

# Make Me Smart November 1, 2021 transcript

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**Marielle Segarra:** Have you had doubles? Oh my god, they're so good.

**Kai Ryssdal:** I have not.

**Marielle Segarra:** They're these like, patties with chickpea, this sweet chick pea mixture on the inside. And two doughy patties on either side. Really good. Next time you go to New York, you have to get doubles.

**Kai Ryssdal:** All right. All right.

**Marielle Segarra:** It's a plan.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Oh, my goodness. Here we are on a Monday. Hey, everybody, welcome back to Make Me Smart, I'm Kai Ryssdal. Making today make sense is what we do on this podcast, believe it or not.

**Marielle Segarra:** Yeah. And I'm Marielle Segarra. Thanks for joining us. It's Monday, also known as what did we miss Monday, where we do a lightning round of stories you might have missed over the weekend, along with one big news story of the day.

**Kai Ryssdal:** So let us get to it, shall we? And I think, and I don't know, we did not, we did not extensively collaborate on this one. But I kind of think the big story from the weekend is the beginning of the, of the COP26 conference. I don't know, what do you think?

**Marielle Segarra:** Yeah, no, I agree.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Alright. Okay. Now, now, can I let you in on my feeling about the COP 26 conference, and I say this with all, all respect and admiration to, to Molly Wood, who, by the way, I think is back tomorrow for a couple of days. I don't, I don't think this conference is going to do anything. And I know that's defeatist. And I know it's terrible. And I know humanity is gonna perish in a hellhole of a smoking disgusting planet. But we don't have the political will, certainly not in the United States and I would say in most other places to get it done. And that just depresses the hell out of me.

**Marielle Segarra:** Yeah, no, I was pretty depressed reading about it, too. No, I mean, just thinking about some of the pledges that have been made previously, like I think it was 12 years

ago, at another UN Climate Summit, rich countries made a pledge to, to give I think it was like \$100 billion a year to less wealthy countries to help them by 2020 to help them adapt. And that's because the rich countries are the ones who are responsible for most of the greenhouse gas emissions. And the poor countries are the ones who, who bear the brunt of that. But that hasn't happened. So that's just one example of, of the pledges that are made and then don't happen, or the, the Paris Climate Agreement, like countries are not on track to meet the goals of that. That was 2015. So I don't know. I don't know what to say anymore. It's just like, it's bleak. Yeah.

**Kai Ryssdal:** And look, look, let's, let's look in the, in the mirror here, right, because I don't want to beat up on Joe Manchin, because lord knows people beat up on him enough. But he's, there's one guy standing in the way of just, for instance, the clean energy program that the Biden administration wants to put forward, which would have accelerated our adoption of clean energy by something like 80%. And we just can't get it done. We can't get it done. And have we, the world's oldest democracy, can't get it done, for all our flaws, by the way, you know, how else is, how are other people going to get it done? I don't, I don't get it. And it's just, it's super depressing.

**Marielle Segarra:** Yeah. And, you know, so a president can go and negotiate and, and have these kinds of conversations on the global stage, but it has to go through the legislature in each country. So, you know.

**Kai Ryssdal:** So that's my depressing news. I would actually really like to hear what people think about the COP 26 conference. And, and, well, without prejudging the question, what do people think about it? Let us know, [makemesmart@marketplace.org](mailto:makemesmart@marketplace.org), or you can call us, you'll get the phone number later, you can leave a voice memo, you can go to our website and do an audio file there. Cause I want to believe that I'm alone in despairing, but I kind of don't think I am. I kind of don't think I am. Anyway.

**Marielle Segarra:** Well, and honestly, are you following it at all? Because sometimes it's just like these things just seem so like, they amount to nothing that it's like, why bother even following, it's just talk.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Yeah. Well this is this is very hollowed out shell of a Thursday about us like a Monday thing but, you know, the news is what the news is. Yeah, that's my go to. That's my go to. The news is what the news is. Alright, let's, let's get on with another couple of links here because there is some of, there was some other news this weekend that I want to make sure, at least from my part, that that people didn't miss. Number one, in the Washington Post, actually, this is a twofer. Number one in Washington Post, a great long, long read on January 6. The 100 days leading up to it, the tick tock of what happened during that day, by the hour, by the minute, and then a little bit of the aftermath. It is kind of amazing. And it's all out there. And we don't seem to be doing anything about it to, to preserve this democracy. And that's really sort of distressing. And yes, I know, January 6 commission and all of that, but it's a committee, actually, not a commission. But I'm, I'm troubled. As, as a sort of a second piece of that, I don't know how many of you have been following the news of Robert Costa from the Washington Post and Bob

Woodward from the Washington Post, their new book Peril. Robert Costa was on Fresh Air a couple of days ago with Terry Gross, talking about his reporting for that book and what he thinks it means. And this is a guy who, you know, who's been following the Trump administration Republicans for a long, long time. And it was kind of chilling. It was kind of chilling. And so that kind of bummed me out. Man, I'm just taking this farther down. Okay, here's one that makes you go, huh. And I'll top it with a statistic. We're now at, over the weekend, we learned we're at 5 million people globally have died from COVID-19, which is terrible. Here's the thing that makes it germane to American audiences, even though we should just have it be germane because it's a global pandemic. The United States alone, says Bloomberg, accounted for 14% of the last 1 million deaths globally, the highest share of any country. You guys, get the vaccine. Get the vaccine. Yeah, there was a, there was a protest outside my local high school this morning by government workers at a local government facility who, with Biden's not mandate, right, it's be tested or get vaccinated, right? They were protesting having to vaccinated, government workers. And I'm like, wow, okay. Whatever.

**Marielle Segarra:** Yeah. I don't know, I mean, also, especially if you have the option to get tested instead, I don't really see what the problem is. There's, yeah, totally. It's, I mean, on that note, like in New York City, there's a mandate that if you work for the city, you have to be vaccinated. And if you don't do that by today, then you're on unpaid leave. And that's been a big issue. I think it's 10% of workers didn't do it. And when it comes to like, firefighters, it's 25%. So as of today, they're just not on the job. Yeah. 25%. And, you know, they say the city says it'll be okay. And like, there won't be any interruptions in service. I don't know. 25% is a big--yeah. And it did, the vaccination numbers did go up once that mandate was put in place. So it worked to a certain extent, but it's also just, those numbers are, are kind of wild.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Totally crazy. Totally crazy. So I'll just, I'll finish up my little news items with this. It's from Shanghai, courtesy of the Wall Street Journal, although the story was everywhere. A woman in Shanghai Disney was found to have been infected with COVID-19, so Chinese authorities shut the park, and by shut the park, I don't mean close the doors and kept everybody out. I mean, all 34,000 people who were in the park at the time were locked in Shanghai Disneyland. So they were all locked in, had to be tested. I don't know. They had to be locked in and tested before they could be released. I don't--how much do you love that? So, as we've talked about, yeah, the, the Chinese in this pandemic have a lot of splaining to do, but I thought that was kind of interesting.

**Marielle Segarra:** Yeah, you could never see that happening here at Disney World.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Yeah. Zero chance. Zero chance.

**Marielle Segarra:** God, I really want to know now how long like, did they have to sleep overnight? Was it like the, I'm opening this article now. Well, you know, because if it's like they tested them immediately, then that really wouldn't do any good. But if they had to be like, staying in Disney hotels or whatever, they wouldn't have had enough room for everybody. This is fascinating.

**Kai Ryssdal:** It's crazy, right?

**Marielle Segarra:** Yeah. Yeah. Oh, you might hear, there's a fire truck or something going by in the background. That's New York City for you. One of the 75% of firefighters who are left. So along the lines of what we're talking about earlier with like, the president kind of making deals on the global stage. The G 20 met this weekend as well. And the Biden administration has been negotiating for a new global minimum, corporate minimum tax. And that actually went, moved forward on Saturday and world leaders endorsed it. So, and even a country like Ireland, which has been, has a really low corporate tax rate and that attracts foreign investment got on board. So that's great for, you know, the Biden administration. That's, that's something that they wanted for a while. Still has to pass through the legislatures in all these countries, including ours, and there's no telling whether, you know, there are the votes for that.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Yeah, there is absolutely no telling. Now, in theory, the 15% corporate tax is in the latest package that I saw being advanced, but who knows?

**Marielle Segarra:** Right. Yeah, changes constantly, Joe Manchin is not on board, he was, now he's not. In a slightly less dark story, the, there was a story in The New York Times this weekend about Halloween costumes and the supply chain issues we've been seeing. So like, normally it's not, it's not that easy to get Halloween costumes into stores that are responsive to the latest, like pop culture trends or viral things or, you know, even like a, like a TV show like squid game. That is a rush usually, but this time it was basically impossible. And if you wanted to get a costume, if like a retailer wanted to get a costume in stores, they would have had to order it really like, six to nine months in advance. So that means a lot of the more recent pop culture references are kind of out as costumes unless you want to make your own costume. Or yeah, unless you want to do something more generic. And I feel like I did see that this year. Like I saw a lot of, I was handing out candy yesterday at my parent's place, and I saw a lot of kids in pretty generic looking costumes. They were still cute. But yeah.

**Kai Ryssdal:** I absolutely agree with that. There was a lot of generic out there. Also one Donald Trump showed up in my neighborhood.

**Marielle Segarra:** Really? Too soon for that to be a costume. Just um, yeah, I saw, I saw some Paw Patrol, I saw a Bat Girl. I dressed up as Rosie the Riveter.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Did you really? Sorry, like this year, or when you were a kid?

**Marielle Segarra:** No, this year. I had, I have a denim jumpsuit and then I just got a red bandana and put on red lipstick. And that was the costume. It was great.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Maybe the reason I don't like Halloween is because I'm just not creative with costumes. And I just, I always think I look like a schmo.

**Marielle Segarra:** What was the last costume you wore? Do you remember?

**Kai Ryssdal:** Oh, I'm sure I was five years old. I don't even know..

**Marielle Segarra:** No way, five? You never wore one as an adult? You never wore one in college?

**Kai Ryssdal:** I have absolutely no.

**Marielle Segarra:** Oh, I wore some good costumes in my day. I was part of a, part of like a group of friends that we did group costumes together. We were cereal box characters. I was the Trix rabbit. It was great. There were like, six of us.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Speaking of Halloween costumes, let's move on, shall we? Juan Carlos, is that you down the line? Yes, it was. So a couple of make me smiles from listeners today who hit us up on Twitter with their Halloween pictures. Nikki in Connecticut tweeted a photo to me, it's of a dog dressed up as the ever given. It's actually pretty cool, a bunch of containers on top and little green sheath over the dog, ever given. That one was pretty cool. Steven in California sent us a photo of a supply chain bottleneck costume he saw when he was passing out candy. I don't quite get this one, we're gonna put it on the show page and you guys figure out what it is. It's like a supply--

**Marielle Segarra:** He has chains around his neck and then he has a Bud Light on his head, so it's a bottleneck.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Oh, it's a bottle with--okay, okay. I'm not good with costumes. I'm not good with costumes.

**Marielle Segarra:** Yeah, no, it's good. I like that. Topical. And that's, you wouldn't find that in a store.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Absolutely not.

**Marielle Segarra:** Well, we also have another make me smile. Or maybe it's kind of like, make me like, go huh, from Molly Wood, who is back tomorrow. There is a data set that shows the types of jobs or people who have certain jobs marry each other the most. So for instance, supervisors of firefighters are most likely to marry nurses, and journalists, I looked this up, are most likely to marry other journalists. And after that, lawyers.

**Kai Ryssdal:** I believe that. You look at all the journalists, journalists couples out there. Oh, totally believe that.

**Marielle Segarra:** I guess we work a lot. So maybe they met at work or something? I don't know.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Yeah, there's some competitive thing going on. Anyway, that's, that's good. All right. We are, we are done for today. Molly's back. And we're gonna do a deep dive into economics and economists and why they say what they say and how come they're still wrong all the time. Do we give it too much weight as a science when, you know, it's the whole on the one hand on the other hand thing, we'll get into all of that, on the Tuesday show.

**Marielle Segarra:** Good questions. In the meantime, send us your questions and comments on whatever is on your mind. Plus, you know, we always appreciate your make me smile suggestions. You can reach us at [makemesmart@marketplace.org](mailto:makemesmart@marketplace.org), or call us and leave a voice message. Our number is 508-827-6278 or 508-UB-SMART.

**Kai Ryssdal:** And also don't forget what you're thinking about COP 26. And whether you're with me and the whole despairing thing or with people who are more optimistic about that, I'm just I don't even know. Anyway, this podcast, which is called Make Me Smart, I know is produced by Marissa Cabrera. Today's program was engineered by Juan Carlos Torrado. Tony Wagner writes our newsletters, also, I think, is the one to put stuff on the home page.

**Marielle Segarra:** Our senior producer is Bridget Bodnar and the interim director of on demand is Donna Tam. And I'm gonna go order some takeout.

**Kai Ryssdal:** All right. All right. It's getting late where you are.

**Marielle Segarra:** Yeah, it's past my dinner time.

**Kai Ryssdal:** Way past dinner time.