

The Late Show with Stephen Colbert

Submission Packet

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[STEPHEN]

HELLO LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WELCOME TO THE LATE SHOW. I'M YOUR HOST, STEPHEN COLBERT AND MAN, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE STILL WITH US. NOT BECAUSE THE CORONAVIRUS HAS BEEN MAKING A RESURGENCE AND HIT AN ALL TIME HIGH IN THE US; NO, NO. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, OUR PRESIDENT HAS COME OUT TO WARN US ABOUT A NEW PANDEMIC. A PANDEMIC SO TROUBLESOME, HE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE TAKING IT SERIOUSLY.

[VT-SOT: Trump's Mt. Rushmore speech disavowing "cancel culture"]

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, THE CONVERSATION ON REMOVING CONFEDERATE STATUES HAS EVOLVED INTO AN EXAMINATION ON "CANCEL CULTURE" OR MORESO HOW TO HOLD PUBLIC FIGURES ACCOUNTABLE FOR PAST AND PRESENT MISCONDUCT. IT MAKES SENSE THAT A CONVERSATION ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY WOULD SCARE TRUMP; TAKING ACCOUNTABILITY IS ONE OF HIS LEAST FAVORITE CONVERSATIONS TO HAVE, RIGHT NEXT TO "MEXICO WON'T PAY FOR THE WALL", "WE'RE OUT OF BIG MACS", AND ANY TIME HE HAS TO TALK TO HIS SON ERIC.

[LOOKS TO THE SIDE AS TRUMP] WHO ARE YOU AGAIN?

MANY INFLUENTIAL FIGURES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM HAVE BEEN VOICING THEIR CONCERNS ON THIS NEW CONTROVERSY. JUST RECENTLY, OVER 150 FIGURES IN LITERATURE AND JOURNALISM HAVE CO-SIGNED A LETTER IN HARPER'S MAGAZINE

[TAKE VO: HARPER'S MAGAZINE "A LETTER ON JUSTICE AND OPEN DEBATE" PQ: The restriction of debate, whether by a repressive government or an intolerant society, invariably hurts those who lack power and makes everyone less capable of democratic participation. The way to defeat bad ideas is by exposure, argument, and persuasion, not by trying to silence or wish them away.]

THAT CLAIMED THE SILENCING OF UNPOPULAR OR OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS IS A STIFFLE ON FREE SPEECH. SIGNERS OF THE LETTER INCLUDED PEOPLE SUCH AS FAREED ZAKARIA, MARGARET ATTWOOD, AND JK ROWLING, WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN UNDER FIRE AFTER A SERIES OF TRANSPHOBIC TWEETS SHE MADE LAST MONTH. AFTER SEEING THE HATE ROWLING HAS FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY, HARRY POTTER FANS HAVE STARTED HOPING THAT THE JK STANDS FOR "JUST KIDDING".

ADDING MORE FUEL TO TRUMP'S CONSTANT HEARTBURN IS THE RECENT CALLS BY THE LATINO COMMUNITY TO BOYCOTT GOYA FOODS AFTER THEIR CEO, ROBERT UNANUE, CAME OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT IN A ROSE GARDEN CEREMONY LAST WEEK.

[VT SOT: VIDEO OF UNANUE AT HISPANIC PROSPERITY INITIATIVE AT THE WH 7/9/20 "We are blessed to have a leader like Trump, who is a builder"]

WHENEVER TRUMP RECEIVES A COMPLIMENT FROM ANOTHER PERSON, HE ALWAYS STARES AT THEM. IT'S LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER MAKING SURE HIS LITTLE SIBLING DOESN'T SNITCH ON HIM AFTER HE BROKE MOM'S LAMP.

THE CALLS TO BOYCOTT GOYA HAVE LED TO A GAME OF POLITICAL TUG-OF-WAR, PROMPTING SO-CALLED PROPONENTS OF FREE SPEECH ON THE RIGHT TO CREATE THE HASHTAG "BUY GOYA" ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO BUY THEIR PRODUCTS AND POST PICTURES ON SOCIAL MEDIA,

[TAKE: FF: TWEET FROM @SANTOS4CONGRESS WITH PICTURE OF A SHOPPING CART FULL OF GOYA PRODUCTS, TWEET FROM @ROBERTO37619249 WITH PICTURE OF A YOUNG TEEN STANDING OVER A HAUL OF GOYA PRODUCTS, AND TWEET FROM @SBG123456 WITH PICTURE OF GOYA PRODUCTS AND A GUN]

WHICH MANY PEOPLE DID. 2020: THE YEAR WHERE PROVING POLITICAL SUPERIORITY OVER DEMOCRATS MEANT WHITE CONSERVATIVES TRYING SEASONED FOOD FOR THE FIRST TIME. OWNING THE LIBS AND OWNING YOUR DIGESTIONAL TRACK ALL IN ONE SWIPE? TAKE THAT, SNOWFLAKES!

NOW, IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS, URANUE TOOK THE TIME TO GO ON FOX AND FRIENDS TO CHAT UP SOME FRIENDLY FACES.

[VT-SOT: FOX AND FRIENDS URANUE "IT'S GOOD TO BE WITH SOME FRIENDS"]

AND WHILE THE FOLKS AT FOX AND FRIENDS ARE WORKING TO CREATE A SAFE HAVEN FROM CANCEL CULTURE FOR PRESIDENTS AND BEAN SALESMEN, IT TURNS OUT THEIR PARENT COMPANY IS ABLE TO FIND EXCEPTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO CANCELING THEIR OWN. FOX NEWS HOST AND CHRISTMAS ELF AT HIS SECOND JOB TUCKER CARLSON HAD A ROUGH DAY LAST WEEK WHEN IT WAS REPORTED THAT

[TAKE VO: CNN Business "Tucker Carlson's top writer resigns after secretly posting racist and sexist remarks in online forum"]

HIS HEAD WRITER BLAKE NEFF WAS FORCED TO RESIGN. THE PUSH CAME AFTER IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT HE HAD BEEN USING REPEATED SEXIST AND RACIAL SLURS ON AN ANONYMOUS MESSAGE BOARD FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS

NOW, I'M OBVIOUSLY NOT DEFENDING WHAT HAPPENED HERE, BUT I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT MAYBE THE CORPORATE BIG WIGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LITTLE ROUGH ON THIS MAN. I MEAN, THE COMMENTS MADE ON THE INTERNET WERE JUST HIS AUDITION MATERIAL FOR HIS JOB AT FOX.

[INTERVIEWER PANTOMIME] IT SAYS HERE YOU'RE A RACIST, SEXIST, AND A HOMOPHOBE... WELCOME TO THE TEAM, MR. BILL O'REILLY!

NOW, THIS ISN'T COMING FROM JUST ANY OLD CREW MEMBER ON THE SHOW, BUT FROM CARLSON'S SELF-PROCLAIMED RIGHT HAND GUY. IN ONE INTERVIEW WITH THE DARTMOUTH ALUMNI MAGAZINE,

[TAKE VO: Dartmouth Alumni Magazine "The Right Stuff" pullquote]

NEFF STATED THAT "ANYTHING [CARLSON IS] READING OFF THE TELEPROMPTER, THE FIRST DRAFT IS WRITTEN BY ME". HONESTLY THAT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE COMING FROM AN ALUMNUS OF EVERY RICH KID'S BACK UP SCHOOL. CORNELL, YOU'RE SAFE THIS TIME.

BUT EVEN HIS SECOND-TIER IVY LEAGUE EDUCATION COULDN'T STOP BLAKE FROM MAKING A FEW ROOKIE MISTAKES THAT LED HIM TO BEING EXPOSED. BACK IN 2018

[TAKE VO: CNN Business "Tucker Carlson's top writer resigns after secretly posting racist and sexist remarks in online forum" pullquote: Even more clearly identifying, however, were photos...posted to the forum in 2018 to the forum after visiting a museum in Egypt. In three of the photos, a reflection of Neff is visible snapping the pictures in the artifacts' glass enclosures."]

NEFF POSTED PICTURES ON THE SAME ACCOUNT FROM A VACATION WHERE HE COULD CLEARLY BE

[TAKE VO: POSTED PICTURE OF NEFF AT THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM WHERE HE'S CLEARLY VISIBLE IN THE GLASS REFLECTION]

SEEN IN THE REFLECTION. I MUST SAY, I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT KIND OF SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITE WAS HE ON WHERE HE COULD THROW DOWN Hardcore EPITHETS IN ONE POST AND THEN SHARE CAMERA PHONE VACATION PICTURES ON THE NEXT? IF I WAS INTERESTED IN THAT KIND OF CONTENT, I WOULD JUST ADD MY GRANDPARENTS ON FACEBOOK.

ANOTHER INTERESTING BIT FROM THE CONTROVERSY WAS NEFF'S SCREENNAME, CHARLES XII, A REFERENCE TO A SWEDISH KING

[PQ: a reference to Charles XII of Sweden, a king known for his military victories and who abstained from sex and alcohol.]

WHO TYPICALLY ABSTAINED FROM SEX AND ALCOHOL IN ORDER TO STAY FOCUSED ON BATTLE. I MUST SAY THAT HE PICKED A RELATIVELY TAME MONARCH TO REPRESENT HIMSELF CONSIDERING THE CONTENT. PERHAPS @PRINCEANDREW WAS ALREADY TAKEN?

WE'VE GOT A GREAT SHOW FOR YOU TONIGHT. [INCREDIBLY COOL/INTRUIGUING/BEAUTIFUL GUEST] IS HERE AFTER THE BREAK, SO STICK AROUND.