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DIFFERENT ADVENTURES ON PLANET EARTH...



BY JACKSON CLARKE

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The Long and Winding Road

Who is worse; Kyle Sandilands or Adrian Bailey, Justin Bieber or Peter Dupas, Todd McKenney or Ivan Milat? I bet everyone would say "the latter" in all those comparisons. So why is it that the former is so maligned when, overall, they aren't all that bad to begin with?

I was recently introduced to a new term, "rape culture": The idea that not only is violence against women ignored as a major problem in our own (and indeed most western) societies, it is actively encouraged.

But which part of the public adds to rape culture? I believe it is often the activists themselves who have become distracted from who the real enemy is.

Last night, I read an article regarding the tricky topic of rape that a facebook friend had posted. My impression of the author was that he was pretentious (he used the word "piquant" for christsakes) and that he was more about making himself seem like a moral authority than undergoing any kind of investigation into the issue. It's the kind of journalism I loathe. So I had no problem commenting negatively about him.

The response to my comment was hardly overwhelming. But from the couple of people who did respond, the message was clear; "if you're against one person who conedemns rape, you're against everyone who condemns rape." It seems to me that this is the very kind of distraction that leads to the very culture that activists say they work so hard against. Or perhaps once again, as one activist told me, I've become a victim to "uninformed opinions".

In Coburg, Victoria, Australia

Being a net hero

Once I was on Facebook when I saw something earth shattering. It was an event invitation for a comedy debate about whether it was okay to joke about a divisive topic. The mere fact that someone had the gall to think that they could explore the complex nature of the topic through comedy outraged me to the point where I was jumping up and down on the spot. My girlfriend came and asked me what was wrong, I replied, 'Someone is doing something I disapprove of!'

I could have left a post saying that the event was offensive and shouldn't go ahead, but that would be too mild a reaction to such a blatant attack on the decency of mankind. So instead I demanded I have the names and contact details of everyone involved in the debate, so I could carefully tell them exactly how nasty they truly are and that if I see them in public I will hurt them. It was at that point that other decent people also started telling the people involved that they deserve to have violent things happen to them. This made me feel good. If you're doing something that many others are also doing; it's obviously the right thing to do.

Then some mad people began sticking up for the performers and organisers of this shameful debate and saying that my (and others) "hostile behaviour" was "horrible". So I pointed out the well known fact that it's okay to behave badly towards somebody as long as they did wrong first, that shut them up.

Then I went to bed happy I made the world a better place.

In Coburg, Victoria, Australia

About Author

Jackson Clarke

Wannabe stand-up comedian from Melbourne, Australia.

Why is the website called bytestories.com?

This is a place for "byte-sized" stories and there is a 1500 character (about 250 words) limit for two main reasons. Firstly, we want you to know that "War and Peace" isn't required to leave your mark. Secondly, it takes about 2 minutes to read each story meaning you can head here whenever you want a quick (and entertaining) read.

If you would like to share a story or create your own eBook, simply head to bytestories.com, Register an account and click on the "Share a Story" button.