

Teen suspended for tweet critical of high school sports

The senior class president at a Wichita high school is suspended for suggesting that his school isn't all that at sports. Just that. No cursing. No incitement to violence.

by [Chris Matyszczyk](#) | May 8, 2013 1:20 PM PDT



So very mean, no?

(Credit: Screenshot by Chris Matyszczyk/CNET)

I am writing this with a cold compress on my head and a milk chocolate digestive biscuit in my mouth.

Both are to soothe my furrowed thoughts.

For this is another tale of peculiarity from the antiseptic-smelling hallways of America's high schools.

It has been well-established that strange things happen in the nation's places of youth education.

You can get expelled and arrested for **putting toilet cleaner and foil in a water bottle** [http://www.cnet.com/8301-17852_3-57582330-71/schoolgirl-tries-science-experiment-arrested-for-felony/] on school premises.

You can also get suspended for tweeting that you don't think your high school has very good sports teams.

Wesley Teague, the senior class president at Wichita's Heights High School, **took to Twitter** [https://twitter.com/Rolltide_Teague] to make a slightly caustic comment about his school's sports teams.

As The Wichita Eagle reports [<http://www.kansas.com/2013/05/07/2793492/heights-high-suspends-senior-class.html>], the Heights High School takes its sports very seriously. It refers to them as "Heights U," thereby suggesting they are at university level.

I am sure this doesn't suggest that the players are being paid. Just as it seems that Teague is sure that his school's sports teams are really not so very good.

So he tweeted: "Heights U' is equivalent to WSU's football team."

A small word of explanation here: WSU is Wichita State University. It hasn't had a football team since 1986.

Please now offer a small laugh.

I only ask for that, because the school didn't titter at this Twitter. Indeed, it suspended 18-year-old Teague for the remainder of his time there.

A school spokeswoman told the Eagle: "There was a negative reaction from many

students, including threats of fights in the school. It caused a major disruption to the school day. Other students were also suspended."

It seems that some underclassmen take their "Heights U-ness" very seriously. They are not to be mocked. Where goes mockery, there goes violence, after all.

Teague's mother says she received a letter from the school that cited her son's incitement of "the majority of our Heights athletes."

This seems odd. One of the requirements of being a college athlete (if that's what these high schoolers claim they are) is the ability to put up with far worse than a curse-free, non-violent piece of amusement.

Have you ever listened to either student body at a Duke-North Carolina basketball game or anyone who didn't go to Notre Dame watching a Fighting Irish football game?

It's not as if Teague seems like the world's most awful human being. He was chosen to speak at this Friday's senior breakfast and convocation ceremony. Now he can only speak via Twitter.

He told the Eagle: "I guess I hurt a group of people's feelings ... and I got suspended for the rest of my senior year. People get their feelings hurt every day."

The school appears to be relying on **its code of conduct**

[\[http://boe.usd259.org/modules/groups/homepagefiles/gwp/1521178/1505278/File/BOE%20Policies/1464%20Pupil%20Behavior%20Regulations.pdf?sessionid=613e5f8775ef510ee9249b124a8b2f1d\]](http://boe.usd259.org/modules/groups/homepagefiles/gwp/1521178/1505278/File/BOE%20Policies/1464%20Pupil%20Behavior%20Regulations.pdf?sessionid=613e5f8775ef510ee9249b124a8b2f1d),

which is replete with lusciously vague phrases such as the idea of maintaining "acceptable behavior."

Acceptable to whom? To school authorities? Or to those who embrace social sanity as their goal?

More Technically Incorrect

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- **Twitter: Don't you dare tweet your mom for Mother's Day** [http://www.cnet.com/8301-17852_3-57584046-71/twitter-dont-you-dare-tweet-your-mom-for-mothers-day/]
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The policy tries this definition: "The common standard against which behavior is measured is that which is conducive to learning and a contributor to the general purpose and welfare of the school."

Some might wonder whether learning to take a joke isn't a socially helpful thing to do.

You will be stunned into crocheting your own Wichita State football sweater when I tell you that Twitter has already been adorned with two new hashtags: **#FreeWesley** [<https://twitter.com/search?q=%23freeWesley&src=hash>] and the touchingly ironic **#TeamWesley** [<https://twitter.com/search?q=%23teamWesley&src=typd>].

For his part, this isn't Teague's only problem. He says his girlfriend has left him. He tweeted: "I want nothing but my girlfriend right now. Forget the attention, the interviews, forget it all. I just want my girl. @ImperfectDazjai."

Sometimes they come back, Wesley, sometimes they don't. I am worried for you, though. @ImperfectDazjai **tweeted Wednesday** [<https://twitter.com/ImperfectDazjai/status/332169242768183296>]: "Stand up for what you believe in, even if that means standing alone."

Oh, of course Teague knew his tweet might wind some people in an imperfect direction. But was the punishment warranted?

I leave this tale of "Friday Night Lights and Twitter Fights" with one last piece of

information: Wesley Teague is a member of Heights High School's track team. Presumably he knows a little of its standard.



Trouble, trouble, trouble.

(Credit: Screenshot by Chris Matyszczyk/CNET)

Originally posted at **Technically Incorrect** [http://www.cnet.com/8301-17852_3-57583529-71/teen-suspended-for-tweet-critical-of-high-school-sports/]

[<http://www.cnet.com/profile/ChrisMatyszczyk/>]

About Chris Matyszczyk [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/ChrisMatyszczyk/>]

Chris Matyszczyk is an award-winning creative director who advises major corporations on content creation and marketing. He brings an irreverent, sarcastic, and sometimes ironic voice to the tech world.

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[slopresti \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/slopresti\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/slopresti)

16 hours ago

I have had my life threatened on Facebook for 3 months and this student wasn't even removed from my classroom. Common sense and good judgement have all been removed from our school system.

/ **[like](#)** [**[reply](#)**]**[wkelly42 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/wkelly42\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/wkelly42)**

May 10, 2013

Maybe I'm reading it wrong, but if I'd only read the tweet, I would think that he was saying that Wichita State doesn't need a football team, because "Heights U" IS their football team, effectively. I'm wondering if, in addition to having no sense of humor, the administrators (and student body, sounds like) have very poor reading comprehension.

/ **[like](#)** [**[reply](#)**]**[Esmith1484 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Esmith1484\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Esmith1484)**

May 9, 2013

WSU discontinued its football program following the 1986 season due to poor attendance, financial red ink, NCAA recruiting violations, and the state of disrepair of Cessna Stadium. It had been never fully recovered from losing 16 starters, its athletic director, football coach and many others critical to the WSU program in a plane crash in 1970. Im sure the kid didn't mean to offend anybody but I can see how some (mostly the elders who were around and experienced the effects of the plane crash on the city, school, citizens, etc.) could take this the wrong way.

/ **[like](#)** [**[reply](#)**]**[NeedsLoomis \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/NeedsLoomis\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/NeedsLoomis)**

May 9, 2013

I wonder if this school has a debate club...that would be some irony.

/ **[like](#)** [**[reply](#)**]**[ddcmall \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/ddcmall\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/ddcmall)**

May 8, 2013

Might I suggest suspending Wichita's Heights High School administration for the remainder of their careers?

/ **[7like](#)** [**[reply](#)**]**[madmatthew56 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/madmatthew56\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/madmatthew56)**

May 8, 2013

What's the matter with Kansas, indeed. The stick up this high school administration's posterior has a stick up its posterior.

/ [5like](#) [[reply](#)]

[SoupFly22](http://www.cnet.com/profile/SoupFly22) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/SoupFly22>]

May 8, 2013

Given these circumstances I would be concerned about hiring someone who had never been suspended. Seems to me if you have any kind of ability to offer a unique viewpoint you will have proven that by being suspended somewhere along the way.

/ [6like](#) [[reply](#)]

[Cream Juicy](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Cream+Juicy) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/Cream+Juicy>]

May 8, 2013

"The common standard against which behavior is measured is that which is conducive to learning and a contributor to the general purpose and welfare of the school." Clearly, those responsible for this decision have broken this standard and should be expelled from ever working in the education system again.

/ [6like](#) [[reply](#)]

[Epke Oranda](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Epke_Oranda) [http://www.cnet.com/profile/Epke_Oranda]

May 8, 2013

Well how about suing the school for the mental stress caused and violation of a few amendments

/ [5like](#) [[reply](#)]

[lloyd1981](http://www.cnet.com/profile/lloyd1981) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/lloyd1981>]

May 8, 2013

After all: He IS Black... and it IS Kansas. Next, we'll have Limbaugh questioning if his last name isn't really al-Teague and demanding a certified copy of his birth certificate.

The shame of it all. @BaronVonHofmann hit it: "... this tragedy could have been easily avoided if only the school personnel had been properly armed..."

/ [3like](#) [[reply](#)]

[NeedsLoomis](http://www.cnet.com/profile/NeedsLoomis) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/NeedsLoomis>]

May 9, 2013

@lloyd1981 Well, he is black, and he is a victim. Next we'll have al sharp ton suing for hate crime charges and Obama making public announcements about how this "could have been my son". (you know, cause hes black).

/ [like](#) [[reply](#)]

[lloyd1981](http://www.cnet.com/profile/lloyd1981) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/lloyd1981>]

May 9, 2013

[@NeedsLoomis](http://www.cnet.com/profile/needsloomis) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/needsloomis>] Possibly. Probably

because of posts like yours. Having grown up in the South, until I was old enough to get the hell out, mainly because of attitudes like yours. Don't play stupid with me. You're apparently not qualified to comment to begin with, and I'm sure you haven't seen the things I've seen along the dark roads of the Mississippi delta, only to learn in later life that such prejudices have spread to the "heartland" of America because it is easier to yield to the tendencies to hate rather than having the guts to stand up for all, no matter race or religion.

/ [like](#) [[reply](#)]

[NeedsLoomis \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/NeedsLoomis\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/NeedsLoomis)

May 10, 2013

[@lloyd1981 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/lloyd1981\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/lloyd1981) [@NeedsLoomis](#)

[\[http://www.cnet.com/profile/needsloomis\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/needsloomis) Wow...I've never seen someone miss a point so badly ..this reply is so far out in left field...I guess it would make sense if, perhaps, you are a highly functioning autistic who takes everything literally... I'm going to assume so and make the appropriate response by spelling it out for you.

See, what I did way take your post, and make a [satire](#) **[\[http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/satire\]](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/satire)**. By reposting what you did with an emphasis on race, I am making an effort to show how you took this poor kid (who could have been anyone), isolated his skin color, and used it as a jumping point for your arbitrary political soap box. In other words, I was pointing out your unknowing racism and self righteousness. Secondly, I reversed your political message, to show how easily one can spin such a ridiculous race statement towards any political pole (thus proving your comment arbitrary).

I hope that helps, and good luck with your future ventures in human communication!

/ [like](#) [[reply](#)]

[lloyd1981 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/lloyd1981\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/lloyd1981)

May 10, 2013

[@NeedsLoomis](#) What you did was nothing. Exposure of racism seems to bring out defensiveness in those who believe that they have some unique view on the subject and all others who disagree are, themselves, painted with the same brush.

Please don't try to play games with me. You don't have the ammunition. I was fighting for civil rights long before Schwerner and companions were buried in that earthen damn in Mississippi. Read your own post if you want an example of self righteousness.

Where did you come up with the idea that your post even barely resembled satire? Sometimes, it is better to keep your mouth shut than to open it and reveal that your pseudo-crap is just that.

/ [like](#) [[reply](#)]

[aka_tripleB \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/aka_tripleB\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/aka_tripleB)

May 8, 2013

I thought the first requirement to being a college athlete was actually being in college? Then the only other real requirement was actually making a college sport team. Apparently, no school I went to (Pre-k thru college) taught me good reasoning skills, but they still taught me better than that school. I'll have to remember if I ever find myself in Kansas (I'm presuming we're talking about a town in Kansas) that I probably won't find many rational thinkers.

/ [1 like](#) [[reply](#)]

[BaronVonHofmann](http://www.cnet.com/profile/BaronVonHofmann) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/BaronVonHofmann>]

May 8, 2013

This is very sad. And to think, this tragedy could have been easily avoided if only the school personnel had been properly armed...

/ [1 like](#) [[reply](#)]

[mlincoln--2008](http://www.cnet.com/profile/mlincoln--2008) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/mlincoln--2008>]

May 8, 2013

The Heights High School authorities, given an excellent real-world opportunity to teach the student body a lesson about free speech rights, absolutely blew it.

/ [13 like](#) [[reply](#)]

[Zoobie](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Zoobie) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/Zoobie>]

May 8, 2013

Another example of the death of the first ammendment in the schools. Speech is only free if the powers that be agree with such speech.

News flash to the administrators--all sorts of kids will make disparaging comments when the school's football team isn't very good; especially if they have the audacity to act like they're university level competition. If the team stunk it up last season, then get upset with football players who are poor sports and can't handle a little razzing without resorting to threats of violence. Sounds to me like these "athletes" have way too big of egos and the school is more than happy to coddle them. Taking away graduation from a class president for this harmless comment? Disgraceful. I have no idea what virtue they believe they are teaching.

So who in the administration will get suspended since Wesley's feelings got hurt?

/ [8 like](#) [[reply](#)]

[biffhenerson](http://www.cnet.com/profile/biffhenerson) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/biffhenerson>]

May 8, 2013

Schools think that they have power. They have very little. All it takes is a court case to prove it. I would get the ruling then pursue the school for civil damages. They have got to learn a lesson that they can not bully the kids.

/ [7 like](#) [[reply](#)]

[Zoobie](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Zoobie) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/Zoobie>]

May 8, 2013

Wesley should file for an immediate injunction, since a court victory after the fact is hollow because there is no recourse for missing graduation as a speaker.

/ [8 like](#) [[reply](#)]

[TORGIsHere](http://www.cnet.com/profile/TORGIsHere) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/TORGIsHere>]

May 8, 2013

The pussification of our youth.

/ [5like](#) [[reply](#)]

[Jack K1](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Jack+K1) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/Jack+K1>]

May 8, 2013

In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.

/ [3like](#) [[reply](#)]

[dlauber](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber>]

May 8, 2013

Typical of the state of education these days as these rightwing ideologues seek to destroy it.

/ [4like](#) [[reply](#)]

[protagonistic](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic>]

May 8, 2013

[@dlauber](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber>]. You seem to have it backwards. Last time I checked it was the liberals that felt it was bad for little Johnny to get a bad grade because it might harm his self esteem.

/ [4like](#) [[reply](#)]

[TORGIsHere](http://www.cnet.com/profile/TORGIsHere) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/TORGIsHere>]

May 8, 2013

[@protagonistic](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic>] [@dlauber](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber>]. I'm very left of center, and these types of policies are complete garbage.

This is complete nanny state, everyone is a winner, plasticized playground nonsense.

Watch out.. You might hurt someones feelings *eye roll* God forbid.

/ [2like](#) [[reply](#)]

[protagonistic](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic>]

May 8, 2013

[@TORGIsHere](http://www.cnet.com/profile/TORGIsHere) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/TORGIsHere>]. Nice to see we are in agreement. I think perhaps we should be using "Progressives" here instead of left and right. Progressives can be wolves in the sheeps clothing of the other parties. :-)

/ [1like](#) [[reply](#)]

[TsMkLg068425](http://www.cnet.com/profile/TsMkLg068425) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/TsMkLg068425>]

May 8, 2013

[@protagonistic](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic) **[@dlauber](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber)**

[\[http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber) I think you are confused T-baggers and Republicans are always the problem killing off education and worrying about the Texas football team.

/ **3like** **[reply]**

[aka_tripleB](http://www.cnet.com/profile/aka_tripleB) **[\[http://www.cnet.com/profile/aka_tripleB\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/aka_tripleB)**

May 8, 2013

@protagonistic **@dlauber**

Stereotypically, democrats care about free speech and republicans care about sports. Given that Kansas typically votes red, there's enough circumstantial evidence to believe you're the one wrong on this.

/ **2like** **[reply]**

[protagonistic](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic) **[\[http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic)**

May 8, 2013

[@aka_tripleB](http://www.cnet.com/profile/aka_tripleB) **[\[http://www.cnet.com/profile/aka_tripleB\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/aka_tripleB)** Again you have it backwards. Libertarians believe in free speech for all. Liberals believe in free speech as long as it agrees with what they believe. Last time I checked Libertarians were considered to be conservative.

While I am not a republican I have found that my conservative friends are much more tolerant of others ideas than my liberal friends are. You don't find many liberals espousing the MYOB principle. But liberals seem to be perfectly happy using government to force everyone to do what they know is best for us.

/ **3like** **[reply]**

[DENOBIN](http://www.cnet.com/profile/DENOBIN) **[\[http://www.cnet.com/profile/DENOBIN\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/DENOBIN)**

May 8, 2013

[@protagonistic](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic) **[\[http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic)** "I have found that my conservative friends are much more tolerant of others ideas than my liberal friends are." Then you must live on bizzarro world. BTW: I highly doubt you have liberal friends.

/ **1like** **[reply]**

[DENOBIN](http://www.cnet.com/profile/DENOBIN) **[\[http://www.cnet.com/profile/DENOBIN\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/DENOBIN)**

May 8, 2013

[@protagonistic](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic) **[\[http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic)** Last time I checked it was the conservatives that felt it was bad for little Johnny to make waves and not conform to the larger groups morays because it might harm the groups fragile sense of moral superiority.

/ **1like** **[reply]**

[protagonistic](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic) **[\[http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic)**

May 8, 2013

[@DENOBIN](http://www.cnet.com/profile/DENOBIN) **[\[http://www.cnet.com/profile/DENOBIN\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/DENOBIN)** I have no idea where you are coming from. When my own kids were in school it was the more liberal teachers that

espoused your ideas. I was and most of the conservatives I know were in favor of tougher grading and better discipline. It is the nanny state that says we can't discipline our kids or otherwise do anything that might hurt their self esteem. And last time I checked it is generally on the liberal side that we are getting more and more government control over our lives. You really need to get out more.

/ [2like](#) [[reply](#)]

[dlauber](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber>]

May 9, 2013

[@protagonistic](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic>] **[@dlauber](#)** [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber>]

I just love how the radical right creates straw men to attack just like you did here. That's just plain b.s. In all my years of education (masters degree, law degree), the most demanding teachers and toughest graders were the more politically liberal teachers. I doubt if you can find any legitimate research that would validate your lie.

/ [like](#) [[reply](#)]

[c|net Reader](http://www.cnet.com/profile/c|net+Reader) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/c|net+Reader>]

May 9, 2013

[@dlauber](#)

Did I miss all of the links you posted to research backing up your position?

/ [like](#) [[reply](#)]

[dlauber](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber>]

May 9, 2013

[@c|net Reader](http://www.cnet.com/profile/c|net+Reader) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/c|net+Reader>] Creating a straw man again! I just reported on my personal experience -- I made no global assertion about educators. The person to whom I was replying had claimed that "the last time I checked it was the liberals that felt it was bad for little Johnny to get a bad grade because it might harm his self esteem." I don't know where this individual checked, but the burden is on that person to offer evidence in support of her fairly broad and unsubstantiated assertion.

/ [like](#) [[reply](#)]

[protagonistic](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic>]

May 9, 2013

[@dlauber](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber) [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber>] Ah, the old straw man gambit. OK, so where is the legitimate research validating your assertions? I am definitely conservative but I appear to be far less radical than you are. It is amusing when someone uses the very tactics they decry in others. Too bad all those degrees went to waste. It is perfectly you have nothing to add to this discussion so moving on to those who actually have something to say...

BTW, I clearly indicated that I was speaking of my experience and I was also nice enough to not call you a liar. But you did prove a point I made elsewhere that there are many liberals, not to label them all that way, who believe I have a right to my opinion as long as it agrees with theirs. All I and most of my conservative, and I suspect many of my liberal friends as

well, want is for the government to butt out and stop telling us how to live our lives. Anyway, nice chatting and remember, be careful what you ask for because you just might get it. I can only hope you don't drag the rest of us down with you.

/ [like](#) [[reply](#)]

[EI_Segfaulto \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto)

May 8, 2013

[@dlauber \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber) Nothing infuriates me more than when people use "Left Wing", or "Liberal" as an insult. I'm quite proud of my socially liberal views. With that said, I make it a point to not be hypocritical about that. Let the right-wingers wring their hands at every perceived slight, I want us to be better than that.

/ [5like](#) [[reply](#)]

[ballmerisanape \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/ballmerisanape\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/ballmerisanape)

May 8, 2013

[@EI_Segfaulto \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto) [@dlauber \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber)

and yet you toss out "right-winger" as an insult.. Interesting. Protagonistic is right though (no pun intended).. historically, it is the more "liberal minded" group that tend to lean the way of being more "sensitive".. while conservatives are more along the lines of "deal with it.. pull up your bootstraps and move on." Was it a liberal or "right-winger" that suspended a 3rd grader recently for pretending to be a Marine (like his dad), placed a pencil atop his hand, and pretended to shoot his friend (who was playing the bad guy)?

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[Rory_Linehan \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan)

May 8, 2013

[@EI_Segfaulto \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto) [@dlauber \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dlauber) You're proud of your socially liberal views because you are ignorant. And I agree with [@ballmerisanape \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/ballmerisanape\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/ballmerisanape), it is incredibly hypocritical of you to throw out "right-winger" as an insult after that self-righteous rant.

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[EI_Segfaulto \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto)

May 8, 2013

[@Rory_Linehan \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan) I appreciate you making my point for me! And I should have used a more neutral phrase, along the lines of "those with a more conservative outlook" But hey, don't let me get in the way of some good ole' liberal bashing. According to most conservatives I hear, liberal is just a term for somebody who's beliefs don't align with yours 100%.

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[Rory Linehan \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan)

May 8, 2013

[@EI Segfaulto \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto) Not at all! Liberal is a term for somebody that doesn't mind the government taking away their rights. In fact, liberals are often actively trying to take rights away from others, without their consent!

/ **2like [reply []]**

[EI Segfaulto \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto)

May 8, 2013

[@Rory Linehan \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan) And what rights have been taken away lately? I would agree that the PATRIOT Act, the existence of the TSA, and the overreach of the FBI are an anathema to what it is to be America, but if I'm not mistaken those actions were started by a conservative president. Although, President Obama has earned my disdain by not doing away with them.

/ **4like [reply []]**

[Rory Linehan \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan)

May 8, 2013

[@EI Segfaulto \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto) If by "conservative president" you are referring to Bush, then you would be sadly mistaken. Bush was not a conservative. However, he probably had the most difficult presidency in a long while before him, so I cut him some slack.

As for rights that are being actively attacked. Hellooo, the second amendment has been under the most ridiculous attacks lately. Liberals think that they can legislate firearms out of the hands of criminals, which makes absolutely no sense whatsoever, as criminals do not follow the law. Therefore, they will get guns anyway. Liberals are constantly trying to expand government power, therefore encroaching on the people's freedom.

/ **2like [reply []]**

[EI Segfaulto \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/EI_Segfaulto)

May 8, 2013

[@Rory Linehan \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan) You would consider background checks at gunshows an "attack"? Really that's neither here nor there. My main point was that when either side uses names that dehumanizes the other, it becomes much easier to generalize and condemn any idea, no matter how good. I challenge politically motivated people on both sides to turn off the AM radio, stop watching partisan cable news shows that only tell you what you want to hear, and have a dialogue with those with differing ideas. We all want what's best for our country, neither side is 100% correct, but the answer lies somewhere in the middle and we will never get there by bickering.

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[Cream Juicy \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Cream+Juicy\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Cream+Juicy)

May 8, 2013

Could y'all take this exchange of political stereotypes to another forum?

/ [1 like](#) [[reply](#)]**protagonistic** [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic>]

May 8, 2013

@Rory Linehan [http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan] I don't believe it is ignorance. I think he truly believes he is right and he should do all in his power to make sure we do the same. ;-)

/ [1 like](#) [[reply](#)]**protagonistic** [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic>]

May 8, 2013

@El Segfaulto [http://www.cnet.com/profile/El_Segfaulto] I would not consider it an attack if it would do any good. The problem is not that we have guns here in America rather the problem is we have people who are willing to kill others. Until we fix that all this posturing on gun control will solve nothing. Again it comes back to those who are willing to trade freedoms for security.

When I attended High School it was not unusual to see a pickup parked in the parking lot with a rifle or two in a gun rack. The boys all carried pocket knives yet none of us would have dreamed of trying to use them. We knew better. And the teachers were allowed to discipline students. Of course that was back in the days when people believed they were responsible for their own actions.

/ [3 like](#) [[reply](#)]**DENOBIN** [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/DENOBIN>]

May 8, 2013

@Rory Linehan [http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan] Right, like the Bush administration. Oh, wait a minute...

/ [1 like](#) [[reply](#)]**protagonistic** [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic>]

May 8, 2013

@El Segfaulto [http://www.cnet.com/profile/El_Segfaulto] Yet here you are using right-wingers as an insult. That seems a bit intolerant of others views. I am perfectly happy to grant you the right to say what you want. And as a veteran who was in one war to help guarantee you that right it is a bit insulting to have you turn around and stereotype me. All most of us you label as right-wingers want is to be allowed to live our lives as we see fit.

Conservative: I know what is right and I will try to make sure I do it.

Liberal: I know what is right and I will try to make sure you do it.

Anyway, have a nice day.

/ [3 like](#) [[reply](#)]**El Segfaulto** [http://www.cnet.com/profile/El_Segfaulto]

May 8, 2013

@protagonistic [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic>]

As I've said before, I do regret using "right-winger" as a derogatory term. This is the last I have to say on the topic. You and [@Rory_Linehan](#) [\[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Rory_Linehan) both seem to be intelligent people. I really do wish that we could stop emulating the politicians on both sides of the aisle and have a constructive dialog without resorting to stereotypes. I too went to a rural high school and often left my truck (locked, of course) in the school parking lot with my shotgun (unloaded) inside. The real cusp of the matter is that 90% of Americans have a political philosophy that encompasses elements from both sides of the spectrum. I own and practice with firearms, I'm pro gay marriage, and I'm for legalizing marijuana. What we need to do is start seeing each other as other people with differing viewpoints rather than monsters intent on destroying America. Both sides have done a great job vilifying the other other in order to galvanize the population.

I heartily apologize for using inflammatory (and insulting!) language and hope that I haven't given moderate liberals too bad of a name. Also...apologies for hijacking the thread, back to your tech news in 3, 2, 1

/ [1like](#) [[reply](#)]

[protagonistic \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/protagonistic)

May 8, 2013

[@El_Segfaulto \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/El_Segfaulto\]](#) OK, and I probably use the term liberal when I should be saying progressive. Sorry about that. And we do have those on both sides. I think the more middle of the road on both sides could work something out if it weren't for the kooks on both sides. :-)) While not a Republican I am a conservative. I have worked hard for what I have and I hate seeing the lack of common sense and personal responsibility we seem to have today. I admit I have done a few things in my life I am not overly proud about but that was my choice and not society or anybody else's fault. I was brought up to suffer the consequences of my mistakes. Anyway nice to get a bit more civility in the discussion.

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