

OPINIONS

Controversy of Cancel Culture

BY MEGHAN O'HARA

WHO WOULD HAVE IMAGINED that one day, social media would lead to people's lives being damaged by what they post? I certainly did not. Cancel culture started out as a terrific way to spread awareness about celebrities who have terrible views or have done terrible actions. However, cancel culture has gone too far.

First, let us look at the people who deserve to be canceled. For instance, Harvey Weinstein (convicted of rape and sexual assault), Kevin Spacey (took advantage of a 14-year-old), and R. Kelly (had child pornography). These three men committed actual crimes and deserved to be canceled. The emergence of the cancel culture, however, has resulted in the cancellation of innocent people.

For example, Monica Lewinsky. Monica, who was known as former president Bill Clinton's mistress, was slammed in the public eye the moment the truth about their affair came out. Instead of Clinton receiving hate, Lewinsky's name was dragged through the public square. Although it was not right that she slept with a 49-year-old married man, she was only 22 herself. Nonetheless, as a young woman myself, who is only a couple of years younger than Lewinsky, I would feel so dehumanized if the entire country judged me for my mistakes, especially when Clinton took advantage of a young woman and had no terrible backlash from it.

This was just the beginning. These days, people use social media to degrade others. Cancel culture is a way for those who do not have a powerful status in our system to come together to create a powerful message. This has resulted in innocent people getting their lives ruined because of others' opinions. For example, the Colin Kaepernick controversy. Kaepernick, a former NFL player, decided to kneel during the national anthem back in 2019 in support of the #BlackLivesMatter movement. This led to former President Donald Trump to attack him on social media. This resulted in Kaepernick getting various amounts of hate from Trump's supporters and getting fired from the NFL.

Cancel culture is detrimental and has turned into a dangerous trend. People have committed suicide, received death threats, and have had their privacy ruined. Instead of having people learn from their mistakes, people hold grudges instead of educating. Cancel culture takes away peoples' lives and ruins their futures.



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