

# Gangster

Dylan Coleman

Andrew Yang is an entrepreneur and philanthropist currently running for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination. His ideas have earned a few standout moments in the news cycle over the past few months—specifically his idea for Universal Basic Income, wherein every American would receive a monthly stipend to spend on whatever they want. Yang Gang member Dylan Coleman is a musician, originally from Massachusetts, who moved to Reno in 2016. He began volunteering for the Yang campaign in Reno a few months ago.

## How'd you first come to support Andrew Yang?

The second debate was coming in July, and so I figured, at that point, I should check into these candidates. I looked at Kamala [Harris], Pete [Buttigieg], Bernie [Sanders], Liz [Warren], I checked all their websites—basically just kind of everyone but Biden 'cause I kind of know his thing. ... To my astonishment, Andrew was the only one whose website had policies on it ... all sorts of things I've been thinking about for years, like what to do with all the empty malls that have closed in the last 10 years, you know ... It was kind of like, he's very data-driven.



PHOTO: MATT BIEKER

## You mentioned you vote Democratic but don't really follow the party line.

I wouldn't even come close to considering myself a libertarian, but I know what these people think. I know what their arguments are because I've had these arguments with them in my life. So I sort of know what their angle is, you know, and I don't know if you know this, but Andrew Yang has been on a lot of the conservative and libertarian podcasts. Like, he's been on Joe Rogan, who's kind of, I guess I kind of consider him the libertarian side of things. He was on Ben Shapiro, who's like a crazy, super conservative maniac. And, surprisingly, these people don't really have a good argument as to why this is such a terrible idea—specifically with the Universal Basic Income—but also some of the other things he's got plans for. He's got this “democracy dollars,” which would give everybody

\$100 to give to campaigns, but only to campaigns, as a sort of way of dealing with the Citizens United ruling without having to overturn a Supreme Court ruling or create a constitutional amendment.

## How does Universal Basic Income work, as you understand it?

Alaska has a UBI. It's a very small UBI—it's about one or \$2,000 a year, but they have one, and that's Alaska—you know, it's pretty red. I've actually seen this graph—the amount of jobs that have been automated in a particular county has a direct relationship with how far they swung from like these Obama-to-Trump kind of voters. So there's a direct correlation between job loss and Trump voting. So one would think that if you're telling them, “Hey, I know it sounds crazy, but like, just a thousand bucks a [year], you can have that and you can do with it what you see fit,” ... I know a lot of Libertarians that really dislike the way that the bureaucracy decides who gets money and what qualifies and the fiscal cliff kind of thing where if you're getting some kind of benefit, and you decide you want to work 19 hours instead of 20 hours, all of a sudden you lose so many benefits that you end up way worse off. So the UBI disincentivizes all of those issues. ... I don't want to say that it's a miracle cure, but it kind of hits all of these things. It reduces costs for homelessness services. It reduces costs for incarceration. ... You have to think about what would that mean for—you know, it's not just to you. □

## NOTES FROM THE NEON BABYLON

BY BRUCE VAN DYKE

# Lickety-split

Whenever I want solid political commentary that cuts through the fits and the bits and the hits of gaslit bullshit, I often turn to ... members of *Monty Python*! For example, dig this comment from the brilliant John Cleese, who recently noted that Trump is “an extraordinary caricature of an asshole.” Pretty much spot on analysis, John! Second, from the equally brilliant Eric Idle: “He's stark raving mad. Absolutely mental. He's a criminal and a con artist and a mob boss.” Democrats, if you're looking for material for a national billboard campaign, I'm sure Eric would sign off for a reasonable fee.

Republicans recently spent millions on elections in Kentucky and Virginia trying to convince voters that Democrats are godless Socialists—ewww! The S word!—who hate babies, puppies,

Thanksgiving and Yo Mama. The result of their completely issue-free messaging? An absolutely delicious defeat of the Trump lickspittle governor in Kentucky and a complete overhaul of the Virginia legislature, which is now as blue as Tahoe.

Hey Republicans, many Americans care about actual stuff, like *health care*. And most Americans have been paying attention to what Republicans under Moscow Mitch and the Fake President do in this vitally important area. Our inescapable and unbudgeable conclusion? Republicans are to health care what Keith Richards is to teetotalling.

You know all the stonewalling that's been endlessly perpetrated by Dum Dum and his lackeys? The constant stonewalling of tax returns and testimonies and subpoenas? Doesn't all this

contentious uncooperative crap look exactly as though the entire Trump Administration is basically *pleading the Fifth Amendment*? On a damn near *daily* basis? Hey, even the dimmer bulbs out here in Sixpack City are starting to figure out that this neverending stonewalling is tantamount to basically *pleading guilty to everything*.

Out next Tuesday, Nov. 19, the blockbuster new book from Anonymous, called *A Warning* comes out. This one is gonna rock the World. Literally. Political junkies in Nepal and Uruguay will read this and say, “Oh, my. This guy is a fucking imbecile.” I understand this revelation isn't exactly news. But eyewitness confirmation of just how horrifically horrible Dum Dum Don Don truly is will be unnerving to da max. Perhaps even to Republican Senators voting soon in an upcoming trial? □



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