

Standard online reader survey



Q: Do you think McMinnville should search for a new city administrator?

YES or NO

www.southernstandard.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Survey question not worded appropriately

TO THE EDITOR:

The online survey in the *Southern Standard* of Friday, June 8, read "Q: President Trump has said he can pardon himself. Do you think the president is above the law?"

The results which appeared in the following Sunday's edition were 18 percent yes and 82 percent no. The way the survey was presented would seem to almost guarantee that result. How could anyone say the president is above the law?

The way the whole thing was worded appears very unscientific and thus basically flawed. A better question would be, "Do you think he can legally do

that?" That is the question that is being contended.

As I gather from the media, the law states the president can grant pardons, and says nothing about for whom. One side says the law doesn't give the president the right to pardon himself, and the other side says that since it doesn't specifically state that he cannot, then he should legally be able to.

That question may have to ultimately be decided in the courts. I suspect if the survey had been presented in a more scientific form, the results might have been different.

Joe Collins
Creek Lane
McMinnville

Families of fallen soldiers also make great sacrifice

TO THE EDITOR:

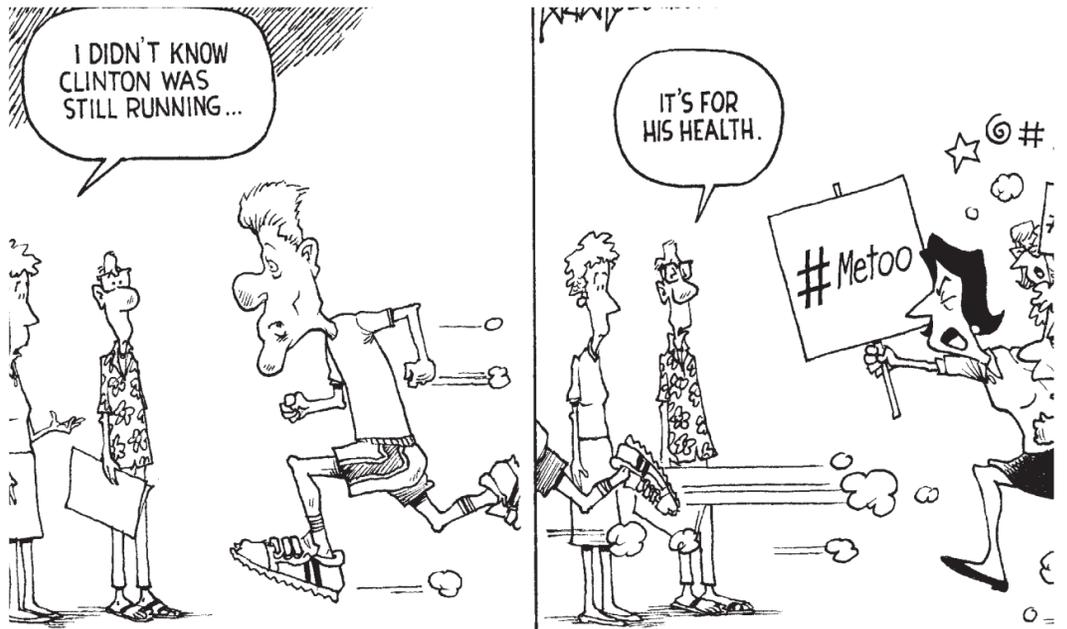
We recently celebrated Memorial Day, a day we set aside to remember fallen soldiers who gave their lives for our freedoms. We should do this but additionally this year I read something that made me think further.

We need to also remember the families who lost a son, daughter, mom or

dad, husband, wife, brother, sister or anyone special to them.

They also gave a lot. Next year and every year after, please also take time on that day to remember the families they left behind.

Mickey R. Abair
Morningside Street
McMinnville



Trump tries something new

Reaction to President Trump's summit with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un has broken down along the usual Trump-anti-Trump divisions. The truth is, it will take a while before it's clear whether the summit achieved anything or not.

But give the president credit for trying a new approach to an intractable problem.

Trump had no electoral mandate on North Korea. Of all the controversial proposals Trump made during the campaign, North Korea wasn't one of them. And that was because of the long record of failure of talks between the U.S. and North Korea. What was wrong with suggesting a new approach to a problem no other president had been able to solve?

The problem was, North Korea became a front-burner issue almost immediately after Trump took office, when Kim began a series of provocative acts to test the new president. On Feb. 12, 2017, North Korea tested a new ballistic missile. On March 6, it fired four ballistic missiles into the ocean near Japan. On April 5, it fired another missile. On April 16, another missile. Later, there was a nuclear weapons test. And so on.

In response, Trump came up with something called "maximum pressure and engagement." He imposed sanctions on top of the sanctions that have long been in place against North Korea. And he made military plans.

Have you heard people say war is not an option in North Korea, or that it is unthinkable? Trump started thinking about it. His top military

officers worked through a number of scenarios for war on the Korean peninsula. And while they were doing it, Trump escalated his anti-Kim rhetoric to unheard-of levels. Kim was "Little Rocket Man," and North Korean aggression would be "met with fire, fury, and frankly power, the likes of which this world has never seen before."

So while Trump bellowed threats, his administration quietly planned to make good on those threats, if it came to that.

Put it together, and what seemed to some critics like a reckless strategy worked -- or worked enough to pressure the North Koreans into at least temporarily stopping their provocations and wanting

to talk. And when, after the talks were on track, the North Koreans resumed their provocative statements, Trump abruptly canceled them -- and the North got back on board.

So now the talks have happened, and North Korea has agreed -- much like it has in years past -- to denuclearize. Critics rightly point out that Kim and his predecessors never kept their promises before. On the other hand, these talks were the result of a series of events unlike those in the past.

Maybe Trump's plan will work. Maybe it will work a little and not work a little. Or maybe it will fail altogether. But it's the result of a president re-thinking a problem that desperately needed a new approach.

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

COLUMNIST

BYRON YORK



Getting away from it all

We about fell over when the owner of our Airbnb rental opened the door for us. It was fantastic!

We had just arrived in a historic European city that was old when Columbus bumped into America. Through the taxi window, we could see the remains of Roman walls and palaces, and hundreds of people zipping to work on scooters and bicycles. On each block there were two restaurants, a pastry shop, a cafe and a boutique or two. There was a place that didn't just sell shoes, they made them; a bookstore that specialized in old maps; a violin repair shop.

Every three or four blocks, there would be a large square full of sidewalk cafes. At one end of the plaza there'd be a cathedral, and at the other, a former medieval royal palace that was now a public building -- the Ministry of Hot Water or somesuch.

Every bus looked full, even though there were lots of them. Since the wait time for buses was short and parking was hard, there were no traffic jams downtown. Who needs a car?

The apartment we rented looked as if some count and countess had said we could use their castle. The place was 400 years old, and had survived the Thirty Years' War, the Hundred Years' War, World War I, World War II and urban renewal.

It had 16-foot ceilings painted with murals of little cherubs picking flowers in a blue sky filled with filigree and ribbons. The walls were 2 feet thick, the doors were made of thick timber with six bank-vault tumblers where a normal door would have a little bolt lock. The windows were 8 feet tall with decorative cast-iron grills from top to bottom on the outside,

and half-inch-thick wooden shutters on the inside.

The kitchen looked like an ad from "Modern Rich European Living." Everything was white and stainless steel, every dish was white and square, and the silverware must have come from the Museum of Modern Swedish Cutlery gift shop.

"It's hard to believe people live like this!" Sue said. It pretty much went without saying there would be a few changes to our place when we got home.

As we climbed into the canopied bed that night, we agreed it was the best place we had ever stayed in our lives.

And just as we turned out the lights, we heard the BOOM! An 18-wheeler must have crashed into the

building to make a noise like that. We peeked out through the front door's glass to see a man returning to his apartment. As we watched, the giant wooden front door opened. Another tenant coming home for the night. As the door shut behind him, BOOM! Our place shook again.

Then we heard footsteps above us -- the first guy must have been walking across his living room, but it sounded as if he were in the room with us. How could something with 2-foot-thick walls be noisy?

"What is he doing up there?" Sue wanted to know. "Carving a chainsaw bear?"

"No, I think he's vacuuming." "Now I think he's bowling," Sue said. "How can people live like this?"

Now we realized why the owners were renting it out. So they could afford to live somewhere nice.

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

VILLAGE IDIOT

JIM MULLEN



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LIVIN' LA VIDA LACY

LACY GARRISON



Surviving my home renovation

I've taken up residence in Westwood. We officially sold our condo and high-tailed it home, but I'm going to keep it real with you. The boxes and clutter are bothering me.

As an overly organized person, not knowing where my stuff is ... well, it's tough. I don't remember what's in our storage unit and what's stored in the den! However, I look around and see the potential and I know it can be accomplished. After all, we tackled and completed the upstairs. With my excel spreadsheet, budget and plenty of research, a '70s style upstairs complete with shag carpet and baby blue sinks was converted into a cozy cottage.

Let me just say home renovation is hard. How do Chip and Joanna Gaines make it look so easy? Oh, that's right, they have a giant crew of people. For the upstairs, we removed wallpaper, painted everything, replaced the sinks and toilet and ripped up shag carpet. We discovered beautiful poplar wood flooring hidden beneath red carpet and immediately began pulling up tack strips, staples and nails before contacting Richard Black to refinish our floors. (He did a fabulous job!) With the help of my grandparents, I was able to change out hardware from gold to silver while switching plug covers to white, which made all the difference.

Right now, Ross and I are living upstairs while we begin the downstairs renovations. (Shew, it can get so hot that we've had to strategically place four fans to pull the cool air upstairs.)

This time we've called in the big guns - Hugh Slaughter. He's the best and there is nothing he can't do. Last Saturday, he started priming the oak paneling of our living room and pulled down the mantel from the fireplace. I'm so excited!

Still, I'm constantly having to remind myself to enjoy the journey. I called my grandma a few weeks ago and to my surprise, I started crying. I hadn't realized how overwhelmed and stressed I was, but it made me feel better. She's my favorite person to bounce design ideas off of, especially since Ross is color blind.

My cousin-in-law Nicole says to take home renovations slowly and to live in it awhile to get a sense of what you really want. She's renovated two homes and has lovely taste, plus she clocked in a lot of time at Man and Meme's so it's fun to get her take on things.

On some days, I'm impatient. I'm ready to have a fully functioning kitchen because I'm so sick of fast food. I miss relaxing on a couch in my living room. I want a cooling unit instead of dusty box fans scattered all over the place.

But as I scroll through Pinterest and talk to Hugh, my excitement grows. Ross and I can make this place our own. We have the opportunity to update and put new life and love back into Man and Meme's sweet 1950s home.

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