



Why We're Losing the Culture Wars

The forces of intolerance on the left have taken several more scalps in the past few days. And boy, are they gloating about it.



Example No. 1 is Miami Dolphins safety Don Jones. He had the unmitigated gall not to praise Michael Sam, an openly gay football player, for kissing his boyfriend on national TV when he became one of the top selections in the recent NFL draft.

When Jones sent out a tweet saying “OMG” and “Horrible,” the roof caved in on him. Less than 24 hours later, he had deleted the tweets, issued an apology for his “inappropriate comments,” and said that he wished Sam “all the best in his NFL career.”

But that wasn't enough for his bosses; the Miami Dolphins said they not only slapped Jones with a fine, he is also going to be banned from all team events until he finishes some sensitivity training. Sounds like something we used to hear coming out of Communist China, doesn't it?

Gary Bauer, a Christian activist who is president of the Campaign for Working Families, hit the nail on the head when he wrote:

The effort to drive normalcy into the closet is in overdrive. In five short years in Obama's America, we have gone from a country where the vast majority of states upheld marriage as the union of one man and one woman to the point where expressing this belief can cost you your job, Christians are being forced to participate in same-sex weddings and professional athletes are being forced to celebrate homosexuality.

But if you think the culture wars have brought about profound changes in civilian life in this country, consider what's happening in our military. We've gone from a time when homosexuality was grounds for dismissal to “don't ask, don't tell” to an open acceptance of gays in uniform. Now, the left is ready for the next step.

During an appearance on ABC's *This Week* television program last Sunday, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel was asked whether the military would soon allow people who said they were transgendered to serve in the military. Hagel replied that the military's policies are “continually reviewed” and that “I'm open to that, by the way. I'm open to those assessments.”

And it's not just the sexually different — in the old days we would have said “deviant” — who are demanding open acceptance in the military. Recently, a humanist organization petitioned the Pentagon to appoint “atheist chaplains” for our armed forces.

Last year the House of Representatives rejected a measure that would have allowed the Pentagon to hire as chaplains individuals who were “certified or ordained as secular humanists and ethical culturists or atheists.” Don't ask me how one becomes an “ordained atheist.” There's probably someplace on the Internet where you can do it.

What do you think will happen when the military is forced to accept transgendered soldiers and atheist chaplains? Think it will improve morale? No matter; this is how the left is determined to remake our military.

If you worry that we may be losing the culture wars in our military, then you'd better not look too closely at our college campuses, where the left has held the upper hand for years. Now they are



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showing that they will not even permit a dissenting voice to be heard.

The latest example of the left's organized intolerance comes from Rutgers University, where a group of students and faculty kicked up such a ruckus over the selection of Condoleezza Rice to be their commencement speaker that the former secretary of state and national security adviser withdrew her acceptance.

Now, I was never the biggest supporter of the policies of Ms. Rice — or of those of her boss, President George W. Bush, for that matter. But c'mon already, she certainly was a distinguished choice. I don't blame Condoleezza for not wanting to face an angry mob — especially if she feared she wouldn't have the full support of the Rutgers' administration. But shame on Rutgers for caving into a vociferous minority.

Sad to say, the same sort of thing has been happening more and more often on our college campuses. Last November, New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly was prevented from speaking at Brown University; last month a lecture by the noted libertarian author Charles Murray was canceled by Azusa Pacific University because of protests.

Earlier this week, Christine Lagarde, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, changed her mind about giving the commencement address at Smith College when she learned that nearly 500 people had signed a petition objecting to her appearance. Oh, and let's not forget about the decision of Brandeis University to change its mind about giving an honorary degree to human rights activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali, because of objections of some Muslims and some liberal professors who supported them.

Anne Neal, president of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a group which says it promotes academic freedom and free inquiry, rightly commented that "There are serious implications for what is going on here; universities are becoming havens of the closed minded." And she added, "What we are beginning to see is a heckler's veto."

No, what we're seeing is even worse than that. What's happening is that the left is waging a culture war on traditional Americans, or maybe I should say America's traditions. And since they know they can't win in our legislatures, they're using protests and legal ploys to enforce their views on the rest of us.

So far, they're getting away with it. And the more scalps they collect, the more brazen they will become. If you think their demands are outrageous now, just wait. I'm sorry to say, there is much worse to come.

Until next time, keep some powder dry.

Chip Wood was the first news editor of *The Review of the News* and also wrote for *American Opinion*, our two predecessor publications. He is now the geopolitical editor of *Personal Liberty Digest*, where his *Straight Talk* column appears weekly. This article first appeared in [PersonalLiberty.com](#) and has been reprinted with permission.



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