we went on Facebook, and we threw out some things, I'm actually going to start out with two that I have come up with, personally, that I really think things that should be canceled. We posted this on Facebook as non

political things that deserve to be canceled. So with that being said, I am going to throw out some things here and then you're going to throw out some things and we're going to just decide if you agree or disagree that these things should be canceled out of real life. This is my first one. This was not taken from a Facebook page. words when you visit someone's house for the first time.

Gretchen Hurd 1:05:04

Oh, I kind of love that. Love.

Ray Abel 1:05:07

Oh my goodness. Like,

Gretchen Hurd 1:05:08

listen, my friend Steph and my friend Steph and Dave just bought this unreal house on the slopes in Pittsburgh, and it is the sickest house I've ever seen. And I was like, this is like cribs. I need a tour right now. Like, I was like, just it was a birthday party. And I was like, now I want it now.

Ray Abel 1:05:25

I mean, if they have like an outdoor deck with a great view, but in general, five decks. I have a one bedroom condo and people come over and how about the tour? And I'm like, there's a room. There's a kitchen. There's a bathroom over there. Like what else do you want to see? Like there's not much there? But yeah, well, so you like these tours? I don't

Gretchen Hurd 1:05:45

love the will and Okay, I am like, I am home improvement. Crazy right now, because I purchased a home I took out all of the carpets and refinish the floors. And all of my friends have been like following this journey on Instagram. And so when people have come, they're like, I want to see it all and I'm like, let's go and so we like traipse all through the house. So yeah, I'm like, I'm totally into it.

Ray Abel 1:06:09

Yeah, well, well,

Gretchen Hurd 1:06:12

if you if you have a tiny place, I can understand why you want to do

Ray Abel 1:06:16

Yeah, number two, and I think I think I think this one's easy to agree on because he brought this up already driving slow in the passing lane.

Gretchen Hurd 1:06:22

Come on people. It's, it's against the law. Right? If I don't know why in the world, people would still do it.

Ray Abel 1:06:31

It's It's terrible. I actually have said that if I run for governor someday my I'm gonna run strictly on the fact that if there's no more speeding tickets, only reckless driving tickets, and that could be that you're

driving too fast and leaving, or you're driving too slow in the fast lane. That's it because you could be going 85 and being safe or you can be going 55 in a passing lane and extremely dangerous because if you don't see someone coming up Oh, man. Alright, so yeah, blowing in this one. These ones coming from the Facebook page. blowing out candles on a birthday cake. I

Gretchen Hurd 1:07:01

agreed with this one. Yeah, that's gross. It's gross anymore. Gross, right? Yeah, I

Ray Abel 1:07:05

never noticed and I'm a germaphobe. But I never noticed how gross it was. Yeah,

Gretchen Hurd 1:07:08

it really is disgusting. To for three.

Ray Abel 1:07:11

I forget. Are you a hockey fan? I yeah, I'm gonna call it by name. The person who posted this name is Dan Snyder. Tom Wilson. Do you know who Tom was? No, I

Gretchen Hurd 1:07:21

don't know who Tom will

Ray Abel 1:07:22

see is the goon the biggest goon in hockey. He plays the Washington Capitals, and the man just tries to end careers. I'm just gonna say that you agree with that? If you ever saw his hits, because you're a Thai person? Yeah, you would hate him. So we're gonna agree on that one, because it's

Gretchen Hurd 1:07:35

so bad. Sometimes hockey players can get a little crazy.

Ray Abel 1:07:38

Yeah, well, this guy is way beyond the bar. Alright, and my last one before we go into the frustrated guy section. I'm gonna let you go next when you come back the frustrated guys. But school fundraisers and it's specifically called out school fundraisers where you have to pay twice as much for something that you don't need that then only portion a small portion of the money goes to the kids. Yeah. How do you feel about school fundraisers?

Gretchen Hurd 1:08:02

Yeah, I yeah, I don't like that at all. But when I say that growing up, I was a cheerleader and we had to sell Marianas hoagies. And they were legit, and everybody looked forward to them. So

Ray Abel 1:08:15

it's nice. But no, I thought when I heard that I immediately popped in my head was this is baby basically baby's first pyramid scheme. This is like an introductory. All these people selling school fundraisers are going to be selling shakes that allow you to lose 50 pounds over the course of two days. Later on in life.

Gretchen Hurd 1:08:32

Can I talk to you about something that I'm doing? No, no, no, you can't. Sorry, I didn't see your message.

Ray Abel 1:08:38

Sorry. Just died. Sorry. If you have a shake that can bring back to life, we're good. All right, those are my, my top five and then I'm coming back to the frustrate guy section. But you go Alright, my intro and I'll type I agree. We're

Gretchen Hurd 1:08:51

amazing. Okay, um, the first one is and we we both had this one on our people had said this gender reveal parties, but that's kind of political like at this point. Um,

Ray Abel 1:09:04

I actually I think once you set something on fire, so I agree with that one, but yeah, I feel like I feel like you definitely have to get rid of them.

Gretchen Hurd 1:09:14

Yes, that was her. That was her point. She's like, you're just basically setting things on fire to like yell about body parts on fire. Why are you doing this? Yeah. Um, I have a lot i Since I'm a dance teacher, a lot of my dancer friends wrote. age inappropriate dance costumes and midriffs for children. And I was like, oh, yeah, all

Ray Abel 1:09:36

I can think about is the always sunny episode for Frank's little beauties. If you have not seen the episode marks children's beauty pageants which someone actually posted on my wall. It's fabulous. I

Gretchen Hurd 1:09:45

agree. Factor aside rid of crop tops. I'm nine to five and the 40 plus hour workweek.

Ray Abel 1:09:52

Interesting. So they would again, I feel like that's political but a little more. Let me guess Bernie Sanders supporter

Gretchen Hurd 1:09:59

ah, They could have been, but I think it was based on the way that the conversation went. It was more about how people function during COVID. And they didn't have to physically go to their job to do their job. Okay, so how it would maybe open up childcare payments, and they don't have to take their kids to childcare and they could have their kids at home and they don't have to.

Ray Abel 1:10:24

I couldn't get behind some of that. Yeah. Oh,

Gretchen Hurd 1:10:28

asking women when they will get married or pregnant. Hmm.

Ray Abel 1:10:33

I think it's actually always really good to ask if a woman's pregnant. That's like the number one rule I go by is if I see a woman I even if she doesn't look pregnant, are you pregnant? It's a great way to start a conversation.

Gretchen Hurd 1:10:42

Yes. Happened to me. I was asked if you're pregnant, or I was pregnant, I was working at Walmart. This was when I first moved to Pittsburgh, I worked at Walmart to feed my dance habit. And I was working in the jewelry department and I was wearing an empire waist shirt. It's okay, if you don't have a clue what that is. The there's like a shelf kind of section at the top where it kind of it's gathered. Alright, it's gathered under the chest. So I was wearing this cute little shirt that had little cap sleeves. It was really sweet. And this woman, I'm helping her look at things and she goes, What are you doing? And I was like, why?

Ray Abel 1:11:20

Say luckily for me, I never ran into that personally because I watched an action. I'm not gonna say Who but a family member of mine was at a memorial day party when I was about 15 and said to someone there Oh, we'll say your name was Susie. Susie, I didn't know you're pregnant. They're like, I'm not and the look on her face made me realize if I'm if I met a woman who was or if I saw a woman on an operating table ready to give birth until she says the words I'm pregnant. I'm not asking I don't care for daddy. Laurel. That's that is. That is the rule ever. Never, ever never ever know,

Gretchen Hurd 1:11:52

off? I mean, I know how awful I felt in that moment. I'm like, I go, Well, I'm burning this shirt. And she started to laugh and I was like, I am not pregnant. And she was like, Oh, honey, I'm so sorry. And I was like, basically you look fat today. Gretchen Okay, great. Um, plastic bags and unneeded packaging. Interesting. All right. They were like all the all the doesn't make you you know, all the it doesn't have plastic bags. They do have it in packaging, but this one's great. Bras. Oh,

Ray Abel 1:12:23

yeah, I already got rid of mine. Never, never had to worry, you can tell that a

Gretchen Hurd 1:12:28

lot of mine were women that were doing this one that I put in and it got the most one of the most likes was daylight savings time,

Ray Abel 1:12:36

huh? Yeah. Actually, a few people on my wall say that as well. Yeah.

Gretchen Hurd 1:12:39

And it's yeah, one of my one of my friends lives in Arizona. And she's like, we already told haha, and I was like, man. Alright, and my last one. I'm going to give you my last one. And it had probably the most likes on my thread. And it was one that I threw out. Because I drive in the car so much. Yeah. trucks with testicles.

Ray Abel 1:13:00

Oh, yeah, no, those are those are terrible. And everybody was like,

Gretchen Hurd 1:13:03

yeah, no, man.

Ray Abel 1:13:08

Well, so I think we agree. I think I agree in most of yours as well. I will throw these out. We don't go through each one individually. I'm just gonna say this is the frustrated guy section. diamond engagement rings, which was tied on mine for most like what gender reveals reading cards, Valentine's Day, which basically, I think you can wrap those up with anything that hallmark is involved in. I think hallmark is actually the devil. Yeah, I think and I actually am all for getting rid of all of those things. Diamond engage rings, there's actually kind of a, I mean, some people just thought it was a waste of money, which I agree with. And it's also like, you know, blood diamonds and just not. Let's get rid of diamond engagement rings. I think that's terrible. Yeah. And expensive weddings kind of kind of tie it all together. Because really, for me, I said, you know, I talked about how they should have we should have an episode on financial planning here. Because if you go into debt, paying for a wedding, that's not a great way. Maybe that's why you have so many divorces because you just go into debt. And immediately after getting married, or something, it's for the last one day and to me go get married in a beach somewhere. Whoever wants to come, come. And if they don't come they may send you a gift anyway because I feel bad. I can't come so you save money there. I feel like that's the way to go. Yeah, but I will say there are two things new to me that actually brought made me think number one baby shoes. I don't have any kids. But I asked I was like why I wasn't really sure. And they said they shouldn't wear shoes now they're getting ready to walk mode and because they're unnecessary expenses. So you don't really need to be in to pay for, you know, two food eating competitions, which I've been a part of many Quaker Steak and lube wing eating competitions. And I thought they were talking about just being gross but they actually said it was about gluttony and I thought this was the compromise we came to, which was well what if every time you went to a food competition because there's so many people in the world who need food and you're just shoving your face, it's like Tom shoes you have to go and like donate to a nonprofit to like, you know, to To make sure that you're helping someone in need. So speaking of the person who post that comment, we're talking this week about prison reform and we may be talking about that soon on the show. So not sure if it's gonna be next week or not, but prison reform will be coming up. So, anything else you want to say about the cancellous? Before we wrap up?

Gretchen Hurd 1:15:17

Um, I want to pick a fight with one of your posters. They say pickles, pickles. Really?

Ray Abel 1:15:24

Yeah else. Your big pickle fan? Oh, my Diller sweet.

Gretchen Hurd 1:15:29

Dill, no sweeter candle sweet. I like the smell is the way to go. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, I

Ray Abel 1:15:35

think that was it's actually funny like a miracle whip to know. First off, I don't know, I'm trying very hard not to manage anymore. But if I'm going to it's definitely actually Dukes. It's a southern Manet's, I found that's actually really good, dude. He's like, the way the guy used to be a Hellman's guy, but um, switch to Dukes. So Joe, who posted that comment? Because I remember, I actually asked him like any pickles or pickles. He and I actually did a brief podcast about eight, nine years ago. So really? Yeah, yeah, we actually did about that man was really, that was a long time a long time ago. So yeah, you're picking it. I think you were just lately angry that he was my first podcast partner.

Gretchen Hurd 1:16:12

Yeah, probably that was in there somewhere, even though I didn't know.

Ray Abel 1:16:17

So wrapping up. We're gonna have one good thing from you. And then I'm going to just kind of recap what we talked about and then head out for the week.

Gretchen Hurd 1:16:24

Yeah, I belong to a group on Facebook.

Ray Abel 1:16:29

That said, let me just sorry, just clarify. I feel like I just kind of threw it out there. For the listeners, we want to end with one good thing that happened this week. I feel like I just kind of want to set you up for this is. This is one good thing that happened either this week. Gretchen, what happened to you?

Gretchen Hurd 1:16:45

These people are awesome. And I love this page. We have been looking forward to these past few weeks. All winter long, we are finally able to start our indoor seeds. And I planted mine last week and my tomatoes are already about two inches tall. And I'm excited about it.

Ray Abel 1:17:03

Well, fresh vegetables Hopefully. Hopefully I can share some of those. So yes, I will make sure Gretchen that I as we wrap up the show number one. I just want to go back just real quick. My quote that I like, Mr. Rogers, there's one thing that people cannot stand forgiveness. Let's remember that as we go forward. But maybe if you give me some vegetables, I'll give you things like this cool research the new sticker. Oh, you mean stickers? Well, yeah, you do. But there's more for the listeners. So if anyone knows me and one stickers plaster wherever you want to plaster them, feel free to let me know and I'll get you some, some research the new stickers. But yeah, we also have t shirts. So. So I mean, who knows? I mean, we're still we already have big sponsors. So now we have t shirts for to back up our big sponsorships. It's great. They're not the fake sponsorships don't pay for the T shirts, but now

they definitely know. Alright, so in the future, though, speaking of sharing this podcast, if you see me ask me for a sticker, I'll give it to you. For you come on the show, I may give you a t shirt. But if you want to become a guest, feel free to let us know because I want to I actually want to find people, the first two people I tend to agree with. I want to find people I want to argue with so if there's anyone that disagrees with me, which I'm there's plenty I've found in my life that people disagree with me who want to come on and have a discussion, feel free to let me know. And just reach out if you go to [research news.com](https://www.researchnews.com) There's a link there we can actually sign up to be a guest and tell me and tell us what you want to talk about and we can see if it's a good fit. So with that being said, I think that's all my stuff. Share this podcast. Check us out [research news.com](https://www.researchnews.com) You can subscribe on Spotify. If you want to listen to the audio or join us next week as we do it live on Facebook. Gretchen anything to say to wrap up? Nope. Bye, everybody. All right. Well, thanks for watching and we will see you again. Next week. On research the news