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For 1/26/2025 Class

MINI WEEKEND UPDATE (Week 3 Assignment)

LINES FROM WEEK ONE

- It appears that the Supreme Court will move forward with TikTok ban set to begin on January 19th
 - With the ban taking effect the day before the presidential inauguration, it dawns a new age where people might not know the Reich from wrong.
- There are reports of China's Communist Party attempting to erase Tibetan culture by placing young Tibetans in boarding schools to transition them to Beijing ways of thinking.
 - China is seeing promise with the program, where instead of milk served with meals, the children drink Kool-Aid

ONE PIC LINES

- **(Photo of Microsoft Excel World Championship + Excel Logo)** After the success of this past December's Microsoft Excel World Championship in Las Vegas, there's a movement to make it an official e-sport
 - And just like that, every insufferable Finance Bro you know just said *sniffs* "hold my coke"
- **(Photo of Emilia Perez movie poster + an Oscar in foreground)** This year's Oscars nominations have been released, with Emilia Perez leading with 13 nods from The Academy
 - The genre-bending musical follows a Mexican cartel leader that transitions to become a transgender woman, and if an assassin's bullet doesn't kill President Trump, this movie just might do the trick.

TWO PIC LINES

- **(Picture of W.H.O logo)** President Trump signed an executive order declaring the U.S. exit the World Health Organization
 - This bold choice has already faced a lot of backlash, leaving many Americans, and concerned citizens around the world, speechless and saying WOH (Picture of scrambled WHO logo to spell "WOH")
- **(Photo of the Brandon Blackmon + Mississippi flag)** This week Democratic Mississippi state senator Bradford Blackmon introduced the "Contraception Begins at Erection Act", which would make it illegal for a man to "discharge genetic material without the intent to fertilize an embryo"
 - The bill is unlikely to make it through the GOP-led legislature, but is already gaining widespread support and lobbying across the state from sock drawers **(Photo of socks + lotion jug on bedside table)**

CHARACTER DESK PIECE (Mittens the Cat)

MICHAEL CHE

A story broke this week about a cat that made three consecutive flights in 24 hours between New Zealand and Australia when they were accidentally overlooked in the Air New Zealand plane's cargo hold. Here to comment on the harrowing experience is Mittens the cat.

BOWEN YANG wheels into place as MITTENS the Maine Coon cat (full cat outfit/makeup, cat mannerisms like licking paw, etc.)

MITTENS

(Australian/New Zealand accent)

G'Day Mr. Che. Thanks for having me here

MICHAEL CHE

And thank you for joining us Mittens, I know it must've been traumatic to get on another flight all the way to New York after what happened. How're you doing?

MITTENS

Well, I know sitting in your own piss and hairballs must be an average Sunday morning for you after a night out Michael, but for me??? I could feel my nine lives slipping from my claws. Put yourself in my paws for a second. I'm supposed to be on a one-way trip moving from Christchurch to Melbourne - a 4 hour flight - and I feel the plane land, see the cargo door open, smell that sweet Aussie air, and hear those smug dingos barking. They proceed to take EVERYTHING out of cargo except me, while I'm stuck in a cage. And those idiots on the tarmac don't speak Meowri, so I'm feline out of luck. I had to suffer two other flights before they finally saw me and reunited me with my family.

MICHAEL CHE

Wow Mittens, that sounds like quite a scary experience.

MITTENS

(Exasperated, coughs up a hairball right at MICHAEL)

Scary?! My kin get stereotyped as "scaredy cats", but you never seem to think of why we might be like that, Michael. Our senses are 20x more acute than you humans. Why do you think we have whiskers, tails, and non-opposable thumbs? Put yourself in my paws for a second. Even from down in the cargo, I had to listen to that stupid Air New Zealand pre-takeoff safety video 3 times. The average cat, and human, can listen to Lorde narrate while Royals plays in the background only so many times. But at least Peter Jackson wants to make my story into an Oscar-bait movie now.

MICHAEL CHE

Mittens the cat, everyone!

MITTENS
(wheeling off stage)

Put yourself in my paws!!!

PERSONAL DESK PIECE (Marcello Hernandez on Inauguration Week)

COLIN JOST

Well, it's been nearly a week since President Trump took office, and even as a straight white man from Staten Island, I know I feel exhausted already. Here to comment on EVERYTHING is SNL's Marcello Hernandez!

MARCELLO HERNANDEZ wheels into place at Weekend Update desk

MARCELLO

Thanks, Colin, great to be here. Or should I say, gracias mi amigo tu eres mi chico blanco favorito. I'm sure Little Marco Rubio will be able to translate for Mr. Trump if he's watching, as I'm sure he says the same thing to his McDonald's loving overlord.

COLIN

So Marcello, it's obviously an unprecedented time in the country, and as a child of immigrants from Cuba and the Dominican Republic, I'm sure you've got your own opinions on everything happening.

MARCELLO

Yeah, so I was thinking the other day about my very first time on Update when I talked about how Latinos dominate in baseball. And now I have a hunch that all these politicians and their supporters are butt hurt that these immigrants are stealing the thunder from "America's Pastime". Yeah, Argentina's Lionel Messi is killing it on Inter Miami FC, but it doesn't have the same effect cuz soccer wasn't OURS to begin with, you know? And, if anyone comes for that sweet prince of a man I WILL END YOU.

(Marcello deadpan stares at the camera, his eye twitching a little)

It would be like if we named Pizza Hut the world's greatest pizza - I don't think the Italians would be very happy Colin. Or if Trump grew a little mustache to complement his governing style, Germany might be like, hey that was OUR thing. People, especially in America, are just SO territorial - I mean what else would you expect from a country that stole land under the guise of "manifest destiny" and can't even decide if bragging rights for Abraham Lincoln's home state goes to Illinois, Indiana, or Kentucky?

I guess what I'm just trying to say is...

(lighting shift, gets dark with spotlight on MARCELLO as he whips out a guitar)

This land is your land, and this land is my land, From California to the New York island, From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf of Mexico I mean America I mean Mexico Stream waters, This land was made for you and me.

COLIN

Marcello Hernandez, everyone!

MARCELLO

Mantente fuerte, mis amigos!!!