

JAMES GUNN FIRED  
Political Correctness vs Outrage Culture

written by

Julian Breheny

V1.2  
64 Molesworth St, North Melbourne  
Victoria, Australia, 3051  
646 206 1527  
julianbreheny@gmail.com

INT. STUDIO - NIGHT

John Oliver sits at his desk.

JOHN OLIVER

We're going to take a look at the pros and cons of political correctness in a segment we like to call, 'Will this thanksgiving dinner ever end'...

Photo of James Gunn appears behind him.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Disney has FIRED James Gunn over a series of offensive tweets from almost 10 years ago. Is this a win for progressive attitudes and political correctness, or is it an unnecessary casualty of the outrage culture we now live in? We need to ask this question, because they are very different things. Outrage culture is where the media, and the public, love crucifying celebrities in the name of political correctness, but don't seem to actually care about the groups they claim to be protecting. Put simply, they just like acting outraged. So let's break it down. First of all, are the tweets offensive?

Photos of the tweets appear with the most offensive parts highlighted. 'Three men and a baby they had sex with a baby' John Oliver turns and looks at the tweets before shuddering.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Yes. Dear God Yes. Offensive and politically incorrect. And look, political correctness IS important. It makes us alter our behaviour so we don't say or do things that hurt marginalised groups. Like this Kelloggs box that made inadvertently racist cover art featuring all white Corn-pops, except for the janitor, who was brown. A mistake that was called out by Trevor Noah.

Video of Trevor Noah pointing out the racist Kellogg box,

"It may be racism because there is no such thing as a brown Corn-pop, so they basically created one just to give him the job of janitor"

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Pointing out these problems is necessary. Political correctness is good. But the outrage culture that comes with it, is bad.

Photos of newspaper headlines with outrage highlighted. 'Disgusting', 'Should be fired', 'Zero Tolerance'.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Outrage culture is where the entire public hits the internet with fury, demanding blood, at the first sign of an offensive comment. Here's the first problem with that outrage culture. The hypocrisy of people throwing stones from glass houses. Because the truth is, in this digital age, no one is without sin.

Trevor Noah 'Cereal' Bit comes up.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Even Trevor Noah, who consistently throws stones in defence of marginalised communities, recently had old offensive tweets resurface.

Trevor Noah's offensive tweets appear on screen.

"Oh yeah the weekend. People are gonna get drunk & think that I'm sexy!" - fat chicks everywhere.

"Almost bumped a Jewish kid crossing the road. He didn't look b4 crossing but I still would hav felt so bad in my german car!"

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

These jokes drew outrage from many people, including Mike Cernovich.

Photo of Mike Cernovich and his anti Trevor Noah tweets. 'Aboriginal Women are sub-human - Trevor Noah'

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

He found and republished the tweets, and called Trevor out for his comments. However, he was then called out himself for an offensive tweet he published earlier.

Tweet stating 'Have you ever tried "raping" a girl without using force? Try it. It's basically impossible. Date rape does not exist.'

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Where he claimed date rape did not exist. This tweet drew outrage from many, including Patton Oswalt.

Patton's response appears, 'This is one of the less disgusting tweets from Mike Cernovich'

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Who had some harsh words for Mike. However, then an old tweet of Patton's resurfaced.

Tweet appears behind stating, "Rap is performed by monkeys in expensive clothes. Sorry if I offended you, white conservatives, but it's the truth."

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

That appeared to be incredibly racist. Admittedly this tweet is part of a pair, and in context is actually a positive message. But nonetheless, no one seems to be innocent, or safe.

Graphic with photos of all the people mentioned with arrows pointing from one to the other in a big circle.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

It's gotten to the point that the only people in the future with a clean enough record to be eligible for office are those who have never tweeted, snapchatted, instagrammed, or facebooked in their entire life. Which should be easy enough to find.

Photo of an Amish man getting sworn into office.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Are you happy? We will now be ruled by the AMISH because those are the ONLY people who won't have any history of offensive -

Photo changes to the same Amish man painting a barn with 'Jet Fuel can't melt steel beams'.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Oh well, I think we all saw that coming ... My point is that when people dole out their outrage they don't stop for a second to think about what they themselves may have done wrong. They want to bring others down, but refuse change themselves. Like... babies.

Photo of a baby in a diaper with stink lines coming from it.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Well go on Jimmy! Change yourself. I'm not gonna do it! I'm done. You made your bed, now sleep in it you little bastard...But now let's talk about the worst offender.

Photo of person watching TV.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

You. YES. YOU!!! Sitting on the couch. I bet you love getting outraged at others, but never once think what would happen if people knew everything you had ever tweeted.

Photo of tweets, where the user is the person watching TV, saying.

'Has anyone else ever been sexually attracted to poison Ivy'

'Where to find severe burn ointment for groin'.

'Wait, this isn't Bing'.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Why are you still using BING! You brought this on yourself!

Photo of person watching TV looking sad.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

So WHY do we get so mad then? Well let's look at the INTENTION behind the outrage. Because the sad part is, most people AREN'T doing it for noble reasons. They're actually been incredibly self serving.

Photo of the baby again.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Well go on. Do something for someone else for a change! You selfish bastard!...Let's start with the REAL worst offender.

New photo of person watching TV. Now looking at camera, shocked.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Yes. It's you again! Think I'd let you off that easy!

Photo of person watching TV, except now the window shades have bars on them, and the person is trapped.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Let's be honest. When you're at the office talking about how much you hate the latest offensive thing a celebrity has said, you're not doing it because you care.

Photo of annoying looking woman with a 'Wendy' name tag.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

You just want to look like you care more than fuckin' Wendy from HR.

Photo of Wendy stuffing live oversized tuna into a microwave while shocked office workers look on.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Who cooks tuna in the communal microwave anyway? It's 9:30am Wendy!! At least wait until lunch you psychopath!... And the only thing worse than PEOPLE pretending to care, is when corporations do it.

Photo of a Wendy's storefront.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

DAMMIT WENDY!!!

Photo of a Wendy's burger called the 'Tuna-nator', but it's a giant oversize tuna in there.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Is there no end to your hubris!

Photo of Disney logo.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

When Disney fires James Gunn over offensive tweets they're only doing it because they're afraid of a backlash. And because they don't want anyone finding Mickey Mouse's old twitter feed.

A Mickey Mouse tweet appears, 'Have you ever tried "raping" a girl without using force? Try it. It's basically impossible. Date rape does not exist.'

Then a second tweet appears with a photo of Mickey and Pluto. 'Of course it's ok to own other sentient people'.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

And it's easier to just show outrage publicly than it is to actually FIX racism within their institution. That would require them to stop white-washing films. And they might even need to stop forcing black centaurs to be enslaved to white centaurs.

Photo of the black centaur in Fantasia polishing the boots of the white centaur.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

That's right. I'm talking about Fantasia! The famous Disney film. They made a segregated society amongst mythical creatures! Even in magic, there is no escape. What's next?

A photo of two water fountains, one says 'Werewolves', the other one says 'Were-coyotes'.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Discrimination amongst Lycans! I won't stand for it! I won't!

Back to photo of James Gunn fired.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

So other than the hypocrisy of it all, what are the negative effects of these zero tolerance reactions? Well for one thing, people DON'T LEARN! Which leads me to say something I've never said before, no matter how hungry I am. "How about Papa Johns".

Photo of Papa John appears.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 After he was swiftly ousted from  
 his own company for using the N-  
 word, do you really think he  
 changed his ways? No... to this day  
 he STILL puts pineapple on pizza.

Photo of pizza with a swastika made out of pineapples.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 Because when the world's only  
 response is swift and irreversible  
 public destruction, we are  
 effectively leading through FEAR.

A laser pointer appears on John's chest, like a sniper taking  
 aim. John doesn't notice at first.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 And when you motivate people by  
 holding a gun to their head.

John notices the laser pointer.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 Oh God... Oh, I'm sorry. Ok, yes,  
 when you motivate people by holding  
 a gun to them, it is great, and  
 very effective...

While John is talking he slowly reaches under his desk and  
 pulls up a bullet proof jacket. And puts it on quickly.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 and works super well...A-ha!  
 (the vest is now on)  
 Until... you take the threat away.  
 And now you've got someone who is  
 pissed off at the system, and WANTS  
 to do damage. And that's exactly  
 what they do, the second they are  
 are out of the public eye. Like,  
 for instance in a public toilet.

Photo of toilet door with words carved in. 'No toilet paper  
 left... thanks Obama'.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 Or in hushed tones at a party.

Photo of someone whispering something into someone's ear.



JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 (whisper)  
 Hey, you know who I hate... Wendy

Photo of Wendy nervously standing in the corner of a party.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 (yelling)  
 Yes! That's right Wendy! I see you  
 in the corner. You weren't invited.  
 And you reek of fish!

Beat

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 Or even worse. In a polling booth.

Photo of someone in a polling booth with a 'Make America Great' hat, voting for Trump.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 Because we all know what happens  
 when fear is left unchecked.

Video footage of Yoda from star wars. "Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering."

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 And we all know what suffering  
 looks like.

Photo of a deformed Senator Palpatine with Trumps face super imposed on it.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 But really! It's not too much of a  
 stretch to say this outrage culture  
 impacted the election. Trump ran on  
 a platform of anti political-  
 correctness.

Trump video where he says 'We have to stop with political correctness'

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)  
 But what he was really appealing to  
 didn't have anything to do with  
 political correctness, it was  
 people's fear of OUTRAGE CULTURE.

Trump video with this quote. 'People are so worried about being politically correct that they are unable to function.'

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

People who don't understand the nuances of issues are afraid they'll say something wrong and be publicly crucified. So when they walk into the voting booth, and they're in private, where the gun can no longer reach them, they vote as anti-politically correct as they can get.

Photo of Trump as president.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

63% of white men voted for Trump, but if you ask around a bbq you'll never find one. Because of the fear. Because they've all got a gun to their head. And the sad part is that the gun isn't changing their opinion, or changing their vote, it's just forcing them into hiding.

Photo of an adult poorly attempting to hide behind a curtain, but their 'Make America Great' hat is openly visible.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Outrage culture is working AGAINST what should be our shared goal: to make social change. And if you need anymore evidence, look no further than the original James Gunn tweets.

Photo of Mike Cernovich.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

They were found and republished by Mike Cernovich, an alt-right blogger and conspiracy theorist best known for spreading the Pizzagate conspiracy theory. Also known as, the dumbest thing since someone actually made a gate, out of pizza.

Photo of a gate made of pizza. Papa John is locked out.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

And they targeted James Gunn because of his anti-Trump stance.

Photo of James Gunn and his anti trump tweet. 'I will give 100 thousand dollars to Trump's favourite charity if he will step on an accurate scale'

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

Specifically when he offered Trump \$100,000 for Trump to step on scale. That's right, conservatives are weaponising political correctness, or more specifically, outrage culture, to take down Trump's opponents. Which HAS to show you that we are doing 'political correctness' wrong. It should be about understanding and teaching, not blunt force. Because right now we've got liberals with hair trigger reactions, and conservatives pretending to be outraged about racism, and something smells fishy.

Photo of Wendy looking sheepish.

JOHN OLIVER (CONT'D)

DAMMIT WENDY!!