

From the Sidelines



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Shallow questions to ponder

A WAITING SPRING to actually feel like spring instead of yet another in an endless string of 40-degree-with-a-chance-of-rain days after the Longest Winter in Memory leaves a distracted editor time to mull over some superficial questions:

Why is it annoying Canadian geese fly south for the winter, leaving feces everywhere, while the classy red cardinal stays put through ice and snow?

Who is more greedy, CBS or the NCAA? Why not put all 334 Division I teams in a tournament that would conclude with a championship on the Fourth of July? Adding more teams to March Madness (can I write that without infringing on a trademark?) obviously overwhelmed the selection committee this year—I was incensed Middle Baptist Tech-Out by the Airport didn't make it.

Would anyone give her the time of day if Sarah Palin looked like Roseanne Barr?

Where in the Bill of Rights are we guaranteed the right to drive 60 mph while typing? I wouldn't mind a little freedom-trampling when it comes to texting while driving. Yet most lawmakers and enforcement agents continue to look the other way (pun intended). Seeing another driver's face illuminated by a touch screen shows clearly which direction their eyes are pointing and it ain't on the road.

Which myth is repeated more often: Babe Ruth's "called shot" home run at Wrigley Field during the 1932 World Series, or that synthetic turf is "maintenance free"?

Does this pass your smell test? Ohio State football coach Jim Tressel didn't report information he had received about some players' alleged violations of NCAA rules (harebrained as they might be) until after the season because he "didn't know who to tell." And honest, Professor, my term paper's late because it froze to the window of my dorm room. Some large state university in the Midwest with a nut for a mascot is wasting \$100K a year on a compliance officer.

Is it just me or is there a 1:1 ratio between the number of cooking shows on television and the number of weight-loss competition programs?

Regarding the NFL lockout/walkout/decertification/court action: Are you kidding me? Let's get these guys in a room and decide how to divvy up \$9 billion—oh yeah, they already tried that. Maybe we taxpayers can recoup the money we paid to build stadiums; the owners could pay it back from that extra billion they want off the top. Maybe the owners don't want to open the books because they are embarrassed that they charge Mr. and Mrs. Average \$30K just for the right to buy overpriced tickets, merchandise and beer.

Who in their right mind chooses to assist the Intercontinental Bank of Nigeria in internet transfer deals involving millions of dollars? And if no one ever does why do they keep asking?

And one serious question: Why do so many parents of young athletes act like complete morons at their kids' games and events? At my daughter's U-10 soccer game last fall, a dad twice the size of the teenaged referee replied "Make me" to the ref's request that he get off the field during the match. NCAA colleges offer about \$1 billion a year in athletic scholarships, but there's more than \$22 billion in academic scholarships available. Mom & Dad, please get your priorities straight.

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