

vaccine, most of the volunteers haven't received their first dose yet, and none of them are fully enrolled. According to an NPR article, The FDA said that the vaccine will be approved for use if it's "shown to be safe and at least 50% effective." The hope is that even if half the population



Photo Credit: Erika Soukop

still contracts Covid-19, the cases will be less severe. So yes, there is hope for the coming future that there will be a vaccine, but there will not be any definite data until October, and even then, a vaccine.

Facebook to Ban Political Ads

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

SOCIAL MEDIA GIANT, FACEBOOK, has been scrutinized in the past for censoring conservative politicians and spokespeople, as well as conservative news outlets such as The Daily Wire and Breitbart. In early August, it essentially confirmed suspicions of biased censoring when it made the decision to remove and prevent existing ads from The Committee to Defend the President. The Facebook page, which has nearly a million followers, shares conservative news, quotes, memes, and videos, and has come under the radar of Democratic politicians, representatives of President Obama, and the Joe Biden campaign. Now, the major platform has admitted to its consideration of banning all political ads in the period of time close to the election.

Democrats have made claims that they did not know about this being a possible action on the platform, especially considering Facebook has

been under fire in the recent past for persisting for the allowance of what has been declared by liberals as "hate speech" and "misinformation" to be present on the page. Now that they are also being targeted, they are joining their counterparts across the aisle to take action against being silenced. DNC Chief Technology Officer Nellwyn Thomas tweeted, "We said it seven months ago to @Google and we will say it again to @Facebook: a blunt ads ban is not a real solution to disinformation on your platform."

The reason Facebook has been against an outright banning of political ads is because there are politicians outside of the Democratic and Republican parties who would also get swept up and would not be able to advertise, which would possibly completely silence what little voices independent and smaller party politicians have. CEO Mark Zuckerberg also stated in a speech: "Even if we wanted to ban political ads, it's not clear where we'd draw the line. There are many more ads about issues than there are directly about elections. Would we ban all ads about healthcare or immigration or women's empowerment? If we banned candidates' ads but not these, would that really make sense to give everyone else a voice in political debates except the candidates themselves?" It is clear that any form of censorship would have unwanted side effects, especially experienced by smaller groups and politicians.

On the other hand, the platform also acknowledges the fact that the advertisements stir up civil unrest and tribalism. Still, many are unsure if it is the right course of action. The company also stated it may take down content which contains misinformation about COVID-19, such as messages that claim you will catch the virus if you vote in person at the polls. But even this will not be fully executed; the plan is that any other such advertisements will not necessarily be removed, but will instead be automatically linked to websites with additional information on the disease.

Whichever way Facebook decides to go, there will undoubtedly be a brain-frying quantity of politics shoved onto us as the election draws nearer and nearer. Not to mention there are other social media platforms aside from Facebook, websites, TV channels, and so many other forms of media which will undoubtedly harbor their fair share of political ads. So we have to ask the question: if Facebook bans these particular advertisements, will it really matter?

Real Life Willy Wonka

BY MIA CAHALAN

WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH the name Willy Wonka. It might be from the classic children's book, the TikToker who impersonates him, or even the episode of The Office where Michael Scott dressed up as him. That said, just when you thought 2020 couldn't get any stranger, a real life Willy Wonka sweepstakes

has been announced this past week. While participants don't have to worry about being sucked up by a chocolate chute like Augustus Gloop, the stakes are still high. The sweepstakes is taking place in a form of a nationwide scavenger hunt hosted by one of the original jelly bean inventors, David Klein.

The guidelines of the game are fairly straight forward. Each participant must pay \$49.99 in order to compete for the prize. The game is available in all 50 states but only 1,000 tickets are sold in each state. Similar to the popular film and children's book *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*, there will only be one winner. Klein owns several candy factories and the grand prize for the winner is one of the factories he owns. The winner will also have the opportunity to enroll in a candy making course at the University of Wisconsin - Madison as part of the prize. This will allow for the winner to start his or her own candy company.



Photo Credit: Mia Cahalan

The major difference between the fictional story and the real life treasure hunt is that the participants will be guided by a riddle. It isn't clear to the participants yet when the riddle will be revealed; details are yet to be announced to those participating.

When a participant buys a "ticket," they receive a riddle for a place in their state where a golden dog tag is hidden. Whoever finds a golden dog tag wins \$5,000 and is entered in a chance to win the factory. In comparison to the films and book, only those who find a dog tag are eligible for the grand prize of winning the factory. Although there are skeptics of Klein's true intent, many are eager to hear the final details be announced.

In a recent interview with CNN reporters, Klein made his intentions clear. He stated that ever since the launch of the Jelly Bean, and therefore his career, he always dreamed of giving away a factory. It has been bucket list item for Klein, and he is very excited for the treasure hunt.