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Conservatism and Censorship

by Joe Escobar - Friday, April 12, 2013, 5:09 PM

This forum thread is for Conservatism and Censorship posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the individual questions in SEPARATE posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

Since there are multiple questions, BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Don't simply leave it RE: Conservatism and Censorship

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Re: Conservatism and Censorship

by Agina Hale - Monday, April 15, 2013, 8:46 PM

I know that the Conservative is labeled as being against change, while the Liberal wants change through progression. What does that leave for the rest of us in the middle? Politics and Religion, being two of the conversation taboos, seemed to be so intertwined that it's hard find a thread to separate them. People like me stand in the middle of this road, unwilling to cross to either side.

The article from Berkley News made the observation that one of the motivations of a Conservative is fear and aggression, among other generalizations. That seems to be over simplifying how someone feels about an issue that is important to them. It also states that Liberals tend to impose simplistic cliches and stereotypes. This is a quality that is shared by many. I found this article making me ask more questions, than it answered. Lacking more details on the scientific system to which this data was comprised.

What it comes down to for me is that I don't trust politicians. I don't have faith in an individual who feels they are the best person for a job, especially one as complex as U.S President. No matter who leads our nation, every decision has adverse effects, even if we try to "progress" towards something better.

For instance: I believe there were negative effects of the progressive movement for women's rights and putting women in the workplace. I'm not saying that I wished this never happened, I just wish we went about it with a keener eye on social structure. WWI put a massive strain on the job force, and it's understandable that women could fill the jobs, and the economy boomed. I believe we paid for it in a different way. As women stepped out of the homes, and into the workforce, the children had less time being cared for by a parent. Subsequently, I believe that our education status suffered in part by this decline. Not saying that the family had to be held together by a woman staying home, or father. Society, as a whole moved away from family households consisting of extended family, to more single parents, or two parents who worked. Hindsight being 20-20 and what not, but it's still something worth theorizing.

There will always be opposites. We will always have titles like Conservative and Liberal because as man we have created the philosophy of good vs evil ergo right vs wrong. We are wired to put things into categories, and with it, people will always be labeled. Even those in the middle.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Sapho and PMRC censorship

by Gavin Bennett - Monday, April 15, 2013, 11:45 PM

The play Sapho and 80's heavy metal share the similarities that they challenged the morals of their times, they both contained what was thought of as explicit content, and both thrived due to the attention brought by their content and the judgement of it. They differed in that one is a play and the other a style of music, and the people concerned with Sapho were adults where as the people concerned with 80's metal were parents afraid that the music might turn their children into devil worshipping sadists and what not.

I think it is safe to say that the majority of those for the censorship of both Sapho and 80's metal were probably some brand of conservative. Based on the Berkely article, it could be said that since Sapho challenged the morals of its time, this could fall under the cognitive factor of fear because of the fear that it might change a moral structure and prudence that had been established. Fear could also be linked with metal because a lot of metal music advocates rebelling against the system. This is a bit ironic because some branches of conservatism advocate for little or even no government.

These two things bring up the bigger question of how far do we take censorship? Should we even be censoring anything or could censorship be considered a violation of the First Amendment? If we're censoring things on the basis of protecting our children from explicit material, is it the government's job to doing this for us via the FCC and its guidelines or should it be the parent's job to manage what their child is exposed to? Even with the government imposing censorship guidelines, their label made metal a bigger draw as stated in the video clip and brought in more listeners.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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PMRC vs Rock & Roll

by Jason Lyons - Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 10:44 AM

After watching the video, the only thing the PMRC was completely useless for the conservatives who wanted to ban rock music. They made it a public and political spectacle and it only gave the metal community more reason to buy records. Dee Snider was entirely right when he said the PMRC was a couple of senators wives who had nothing better to do with their time. Al Gores wife said that the lyrics of one of Twisted sister songs expressed sadomasochism, when in fact they were talking about a thought operation. Dee Snider called her a liar and she had a dirty mind for these accusations. In my mind, the one thing that the PMRC did accomplish was making rock music more popular. The rock community was happy to put the explicit lyric sticker on their albums. Just like the Sapho play, the investigation and political hearing only made them more popular in the eyes of the people. 🤔

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: PMRC vs Rock & Roll

by Agina Hale - Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 1:20 PM

I agree, the musicians/labels benefited from the mandatory sticker. Bad press often has the effects of good press. When we research this event, there are a lot of things that aren't mentioned. I was very young, but it was very memorable to me. For instance, I remember that those "rockers" who testified weren't expected to come across as articulate and intelligent. It shocked a lot of people. Everyone assumed that they were just sex-junkie alcoholics with no comprehension of how they affected people.

The fascinating part about this issue is how there really is a spectrum of political sides. Tipper Gore a Democrat sitting on the panel with Republicans. On the other side Dee Snyder and John Denver both opposed to the oppressive nature of the committee. It was actually

assumed that John Denver would be speaking on behalf of the PMRC because he was a well known folk singer.

"The full responsibility for defending my children falls on the shoulders of my wife and I, because there is no one else capable of making these judgments for us." - Dee Snyder

"strongly opposed to censorship of any kind in our society or anywhere else in the world" "That which is denied becomes that which is most desired, and that which is hidden becomes that which is most interesting. Consequently, a great deal of time and energy is spent trying to get at what is being kept from you."-John Denver

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Re: Conservatism and Censorship



by Agina Hale - Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 2:26 PM

I am against trampling on any of the Bill of Rights (Constitution respectively). I'm not the only one who has noticed our rights being chiseled away with one good reason to the next. Sadly, I was wrong about one in particular. The Patriot Act-It was a very scary time, and I believed the rhetoric about detecting the unknown enemy. Now, I feel duped. It's no different than the Red Scare. That's not to say that I don't want to find those who want to commit terrorism, homegrown or otherwise, but at what expense?

I started out optimistic and had the desire to change the world. Unfortunately, watching the hypocrisy, or the same story played out from one decade to the next has jaded me. On one extreme, there are conservatives that want a say in what we do with our bodies, how we teach our children and who we legally bind ourselves to. On the liberal side there are a few things that are at stake from being regulated to all hell: Gun rights, what we eat, what we smoke, what we drink and how we teach our children.

There have been a lot of progressive changes for the better, like wildlife and water regulations. Who could say no to that? Now the problem is, everyone has pet peeves and wants a society to improve. Do we need the government regulating

what we eat?

Consumers make our votes with our money, it's as simple as that. We have known for years that smoking is bad for you, yet it's still a very prominent aspect of our society. It's just a slippery slope. Both sides have a false sense of moral superiority. You can't force someone to change...

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Re: Conservatism and Censorship

by Barry Sommer - Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 8:43 PM

I must say that I have never thought of myself in these terms; full of "fear and aggression", dogmatism and intolerant of ambiguity, a practitioner of "Uncertainty Avoidance" or one who has a "need for cognitive closure" and "terror management". However, with that said, and the description in the article of what a liberal is, I would have to agree with the diagnosis. All except the fear and aggression aspect, but since all humans are different in how they think and act, I am sure some conservatives operate from that position. It is interesting how the researchers make a point of saying that their findings are not biased or judgemental, or meant to disparage, yet the very words they choose default to a position where they are understood, in popular culture to be biased and elicit an emotional response. Subtle yet powerful propaganda that does create rifts and divisions between people who, when all is said and done have the same goal in mind.

From one mans perspective, liberals today seem to have veered off the path of "anything goes" and have taken on some of the aspects of conservatism that I remeber protesting against in the 60s and 70s. Free speech, for example was a hallmark of protests back then, we wanted to be able to talk about anything, no matter how uncomfortable for the powers that be, and we won that right after many sit-ins, loud protests, occupation of the Deans office and most importantly, solidarity in the face of overwhelming force. Today, that free speech I fought so hard for has been removed by the pall of political correctness. Example; asking tough questions about "Palestine" instead of demonizing Israel will elicit name-calling and attempts to stop that speech. Questioning Islam or Muslims in a negatively perceived light will garner insults and calls for quiet. Trying to discuss gay rights or anything related to the LGBT lifestyle makes one a "homophobe" if it does not comport with the current popular dogma, and you will be shouted down. Supporting the rights of the unborn will label you a right-wing nutjob. I see the liberal side as being censorship-happy, and the conservative side as more open to uncomfortable truths. I may be wrong, but again this is one mans

opinion...

I remember watching the PMRC hearings and seeing Dee Snyder testify. Some good points are made, but if one looks at the current research into violence, video games and kids, there are definite correlations between what you see/play and how you interact with the world around you. The PMRC may have been right in some respects, we should look more carefully at all the influences on both kids and adults regarding digital stimuli. This is not a conservative or liberal agenda, this is a human agenda and we all should place the concerns of our kids above our own petty needs.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Conservatism and Censorship

by Veronica Wilkens - Thursday, April 18, 2013, 10:37 PM

I'll set aside the part of me I find to be fiscally conservative, since it's not really relevant to this post. I find myself on most other (social) aspects to be quite liberal. I wholeheartedly agree that of late I find myself surrounded by these P.C. "liberal" machines. I'm all for gay marriage, and women's right to choose and whatnot. However, I think it's also important to note that other people don't agree, and that's okay with me, too. It's not my responsibility to patrol people's thoughts, or their mouths. They can say what they want, but I do find it, well, disturbing that I am not always in the majority on this matter.

Just as a side note to your last paragraph: I must disagree with your "current research". As a 25 year old who's been playing video games since she was 5, in a committed relationship with someone who's also heavily into gaming, and resultingly has a large group of friends and acquaintances of the same lifestyle I find it hard to believe that there is "evidence" to support that my days playing games like World of Warcraft, watching violent shows like South Park, and listening to music like Eminem is going to make me (or those like me) a violent/beligerant person. I have no professional research yes, but my experience being immersed in this culture says those people are few and far between. I hope that someday people realize it's no more about the violence we're exposed to than the way our parents teach us to process it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Conservatism and Censorship

by Brittani Cotton - Friday, April 19, 2013, 5:33 PM

I listen to rap, but I still like Beethoven. I watch horror movies, yet I still like comedies. The reason for my polar opposites is because of the way I was

raised. I grew up in a modern family, yet they were still semi-strict.

I support gay marriage 100%. What I don't support is all the hate groups, like Westboro Baptist. They picket soldiers' funerals, because they didn't share the same beliefs. They hold up signs that say something like "God Killed You Because You Were Gay". Unfortunately, that soldier had to give up his/her life for our freedoms, and they're abusing them.

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PMRC and lyric censorship by Hayley Demanett



by Hayley Demanett - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 4:49 PM

I actually found this video to be really entertaining. The part that I found the most interesting was at the end when Bret Michaels said how the PMRC was the best thing to happen to heavy metal music. The parental guidance label made the kids want to listen to and buy the albums even more. It's like when you're a little kid and your parents tell you that you're not allowed to do something which makes you want to do it even more. I think that the parental guidance stickers gave the kids another reason to want to listen to the music and, "rebel". I also think that the PMRC was overly strict towards this type of music. I liked the part where Dee Snider said that the members of the PMRC were trying to twist the lyrics or album covers and make them appear worse than they actually were. My family are all music lovers so I've grown up listening to most of these songs and bands. When I was listening to the songs I wasn't looking for the "deeper meaning" I was just listening to a good song with a great sound.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Sapho and PMRC by Hayley Demanett



by Hayley Demanett - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 8:59 PM

I think that the biggest similarity between Sapho and rock and roll is that they were both ahead of their time. I don't think that there had really been many, if any plays like Sapho before and so it was probably kind of a shock even though today it seems ridiculous. The same goes for music. Some of the music that was coming out was different from anything that had been recorded before. Now it is just classic songs and bands that most people can recognize if they hear them on the radio. I think that these are two perfect examples of how much society's views have changed. Things that were completely shocking to people in the past are now just normal.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Conservatism and Censorship





by Francisco Reyes - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 9:38 PM

The play Sapho and 80's heavy metal share similarities. They challenged the morals of their times, they both contained what was thought of as explicit content, and both thrived due to the attention brought by their content and the judgment of it. Now, as always in our history, literature, theatre, paintings, music, and dance, are among our most effective instruments of expression. They are powerful means for making available ideas, feelings, and social growth. Free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. On the other hand, suppression of ideas and of artistic expression leads to conformity, the limiting of diversity and the stifling of freedom.

By the way, has having too much freedom of expression sensitized us from true art? I'm just wondering because of the amount of sexual media out there. Like in music that talk about sex and drugs. Shows like Jersey Shore or Keeping up with the Kardashians that only provide entertainment for the sake of seeing dumb people be dumb. A better question would be; what do we consider art in the 21st century? Because as we all know art evolves over time. When we look back at today's music/art in 30 years, will we say that our music had an impact in our society? Well, I like to think it does.

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY44zvHWhp4>)

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