

## **Don't fear the freedom police**

By Julian Tomlinson, Deputy Editor, the Cairns Post, 7 April 2016

*“Social engineers, academics, left-wing politicians, environmental activist and socialists are trying to silence anyone who doesn't toe the line...”*

The lengths people will go these days to win a debate are as worrying as they are nasty.

Anyone who publicly expresses a view that doesn't conform to the accepted or politically correct one is leaving themselves open to attack.

Especially from people who would consider themselves well educated.

### **Threats, actual violence and legal action**

And not just attack on their ideas but with threats, actual violence and legal action.

But “educated” is such a relative term. I don't have a university degree but does that mean I'm less capable of critical thought than someone with a PhD? Having a PhD certainly does not give you a patent on tolerance.

Contrary views on climate change, coral bleaching, Islamic immigration, same-sex marriage, feminism, Safe Schools, the environment, reef health, Aborigines or religion, aren't met with well-reasoned rebuttal, they're howled down with cries of “denier”, “racist”, “homophobe”, “Islamophobe”, “misogynist”, “sexist” and “bigot”.

### **Proof of this totalitarian attitude**

Proof of this totalitarian attitude is apparent every day, especially in universities that are supposed to be fertile grounds for exchanges of competing ideas and opinions.

Just this week, the University of Sydney has banned students from using the term “colonisation” to describe European arrival in Australia, and insists they use the extremely divisive word “invasion”.

Regardless of the “correct” terminology, shouldn't students be free to discuss and debate the topic rather than be dictated what they must think? It seems universities are happy to tolerate “progressive” and left-wing ideologies but are extremely intolerant of conservative views.

### **More examples that defy belief**

But there are even more examples that defy belief for most moderate and reasonable people.

The same university has threatened to deregister its 88-year-old Catholic Society because it has committed the heinous crime of insisting members of its executive are...wait for it...Catholic! Last year, the University of Western Australia cancelled a tenureship for world-renowned climate scientist Bjorn Lomborg because students angrily protested against his idea that countries might be better off switching funding and study from combating climate change to mitigating against its outcomes.

## **Told to leave an “indigenous only” computer room**

Students at the Queensland University of Technology are the subject of court action for using social media to criticise being told to leave an “indigenous only” computer room.

Apparently their non-racist criticism made the staff member who told them to leave feel like she was under threat of imminent physical attack from white supremacists.

In Tasmania, the Catholic Church has been hauled before the state’s Anti-Discrimination Commission for preaching against gay marriage.

When men’s rights advocate “Roosh” hit back at ludicrous claims he genuinely supported legalising rape, he and his followers received death threats and his family was subjected to shocking intimidation and verbal attacks.

## **Silence anyone who doesn’t toe the line**

There’s not enough space here to properly mention the scores of ways social engineers, academics, left-wing politicians, environmental activists and socialists are trying to silence anyone who doesn’t toe the line that they insist we all stop at.

But this is happening every day and in every country on Earth.

Anyone who believes in freedom of speech, who values a society in which people aren’t afraid to honestly express their opinions and who welcomes open and honest debate from all quarters should be extremely worried about the attacks on these ideals.

But all is not lost. There is plenty of information in the public realm and it’s easily found online. Googling freedom campaigner and conservative commentator Mark Steyn is a good starting point.

## **The next step is to get engaged**

The next step is to get engaged, challenge the naysayers and write to politicians.

The key is not stooping to the same level as those who resort to name calling, public shaming and threats to ensure opponents are too scared to speak up.

If you arm yourself with the facts – from both sides of the argument – you can quite calmly state your case.

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