

Republican Perspective

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by Ed Manning

Progressive Tolerance

"I learned that very often the most intolerant and narrow-minded people are the ones who congratulate themselves on their tolerance and open-mindedness." Christopher Hitchens

One must remember that tolerance to the Left is to largely agree with their points of view or they will label you, boycott your business and make your life an unpleasant experience. A few examples of this tolerance occurred in recent weeks.

A pair of gay hoteliers hosted Republican Presidential candidate, Senator Ted Cruz, at their Central Park, NY duplex for a small dinner to discuss foreign policy. The subject of same-sex marriage came up and Cruz, who has gone on record against it, answered that the issue is best determined by the states. The two hoteliers put out statements to the gay community that they disagreed with Senator Cruz on the issue of gay marriage and that they had previously hosted a "Ready for Hillary" event at the Out Hotel attended by a record 900 individuals.

In a grand gesture of understanding, the tolerant Left organized a campaign to boycott the hotel. To the credit of the gay hoteliers, they said "...but we also believe in open dialogue with people who hold differing opinions, because that's what America is all about." Not good enough for the tolerant boycott organizers who offered: "The thought of one dollar going into their bars and hotels making its way into the campaign coffers of anti-LGBT elected officials is outrageous. If we have to shut the place down to prevent that from happening we will." Their effort resulted in the cancellation of a charity event to fight AIDS.

In Oregon, the Christian bakery Sweet Cakes by Melissa, declined to prepare a same-sex wedding cake because it was against their faith. Also, at the time (2013) same-sex marriage was illegal in Oregon. The gay couple filed a complaint with the state's Department of Labor and last month an administrative law judge ruled that the bakery owed damages of \$135,000.

What did the couple suffer to win \$135,000? The Oregon agency in a press release said the award was for "emotional suffering stemming directly from unlawful discrimination." Some of the emotional suffering listed in the complaint were: excessive sleep, pale and sick at home after work, worry, surprise, uncertainty and shock.

In another display of tolerance, the website "GoFundMe", a crowdfunding campaign site, yanked the page raising donations for the bakery to pay for the ruling. GoFundMe

said the campaign violated its policy of raising money “in defense of formal charges of heinous crimes, including violent, hateful, or sexual acts.”

Now move to Baltimore, where the student government association of Johns Hopkins University voted to ban Chick-fil-A restaurant. Johns Hopkins was an American entrepreneur, abolitionist and philanthropist of 19th-century Baltimore. His bequests founded numerous institutions bearing his name, most notably Johns Hopkins Hospital, and Johns Hopkins University.

The students action was a preemptive strike since there is no plan to build a Chick-fil-A on the campus. The student government said this was an action against “microaggression” of the students. Huh? Johns Hopkins University says it “was founded on the principle that by pursuing big ideas and sharing what we learn, we make the world a better place.” No chicken burgers here - only beef!

The University of Maryland College Park would not be out done with progressive tolerance. The Student Entertainment Events group pulled the May showing of “American Sniper” due to complaints from a Muslim student group. The Muslim group offered the reasoning the movie was: “war propoganda guised as art reveals a not-so-discreet Islamaphobic, violent, and racist nationalist ideology. This movie dehumanizes Muslim individuals, promotes the idea of senseless mass murder, and portrays negative and inaccurate stereotypes. This movie serves to do nothing but make a mockery out of such immense pain.”

The Student Entertainment Group is considering to schedule "an event where students can engage in constructive and moderated dialogues about the controversial topics proposed in the film." Can one imagine returning WW II veterans attending college on the GI Bill being told their student association cancelled the showing of a war movie due to complaints from students of either German or Japanese heritage?

Elton John is leading a boycott against the clothing line of gay Italian fashion designers, Dolce & Gabbana for their their recent remarks condemning in vitro fertilization and saying same-sex couples should not raise children. Gabbana defended his right to air his opinion and said John’s effort is fascist.

Space does not allow to write about the cancellation of numerous college commencement speakers because their views did not meet with approval of the progressive Left. It is neither Republicans nor the Right that shout down speakers that present a differing view or boycott businesses that dare to host either a conservative or liberal.