

INT. GAME SHOW

Host stands on center stage. He holds several envelopes.

HOST

Hello, hello and welcome to *It's Probably Cancer*. You know that warm feeling you get when you're home with your family this time of year? That deep, firm feeling that makes you feel secure and allows you to appreciate everything you've built and everything you have? Well it's probably cancer.

Audience applauds.

HOST

Our returning viewers should be familiar with how the show works. If not, well you might want to get that checked out. So without further ado, let's introduce our first guest, hailing from Upper Darby Pennsylvania, Paul McGhan!

McGhan enters from offstage. Audience applauds.

HOST

Hello there Paul. How are you doing this evening?

MCGHAN

Just fine, really happy to be here.

HOST

And how do you keep yourself occupied out there in Upper Darby

MCGHAN

Well I'm a general contractor, also do a little bit of community theater here and there, you know, when I have the time.

HOST

That's splendid isn't it folks? And what are your symptoms Paul?

PAUL

Well it's kind of an ache in my back you know, when I wake up in the morning. And sometimes I just cough you know, not for any particular reasons, I just have one lone, mucussy cough.

HOST

Now that really is interesting Paul. Let's see what the envelope says.

The Host opens the envelope.

HOST

Paul.

He turns to the audience.

HOST

It's probably cancer!

Balloons cascade from the rafters. The Host and Paul shake hands. McGhan exits.

HOST

We'll be checking in with Paul on a future show to see how that works out for him. Let's hope he can afford a real doctor's visit.

The audience laughs.

HOST

Moving right along with our program, please welcome to the stage our next guest, from Cummings Virginia-- wait that can't be right --Linda Bookman!

LINDA BOOKMAN enters from offstage. Audience applauds.

HOST

And how are you doing today Linda?

LINDA

I'm doing pretty alright, a little nervous, but it's great to be here.

HOST

Splendid and what are your symptoms?

LINDA

Well it shows up in my family history in a pretty significant way, I also live in an area that gives me pretty extensive exposure to carcinogenic materials. And lately if I exert myself physically I find--

HOST

Alright that's enough of that let's just read the envelope.

The Host opens an envelope.

HOST

Linda?

LINDA

Yes?

HOST

I'm afraid you don't have cancer. You're just imagining it.

LINDA

Wait! Hang on! That's not fair, you can't just dismiss me out of hand like that!

HOST

Sorry Linda looks like you'll have to come back some other time.

Two SECURITY GUARDS come in from offstage, they grab Linda by the arms.

LINDA

Hey! Now listen here, I deserve to be taken seriously! I have rights, you know! I'm concerned about my health! Hey! Wait! Hey!

HOST

Folks, some of our viewers have written in complaining about the values of our show. Claiming that we rely on fear mongering and exploiting the anxieties of our viewers. And to that we say, yes, yes we are. But we're not nearly as bad as cable news.

INT NEWS STUDIO

The NEWSHOST sits behind a desk.

NEWSHOST

Good evening, I'm--

He squints at the teleprompter

NEWSHOST

Wow, I can't even begin to pronounce that. Whatever doesn't matter. Here's the news. A deadly crash unfolded over the weekend at the corner of Madison and Elm. It involved a semi truck, a train, and a school bus full of orphans. We can't show any pictures of the wreck because they're too graphic. However you can find them with a simple google search, and let me tell you, they're some real juicy stuff. Meanwhile in crime news today crime is happening. It is going on, crime sure is unfolding all over the place. Be very afraid of it. Yes, crime. It's coming for you, it's gonna get you. In fact, crime is sneaking up on you right now. It's right behind you, creeping, stealthy, it's pulling out something. A knife! It's right behind you! Crime is right behind you with a knife, right now! On a completely unrelated note, we should mention that our network is committed to combating stereotypes about urban populations in our reporting.

The words "we're definitely not racist" flash on screen.

HOST

And now to Clark Jones with the weather.

CLARK JONES stands in front of a weather display.

CLARK

Give me money.

HOST

No.

CLARK

Well then I guess you don't get to know what the weather is, bitch.

HOST

Fair enough. Now recently we've had some complaints about the way we report the news here. And I'd just like to say you knuckle dragging simpletons should be happy you have it so good. At least we give the news to you straight. Not like one of those political opinion shows.

INT. POLITICAL OPINION SHOW.

The HOST sits in a chair in the center with GARRY DOLE to his left and BRIAN JECKSLY.

HOST

Good evening, I'm not Anderson Cooper but try not to hold that against me. Today on the show we're going to focus on the issue of climate change. What it means for the upcoming electoral season and for the economy over the coming decade. Joining us is noted green energy activist and writer Garry Dole, who's new book on the struggles of the solar energy market comes out July fifth. And also joining us is Brian W. Jeckslly, a noted climate change skeptic and columnist whose work has appeared in many internet publications and print magazines including the National Review. Thank both of you gentlemen for appearing on the show.

DOLE

Thank you.

JECKSLY

Splendid.

HOST

Now Brian, I wanted to start with you. In your writing you've talked at length about the possible repercussions to economic stability that could result from an overinvestment in the solar sector. I was wondering if you could elaborate on that.

JECKSLY

Well of course.

Jecksly takes out a gun and shoots Dole in the stomach. Dole cries out in pain and grips his stomach.

DOLE

What the hell! You just shot me!

HOST

Alright now let's not have this devolve into a shouting match.

DOLE

But he did! Just now!

JECKSLY

Now I think that's a little bit of a personal attack Garry, I'd like to stick to the facts at hand.

DOLE

Personal attack? You're literally holding the gun right now!

Jecksly hides the gun behind his back.

JECKSLY

No I'm not.

DOLE

Yes you are! It's behind your back!

HOST

Now I've got to tell you Garry, I don't see a gun.

DOLE

Are you kidding me!

HOST

Now Garry I don't think that kind of attitude is appropriate for our show.

JECKSLY

Honestly this is about what I would expect from a so called climate 'expert.' This level of alarmism is frankly typical of the type of rhetoric they make their money peddling to the American public.

DOLE

I'm actually bleeding quite a bit, I could use a doctor or something.

HOST

That'll have to wait Mr. Dole. I'm getting word from our producers that we have a surprise guest this evening. Cassidy Timberman, a contributing editor to NRA magazine and strong advocate for stand-your-ground initiatives in several southern states, is in the building tonight, to talk to us about her upcoming book. I'm being told that she's entering the studio now.

CASSIDY TIMBERMAN enters with an automatic rifle and mows down the Host, Dole, and Jecksly.

TIMBERMAN

Hello, I'd like to talk to you today about our 2nd amendment rights. The right of every American to keep and bear arms is as important, if not more important, than our right to free speech or freedom of religion.

TIMBERMAN (contin)

Truly it is our duty to uphold this sacred right, the right to live free of fear, the right for every man woman, and child to defend themselves from black people-- I mean the criminal element --and live in a civil and peaceful society.

The host sits up.

HOST

Do you think this is in poor taste?

TIMBERMAN

Oh definitely, but where else are these suckers gonna get their entertainment?

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

A SUCKER sits in a recliner. The previous sketch plays on a television.

SUCKER

Hey, you know what, I don't appreciate being talked to like that. These elites, these media moguls, they make a mockery of average hard working people like us. Man I wish there was a new form of media, one made by and for the people. A democratic platform where information can be spread without the intercession of three letter networks with their corporate backers and big money advertisers. One where people can be free to be themselves, live out the dream of individual liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Well have I got a product for you!

The Sucker turns towards the camera.

SUCKER

Really?

ANNOUNCER

Yes sir! By networking thousands
of computers together, we've
created an information
superhighway called the internet!

The Announcer's arm stretches towards the Sucker from off
screen. In the Announcer's hand is an Iphone.

ANNOUNCER

Here why don't you give it a try.

SUCKER

Okay!

The Sucker takes the Iphone and clicks through it. The Host
from the previous sketches appears on the Iphone screen

HOST

Joke's on you jackass I'm here
too.

SUCKER

I should have seen this coming.

HOST

We went through your garbage while
you slept so we could make you
this ad. If you don't watch it
you're a communist.

END