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NewsRep. Okasio Cortez (D-N.Y.) responds to comments directed at her by Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL). TagsAlexandria Ocasio-CortezPolitics Credit: USArmyEsports/Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez U.S. Military recently joined Twitch to share live gaming streams of their eSports teams and interact with viewers who may be interested in joining the Army, Navy or Air Force. As it turned out, they didn't exactly play by the platform's rules, and now they've drawn the wrath of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The New York representative intends to file an amendment to the House Appropriations Bill that would prevent those armed forces from using the funds guaranteed by the bill to maintain a presence on Twitch.com or any video game, eSports or streaming video platform. Photo: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez/Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez What is the big deal? The U.S. military is said to have joined Twitch to recruit from among the fledgling audience of the streaming platform, though the Navy says there's just a show that we're playing video games. literally. Read: GRAPHIC NOVELS LGBT: A genre that makes inclusivity right What's more, Army reportedly ran gifts on its channel and shared automated links in a stream chat, dangling the Xbox Elite Series 2 controller as a prize. According to The Nation, these links are directed to users on the set form without additional mention of the contest, the odds, the total number of winners, or when the draw will take place. As Ocasio-Cortez articulated the concerns in a statement to Motherboard, it is incredibly irresponsible for the Army and Navy to be recruiting impressionable young people and children through live streaming platforms. War is not a game, and the Decision of the Marine Corps not to participate in this recruitment tool should send a clear message to other branches of the armed forces to completely cease this practice. The news comes just after the Army announced it was suspending streaming on Twitch, after it was called by First Amendment advocacy groups to ban activist Jordan Uhl from the Call of Duty stream on the power channel, in which he asked, What is your favorite U.S. w4r cr1me (sic)? Just having a good time with the U.S. Army eSports twitch stream @JordanUhl pic.twitter.com/qnjyvg1KP0 - Rod Breslau (@Slasher) July 8, 2020 As Motherboard Matthew Gault noted, it's too early to say the proposed AOC amendment will be passed. At the very least, it will underline the military's misuse of a platform that reaches an impressionable young audience. Read next: OpenAI's new language GPT-3 explained in under 3 minutes PlayTwitchAlexandria Ocasio-CortezTwitch.tvVideo gameCall of Duty One former colleague describes it as a smart but very little ego. Another praises him as a very gentle, genuine, kind man. And compliments him as the nicest, most purely motivated guy in the world. It may be hard to believe, but they describe Saikat Chakrabarti, Chakrabarti, The chief of staff in Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who has been making waves in Washington lately with his blunt rhetoric and take-no-prisoners attitude. Over Twitter, he drew anger by railing against speaker Nancy Pelosi's name, sarcastically calling her a legislative mastermind. He used the New Democrats and Blue Dogs as seemingly disparaging terms for Ocasio-Cortez's more centrist colleagues. But it was when he criticized the congressman for supporting the weak border aid package that the House Democratic Caucus responded to, via his twitter account: Who is this guy? It's jealousy, says political consultant Zack Exley. They're all just really jealous of him because he's the AOC's chief of staff, added Exley, a former colleague and close friend of Chakrabarti. They are also very angry because he and she, give their opinion and call when they see it. But, seriously, who is this guy? Saikat Chakrabarti was raised in Fort Worth by Bengali American immigrant parents. The jump from a working-class high school in Texas to Harvard has been formidable, says Exley, and the comparing the elite to the humble, probably early shaper of his political views. Modesty is a thread that runs through all the testimonies of characters from friends and colleagues. That quality that they say allows him to act sane in politics, and that allowed him to do the same earlier in Silicon Valley, where he first made his mark. Chakrabarti and van Lamoen worked together for Stripe, a payment systems management company whose clients are now Lyft, Target and Unifac. Chakrabarti was then one of the first engineers and probably the third employee, recalls Ross Boucher, who was fifth. They were part of a team that spent seven months, prior to the company's launch in September 2011, to design and build all the custom parts of Stripe: dashboard, API, subscription features, the website itself. I think it's fair to say that Saikat had a significant impact on the direction of the company and, of course, on its early success, says Boucher. The work-life balance was virtually non-existent at the time. Boucher and Chakrabarti ate every meal together in the office. They worked together in the gym, and then they went back to the office. As if burnout wasn't enough, he also worked for a separate technology company, along with Sheena Pakanati, his college friend, once a roommate, and, that fourth-strip employee. This company was Mockingbird, a web tool for developing websites and applications that the two co-founded just before the strip and managed through their time there. (It's all around but but no longer involved.) Mockingbird, at the time, was perceived as a very high-quality product and really respected in the market, says van Lamoen, adding that the two articulated that they wished they had done more with it. But life happened. A significant job opportunity for his wife, Cami, took the couple to London in 2013, where van Lamoen, then head of Stripes International, opened the store as a base for global expansion. Chakrabarti continued his Career in the UK for several months before calling it quits. Hemingway had the Paris era. Bowie had the Berlin era. Chakrabarti was the London era that became his soul-searching period. Introspection turned into a classic self-reflexive puzzle: is it really all there is? He was not satisfied with the tech scene, says van Lamoen. There was a feeling that it didn't make enough sense. Also, in the Satellite's London office, he may no longer feel an integral part of the team. And yet, he still felt the pressure of limiting the spirit of the valley. Moving from technology to politics is something like a push, not a pull. I don't think there was a master plan, says Pakanati her friend chiseled by his new path, and a series of research steps. The first of these steps will be to contact Zack Exley about joining Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign. One of the first things Exley asked was how he did with every naive misconception that asked about jumping on board: Why do you want to ruin your career by working for Bernie? Half-joking but half serious, he told me: It was clear that if you worked for Bernie, you could get blacklisted. In addition, Exley was skeptical because Silicon Valley staff would constantly hassle his duds. I know exactly what you need, he was told. You need an app that makes x, y, or z, or any idea that has been tried a million times and doesn't work. But Chakrabarti was different. He listened. He participated. Mr Chakrabarti travels to Washington (well, Burlington, actually) Exley says that a recent Valley dropout got to work as an organizer, sitting down with volunteers and attending events: He really dug in to figure out what we were trying to achieve. At this point, his technical prowess manifested for the first time in the political field as he developed technological tools to help simplify campaign documents like event invite lists. His tiny tricks will save 100 steps, says Exley. He made a million little things like this. And that's what allowed everything to scale. Separately, Chakrabarti reunited with Pakanati to develop Spoke, another tool that smoothed the campaign organization. It is a peer-to-peer text tool that simplifies text message alerts for supporters and organizers. Bernie's campaign used it, and because it's software with open code, it has been used nationally and globally: to attract voters in congressional races in Alabama and Virginia to mobilize for The Care Act, as well as the vote on marriage equality in Australia. In 2017, the duo handed over ownership of spoke to the progressive human rights group MoveOn.org. As with Mockingbird, there were hints of regret that they could have done more with Spoke. Everything went in a different direction, so we didn't end up developing the company, Pakanati said. For Chakrabarti, this direction was more firmly in politics. If he was, then, in the middle of the Venn chart, which covers technology and progressive politics, his trajectory takes him into a more complete circle of the latter. With Exley, he would go on to find two separate PACs: Brand New Congress and Justice Democrats. Exley says the brainwave for the former occurred when they lounge in Las Vegas during the Nevada caucuses, wondering what they would do after the election. The new Congress, they decided, would serve as a bipartisan committee to support progressive candidates during Hillary Clinton's presidency. But when the election went to Trump, Justice Democrats became the best model, saying that its primary goal was to defeat the Republican Party that went deep into the deep end and push for a platform that would include a green new agreement, a living wage and Medicare for all. The PAC has endorsed 79 progressive candidates in the 2018 midterm elections, including four congressmen now known as fans and opponents as Squad: Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, Ayanna Pressli and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Chakrabarti will become the chairman of the last campaign staff and then her chief of staff. Even if the AOC's right-hand man has physically left the tech world, his colleagues believe that the work ethic and discipline he developed early on make him a rare example of humility in politics. I always joke that he was one emotionally healthy person in politics, Exley talks about Chakrabarti's time as executive director of his PACs. It came from an environment where people actually worked all day and meeting and making decisions. And that's not exactly how progressive campaigns always work. For Exley, his friend's provocative tweets come from a place of deep concern for the state of the country. So why do they catch members of the House of Representatives by surprise? Many of these people in Congress have just behaved badly over the years without any calling them, Says Exley. People on the hill who are upset with him can't figure out his motives because they're like, What's this guy after? They can't believe that he just wants Congress to work better and be less corrupt and fix things. Whatever you did from back and forth, Chakrabarti's transition from technology seems to have been a particular success. He's one of the few people who broke out of technology in a structural way, took a very different path, and remade success, van Lamoen said. A lot of people talk about it. few follow through. Chakrabarti, in an impeccable following with his reputation refused to speak out because of family commitments, but was incredibly polite about it. This is.

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