

10.3 / 20



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The battle for free speech

Freedom of speech is such an important matter that many countries have made it one of their priority, USA within their constitution or France in its creed.

However we can wonder why the act of speech freedom could impact our society.

Under the light of Eliza Bunbury in her article published in The Adam Smith Institute painting how modern society make freedom of speech looking like evil, then Damagal G. Young's article published in the Center for Media & Social Impact about the impact of ~~connections~~ connections.

Then a third article written by Kliph Nesteroff in the Los Angeles Times introducing us to the historical fights for free speech.

And last but not least a ~~cartoon~~ ^{cartoon} made by Dave Whamond in Cagle Cartoons about the end of cartoons in the New York Times.

Free speech is nowadays a highly ~~controversial~~ ^{controversial} polemic topic, however many forget that it has always been the case, just as shown by Nesteroff in the early twentieth century as well as in the eighties. Battles to know whether free speech was essential occurred numerous times. Nevertheless the seem to be cancel and woke culture has acted ~~as~~ Bunbury says, like a brainwash, trying to make free speech thus comedy look like the devil. Censorship has evolved, at first it was sex, religion and politics, then stereotypes and nowadays everything that could be offensive materials. Nesteroff and Bunbury agree about the fact that we ~~can~~ can not laugh and joke about everything anymore.

Even if free speech is a hot topic, it is an unquestionable fact that it is a necessity. Matthew Lesh highlight that censoring free speech is a danger a matter that Whomard agree on, pointing the end of democracy with the end of cartoonists. In fact democracy, which gives power to the citizens, is at threat. Comics have a great influence on people choices, by making them less defensive about arguments. As expressed by Bushbury ~~debates~~ which are the core of democracy, are made by listening to opinions and arguments. By trying to silence every offensive arguments they destroy the solidarity that ~~comic~~ Yang talks about, the power that comics have to comfort people in tragedies as well as bringing laugh is something that needs to be protected.

However many have started to feel unpleasant about censoring themselves by fear to destroy their career. As pointed by Whomard the end of free speech will lead to the end of comedy, this is why people have started to gather, to promote free speech. Just as Andrew Doyle or Andy Shaw. In fact freedom of speech has been under threat countless times, laws against obscenities were voted in the sixties and over-turned in the seventies. Because just as Bushbury and Yang agree on there is no need to censor ~~comedians~~, audience is the limit, the judge of ~~comedians~~. Thus even if all four authors fear to see comedy starting to be unfunny, Nesteroff gives us a glimpse of hope.

Freedom of speech is a pillar of modern society, and many wants to censor it for a common benefit, however as we saw there are still people who will fight with all their might. Thus there is a glimpse of hope for comedy and free speech.



