

“WHY CAN’T YOU BE CIVIL?” LIBERALS SCREECH, WHILE HURLING INVECTIVES

By Don Feder

When liberals start caterwauling about civility, it reminds me of when my kids were young.

When my daughter Anna was 5 and my son, Jonathan was 4, World War III broke out at least once a day. Anna’s modus operandi, as she explained it to her grandfather, was: “I hit Jonathan. He hits me. Then I tell Mommy.”

In essence, that’s the liberals civility scam: They hit us. We hit back. Then their media lap dogs begin howling about incivility and yapping about the decline of gentility in the political debate (which, if I’m not mistaken, started with the presidential election of 1800).

It comes on cue; Ann Coulter writes a book and liberals start spewing about mean-spiritedness.

In her latest foray (“Godless: The Church of Liberalism”), Coulter observed that the “Jersey Girls” – four 9/11 widows who turned themselves into tools of the hate-Bush establishment – were enjoying their celebrity status. OK, she also called them “harpies” too.

How cruel, the media referees of political pugilism wailed. (Somehow, these refs always seem to be gazing off into space when liberals rabbit-punch conservatives, or deliver a debilitating kick to the groin.)

It’s all part of a cynical game, the media refs explain. Coulter does it to sell books. Rush Limbaugh does it to boost his ratings, they kvetch.

“There’s something about the momentum of sustaining a reputation based on noise,” sniffs Roger Rosenblatt, “culture critic” for Time magazine (whose idea of intellectual colloquy is eye-gouging conservatives). Rosenblatt explains, “Someone like Coulter, in order to sustain a reputation that she’s forged for

herself, is likely to think, ‘What can I say now?’ Eventually, how insulting can you get?”

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former enabler-in-chief who spent most of her married life plotting to destroy the reputations of women assaulted by her husband, ran to give the Jersey Girls a big hug. “Perhaps her (*Coulter’s*) book should have been called ‘Heartless,’” the lady widely known for her warmth and humanity sneered.

Coulter’s comments about the Jersey Girls weren’t gratuitous asides. She devoted a chapter in her book to the way the left picks spokesmen whose suffering is supposed to immunize them from criticism -- Cindy Sheehan, Nick Berg’s father, Christopher Reeve, the Jersey Girls etc. When we respond to their crackpot carping, we’re admonished for our insensitivity.

Meanwhile, the left has perfected the art of character assassination, while complaining about the politics of personal destruction. Their idea of a civilized dialogue is calling us really-mean Nazis, while our mouths are taped shut.

Consider how they treat dissent from any of their sacred orthodoxies. If you won't worship the homeless, you're a selfish lout. If you're not prepared to embrace the travesty of gay marriage, you're a vile bigot and an accomplice after the fact to the murder of Matthew Shepard. If you're not for hate-crimes legislation, you're a racist redneck who rides around in a pickup truck looking for victims.

The quintessence of liberal civility is the thoughtful fashion in which the left expresses its disagreement with the policies of George W. Bush.

When a liberal writes a book about the 43rd. president of the United States, the word "lies," "lair," "stupid" or "evil" must appear in the title. The trifecta of liberal Bush-bashing would be a book titled "*The Evil Lies of Stupid Bush*" (or, "*The Stupid Lies of Evil Bush*").

Illustrative of the liar-liar-pants-on-fire school of liberal analysis, here are just a few of the titles offered on Amazon.com –

“The Lies of George Bush” by David Corn, “Fraud: The Strategy Behind the Bush Lies and Why the Media Didn’t Tell You,” by Paul Waldman, “Big Bush Lies: The 20 Most Telling Lies of President George W. Bush,” Jerry Politex, “The Five Biggest Lies Bush Told Us About Iraq” Christopher Scheer, Lakshmi Chaudhry and Robert Scheer, “Bush Lies In State” by Michael McCourt and “Aliens And Cowboys: Bush’s Legacy of Lies” by Jefferson Lang.

Coming soon to a bookstore in your neighborhood “Neener-Neener/ I-Know-You-Are-But-What-Am-I?: The Intelligent Liberal’s Guide To Political Discourse” by Franken Rodham Moore.

Or, consider the way liberals routinely demonize their opponents:

Evangelical Christians – Ignorant, superstitious, violence-prone fanatics intent on establishing a theocracy and putting homosexuals, abortionists, pornographers and feminists in death camps.

Gun Owners – Homicidal maniacs who want to arm felons with howitzers and kill Bambi.

The U.S. Military – Stone-cold killers programmed to indiscriminately murder women and children and torture detainees.

Pro-lifers – Religious fanatics, misogynists who want to turn women into breeding stock, violence-prone fetus-worshippers who care about life only in the womb.

Immigration Reform Advocates – Xenophobes who are betraying America's heritage, have an irrational fear of diversity and hate Hispanics on principle.

Politicians Who Support the U.S. Presence in Iraq, but either A) Didn't serve, B) Served, but didn't see combats or C) Served, saw combat, but failed to win the Medal of Honor – Chicken Hawks, nancy boys, hypocritical cowards who'll defend America to the last drop of the other guy's blood.

In academia, where liberals are demigods, the dialogue has reached heights of elegance and refinement worthy of a Victorian sitting room.

Take Ward Churchill, the University of Colorado professor who called the Americans who died in the World Trade Center “little Eichmanns” responsible for America’s mighty engine of profit,” while their killers made “gallant sacrifices” to strike a blow against the American Reich.

Can Roger Rosenblatt be reached for comment? I don’t recall Senator Clinton condemning Churchill’s comments as “heartless.”

Besides the fact that she loves America and doesn’t sound like a raving lunatic, here are the essential differences between Coulter and Churchill: 1) Coulter isn’t paid by Colorado taxpayers, 2) Students aren’t forced to sit in a classroom and listen to her. (Actually, no one is forced to listen to her.) and 3) Professors aren’t getting all weepy defending her academic freedom.

Look, conservatives give as good as they get. The difference between us and them is that we can argue as well as inveigh. They can only hurl invectives.

In her new book, Coulter is caustic and cutting. She also makes a devastating case against liberal crime-control, abortion, stem-cell research, global warming and public education.

Liberals can't argue because – 1) Their positions are illogical and indefensible 2) They controlled the culture for so long that they've lost the debating skills they once had (their mental muscles have atrophied) and 3) Since they consider opposition to their agenda by definition evil, they think it's beneath their dignity to argue with the other side.

That's why liberals can't succeed at talk radio – that, plus the fact that they're humor-deficient. I may not always agree with Rush, but he does a great job of explaining things. As a talk show host, Al Franken (author of the carefully nuanced book “Rush Limbaugh Is A Big, Fat Idiot”) is a great – whatever it is he's supposed to be.

Because liberals can't debate, they are forever telling us that on certain issues "the debate is closed" -- words I've never heard escape the lips of a conservative.

That and demanding that their viewpoint be subsidized. Speaking at the "Take Back America" conference on June 15 (these days, the left is always taking something back), Rep. Bernie Sanders VP, (Vanguard of the Proletariat), Vermont, urged his fellow progressives to take on "right-wing nuts" (how's that for civility?) in talk radio – perhaps Sanders should teach them how to dial a telephone – and demand that conservative stations and newspapers provide "alternative points of view."

Apparently, controlling the networks (with the exception of FOX), America's newspapers of record, Hollywood, public education and the liberal arts faculties of 99% of colleges and universities isn't enough. Sanders wants to force conservative media outlets to subsidize the opposition. ("Mommy, Rush has a weekly audience of 20 million! Make them give me my own talk show!")

Coulter's book now is #1 on The New York Times Best Sellers List. Clearly, we need a government program to force book-buyers to purchase a proportionate share of liberal tracts.

As a survival skill in the political arena liberals shaped, conservatives have learned verbal street-fighting. But at least we're not hypocrites. We don't sucker-punch the other guy and then start whining about the appalling lack of civility when he hits back.