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The Week That Was

03-09-18

1. The Russians Are Coming and They're Bringing Sex With Them?

Our Spin:

Trump and the Mueller investigation? No, Governor Cuomo recently joked that Putin could be supporting actress and "Sex and the City," star Cynthia Nixon's entry into a Democratic Primary. The actress has begun assembling staff, including two veterans of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's election team. I wonder which candidate Hollywood will be supporting...

The Story:

According to news reports, Cynthia Nixon is gearing up to potentially challenge Andrew Cuomo in a Democratic primary. The wisdom among political wags is that she likely won't unseat him, but she could prove to be a headache for the Governor. Nixon has needled the Governor on education issues, which could form one of her potential campaign's planks.

Also on the campaign front, Cuomo said he was concerned hackers might interfere in his re-election. In a conference call with reporters Cuomo said hackers, perhaps backed by a foreign government, could "wreak havoc" in New York elections.

Cuomo held the call with Minnesota U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar to push for a bill that would require the disclosure of political advertising on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter. A day earlier, Cuomo joked that Russian President Vladimir Putin could be behind the push to have actress and advocate Cynthia Nixon challenge him for the Democratic primary.

When asked if he's fearful of foreign interference in his own race, Cuomo responded: "Yes. The short answer is yes. This is a frightening situation when you think about it," he continued, adding that local boards of elections are "not the most sophisticated" operations. "It could create pandemonium."

Without pointing to a specific or identified threat to election integrity, Cuomo suggested the elections and campaigns were vulnerable to any number of efforts to unduly influence voters. "I think part of the goal is wreak havoc. Again, if it's not Mr. Vladimir Putin, it could be North Korea, it could be any country," he said. "The system is porous right now. Just think about it, anyone with a few million dollars could wreak havoc in a race on social media with no disclosure whatsoever."

[NY Post](#)

2. Not Such A Lethal Weapon

Our Spin:

Airbnb brought Danny Glover to the Capitol on Tuesday hoping he would be the lethal weapon to deliver their message. However, unbeknownst to Glover and Airbnb, the Hotel Trades Council had a few lethal weapons of their own. At least a dozen of their members blended in among the Airbnb supporters and began shouting at Glover seconds after the actor began speaking at a rally, questioning why he's supporting Airbnb when the company is in a pitched battle with the hotel industry and its union.

The Story:

A press conference organized by Airbnb supporters at the state Capitol descended into chaos after members of the Hotel Trades Council infiltrated the event and began shouting as the featured speaker, actor Danny Glover, tried to address the gathering outside the Senate chamber.

Glover, a New York City resident and progressive activist, attended the event as a paid advocate. His attempts to speak were drowned out as the hotel industry supporters began shouting and chanting.

"You don't speak for us," one of the protesters shouted at him. Members of the Airbnb group, shouted back at the protesters as several bewildered state lawmakers looked on but were unable to stem the shouting.

Members of the hotel group, who refused to identify themselves, shouted "Shame on you!" and held up signs with slogans such as "Airbnb unsafe and illegal." Many of them declined to say who they represented.

Glover exchanged angry words with one of the protesters as his handlers led him into the nearby Senate chamber lobby to escape the melee.

[Times Union](#)

3. Hung Up On Ziti

Our Spin:

"It ain't over till it's over," as Yogi Berra used to say and it ain't over yet!

The Story:

Jurors in the Joseph Percoco corruption trial deliberated for a fifth day Thursday, two days after the foreperson said panel members were deadlocked and three jurors said they were done giving up any more time on a trial that began Jan. 22. No verdict was reached.

After being pressed by U.S. District Court Judge Valerie E. Caproni to keep trying – and given a snow day Wednesday – the tone from jurors appeared to change dramatically from 48 hours earlier.

Jury notes offered the only clues. "Good morning, Your Honor," came the first note Thursday morning. The juror asked if the trial's full transcript could be made available. The judge later indicated that was unlikely. She told the jury "logistically it would be very time consuming, measured in days, to get you the entire transcript."

The snowstorm not only affected the trial. It affected Percoco himself. Passing the time in the courtroom, Percoco told reporters the power was out in his South Salem, Westchester County, home. Last week, during a storm that wreaked havoc on Westchester for days he lost power for two hours. As for his day off from the trial Wednesday, he said he spent part of the day shoveling his back deck so the family dog could go outside.

The day ended ironically when a juror sent a note that she had been called for jury duty elsewhere. "I am very popular with the justice system," the juror wrote. "I have received another jury summons with a report day of today. Is it possible to get a note to explain my absence?"

[State of Politics](#)

