

Opinion

Colleges Threaten Free Speech

By Chris Madden

In 1721, Benjamin Franklin wrote to the New England Courant, his brother's newspaper, about free speech under the penname Silence Dogood.

"Without Freedom of Thought, there can be no such Thing as Wisdom; and no such Thing as public Liberty, without Freedom of Speech," said Franklin.

Within the past month, students from universities across the United States, from the University of Missouri to Yale and Princeton, have banded together in widespread protests against racism and bigotry. These are admirable goals; no student should feel as if he or she is unwelcome because of the color of his or her skin.

Yet, many of the protests have moved away from promoting positive change into authoritarian and inexcusable behavior on the part of students.

The New York Times reported that in response to an email sent out by Yale's Intercultural Affairs Committee suggesting what students should and should not wear on Halloween, Erika Christakis wrote, "Is there no room anymore for a child or young person to be a little bit obnoxious... a little but inappropriate or provocative or, yes, offensive?"

Students responded with extreme vitriol to Christakis' email, igniting a conflict between the free exchange of ideas and the demands of college students who do not wish to hear other points of view. A heated exchange between Christakis' husband, Nicholas, and college students was captured on film and went viral.

In the video, Nicholas Christakis stood calmly and tried to peacefully engage with the mob of students that surrounded him. The New York Times reported that students called for his resignation, shouted profanities, and one student even said, "You

should not sleep at night! You are disgusting!"

Free speech on college campuses needs to be cherished now more than ever. Many college students in the twenty-first century have a deep-seated hatred for opposing viewpoints.

Increasingly, students want to feel completely sheltered from ideas that may offend them, a phenomenon which has led to an increasing number of "safe zones" on college campuses. Some college professors issue warnings about sensitive content, lest some student get so offended by an idea that he or she complains to the administration.

Some liberals agree that the rampant political correctness across college campuses should be cause for alarm. The college is, after all, a place where students go to ask questions and develop critical thinking skills. For decades, colleges have been the bastions for the free exchange of ideas, and it is of the utmost impor-



Erika Christakis

Photo Credit: Google Images

tance that they remain so. No idea should be off limits for discussion in the classroom, for if ideas are limited, then college students nationwide will be ill-equipped to deal with the world after graduation.

#ConcernedStudent1950

By Tyonna Goweh

A group of activist students at the University of Missouri gathered together, calling themselves "Concerned Student 1950".

African American students were allowed to attend the University in 1950. This group of students is fighting to end the animosity caused at the university based on race. Ever since Missouri Students Association President Payton Head received a racist slur by a group of people, these students have been continuing non-violent protests.

During a rehearsal for a parade for homecoming, a white student yelled racial slurs at the Legion of Black Collegians. The Legion notified former President Wolfe on the night of homecoming of the situation as a part of their protest, however, the president refused to give attention to the situation.

According to legion member Storm Ervin, the non-violent protests included boycotting spending money

at the Student Center or attending football games — anything that brought the university extra money.

The students have also been working with a graduate student Jonathan Butler. He orchestrated a

hunger strike and he said that it would either end with Wolfe's resignation or his own death.



"SMU students gather to support #ConcernedStudent1950 #BlackAtSMU #Blackout."

Photo Credit: Twitter

Following the protests of these students, the faculty at the university made threats of staging a walkout involving the entire campus. The school's football team planned to boycott all the events for the team. These protests lead up to the resignation of Tim Wolfe who was the president of the University of Missouri.

The hashtag "#concernedstudent1950" is the online movement from these students. Their twitter account "@CS_1950" is gaining a large following with over 11 thousand followers. The hashtag has gotten a lot of media attention from people all over the country.

New York Times bestseller Ben Shapiro tweeted about this movement. Taking a stand against social injustice is something that has become a large part of the digital generation nationally.

Trump in the Doghouse

By Elizabeth White

Since the day Donald Trump announced he was running for presidency, he has yet to say anything less than controversial.

Trump announced that he was joining the race in June, and since



Donald Trump

Photo Credit: Google Images

then, the media has had a field day with the comments and opinions of the billionaire businessman.

The problem with Donald Trump is that he speaks his mind about everything and anything, and he doesn't mind or care who hears it. Trump is not always educated on what he is spewing to the media and the world.

"The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive," Trump said on Twitter on Nov. 6.

Not only is global warming scientifically proven to be occurring and validated by scientists worldwide, it was just downright offensive to suggest that China is using that in order to get one over on the United States.

One of the most controversial issues with Trump is immigration. His plan to keep immigrants out is to build

a wall to prevent them from crossing illegally.

"I will build a great, great wall on our southern border," Trump said, "And I will make Mexico pay for that wall."

On Nov. 21 Trump spoke at a campaign rally in Birmingham, Alabama. At the event, there was an altercation with Black Lives Matter protesters who were disrupting Trump's speech by shouting, "Dump the Trump" and "Black Lives Matter."

"Maybe he should have been roughed up because it was absolutely disgusting what he was doing," Trump said about the incident the next morning.

With each racist comment like this, Trump is isolating himself from the Americans whose votes he needs the most. He has spoken openly against many groups and ethnicities, only hurting his chance for presidency,

not helping it.

Does Donald Trump not realize that he is making a fool out of himself? With each controversial comment, he is separating himself from the American public and making himself less and less likable.

If Trump actually does want to win the nomination of the Republican Party for the presidency, he has to get his act together. He needs to be more educated on the issues he openly speaks about. He should also consider not saying the first thing that comes to mind and should instead try to appeal to the American public instead of repulsing them.

As the primary elections scheduled for summer 2016 come closer and closer, it should be interesting to see if Donald Trump will garner the American public's support or repel them even more.