



FIRE THIS HORRIBLE HUMAN BEING – FIRE HIM NOW!

Another Original And Exclusive Column From The Mind Of DINO COSTA

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It's true that we never stop learning.

For instance, I had no idea until I read about this latest overblown piece of news concerning the Houston Astros assistant general manager, that if I see someone walking around with a purple bracelet on their wrist that it means that they support the fight against domestic violence in America.

Who knew?

But it leads me to wonder what color the bracelet is for the thousands of men in America who are also subjected to domestic violence each year?

Or do the men not get a bracelet?

Get back to me on that one, would you?

Apparently, Astros assistant GM, Brandon Taubman, got overly rambunctious in the team's clubhouse following their ALCS clinching win over the Yankees last Saturday night, and turned to a few lady reporters on the scene and said; *"Thank God we got Osuna! I'm so fucking glad we got Osuna!"*

I guess he could have left the word *"fucking"* out of his thoughts.

Osuna, is Astros closer Roberto Osuna, who the Astros acquired in a trade with Toronto this past July, who at the time of his acquisition was finishing up a suspension for domestic violence, a charge that was eventually dismissed when his girlfriend at the time fled the country and refused to be a part of any investigation.

One of the reporters on hand in the Astros clubhouse, a woman, was wearing a purple bracelet, which as I noted above is to be taken as that person being someone in support of any female who was unfortunately involved in a domestic violence incident.

Okay, I can dig it.

That reporter, never named, was said to have been offended by such exuberance displayed by the Astros official – and now this thing has become something worthy of a congressional investigation I guess.

Is it possible to type out my eye roll here?

So nobody gets the wrong idea (*when does that ever happen?*) I'm against domestic violence in all situations and with both genders, however, you'll need to forgive me if I'm not wearing anything on my wrist which would indicate my feelings on the matter.

The Astros issued a statement that denied this incident ever took place before Taubman issued this dispatch:

"This past Saturday, during our clubhouse celebration, I used inappropriate language for which I am deeply sorry and embarrassed. In retrospect, I realize that my comments were unprofessional and inappropriate. My overexuberance in support of a player has been misrepresented as a demonstration of a regressive attitude about an important social issue. Those that know me know that I am a progressive member of the community, and a loving and committed husband and father. I hope that those who do know me understand that the Sports Illustrated article does not reflect who I am or my values. I am sorry if anyone was offended by my actions."

Well, easy now, Mr. Taubman, anyone with a brain realizes that this is a mountain made out of a molehill and in no way were you disrespecting anyone or inferring that domestic violence is something to be taken lightly by anyone.

Everyone also realizes that in these delicate times we live in, that a mea culpa such as the one you disseminated was both expected as well as mandatory, and even with your *"apology"*, the long knives will still be out and nothing less than your appearance in the next sensitivity training class will eventually suffice.

According to something I just read, the person who lodged a complaint was not only offended but she was also *"shaken"* by Taubman's exuberance in being so delighted that the Astros made the trade for Osuna.

Shaken.

I see.

Well, this shouldn't surprise me should it? These days everyone seems to be shaken and offended about something.

Of course, the majority of those in the media have rushed to the defense of the unnamed damsel in distress and have treated this situation as though it has all of the importance of a Middle East peace talk.

Interestingly, and perhaps somewhat ironic, is that both teams in this year's ALCS employed closers who have been implicated in domestic violence situations.

The Yankees Aroldis Chapman had his own dalliance with this issue a few years ago, and yet, until he gave up that home run by Jose Altuve that punched Houston's ticket to the World Series, the Yankees organization and their fans didn't seem to have any problems with Chapman as their closer.

Manufactured outrage is in fashion and it's been in style for years now, and to me, this is yet another example of that.

The reporter in question probably doesn't think that Osuna should be able to pitch professionally after what he was accused of, however, if that's the case, the line is long and the stories are never-ending for those who play sports and have been involved in all kinds of conduct unbecoming over the years.

While I've read various stories written by so many marshmallow sportswriters in the aftermath of this Defcon-1 situation, while they all climb on top of their soapboxes, many of them grandstanding to offer their two cents of condemnation for Mr. Taubman, I have a pretty good idea that while they're throwing around all kinds of invective at Taubman, the majority of people who have come across this story truly don't give two shits about it.

Not really they don't.

To be sure, this flawed and defective man typing these words has never postured himself, and never will, as a beacon of truth and all that is right in the world – however – it's amusing to read the words of so many in the sportswriting community who position themselves in such ways, rendering absolute and final judgments, definitive declarations about people such as Mr. Taubman, about other people and their motivations – while in this instance also making sure to carry the water of a wounded and shaken sportswriter.

By the way, the Astros should be happy they got Roberto Osuna – because if Ken Giles was still their closer the Yankees would have played the Nationals in Game-1 of the World Series last night.

So much ado about nothing.

So much blown out of proportion so needlessly.

Let's see a show of hands, how many think the Astros should fire Mr. Taubman?

That'll make things all better and restore order, eh?

One national baseball writer wrote a story about this and said that Taubman needed to show remorse for his enthusiastic words concerning Roberto Osuna.

Memo to this writer: Taubman apologized, so move on.

And by the way, what's up with all of this "zero-tolerance" bullshit?

We're talking about human beings here, imperfect people who are prone to hiccups and mistakes.

Show me a person who hasn't fucked up multiple times in their life and I'll assume you're bringing me to meet Christ Jesus Himself.

Everyone has things they've done or said that they're not proud of. So what? What are we, robots?

Players in all sports and in all leagues have had individuals involved with missteps and other things that have caused them problems...are they not permitted chances at retribution and redemption?

For crying out loud, in my world, the universe of sports radio, this is a world littered with law-breaking individuals who have been arrested, jailed, bailed out, sometimes with repeat offenders, and yet many of these people are still working – as well they should be.

I guess this brings me back to a subject I've discussed previously on a few shows I have done.

The question of women in locker rooms and baseball clubhouses – as in – should it be permitted?

The question takes on even more relevance, I think, when we take into consideration the temperature of the times we live in, not to mention the sensitivities of so many these days.

The answer is, no. Under no circumstance is a male reporter allowed into a women's locker room, which is sort of odd – don't you think?

In an age where many feel that any gender should be permitted to head into any bathroom in America, you mean to tell me that society has yet to evolve to the point where men are allowed to cover women's sports with the same intimacy that women are so privileged in covering the world of men's sports?

Actually, full disclosure, under a hypothetical where I was assigned to serve a sentence and was forced to cover, let's say, the WNBA, I'd have zero interest in heading into the locker room of the Connecticut Sun to talk to any players. Their appearance outside the locker room and fully clothed would more than suffice.

Many players have spoken out in regard to this subject over the years, for instance, the late Reggie White felt that women reporters shouldn't be allowed in locker rooms – and there have been others.

Perhaps we've reached the stage where having anyone going into any locker room or clubhouse anymore makes much more sense?

Interview areas, where players come out with their clothes still on, this could work.

I'll bet if I polled a lot of players they'd buy into such a scenario because let's be honest now, its a little ridiculous for players to have to speak to people while they're fresh out of the shower, dicks swinging back and forth, trying to get dressed, checking their messages, etc.

After all, any reporter having any presence in any locker room or clubhouse is a privilege – not a right.

Alright, enough of this tomfoolery, can we now get back to more important things, at least until the next overblown piece of news which threatens all of humanity comes into play?

Okay, World Series, Game-1 last night in Houston, and I thought that...