

## Standard online reader survey



Q: Do you ever text and drive?

**YES 21 percent**  
**NO 79 percent**

## EDITORIAL

# Don't sell wine and liquor on Sundays

How much alcohol do we need? Can we not take a break from the sale of wine for just one day?

Those are questions to ask as Tennessee lawmakers consider legislation to allow the sale of wine on Sunday.

The question we're asking here at the *Standard* is why do we need wine sales every day of the week? And if you can't be without wine on Sunday, can't you at least plan ahead and buy what you need on Saturday? It's not complicated.

Unfortunately, when government gets involved it seems to muddy even the clearest waters. Lobbyists are complaining about the economic hardship the state is facing by not having an extra day of wine and liquor sales.

So let the spin begin.

The Distilled Spirits Council contends an economic report determined an extra day of wine and liquor sales statewide could generate between \$3.3 and \$4.6 million in additional tax revenues annually.

The accuracy of this statement would seem impossible to verify. People may already be buying more alcohol during the week to compensate for no

sales on Sunday.

Or, in the absence of wine and liquor sales on Sunday, people may be buying beer, which is perfectly legal on Sunday. Allowing liquor and wine sales on Sunday may just be taking money from one pocket and shifting it to another.

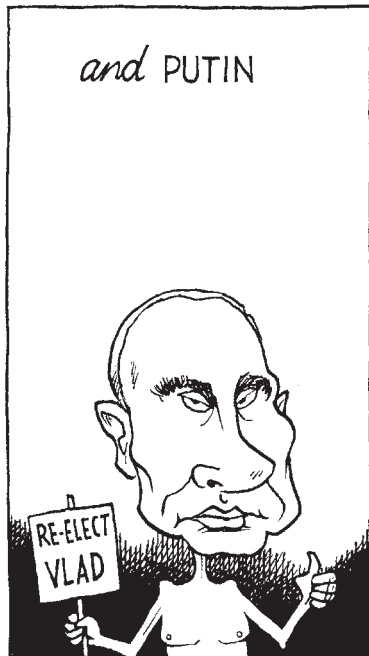
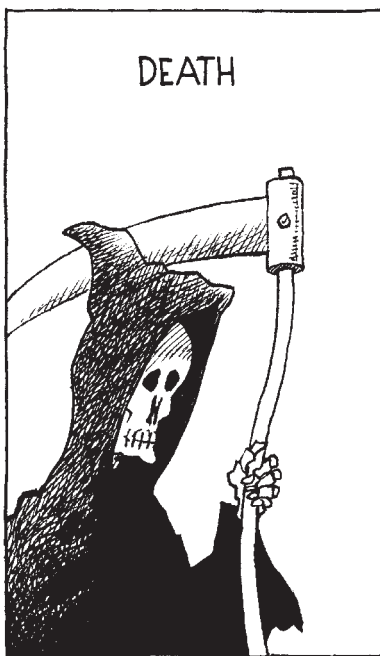
People who want to buy liquor every waking hour claim Tennessee's blue laws are outdated and confusing to shoppers. They claim it's leaving millions in uncollected tax dollars on the table.

We think the state's alcohol laws are just fine the way they are. There's no reason to have alcohol sales slammed in our face every day of the week. Sunday, a traditional day of worship, seems like an appropriate time to rest for a moment.

This is not to pass moral judgment on Tennesseans who enjoy drinking wine and liquor on Sunday. We understand alcohol is going to be consumed throughout the week. That's never going to change, regardless of Tennessee law.

But the state doesn't need to facilitate non-stop drinking. That's not progress, as alcohol proponents like to suggest. It's simply more intoxication.

## NOTHING IS CERTAIN, EXCEPT FOR ...



# The mass murder pipeline

Nikolas Cruz's psychosis ended in a bloody massacre not only because of the stunning incompetence of the Broward County Sheriff's Department. It was also the result of liberal insanity working exactly as it was intended to.

School and law enforcement officials knew Cruz was a ticking time bomb. They did nothing because of a deliberate, willful, bragged-about policy to end the "school-to-prison pipeline."

If Cruz had taken out full-page ads in the local newspapers, he could not have demonstrated more clearly that he was a dangerous psychotic. He assaulted students, cursed out teachers, kicked in classroom doors, started fist fights, threw chairs, threatened to kill other students, mutilated small animals, pulled a rifle on his mother, drank gasoline and cut himself, among other "red flags."

Over and over again, students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School reported Cruz's terrifying behavior. At least three students showed school administrators Cruz's near-constant messages threatening to kill them — e.g., "I am going to enjoy seeing you down on the grass," "I am going to watch you bleed," "I am going to shoot you dead" — including one that came with a photo of Cruz's guns. They warned school authorities that he was bringing weapons to school. They filed written reports.

Threatening to kill someone is a felony. In addition to locking Cruz away for a while, having a felony record would have prevented him from purchasing a gun. But Cruz was never arrested. He wasn't referred to law enforcement. He wasn't even expelled.

Instead, Cruz was just moved around from school to school — six transfers in three years. But he was

always sent back to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in order to mainstream him, so that he could get a good job someday!

The moronic idea behind the "school-to-prison pipeline" is that the only reason so many "black and brown bodies" are in prison is because they were disciplined in high school, diminishing their opportunities. End the discipline and ... problem solved!

It's the arrest — not the behavior that led to the arrest — that reduces a student's chance at a successful life. For example, just look at how much the district's refusal to arrest Nikolas Cruz helped him!

When it comes to spectacular crimes, it's usually hard to say how it could have been prevented. But in this case, we have a paper

trail. In the pursuit of a demented ideology, specific people agreed not to report, arrest or prosecute dangerous students like Nikolas Cruz.

These were the parties to the Nov. 5, 2013, agreement that ensured Cruz would be out on the street with full access to firearms:

- Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools
- Peter M. Weinstein, Chief Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit
- Michael J. Satz, State Attorney
- Scott Israel, Broward Co. Sheriff
- Franklin Adderley, Chief of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department
- Wansley Walters, Secretary of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Nikolas Cruz may be crazy, but the parties to that agreement are crazy, too. They decided to make high school students their guinea pigs for an experiment based on a noxious ideology.

The blood of 17 people is on their hands.

## COLUMNIST

**ANN COULTER**



# Treat me like royalty

I am waiting in the "Poor Pathetic Schmuck" line for my boarding pass at the airport. There are at least 30 people in front of me. In the next line over, at the counter for the same airline, an attendant is doing nothing but waiting for the next "Elite" customer to show up.

The Elite passenger has no time to waste waiting in line. It's doubtful they will even let his baggage rub up against mine, because there's no telling what loathsome disease it might be passing along. The airline to my right has a similar caste system, but instead of calling their passengers "Elite," they are "Privileged" and "Ambassadors." The airline on my left uses "Commoner" and "Royals" to distinguish the people who are worth being fussed over from the ones who aren't.

What ever happened to plain old "first class"?

Cruise lines, car rental agencies, even neighborhood supermarkets are rewarding frequent customers with deals, but also with semi-royal titles for those who pledge loyalty. Cruise ships are all named The Royal Something, The Regal Whatnot, The Noble Whosit, The Majestic Whatever. The message is that you will be treated like royalty — if you can cough up enough money. But I wonder if actual royalty, like the Queen of England, would really be impressed.

Something tells me that Her Royal Highness expects more than a little free champagne in a souvenir glass and a tiny suite upgrade when she

cruises. Something tells me she doesn't stand in a long line to go through customs, and may not have to go through a metal detector, either.

Face it, if you don't have your own gigantic yacht or private plane, you're not being treated like royalty. Yes, the Queen has flown commercial in the past, but I understand she bought every seat in first class for the entourage. I can't quite picture Her Highness sitting next to a guy who yaps at her the entire flight.

"So you're a queen," he says. "That's great. I'm a king. The Hot Dog King of Brooklyn! I started with one little street cart and now I own a chain. How about that! From nuttin' to all dis. How'd you make your money?"

Her flight attendant will probably not get knighted for calling her "honey" and "dearie" the entire flight.

I was jealous of the Elite, Prestige and Royals who jumped the line next to me for a while. But when they announced our departure would be delayed for three hours, it hit me that they had paid extra to be in the same boat I was in. They weren't going to arrive any earlier than I was. They'd still get a better seat, they'd still get the extra courtesy and attention they'd paid for, but they weren't going to get where we were going any faster.

They'll miss their connecting flights the same as I will. If I'm not careful, I'll start to think I'm one of the Elite.

Contact Jim Mullen at [mullen.jim@gmail.com](mailto:mullen.jim@gmail.com).

## VILLAGE IDIOT

**JIM MULLEN**



## THE SCOOP

**JAMES CLARK**



# Making sense of the headlines

Highway Patrol Lt. Billy Prater made a meaningful comment in Sunday's edition of the *Standard* when he talked about the need to reduce impaired driving to make our roads safer and to save lives.

"I'm tired of delivering death notifications," said Lt. Prater. "I've been doing this for 32 years and it never gets any easier."

The same thing could be said on my side of the process. I've been writing news headlines for nearly 19 years and covered some emotionally draining topics along the way. When I think about the families impacted and forever changed by these tragedies, it never gets any easier.

Last week was tough because we had two people who were shot and killed in separate incidents in Warren County on Tuesday and Friday. When the paper reports on an 18-year-old's life ending because of gunfire, it makes me stop for a moment to reflect.

There's one mentality in America today that guns equate to safety. If you want to protect yourself and your family, buy a gun and have it loaded and ready to shoot.

But when thinking about all the headlines I've written in the *Standard* over the past 10 or 15 years, I've never written a headline that says, "Gunowner saves family," or "Gun saves man's life."

Guns have rarely been used for protection. Instead, in recent years, stories in the *Standard* about guns are all negative.

- A teen is shot and killed by his roommate who was reportedly cleaning his gun.
- A man guns down his roommate atop Harrison Ferry Mountain.
- Six teens take part in a robbery and kill a sleeping man in Mt. Leo.
- A man is gunned down in a gas station parking lot over a woman.
- A neighbor opens fire after arguing with another neighbor about a bush separating their property.
- A man is gunned down at a drug house in the Centertown area.
- A motorist fires at another motorist, striking his vehicle, in a case of road rage.

I could continue this list for the rest of the column, but you get the point. Anyone who wants to argue guns are used for safety and protection need only to examine the headlines in our hometown newspaper.

Guns are used to commit crimes, or to inflict harm during a fit of anger. Guns are used for aggression, not protection.

The greatest fairy tale in America today is that the gun in your nightstand will be used to stop a burglar in your living room. That has happened before in Warren County, but it was about 18 years ago.

The Second Amendment remains a bedrock of American culture and I firmly believe we should always have gun ownership in the United States. But if you pay attention to what's happening right here in our community, guns are not being used to protect anyone.

More guns do not equate to more safety. It's exactly the opposite. More guns only mean there will be more senseless shootings and more very sad headlines.

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