

Standard online reader survey



ABC abruptly canceled TV show "Roseanne" on Tuesday after star Roseanne Barr made a racial tweet Monday.

Q: Do you think "Roseanne" should have been canceled because of a tweet?

YES or NO

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Employers allowed to set work policy

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to James Clark's commentary regarding the NFL's ruling that players are required to stand for the national anthem, I disagree with his reasoning.

If the individuals in question were simply fans attending the game, I would be in agreement. However, these men are employees that are on the clock. Yes, I know they are "elite" athletes who make more for one game than I do in several years as a public school teacher and Navy reservist. This does not change the fact they are employees who, at the time of their antics, are at their job site and should be required to follow the rules set forth by their organization.

Employees are often restricted in what they may say or do while in a duty status. I certainly am.

These men should have no special privilege afforded them due to

their high visibility.

While your employer may not restrict you, most of us would be reprimanded and eventually terminated from our employment for violation of company policy. Surely you do not believe employers are not allowed to make policy for employees?

If these athletes feel so strongly regarding their convictions, they can always resign or quit and get a job with the liberal media which seems to wholeheartedly support them. I imagine the pay wouldn't be quite the same amount to which they are accustomed.

The old adage "If you take the King's crown (money), you do the King's bidding" applies whether you are an NFL player or a humble public educator.

Respectfully,
J. Earl McClung
Herrin Road
Morrison

AHHHH! THIS JAVA IS HOT!



Collusion still yet to be found

On May 22, a man named Evgeny Freidman, the owner of more than 800 taxi licenses in New York City, pleaded guilty to "failure to remit to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance \$5 million in 50-cent (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) surcharges between 2012 and 2015," according to a press release from the state attorney general.

The guilty plea topped national newscasts and was discussed for days, which is a little unusual for a case in which a fairly small-time businessman admitted to pocketing a local tax on cab rides.

So why was it big news? Because Trump.

"More breaking news tonight," CNN reported May 22. "This, on President Trump's fixer, Michael Cohen. One of Cohen's business partners, a Russian immigrant known as the taxi king, has quietly agreed to assist federal investigators as part of a plea deal."

The idea was that, as part of his cooperation, Freidman would dish on Cohen, which would increase pressure on Cohen to dish on Trump with Trump-Russia special counsel Robert Mueller, and the end result would be ... well, that was unspecified, but it clearly involved expectations of some sort of yet-to-be-exposed wrongdoing on the president's part.

Going after the taxi king in hopes of proving collusion in the 2016 presidential race is a bank shot, to say the least. But other parts of Mueller's investigation — and certainly of the reporting on Mueller's investigation — are bank shots, too.

This month a man named Jeffrey Yohai, who at one time was married to former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort's daughter, pleaded

guilty to "conspiracy charges ... relating to real-estate loans on properties in New York and California," as well as to misrepresenting his income to obtain an American Express "Black Card," according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Yohai's case also topped some national newscasts. "Breaking news," CNN reported on May 17. "Paul Manafort's former son-in-law reaching a plea deal. What does this mean for Manafort and the Russia investigation?"

Another bank shot.

Even the case of Manafort himself, the highest-ranking Trump campaign official to be charged in the Russia investigation, is a bank shot. Manafort faces a long, multi-count indictment focusing on financial crimes

he allegedly committed years before and apart from his work on the Trump campaign. The idea is to put so much pressure on Manafort with unrelated charges he will eventually give up, plead guilty to lesser offenses, and dish on Trump.

Mueller has investigated and charged four figures from the Trump campaign — Manafort, Rick Gates, Michael Flynn and George Papadopoulos — and not charged any with crimes involving collusion appears to be significant. If there were in fact a Trump-Russia collusion scheme, they would likely have been involved. If not them, who?

So now prosecutors, and the press, are looking farther and farther afield — to the taxi king and beyond — in hopes of uncovering the collusion conspiracy they believe exists but so far can't find.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for *The Washington Examiner*.

COLUMNIST

BYRON YORK



Braids, earrings and tattoos

Guess what? Braids and big hoop earrings are back! For men! Still wearing a man bun? Get with it!

I was walking behind a man in a crowded shopping center who had the sides of his head shaved, but what remained on the top was long and braided, hanging down the center of his well-inked back. The tattoos had a red and green floral theme and looked vaguely Japanese. He was wearing a muscle T-shirt, even though he was pretty much muscle-free. The last weight he lifted had a pop-top.

He was with a very attractive woman roughly his own age, and all I could think was, "What a catch, girlfriend! Was it love at first sight?"

People say you can't judge a book by its cover, but that's not true. People judge books by their covers all the time. That's what the cover is for. If you picked up a book with a picture of a spaceship and an alien on it, and it turned out to be a Victorian bodice-ripping romance, you'd feel scammed.

Media analyst Tony Schwartz once wrote, "A message is not what is sent, it is what is received." We are all sending messages all the time. For instance, the way we take care of our lawn — or don't — sends a message about us. The type of car we drive sends a message.

Sometimes we realize we're sending a message, sometimes we don't. Red convertibles, Harley motorcycles, SUVs and minivans all send different messages.

What does smoking a cigarette say about you? A cigar? A pipe? Drinking

wine or drinking beer? What brand? These are all messages, and we are very good at interpreting most of them. Haven't you ever seen someone's outfit and thought, "I wouldn't be caught dead in that!" Why? Because the message they think they are sending is not the one you are receiving.

What is the message of a tattoo? No one is hiding them these days. So, what is the main quality of a tattoo? Art? Maybe, but if you're that into art, you could buy something and hang it

on your wall. No, the main message of a tattoo is that it's permanent. The message is, "I am never going to change my mind about this."

It's also why so many of us cringe when we see teens with tattoos. Because we do change our minds as we grow. We do see the world differently as we age. And maybe that "Heather Forever" tattoo wasn't such a great idea now that you're dating a girl named Monica.

So what message is the guy with the braid and the earrings sending? Here's the odd thing: He's trying to blend in. Not with me, but with his tribe. As we all are. The message he is sending is to a group of people who are just like him.

It would be easy to say he's looking for attention, but just like someone wearing a sweatshirt with the name of their favorite football team, this guy is just proclaiming his tribe. It's just that some tribes are smaller than others.

Contact Jim Mullen at mullen.jim@gmail.com.

VILLAGE IDIOT

JIM MULLEN



LIVIN' LA VIDA LACY

LACY GARRISON



Grocery store essentials

Sometimes the things I enjoy and use most simply come from Walmart or Kroger. (No shame here.) As much as I enjoy walking around gourmet grocery stores or picking up a select few items from Whole Foods or Trader Joe's, Walmart and Kroger are more assessable and usually more affordable. As promised, here's my favorite must-have items from our two local grocery stores.

BROWN SUGAR CRUMBLE

COFFEE — Every day I start my morning with a Keurig cup of this light roast coffee by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. It tastes like a warm homemade donut with the flavor of sweet, buttery brown sugar and a hint of cinnamon. It's so good and definitely one of my favorites! You can get it at Kroger.

NESTLE COFFEEMATE NATURAL BLISS LIQUID COFFEE CREAMER — I can't drink coffee black so I couple it with this creamer. There are several flavor options, but my favorite is sweet cream. It's the best creamer I've ever had and what's more, it's all-natural with just milk, cream, sugar and natural flavor. I buy the 32 oz. bottle at Walmart.

COVERGIRL OUTLAST LIPSTAIN

— I have been using this since high school. My favorite color is Sassy Mauve and I wear it every day under my favorite lip balm, gloss or lipstick. It's easy to use, it lasts and it doesn't bleed. It can also be used as lip liner. My grandma uses this product too. I get it from Walmart or Walgreens, if Walmart hasn't restocked and I'm desperate.

SHEET MASKS

-- These are all the rage right now and there are two that I'll grab at Walmart to use when I get some down time at home. So far, I've enjoyed Yes To Cucumbers Calming Paper Mask and Garnier SkinActive Moisture Bomb Soothing Sheet Mask. All you do is gently unfold the mask and apply to your clean skin, adjust around the eyes, nose and mouth then wait for about 15 minutes before removing.

GOODY SIMPLE STYLES SPIN

PIN — If you ever style your hair in a bun or some other updo, these hair pins are a game changer. Instead of using 100 bobby pins, I use three of these and it holds my heavy hair all day long without hurting. As a brunette, I use the dark spin pins, but this product also comes in blonde for light hair. You can pick this up at Walmart or Kroger.

WOMEN'S ESSENTIAL T-SHIRT

DRESS — This is a recent Walmart find and it's simple, cute and comfy. (My three favorite adjectives when it comes to clothing descriptions.) Shout out to my grandma for buying me one. After looking online, I've discovered that Time and Tru offers eight color options in sizes small to XXL. Ladies, go get you one ASAP!

JUSTIN'S MAPLE ALMOND

BUTTER — Last, but not least is this delicious almond butter. It's no-stir, gluten-free and perfect for healthy snacking or sandwich making. It's a little pricey, but your body is an investment right?

That's all for now. Hope you have a blessed week!

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Established 1879

Southern Standard

Publication No. 506-840

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