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Jane Fonda tried to meet Trump with 'beautiful' climate activists

Hollywood legend Jane Fonda revealed she attempted to meet President Donald Trump shortly after his election with a group of "beautiful, voluptuous, brilliant" climate activists including Pamela Anderson in order to convince him to tackle global warming. But after discussing her idea with the president's son-in-law Jared Kushner and daughter Ivanka Trump, Fonda did not hear back, which eventually helped convince her to move for several months to Washington and use the power of her celebrity to help drive mass mobilizations.

Speaking at the National Press Club on Tuesday, Fonda, who turns 82 on Saturday, said she hatched the plan the day after the New York real estate tycoon was elected in 2016. "I kind of know men like Trump, not as bad, but you know, I sort of know those inclinations," she said. "And I thought, I'm going to get three or four of the most beautiful, voluptuous, brilliant climate activists - Pamela Anderson is one of them - and a few scientists, and I'm going to make an appointment, and we're all going to see Trump and we're going to get on our knees," she added, to laughter.

"And we're going to say to him, President Trump, you can be the hero of the entire world, you can be the most important human being ever to be born, the most better, perfect, wonderful, big, huge, wonderful, if you protect the planet." She said she then called Kushner, who referred her to his wife Ivanka - the "environmentalist in the family" - to call her back. Fonda said Ivanka laughed when told the plan but did not take it further.

Pity for Trump

The Oscar-winning actress, who made a name for herself as a pacifist and feminist since the 1970s, has been taking part in non-sanctioned protests outside the US Capitol since October and getting arrested alongside other activists, hoping to spark a mass movement of millions to force the government to act. Asked what she thought of Trump's repeated mockery of Swedish activist Greta Thunberg and its impact on other teens fighting for climate action, Fonda said the president deserved pity, not scorn, because he sounded "traumatized". "A man who could do that to a girl like Greta is so empty, so lacking in empathy and



Actress and activist Jane Fonda speaks about her movement to push for political action on climate change during a luncheon at the National Press Club on Dec 17, 2019 in Washington. — AFP

compassion, that we need to be compassionate," she said. "We may hate the behavior! But we have to understand that the behavior is the language of the traumatized, so we don't hate the traumatized." "I do have empathy, but I'm afraid that there's no change in him," she added.

Fonda concluded that whether Trump won re-

election next year or a Democrat took the White House, activists "still have to be in the streets holding their feet to the fire". "There's a big advantage of being old, because you can look back and you can see presidents. I've seen presidents, and when we don't force the people in office to do what they need to do, terrible things happen." — AFP

8-year-old highest paid YouTuber, earns \$26m in year



Eight-year-old Ryan Kaji earned \$26 million in 2019 on his YouTube channel, making him the highest-paid creator on the platform, according to a list published Wednesday by Forbes magazine. Kaji, whose real name is Ryan Guan, was already the video platform's highest earner in 2018, with \$22 million, according to Forbes. His channel "Ryan's World", launched in 2015 by Ryan's parents, is only three years old but already has 22.9 million subscribers.

Initially called "Ryan ToysReview," the channel mostly consisted of "unboxing" videos - videos of the young star opening boxes of toys and playing with them. Several of the videos have racked up more than one billion views, and the channel has received almost 35 billion views since its creation, according to data from the analytics website Social Blade.

Recently, the channel was renamed after a consumer advocacy organization, Truth in Advertising, filed a complaint with the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) about it. Truth in Advertising accused the channel of not clearly denoting which videos had been sponsored, meaning brands paid for the video to feature their products. The channel has also evolved as Ryan ages, now offering more educational videos in addition to the toys.

In Forbes's ranking, Ryan Kaji surpassed the channel "Dude Perfect", run by a group of friends from Texas who attempt seemingly impossible feats, such as launching basketballs into hoops from the tops of buildings or out of helicopters. Dude Perfect came in second, up from third the year before, having earned \$20 million between June 1, 2018 and June 1, 2019.

In third place was another child star's channel, that of Russia's Anastasia Radzinskaya. At only five years old, she earned \$18 million. Her channels "Like Nastya Vlog" and "Funny Stacy" boast nearly 70 million subscribers in total, with videos in Russian, English and Spanish. — AFP

Florida Man: A year in eccentricity, gators and crime

There is a Florida Man Twitter account, and for good reason - the Sunshine State seems to be the scene of some of the wackiest news of any given year. Thanks to the marvels of the internet, the exploits of "Florida Man" - a wayward regular Joe, or a clumsy criminal - are the stuff of social media legend. Their tales go viral in a hot second. Of course, the abundance of wild animals - we are looking at you, alligators - help a lot. Here are a handful of zany stories that came out of Florida in 2019, compiled from police and local news reports:

Beware fast food outlets

Many of us like to grab food or a drink on the run - cars have drink holders for a reason, right? But in Florida, caveat emptor. In January, a man found a World War II era grenade and put it in his truck. But then he decided he needed to run for the border - to make a stop at Taco Bell, that is. When he finally decided the grenade might be more pressing than his tacos, he called the 911 emergency line. Cue the bomb squad - and a lot of questions about the guy's priorities.

In April, Starbucks was the scene of some more serious drama. Police arrested a man who loudly proclaimed himself "The Saint" and told patrons sipping their lattes that a "turtle army" would destroy them. He then marched into a police department in the town of Indialantic, near Melbourne, and yelled at an employee. He was charged with disturbing the peace.

Crime stranger than fiction

In January, a man was arrested on suspicion of drug possession. When police found three syringes in his rectum, he claimed ignorance, saying he had no idea how they got there. Ummm.....Also that month, a man threatened to kill his neighbor with "kindness". Sounded innocent enough, until the man pulled out a machete with the word "kindness" written on it. He was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. His neighbor survived, with only a minor cut on his hand.

In August, a man was arrested for castrating another man - badly. The pair met on a fetish website,

eu-nuch.com. A camera was set up to record the procedure. But the victim ended up bleeding heavily, and the suspect said he had learned his craft... growing up on a farm. The suspect was charged with a felony for illegally practicing medicine resulting in bodily injury.

And in September, a couple arrested for riding bicycles while under the influence of alcohol... undressed and began having sex in the back of the police car that was taking them to the station. They were charged with the DUI - and exposing "sexual organs".

Animal kingdom

Florida makes people do crazy things, especially when there is an animal involved. In May, during an early-morning traffic stop, a female passenger pulled a baby alligator out of her yoga pants when the officer asked her what she had. As it turns out, she also had dozens of baby turtles in a backpack. That same month, a python ended up in a Florida man's toilet - the true stuff of nightmares. The man ended up with a bite on his arm.

In July, a 75-year-old man battled with an eight-foot (2.5-m) alligator to save his daughter's golden retriever. The man kicked the reptile in the snout and ran to safety. The following month, a similar drama: a man hears a ruckus outside his home and rushes out to see an alligator with his chocolate Labrador retriever in its mouth. The man pried the gator's mouth open and saved the dog. Moral of the story: Beware roving alligators.

Super meta

In March, the interwebs got in on the Florida Man fun. You've heard of the Ice Bucket Challenge -this was the Florida Man Challenge. Type "Florida Man" and your birthday into a search engine and see what comes up as the craziest news from that day.

POTUS joins the ranks

The state earned one more Florida Man this year: None other than President Donald Trump, who ditched his residency in New York to make Mar-a-Lago his new home. — AFP