

Editorial Opinion

Naples Daily News

"Give light and the people will find their own way"

WILLIAM R. BARKER
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

MANNY GARCIA
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

ALLEN BARTLETT
EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR

1100 Immokalee Road, Naples, Florida 34110 239-262-3161

Congress

Cantor's new position exemplifies the adage

A trio of ambitious, reform-minded Republican lawmakers came riding out of the maelstrom of the 2007-08 elections determined to remake Washington. Dubbed the Young Guns, they began to make good on that promise when their political instincts and fundraising skills helped the GOP take over the House in 2010.

The three went on to great success: Paul Ryan (Wisconsin) chaired the powerful House Budget Committee and was the party's 2012 vice presidential nominee; Kevin McCarthy (California) became the House majority whip; and Eric Cantor (Virginia) became House majority leader and heir apparent to House Speaker John Boehner, arguably the second most powerful official in Washington.

Life was good.

But then the American electorate reared its unruly head and Cantor was defeated in an upset variously described as "shocking," "stunning" and "the political version of the San Francisco earthquake." Cantor quickly resigned as majority leader, to be replaced by McCarthy. Reformers who say they want to change the way Washington works really mean they want to make Washington work for them.

One of the recurring criticisms of "the way Washington works" is the revolving door whereby a member of Congress who retires or is defeated almost immediately obtains high-paid employment with a firm — lobbying, defense, government contracting, financial institution — with a vested interest in the workings of Washington.

Various reform proposals have been introduced to little or no enthusiasm, because a lawmaker never knows when the revolving door might spit him out on the streets.

This week a boutique Wall Street investment firm — if \$2 billion in market value can be called "boutique" — hired Cantor, who has resigned from Congress, as vice president and member of the board of directors. Even though Cantor's term doesn't end for four more months, the firm, Moelis & Co., is paying him a base salary of \$400,000 and a signing bonus of \$400,000, according to The Wall Street Journal, and a minimum of \$1.2 million plus \$400,000 in stock in 2015. His salary as majority leader was \$193,400.

Washington is full of adages, but one applying to eager newcomers is especially apt: They came to do good and stayed to do well.

Although it perhaps wasn't the career path he envisioned, Eric Cantor is doing very, very well.

Domestic violence

NFL makes right move

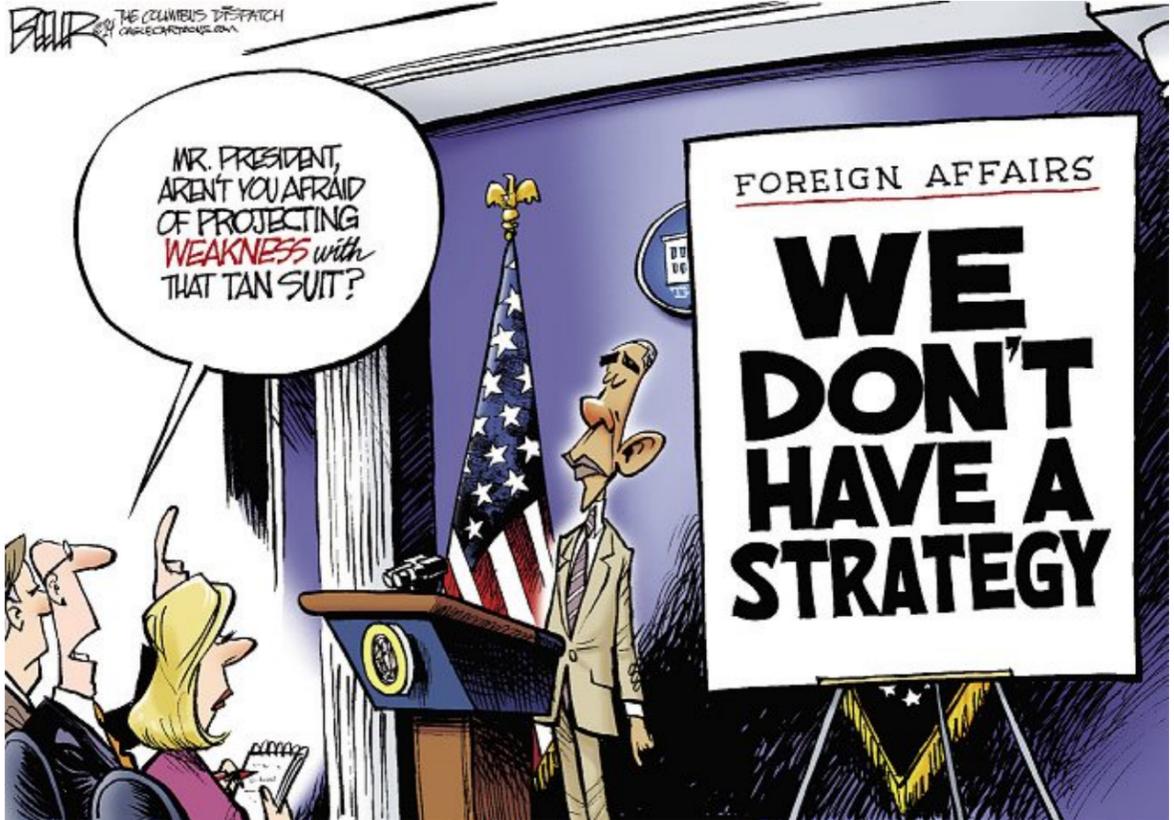
Video footage of Baltimore Ravens football player Ray Rice dragging his unconscious soon-to-be wife from an elevator in Atlantic City, New Jersey, was shocking and upsetting. Equally disturbing was the National Football League's weak response to this clear-cut case of domestic violence. So it was unexpected — and refreshing — to see NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell revisit the issue with an acknowledgment he had erred with the lenient punishment and the announcement of tougher penalties for domestic violence offenses.

"I didn't get it right," was Goodell's forthright admission in a letter to team owners last week about the paltry two-game suspension handed out in July to Rice. He had been charged with aggravated assault but entered into an agreement in which he would participate in a diversionary program, including counseling and community service, instead of going to trial.

Having to sit out two games was inconsistent with harsher punishments that had been issued for other nonviolent offenses and it sent an insidious message about how seriously — not so much — the league viewed the problem of domestic violence. A furious outcry followed the suspension.

The fact that Goodell listened to and really heard the critics is to his credit. So, too, is the fact he is giving more than lip service to the issue by instituting more serious punishment for those who commit domestic violence or sexual assault. Included is a provision that would banish second-time offenders from the league for at least a year and provide no assurance of their re-entry.

— The Washington Post



LETTERS

Linda Oberhaus, Naples
Executive director, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children

Finally on the right track

The Shelter for Abused Women and Children applauds the NFL for taking a tougher stance on domestic violence, establishing stricter penalties for players accused of domestic abuse and, equally important, expanding its domestic violence and sexual assault prevention programs for all NFL personnel as well as its college, high school and youth football programs.

Football players serve as role models, especially for our boys and young men. Not holding players fully accountable for acts of domestic violence sends the wrong message and defines the NFL's values in a way that has historically contributed to violence against women and girls.

Ray Rice's two-game suspension for battery on his then-fiancee compared to Matt Prater's four-game suspension for failing a drug test stemming from a DUI set a tone that clearly minimized domestic violence as a serious crime. Also, having victim Janay Palmer sitting next to Rice as he publicly apologized to league officials (and not to her) sent a message that she was somehow responsible for his violence.

In response to his original decision on the Rice case, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell admitted he "didn't get it right," adding the NFL is celebrated for what happens on the field and must be equally vigilant in what is done off the field.

The NFL is on the right track. Unfortunately, it took the league 92 years to get there.

Penny Taylor, Naples
Collier County commissioner-elect, District 4

Thank you

A big "thank you" to you, the voters of Collier County Commission District 4, for electing me as your next commissioner. I am humbled by your support and I am ready to go to work for you.

I would also like to thank the Naples Daily News and the Greater Naples Better Government Committee for their confidence in me by extending their endorsements.

And to those voters who did not support my candidacy, I offer my hand of friendship, cooperation and respect. While I did not earn your vote this time, I promise that I will work hard to earn your support in the future.

I believe my experience of serving on the Naples City Council for 10 years will be of great benefit to all Collier County residents in our efforts to preserve our beaches, support our neighborhoods and save taxpayer money.

I'll be accessible, listen to your concerns and make every effort to

Letter of the Day

Charlie Berry, Naples

Industry in recline

There has been much fuss recently about diverting flights due to "seat rage" based on reclining seat conflicts.

This has been a problem for years, just more and more of us getting really irritated at the airline's increased focus on revenue and seeming oblivious to concepts of passenger service and comfort. This is causing more people to lose their cool when further irritations are stirred by seat backs in your lap.

Perhaps the airlines could simply immobilize all the seat backs so nobody reclines. Then they could institute a new fee for a seat in a section where reclining is available.

I've thought for some time that airlines will likely institute coin-operated locks on the restrooms, and perhaps even in the restrooms for the use of optional items like tissue, soap and towels. "Please deposit 10 more cents for additional tissue."

Next thing you know there will be a standing-room option. They do it on subways and buses, why not planes?

keep our community on track to becoming a world-class community.

Alicia Astorga, North Naples

I object

I am writing in response to Friday's Daily News editorial, headlined "Police cameras: In Wake of Ferguson, this isn't the answer."

I know the tone of the article was meant to be sarcastic, illustrating how ridiculous it would be to have cameras everywhere to document crime. However, in the name of all my fellow librarians out there, I object to the statement: "Librarians are public servants, too: Don't the people have a right to know they wile away the hours among the stacks?"

Really? Perpetuating the stereotype that librarians spend their time reading on the job is in very poor taste, not to mention outrageous. I am appalled.

Robert Hagaman, Naples

When no strategy is a good plan

President Barack Obama is our elected leader. Like him or dislike him, he is our current quarterback.

He should be applauded for policies you like, or denounced for those you don't. However, he should not be disrespected.

Everyone wants "transparency,"

including Islamic State members; they watch TV and listen to radio.

When the president tells the world about a planned attack, many wonder if that is a good plan. They criticize the president.

Now, his plan is to say we have no strategy (plan). Brilliant. Now leaders of the Islamic State do not know what his plan will be. Still the critics want a plan for the nightly news. They criticize the president.

With his "no strategy plan," the terrorists will not know what hit them.

Score the president fairly. He has tried to do many things that are not working out. Give him a C-minus or less if you want to. However, do not get personal and demean the office of the president, our nation and yourself.

Congress — House and Senate — are not giving the president much help. Criticize them.

We must support the president as our leader, even if we protest some of his decisions.

It also must be remembered that Syria is a sovereign nation, and protocol must be followed, unless we are prepared to declare war, and we are not there.

Irene Ketover, Naples

No truth in advertising

I am aware there is a "truth in advertising" law, enacted in 1976, hidden away in the Federal Trade Commission annals, but trying to find guidelines in this ambiguous law became an almost impossible task.

Each election day we, the voters, are besieged with the most outlandish accusations from all sides. The law that was conceived to protect the innocent purchasers from the unscrupulous merchant advertising has been silent regarding political advertising!

I take great offense that political party "advertising" seems to be immune to the safeguards provided in the law. Moreover the FTC site has no information for chastising (fining, etc.) candidates for the deluge we are assaulted with as election period approaches.

There are ads from each candidate for governor each telling outlandish untruths and no "truth in advertising" safeguards to protect the "truth." At the very least, expose what is the "truth."

My mantra has always been every citizen should vote and, more importantly, be educated about who and what you are voting for.

The FTC has made that an almost impossible task without enforcing the truth in advertising law that has been on the books for almost 40 years.

Stanley Scheiner, Naples

Redefined

The other day I was enlightened to the clarification of the term "suicide bomber."

In reality, the term is "murderer bomber" and so should be addressed.

