

**An article on**  
**Suppression of Free Speech**

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# Where political correctness and free speech collide

I came across an article about a restaurant chain in Colorado named Illegal Pete's. Several Latino firebrands are



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demanding the name be changed and the word illegal be dropped, because they claim it has racial connotations. The name of the restaurant refers to its founder, Pete Turner.

Therefore, it has personal, not political connotations. Nonetheless, the word "illegal" is considered by this faction of protesters — who are against the accurate use of language — to be offensive and racially tainted. Where were these people schooled, Smith College? ... an institution that enters this politically correct farce shortly.

Because the word

"illegal" now has racial inferences — at least, according to some — we are in danger of not being allowed to use the word as in, for example, "He made an illegal drug trade." That might be interpreted as a person who is buying drugs from a minority group. Some of my ancestors emigrated from Scotland illegally. Perhaps I should not talk about this activity as it might offend some people of Scottish heritage.

You have likely come across news media releases that describe the increasing restrictions being placed on free speech on college campuses. The adage, "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend your right to say it," is under assault.

Of all places, educational institutions should value and treasure the right of free speech, even if some of it is offensive. Free speech is considerably more important than the right not to

be insulted. At Smith College, a forum was held titled "Challenging the Ideological Echo Chamber: Free Speech, Civil Discourse, and the Liberal Arts."

One of the panelists was Wendy Kaminer, a First Amendment supporter. She was addressing a serious subject in an enlightening manner.

*[She criticized] the proliferation of campus speech codes that restrict supposedly offensive language. She urged the audience to defend the free exchange of ideas over parochial notions of "civility." In response to a question about teaching materials that contain "hate speech," she raised the example of Mark Twain's 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,' arguing that the students should take it as a whole. The student member of*

*the panel, Jaime Estrada, resisted that notion, saying, "But it has the n-word, and some people are sensitive to that."*

Ms. Kaminer then made a major political "incorrectness" mistake. In this supposedly academic, problem-addressing environment, she used the word itself. For this pedagogical piece of enlightenment, she was accused of institutional racism.

Let's pause for a moment to assess what is happening in some of America's academic institutions. Her intention was to explain that the image of the word in people's minds was the word itself, regardless of use or nonuse of the initial "n." She used the word to make her point. That is one purpose of educational institutions: to debate and to learn

from dissenting views.

The president of Smith College was criticized for not immediately assailing Ms. Kaminer's use of the word. Consequently, the president wrote a letter to the Smith community with apologies to anyone who was "hurt" or made to feel "unsafe" by Ms. Kaminer's comments. Unsafe? On a college campus? Inside a secure auditorium? Guards patrolling the area?

My bones chilled when I read about a respected academician at a public forum being accused of making someone feel hurt or unsafe. Borrowing a cliché, I silently muttered, "Student-up!" What are you in college for? To be mentally emasculated?

Intellectual weakness and spineless mental-

ity are on display at Smith College and other so-called enlightened institutions, a shameful mockery of what our educational system should be doing with controversial subjects.

Those students are not going to come out of these sterile environments with robust mental frameworks to deal with the real world. They will likely graduate under the illusion of having privileged spirits and at the same time, clueless about life in a non-academic society.

It is getting worse, as described in the second piece to this article coming Friday.

• • •

*Uyless Black of Hayden is the author of more than 40 books. His opinion and analysis pieces appear frequently in The Press.*

## JUNGLE

from A1

"We're still trying to figure out what we're going to do with this," Brady said.

The city's jurisdiction is within 1,000 feet of its shore and if someone wants to do business within those limits, they likely fall under the city's permitting process.

Greenwood said floating fun centers have recently drifted onto the scene, but he foresees a flood of them in the future. This year alone, he has received separate inquiries from three vendors including Kauer.

"This year we've got Hooligan Island, and another one called Tarzan Boat and months back we got (a request) from Treasure Island, and last year it was Hover Craft," Greenwood said. "All of these folks want to do a water-based business."

But, owners who have met with the city couldn't answer basic questions, he said. They did not know how customers would reach the floating islands from the beach, or what kind of certification their lifeguards had.

Pool and open-water

lifeguards require different certifications, Greenwood said, and open-water guards are hard to find.

In addition, the business could be required to enter a bid process, especially if they had a kiosk in the park to sell tickets to the floating jungle gyms. They must also be vetted by police, the fire department, parks and rec and the City Council.

"To see if they like the idea," he said.

In his 18 years as parks and rec director, Greenwood has not seen such a surge of water-borne vendors.

"It's kind of a new twist," he said.

Kauer said he plans to move Hooligan Island at the request of the city and the Department of Lands, although he feels he has legal authority to set up in front of City Beach, and charge \$12 for kids to jump, slide and splash from his watercraft — even if he has to move it outside city limits.

But, he isn't here to make waves, he said.

"It's still rather cold," he said.

Before moving it back, he'll wait for the weather and the atmosphere surrounding his fun center to warm up, he said.

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# Free speech must prevail for real learning to work

I wrote in the first installment to this article about the suppression of speech in America: “It is getting worse.”

Of all places where the exercise of free speech should be championed, academic institutions should be at the top of the list. Colleges and universities should be defending, not denigrating the First Amendment of the Constitution.

For any college or university to espouse only one side of the political spectrum results in a student being denied a full and impartial education. The result is that an entire student body may not know how to deal with an idea that conflicts with their indoctrinations. I accuse both the left- and right-leaning

institutions of this perversity, but the recent examples took place at left-leaning universities.

Recently, Betsy DeVoss, the United States Secretary of Education, was shouted down while she was attempting to give a speech at Bethune-Cookman University, a “historically black university” noted for its left-leaning views.

Ann Coulter’s planned speech at the University of California, Berkeley was called off because of student protests at this famous institution of



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higher learning.

To be fair, I was also going to cite examples of right-leaning campuses shouting down speakers, but I could not find any in the current media. It could be that right-leaning colleges invite only right-leaning speakers.

Think what you will of DeVoss and Coulter, or for that matter, the American Civil Liberties Union. Even the ACLU voiced its disgust with the cancellation of Ms. Coulter’s speech.

**Fear of Dissenting Views**

Times have changed in the last few years. While I am ignoring a long history of violent protests in a past America, the recent protests have become less

tolerant and more dangerous. As David French (in NationalReview.com) puts it:

*Police in Berkeley, Calif., were overwhelmed when hundreds of leftist “antifa” (anti-facist) protesters battled pro-Trump “Oath Keepers,” bikers, and “alt-right goons,” with people on both sides being punched, kicked, and stomped. ...Far-left campus activists...believe it is their right and indeed duty to suppress the speech of Trump supporters...even to the point of physically attacking them....*

A reader might conclude I am piling on the collegiate left wing of America’s political spectrum about the issue of free speech. That conclusion is correct. When

the suppression of free speech and associated political correctness reaches the following level of absurdity and Orwellian surrealism, count this writer as an opponent of these pedagogical demigods:

A Catholic college in Kansas is renaming its yoga classes to avoid promoting “eastern mysticism.” Benedictine College said alumni and faculty had complained that yoga is a Hindu spiritual practice not in keeping with Catholic teaching. The classes will be rebranded “lifestyle fitness,” but will be taught the same way.

“We’re changing the name,” a spokesman said.

The practice remains the same but the name

changes? This action makes no sense. The complaint was about the “spiritual practice,” not the name of the practice! If these college administrators had any spine at all, they could have banned the practice of yoga, not its name. After all, they claimed the problem was the practice itself.

What’s next? Will Uyless Black eventually have to change his last name? If so, like Benedictine College, I hope I can continue the practice of being a member of my “Black” family.

...

*Uyless Black of Hayden is the author of more than 40 books. His opinion and analysis pieces appear frequently in The Press.*

## Bond increased for Shaun Kelly, hits \$1M

By RALPH BARTHOLDT  
Staff Writer

**COEUR D’ALENE** — The bond for a Spokane man charged with second-degree murder was increased substantially Thursday after he allegedly stole a van and eluded police after bailing out of jail.

First District Judge Cynthia K.C. Meyer, at the request of prosecutors, increased the bond amount to \$1 million for Shaun Patrick Kelly, 44, who is accused of forcing the grandson of a former Post Falls mayor to ingest a lethal dose of crystal meth.

Kelly has pleaded not guilty to three felonies including second-degree murder, unlawful possession of a firearm and aggravated assault. He appeared in court Thursday unshaven, wearing yellow jailhouse clothing, with his head shorn after his arrest last weekend for allegedly stealing a U-Haul truck in Spokane Valley and eluding officers after returning to Idaho, prosecutors said. He has been charged for the latest offenses with grand theft and eluding, both felonies, in addition to his earlier charges.

“He was seen on surveillance stealing a U-Haul, and bringing it here,” Donna Gardner, deputy prosecutor said. “... Almost striking other vehicles as he eluded



Kelly

police, and hiding it in back of Holy Family school.”

Kelly was arrested after running away on foot and breaking into a travel trailer, Gardner said. He came out only after a police dog was sent into the trailer after him.

Gardner filed a motion to increase the bond amount from \$25,000, and the court had filed a similar move to increase the bond, Meyer said.

Defense attorney Sean Walsh did not object to a higher bond amount. He had recently been assigned the case, Walsh said, and would likely address bond at another time.

Gardner said the higher amount was justified because “there are three other cases that are on the way to being filed (that) reflect his conduct since he has been out of custody.”

Charges include intimidating a witness, and two felony property crimes, Gardner said.

Kelly, who was out on bail since November, has an Oct. 2 trial date for the second-degree murder charge.

The charge stems from his alleged connection to the death of Evan Larkin, 22, the grandson of former Post Falls mayor Clay Larkin. He is accused of pointing a gun at Evan Larkin and making him eat a fatal dose of meth to prove he wasn’t a police informant.

A preliminary hearing status conference is set May 25 for the latest charges.

## Nuclear landfill cleanup on hold after pit collapse

**BOISE (AP)** — Some cleanup efforts at a nuclear waste landfill in eastern Idaho are on hold while workers try to figure out what caused a collapse in a dig area that sent an excavator into a pit.

The excavator was digging up transuranic waste — which is waste contaminated with highly radioactive elements.

No radiation was released during the incident last Thursday, and no one was injured, said Erik Simpson with Fluor Idaho, the contractor hired to clean up the site at the Idaho National Laboratory.

“Our crews had been exhuming waste for about 30 minutes when a portion of the pit wall where the excavator was operating sloughed off and the excavator slid into the pit,” said Simpson. “We’re working on a path to remove the excavator from the edge

of the pit and basically make some additional enhancements to protect the operators and the excavators from this point forward.”

The excavator was digging inside a large building at the 97-acre Subsurface Disposal Area when the side of the pit collapsed. The pit is about 21-feet deep, and the operator remained inside his protective cab for about 90 minutes afterward while crews worked to make sure it was safe for him to leave.

The collapse at INL happened just a few days after workers at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington discovered a large sinkhole had caved in a tunnel filled with radioactive waste there. That discovery prompted an emergency, with some workers evacuated and others ordered to stay inside buildings for a time.



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