

Announcer: Welcome to Civil Discourse. This podcast will use government documents to illuminate the workings of the American Government and offer contexts around the effects of government agencies in your everyday life. Now your hosts, Nia Rodgers, Public Affairs Librarian and Dr. John Aughenbaugh, Political Science Professor.

N. Rodgers: Hey, Aughe.

J. Aughenbaugh: Hi, what's up?

N. Rodgers: Nothing much except that I want to talk to you about public discourse.

J. Aughenbaugh: Senators threatening Supreme Court justices?

N. Rodgers: Like that. That kind of public discourse, that's exactly what I want to talk about.

J. Aughenbaugh: Chief justices then issuing press releases, which hardly ever happens.

N. Rodgers: Yeah. The whole thing.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes.

N. Rodgers: So can we get into that?

J. Aughenbaugh: Oh, sure.

N. Rodgers: So we talked about during the impeachment, or rather post impeachment, my frustration with doing something that you know.

J. Aughenbaugh: Is more than likely not going to be successful.

N. Rodgers: Exactly, and this falls into that same category. But I'm going to put out there, that going around threatening Supreme Court justices with apparently kneecapping them or whatever it is that you think a price to be paid and you guys can't see my air quotes, but that was the phrase that was used. "Price to be paid" for not voting correctly on a court case. That's way out over your skis. I know that Senator Schumer is from New York and I know that I'm from the south, and we talk about these things differently because, see, I would hear that in a way that sounded mafia like that was my first response was what, is he in the mafias? You going to put cement shoes on people and put them in the river? Like I have all these imaginings because I'm from the south, that people from New York, that's how they act, which is not the case at all, but that's what I see in movies.

J. Aughenbaugh: TV shows.

N. Rodgers: Exactly. Always says a New Yorker is, Melvin and threatening and whatever, I'm like, if they were all like that, they'd all be dead. That's not possible. Like it's not possible for everyone in a state to be homicidal. But I'm not entirely sure what it gains for a person of Schumer stature, to stand around and say "You're going to pay a price." I mean like, wow, okay.

J. Aughenbaugh: What needs referencing is immediately after the Supreme Court this week heard oral arguments in a case where there is a challenge to an abortion law in Louisiana. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer right outside the Supreme Court.

N. Rodgers: Walked over there to say it, didn't he?

J. Aughenbaugh: In a widely televised press conference, went ahead and called out two of our current Supreme Court justices, Justice Neil Gorsuch and Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and said that if they didn't vote to uphold a woman's right to choose, there would be a price to pay. That's the exact quote. Now, because he is a senator from New York, let's just put it this way, the blogosphere, the Twittersphere.

N. Rodgers: I mean, it came out threatening. I'm just saying if I was Gorsuch or Gavin, I'd be like, "What did he just say?"

J. Aughenbaugh: Well, the words were perceived, apparently, within the Supreme Court as so threatening and dangerous that it led to the Chief Justice John Roberts to respond within hours.

N. Rodgers: They almost never say anything. Their whole thing is, "You can call us whatever names you want."

J. Aughenbaugh: We speak with our opinions.

N. Rodgers: Right. "We're not talking to you about, we're not holding press conferences and having a big fuss. So he responded, didn't he?"

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah, John Roberts went ahead and said that such rhetoric was dangerous and that the court is focusing on legal arguments and not necessarily what people within the political realm want or don't want.

N. Rodgers: This is from the guy who everybody assumed would overturn completely Obamacare, and he did not.

J. Aughenbaugh: He did not.

N. Rodgers: Because he was looking at the legal argument that was being made. I mean, I'm not a huge fan of John Roberts in part because he's the baddest [inaudible] guys I've ever seen, and I like my judges feisty. I mean, I wasn't a huge fan of Scalia personally, but as a judge, I was a fan, because he was a feisty judge, but it's probably better for the Supreme Court if the chief isn't a feisty person because he's got a lot of feisty people under him. But he's a solid judge.

J. Aughenbaugh: John Roberts, this is the second time in the last three years where John Roberts has had to go ahead and tell a politician to cool it with the rhetoric.

N. Rodgers: Right. [inaudible] .

J. Aughenbaugh: Because three years ago, he actually responded to President Trump. President Trump made some comments that when his travel ban, particularly the first two versions, were being declared unconstitutional by various lower federal court judges. That the only reason why they were ruling

against his travel ban was that they were Obama judges, i.e they were appointed by President Barack Obama.

N. Rodgers: Then he went into some depth about how some of them were also Hispanic and biased.

J. Aughenbaugh: John Roberts responded in an interview, and again, highly unusual. There are certain justices who will do interviews with the Press. John Roberts is not one of them.

N. Rodgers: He tends to be a very private individual.

J. Aughenbaugh: If you've ever read his annual report that he has to issue because as Chief Justice, he's head of the judicial branch. It is painstaking to read because he hardly ever rocks the boat. I mean, the words you can tell are carefully chosen.

N. Rodgers: He crafts his message.

J. Aughenbaugh: So when he gave this interview, he went ahead and responded, rather directly. He said, "There aren't Obama judges, there aren't Trump judges, there aren't Bush or Clinton judges, we are just judges."

N. Rodgers: Right. He basically was like, "Don't demean people's education, and ability, and their willingness to be fair and honest." Are there bad judges? Of course, there are. But as a whole, they tend to be people who are thoughtful. They know that what they're doing.

J. Aughenbaugh: That's a huge impact.

N. Rodgers: Right. It's not like they enter lightly into that. That's the one thing, again, not a huge fan of some of our supreme court justices, but whatever you may say about them, they put.

J. Aughenbaugh: They're earnest.

N. Rodgers: Right. They put themselves into it fully. Like they want to do the right thing because they know that could be a 100 years, 200 years, 300 years, that they're setting precedent for.

J. Aughenbaugh: Sure.

N. Rodgers: They aren't just going "La, la, la. I'll just pick A because it feels good and then I'm moving on." I mean, that's not.

J. Aughenbaugh: I mean, my students who have taken courts in politics, a course with me, come to figure out, some of the justices, some of the federal judges not really all that bright or talented. Some were evil. Justice Mc Reynolds, who was appointed by Woodrow Wilson and served until the late 1930s, he was raging anti-Semite.

N. Rodgers: Some of them are racist, some of them are misogynist and do all kinds of terrible things.

J. Aughenbaugh: On the other hand, I would put up the quality of the people who've been federal judges in this country against judges in any country. They are earnest people. I mean, the current bunch, whether or not you like Brett Kavanaugh, you believe that when he was a younger man.

N. Rodgers: He was foolish.

J. Aughenbaugh: Okay, and engaged in the behavior he was accused of. Whether or not you believe Neil Gorsuch occupies the stolen seat that should've went to Obama appointee. But if you look at their credentials, extremely bright. If you're a constitutional law, I was going to say, junkie and I mean to it. I mean, if you read their opinions, you read the oral argument transcripts. These are bright people who just the case that Schumer was responding to the Louisiana abortion case. I would have prefer that he had waited until he read the oral argument transcript and then commented. Because if you read the oral argument transcript, and again, oral arguments are never 100 percent indicator. But you can tell that the justices were struggling with this. They wanted to uphold a precedent that was decided three or four years ago. It was fairly obvious that a number of the justices believe in a woman's right to choose. There were other justices who are struggling to make sense of whether or not historically states have police power to decide how to regulate all medical procedures, including abortions. How do you make sense of it?

N. Rodgers: What's the unintended consequences here? If it's medical procedures, how does that affect other medical procedures?

J. Aughenbaugh: As one of the lower federal court judges who ruled on this case previously hypothesized, if Louisiana State law was upheld as being constitutional, there was a very good chance that in the very near future, there will be only one abortion provider in the state. So how would that impact women? If you read the oral argument transcript.

N. Rodgers: They're struggling with that. I saw that the questions that they were asking were not simple and they were not political.

J. Aughenbaugh: No.

N. Rodgers: They were very much about the turn of the law.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah, and if they uphold the Louisiana law, what does that mean for the precedent and a case from three, four years ago? The Hellerstedt case from the State of Texas.

N. Rodgers: I was going to say, is that the one out of Texas?

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah, the one out of Texas. Historically, the Supreme Court does not like to overturn precedent so quickly because if they did so, really the only significant membership change would be Gorsuch and Kavanaugh. So the assumption of Schumer was, well, if the Supreme Court upholds the Louisiana law, it's because of the stolen seat justice and the justice who shouldn't be on the court because he more than likely in his youth was a rapist.

N. Rodgers: That's what it's come to. It comes down to that discourse, to the idea of coarseness in public speaking. What I was extremely disappointed by with Senator Schumer was that, and please take this in exactly the way I intended, he sounded a great deal the way Donald Trump sounds when he's mad about

something. He says things that he doesn't. I think that he then sometimes tries to walk back because he realizes he was angry in the moment or he was emotional in the moment. Not just President Trump, obviously lots of people do that. I do that, I've said things in a moment that I completely regret. Fortunately for me, there's nobody recording me when I do that, so I don't have to answer for those things except to myself and to the person I said it to. So it disappointed me because it was such a coarse, crude thing to say and he said it because he's emotionally tied to the case. I get that. But he had to go out of his way to say it and he didn't need to, he could've said we hope they do the right thing.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah.

N. Rodgers: It's up to you to interpret what the right thing is or what you believe Schumer believes is the right thing. But instead, he was basically threatening people's kneecaps and I'm not a fan.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah, he tried to walk it back either last night or this morning. "My words were misinterpreted." I'm like, okay.

N. Rodgers: Really? How does one misinterpret that?

J. Aughenbaugh: Again, you're from the South, I'm from the North. Somebody uses the words that he says.

N. Rodgers: You're going to pay? What are you thinking?

J. Aughenbaugh: There is a price to pay. Well, you mean, hey, that is ambiguous enough to where you can read a lot into it. Again, I would hope that our elected officials speak better. That they understand their words are being reported, and that the audience is much broader than just you and your friend having a conversation over dinner, or you and your spouse talking to one another first thing in the morning before you've had coffee or tea or whatever.

N. Rodgers: It's ammunition for your enemies. That's the other thing is, it's slip shot. Why on earth would you say something that your enemies could immediately cut and pull out and they make a commercial from?

J. Aughenbaugh: I've told students who support both Democrats and Republicans, this argument that the other side or the other person is saying stuff like this, well, that's juvenile. It reminds me of those various conversations you have in your youth with your parents where they fire back. Well, if your friends jumped off a cliff would you do that? If you know how many times I said to my mom, well, one of my siblings was able to do X and my mom's response was, "So what? Act better. Be better." The number of my students who were extremely critical of Brett Kavanaugh's comments during the Senate confirmation hearing, particularly after the allegations were made against him with the Senate committee, he goes out and testifies and he basically just loses it. He gets emotional, etc.

N. Rodgers: Angry. He didn't look very.

J. Aughenbaugh: Judge like. He didn't have judicial temperament. A retired Supreme Court Justice, John Paul Stevens was just like, "I would have voted against him. Is simply because he did not exhibit judicial temperament." I'm like, "Okay, wait a minute, guys. Now, if you've been working for something all your

life, you would not do what Kavanaugh did?" There were like, "Of course not because he's supposed to be a judge." I said, "Fine."

N. Rodgers: But he's still a human.

J. Aughenbaugh: I said, "So do we expect or should we expect better discourse, better behavior from our elected officials? If the answer is yes, does not that apply to all parties in all government institutions?" So if you don't like how the current president speaks or uses Twitter, etc. By the way, I'm not a huge fan, I've said this in a number of contexts.

N. Rodgers: Of Twitter or of his Twitter?

J. Aughenbaugh: Both.

N. Rodgers: Yeah.

J. Aughenbaugh: I want presidents to get off of social media.

N. Rodgers: Me too. No Facebook, no Twitter.

J. Aughenbaugh: In particular, the rhetoric data is used on social media, including by our current president, I want better. I want better.

N. Rodgers: Agreed. Not just Donald Trump, but everyone on those forums needs to think about the fact. Now I am going to sound like an old person, an older person than I am, which is already saying something. I think people don't think it counts somehow.

J. Aughenbaugh: Because it's on social media. Yeah.

N. Rodgers: In fact, that is the thing that will get used against you for years. When you go to look for a job, your employer is going to Google you.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes.

N. Rodgers: How many singers, movie stars, whoever, have made racist, misogynist, jerk comments in their past and that gets brought up five years later when they do something public and somebody says, well, yeah, you say that now, but that's not what you were saying five years ago. I don't think there should be a statute of limits on calling out bad behavior, that's not what I'm saying. But what I am saying is you need to think about it when you put those things out for other people to see. How is that going to be perceived five years from now? Are you going to be the person you are now, five years from now? The answer to that, I promise you, no, you are not. So do you want that to be your legacy? Does Chuck Schumer really want his legacy to be, I stood in front of a bunch of reporters and threatened two Supreme Court Justices? I'm with John Roberts, that was threatening language. They don't have protection the way presidents have protection and the vice president. So part of what he's thinking is not that Chuck Schumer is going to break his kneecaps because Chuck Schumer is not going to break. I mean, really the fight between John Roberts and Chuck Schumer is not going to end well for Chuck Schumer, I'm just saying. Pretty much and RBG so she could take him all. But what he's worried about is in the discourse that we are currently having, somebody hearing that and saying what he wants me to

do is hurt them and then doing or attempting to do it because they believe in the cause or whatever. That's what John Roberts is worried about. He's not worried about Schumer, he's worried about your average unwell individual on the street who may or may not decide to try to do something about that.

J. Aughenbaugh: Feeling as though they got a role in a cause.

N. Rodgers: Exactly. Or they're in love with a movie star. I mean the guy who shot Ronald Reagan. Was in love with Jodie Foster, to no fault of Jodie Foster. She didn't encourage him. I mean, he was obsessed with her and thought, well, this would be a great way to get her attention. So I mean, that's also scary too great way to get somebody's attention will be to hurt one of these justices. That is terrifying.

J. Aughenbaugh: When I heard, and I watched the video of Senator Schumer's remarks, it brought me back to one of our first conversations about why we wanted to do this podcasting, which is what is the value of civil discourse? Again, we've talked about this. I'm not necessarily suggesting that people need to speak a civilly, because that's how those in power want you to speak. We've talked about this before. One of the complaints that I frequently hear from my students is that they are told to be more civil by those in power who don't really want to hear them, and I'm not saying that.

N. Rodgers: Right.

J. Aughenbaugh: On the other hand, if you don't speak in a civil way, there's very little chance that the person you are speaking to whatever have their mind changed, right?

N. Rodgers: Right. Exactly.

J. Aughenbaugh: So if the purpose of Schumer's remarks was to go ahead and motivate the Democratic Party base, okay fine. But in the process, he basically had to know that all conservatives were like, "Oh, he's just another nut job Democrat." You might have moderates who are independent who are like, "Hmm, I wasn't all that sympathetic to the Louisiana law. But I'm not entirely sure I want to be supportive of a bunch of people who speak this way."

N. Rodgers: Right. That's me.

J. Aughenbaugh: Okay.

N. Rodgers: I was frustrated by that.

J. Aughenbaugh: Okay, and moreover, as somebody who frequently laments how Supreme Court decisions get covered either by the press but also elected officials. Again, I would challenge you and I hope this we actually put this up on the resource guide that the oral argument transcript, you read it. Okay?

N. Rodgers: Right.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes, some of it is arcane legal talk.

N. Rodgers: Yes, keep that part.

J. Aughenbaugh: But you can see that it would not surprise me. For instance, after the reading the transcript, which I have.

N. Rodgers: Of course, you have.

J. Aughenbaugh: It would not surprise me if John Roberts and Brett Kavanaugh uphold the Supreme Court's decision in the Hellerstedt case, it won't surprise me. Now, this would upset conservatives who'd been hoping that at some point we'll be a majority of the justices that we'll.

N. Rodgers: Return Roe V.

J. Aughenbaugh: Roe V, I just don't see John Roberts doing it. One, and based on Brett Kavanaugh's questions, I think Kavanaugh was really struggling with why the court should go ahead and uphold the Louisiana law when the Texas law, remarkably similar, by the way, was declared unconstitutional as an undue burden on a woman's right to choose.

N. Rodgers: As the current law exists.

J. Aughenbaugh: That's what it is, right?

N. Rodgers: Right.

J. Aughenbaugh: Now. Some of the justices, we can predict their votes even before they took that case right?

N. Rodgers: Right.

J. Aughenbaugh: Ruth Bader Ginsburg is going to go ahead and say, "Louisiana law is unconstitutional."

N. Rodgers: Sotomayor.

J. Aughenbaugh: Sotomayor, Kagan.

N. Rodgers: Kagan.

J. Aughenbaugh: More than likely Briar. On the opposite side, Alito and Clarence Thomas have consistently voted against a woman's right to choose. They believe that it is a matter for the states to decide. Fair enough. But when you read the oral argument transcripts, you can see and again, this is a difficult issue.

N. Rodgers: Right

J. Aughenbaugh: I mean, according to many scholars, according to many political commentators, abortion has been the most divisive issue in American politics since Roe V. Wade was handed down by the court. So if the American public is frequently divided by this, why are we expecting Supreme Court justices to not also struggle with this? Because many Americans, even today, support a woman's right to choose. But they believe that reasonable regulations are also acceptable.

N. Rodgers: Right. It's complex.

J. Aughenbaugh: It's complex.

N. Rodgers: It is complex issue, and standing out, grandstanding about it.

J. Aughenbaugh: I know.

N. Rodgers: Especially grandstanding in a way that, oh, it sounds like a thug.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah.

N. Rodgers: Like really, what you doing? I don't know the whole thing, just set my teeth on it.

J. Aughenbaugh: Again, listeners, I hope this is coming clear in this discussion. In our discussion today is that we're not picking on Democrats or Republicans. Schumer or Trump. Our basic concern here is what happens when the language becomes coarse, when it becomes threatening. I mean, there are plenty of studies that go ahead and say that one of the reasons why perhaps hate speech should not get protected by the First Amendment is that the audience, the recipient of the speech feels threatened. So they stop hearing the speech because they feel threatened. They feel they hate. I don't know about anybody else. I think you and I are on the same page on this but when I read that Senator Schumer as remarks and then I saw the video, I wasn't feeling all that receptive to the point that he was trying to make.

N. Rodgers: Right.

J. Aughenbaugh: All I kept on thinking was, "Oh my goodness, this is the senate minority leader." This is the leader of the Democratic Party in one of our federal government institutions who is basically threatening to our supreme court justices. I didn't hear.

N. Rodgers: I had a moment where I thought have I slicked back in time where it's okay. Like the 1700s when you call people out because you wanted a duel for whatever.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah.

N. Rodgers: Because barring that you are a thug. If you go around saying, "I'm going to make you pay."

J. Aughenbaugh: The rest of his message was completely lost on me.

N. Rodgers: Exactly. Those words were what I heard,.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes.

N. Rodgers: I'm sure he had other things to say, and I have no idea what they were.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes.

N. Rodgers: Because I was like what, did he just threatened Supreme Court justices?

J. Aughenbaugh: It's much like [inaudible]

N. Rodgers: Even if he didn't threaten them in a sense of realism like this is a threat, I am going to carry out that threat, there are things that you say to your friends. "I must smack you in the back of the head." The things that your parents would say to you. "I'm going to skin you alive." They didn't mean it.

J. Aughenbaugh: No.

N. Rodgers: It wasn't a threat that was intended to be carried through.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah. I don't know how many times my sister said to me, "I'm going to kill you." Now, that I fear for my life? Heck no.

N. Rodgers: Right.

J. Aughenbaugh: Okay. But nevertheless, that particular context. Right?

N. Rodgers: But it's familiar.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes, right.

N. Rodgers: But it's familiar with your friends. You would never say that to one of your students in your case or me to one of the professors that I work with. I would never say that to somebody that I wasn't really good friends with and knew I was playing because I don't know what they hear when I say that.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah.

N. Rodgers: But that's the thing we seem to be losing in some of our discussion in government. It's what you said earlier, we're not thinking about how the other person is hearing what we're saying and what that sounds like to them. That's something that if you just stop for five minutes and think to yourself, if I say these words, are they going to know I'm kidding? Are they going to know I'm playing? Or are they're going to think there's actually a potential threat here? Or that I'm citing some kind of threat?

J. Aughenbaugh: Well, and if the purpose of Senator Schumer.

N. Rodgers: It's not just him, other people are guilty of it as well.

J. Aughenbaugh: It was to mobilize his base. Okay, fine. But again, he's a politician. If the Democratic Party wants to win elections, the TED has to get bigger, which means he can't turn off potential people who might be persuaded to join the Democratic Party or to vote for Democratic Party candidates.

N. Rodgers: Right.

J. Aughenbaugh: You use that kind of language? Okay.

N. Rodgers: People like me are aggravated, but.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes.

N. Rodgers: Now you have to work twice as hard to win me back.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah. Because I'm just like, oh.

N. Rodgers: Really? Is that how we're going to talk to people?

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah, I mean, it's sort of like, some of my friends who are Republicans are just like, as soon as the president goes on Twitter, he makes it almost impossible for me to defend the Republican Party.

N. Rodgers: Right. Because it's same thing. He says things on Twitter that are threatening, he says things on Twitter that are intended to incite a certain kind of emotion.

J. Aughenbaugh: They're demeaning.

N. Rodgers: Well, and it rallies things like lock her up and those kinds of things. Again, similar idea of, is this really how we want to talk to each other? Is this really what we want our kids to see when they turn on the TV? Do we want them to say, "Well, I know people don't watch TV anymore. I'm done also." But you know what I mean. Will you and you're coaching a bunch of little kids?

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah.

N. Rodgers: Do you want them to see you having that kind of discourse with the other coach? Of course not. That's why when parents run down onto the field and start yelling at the coach, I think you know your kids are watching, right?

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes.

N. Rodgers: There's a whole bunch of kids watching you act like a jerk, and they're either taking away the message, "Oh, adults are jerks to each other. " Or if that parent wins, being a jerk gets you somewhere.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah.

N. Rodgers: Neither is a good message.

J. Aughenbaugh: No.

N. Rodgers: So Chuck Schumer if you're listening, which I highly doubt, but if you are shame on you, that is not okay.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah, and President Trump, stop tweeting for crying out loud.

N. Rodgers: Tweeting for crying out loud, please.

J. Aughenbaugh: Okay.

N. Rodgers: Shame on you as well.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah, shame on you. Well, to give you another example, my daughter came home, we were doing homework, and then when she got done with her homework, she ripped it up and I said, "Why did you rip up your homework, Mackenzie?" She was just like, "Well, wasn't there a politician who after her speech". I was just like, okay, that was for drama. That was almost like acting and she was just like, "Oh, so I don't get to rip up my homework when I'm done?" and I said, "No, you do your homework, you turn it in so it gets graded."

N. Rodgers: So you had to tape her back together?

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes, I did.

N. Rodgers: Wow. Well, but she's seven. She saw something, she internalized it and she replicated it.

J. Aughenbaugh: Then she replicated it. Yeap.

N. Rodgers: People think they're not sponges, but they are.

J. Aughenbaugh: Oh, my goodness.

N. Rodgers: Are human sponges?

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes, they are. Anytime she hears.

N. Rodgers: That's why there's a [inaudible] at your house.

J. Aughenbaugh: That's right, because every time I swear I go and get a quarter and put it in in the jar and it shows her that it is not appropriate.

N. Rodgers: Then it's going to cost you in one way or another.

J. Aughenbaugh: It's going to cost you, right?

N. Rodgers: I like the message. You'll be funding her college at this point?

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes, I am.

N. Rodgers: Is it the amount of money that is going into that jar?

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah, Mackenzie's is just like, "Wow, hey daddy. I'm going to go to college, I'm 16 and I'm going to get a nice car. I'm going to get a Tesla or something." I'm like, "Mackenzie, you know 10-year-old jeep that Daddy currently drives, if he takes care of it, that's the car you're going to get in another 10 years." Of course, when I look on her face is just like, really dude? There won't be cars.

N. Rodgers: Or there'll be self-driving cars or there will be pods that you get in and get you to work.

J. Aughenbaugh: We'll be jetting around like The Jetsons.

N. Rodgers: I wish.

J. Aughenbaugh: Speaking of watching TV the other night before Mash came on some cable station, there were Flintstones.

N. Rodgers: Oh my gosh.

J. Aughenbaugh: She was utterly fascinated by The Flintstones. She was just like, "So you watched this, daddy?" and I said, "Oh yes," and she goes, "Really?"

N. Rodgers: You can make your car move with your feet.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah, right?

N. Rodgers: Yeah.

J. Aughenbaugh: She goes, "No, you're not so old that you actually ate with dinosaur bones?"

N. Rodgers: She did not.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes, she did say that. I was just like, "Really you're making fun of the man who just made you dinner?" She was just like.

N. Rodgers: Guess what? Your mac and cheese is going to have a lot of salt in it next week.

J. Aughenbaugh: She was just like, but yeah, it was pretty funny because she was just like, "Did you watch this daddy?" and I said, "Yeah.".

N. Rodgers: Okay. Flintstones, Scooby-Doo, all that.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah. She was just utterly fascinated.

N. Rodgers: Which when you go back and look at them, have not aged well?

J. Aughenbaugh: No, they have not.

N. Rodgers: Because the technology has just moved on to the point now where.

J. Aughenbaugh: No, but she like Scooby-Doo for pretty much the same reason I did as a kid. She likes Scooby.

N. Rodgers: Oh, yeah.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes.

N. Rodgers: [inaudible].

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah, right. The rest of the characters, they just don't resonate.

N. Rodgers: Their background.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes, right. But anytime Scooby and Shaggy are like afraid or are they're always eating, cheers, I can now I understand why you like Scooby-Doo so much. He eats all the time daddy. He said, "When you're saying cheers, you're always eating." She goes, " You are as funny as the dog is." and I said, "Oh, so I'm being compared to a dog now?" She goes, "Yes."

N. Rodgers: She probably thinks you're the lamest, dumbest person alive in some ways.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah, the one exception is because once or twice a year I bring her to campus because her school is out or she might be getting over an illness and she can't go to school, so she's stuck with daddy. So it's bring your daughter to work day and she within five minutes of whatever class, she merely puts the buds in her ear and watches the tablet because she's just like, she goes, "You seem to know stuff that, what is this stuff?" I'm just like, "It is stuff I studied and talk about" and she's like, "Yeah, write, write, write, talk, talk, talk. That's all you do."

N. Rodgers: It's right, write, write, write, talk, talk, talk, which is professors really.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yeah, pretty much. That's all we do, write, write, write, talk, talk, talk, right? Yes.

N. Rodgers: So I want to finish up this podcasts by saying, I think that it's been pretty clear, but I want to make it absolutely clear, we do not favor one politician over the other.

J. Aughenbaugh: No we do not.

N. Rodgers: We are grumpy at all of them.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes.

N. Rodgers: For acting badly.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes.

N. Rodgers: They need to stop.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes.

N. Rodgers: That is our demand. We're going to make that demand politely by saying, please stop, instead of by threatening people and suggesting that we might hurt them in some way.

J. Aughenbaugh: I don't care if it's a Supreme Court justice, a member of Congress, the President of the United States, whoever. You have a position of trust, whether you like it or not, and maybe you should have thought about this before you aspired to these position.

N. Rodgers: Exactly.

J. Aughenbaugh: People watch what you say and do, many people emulate you.

N. Rodgers: Internalize it.

J. Aughenbaugh: Yes. You're a role model and whether you like it or not, and if you can't act better, then perhaps you should consider a different career.

N. Rodgers: Yeap.

J. Aughenbaugh: Perhaps.

N. Rodgers: Well said. All right, I'll talk to you later.

J. Aughenbaugh: Thanks Nia.

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