

Paula Deen Out – Alec Baldwin In

☒ Up until a week ago, I didn't know anything about Paula Deen except I always thought she had great hair. I've never seen her show, I don't subscribe to her magazine and I don't have any of her cookbooks. After last week, and her admission that over two decades ago she used racial slurs, her network and a number of other corporations abandoned her like rats on a sinking ship. Whether she'll have a "comeback" after her apologies, I don't know.

I probably wouldn't have written about Paula Deen. I figured she must have ticked off somebody because unlike her cookware, she's apparently not Teflon-coated. I decided to write about her after I read about despicable Alec Baldwin's recent rant on Twitter.

He apparently got very upset when George Stark, reported that Baldwin's wife, Hilaria, was tweeting during James Gandolfini's funeral. Well, this didn't sit very well with Baldwin and in his tweets, he called the guy a "toxic little queen," a "bitch," and said that he'd "put my foot up your ... ass, George Stark, but I'm sure you'd dig it too much."

Well, of course, when the you know what hit the fan, and the news got out, he back tracked and said these weren't rants against Mr. Stark's homosexuality. Baldwin had the audacity to explain his use of the words "toxic little queen" had nothing to do with Mr. Stark's sexual orientation. "[T]he idea of me calling this guy a "queen" and that being something that people thought is homophobic...a queen to me has a different meaning. It's somebody who's just above. It doesn't have any necessarily sexual connotations. To me a queen... I know women that act queeny, I know men that are straight that act queeny, and I know gay men that act queeny. It doesn't

have to be a definite sexual connotation, or a homophobic connotation. To me those are people who think the rules don't apply to them. This guy could blatantly lie, I mean blatantly lie about my wife on the internet and there are just no rules that apply to him, but that's outrageous to me." Of course, he didn't explain why Mr. Stark would "dig" having Baldwin's "foot" in private places.

Anderson Cooper saw through Baldwin's b.s. and said, "Why does #AlecBaldwin get a pass when he uses gay slurs?" If a conservative talked of beating up a 'queen' they would be vilified."

So, despite his history of verbal and emotional abuse of his daughter and his removal from an airline in 2011 for refusing to close down his electronic device, he landed and kept a starring role on a popular tv show. Even after his current homophobic rant, I saw his puss on one of his stupid Capital One credit card commercials this weekend. So he gets a pass for his vile words spoken just a few days ago, but Paula Deen loses everything for something she said over twenty years ago. I don't get it.

The hypocrites at GLAAD are giving Baldwin a pass on the whole matter. "Alec Baldwin is making it clear that the intent behind his tweets does not excuse his language, especially at a time when there were 11 incidents of violence against gay men in New York City just last month. As we all work to end such senseless acts of violence, allies like Baldwin are right to use these moments to reinforce support for the community and LGBT equality." What a load of crap. Would they have taken the same position if a conservative had done the same? I'd bet big money they wouldn't.

Again, it's all about who's saying it. Back in April, I read about gay novelist Bret Easton Ellis who claimed he was barred from attending the GLAAD Media Awards which planned to give Bill Clinton the Advocate for Change Award (yes, the same

President Clinton who signed the DOMA bill back in 1996 which the Supreme Court found last week to be unconstitutional). According to Mr. Ellis, GLAAD “banned” him from entering the premises of the dinner after learning a guest planned on bringing him as a date. He claimed GLAAD was furious because of his tweets about the show Glee, Modern Family, The New Normal and tweeted that actor Matthew Bomer was not qualified to play the protagonist in a 50 Shades of Grey movie because he’s openly gay. “I don’t care how good an actor you are but being married to another man complicates things for playing CG,” he said, adding, “Okay I’ll say it. Matt Bomer isn’t right for Christian Grey because he is openly gay. He’s great for other roles but this is too big a game.”

What I do know is that the above photo is absolutely right. You can have two people saying exactly the same thing – one will be shunned and ridiculed but the other will be given a pass. “Absolute proof that the words spoken do not cause offense but who is speaking the words causes the offense.”

I don’t get it, but if you do, God bless you.

GLAAD, the Gay Mafia

✘ All problems in the gay community have apparently been solved, which allows the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) the time to turn its attention to the entertainment industry, taking the fair and open minded position that any person or company that does not see things its way is the enemy, and must be made to bend. (No pun intended.)

Every special interest group has tried to turn itself into muscle over the years. Jesse Jackson, Inc. was best at it for

a long time, morphing the slightest missteps into press conferences, threats of boycotts, and eventually “donations” to the cause of ... um, whatever his cause was. Equality? Child support? Something like that. (No one ever explained how extortion money – sorry, donations – helped further the cause of equality. But furthering the cause of equality was never really the point, so everything worked out.) In any case, it never ceases to amaze the lengths people will go for equality, only to demand genuflection when they’re actually treated as equals; e.g., made fun of.

How it breaks down is, only white men, Catholics, and Jews can be fodder for any sort of criticism or comedic skewering. As we learned with Barack Obama in 2007 and 2008, any criticism of his lack of a record or tendency toward socialism was turned into accusations of racism, as though the idea of the intellectual equivalent of a smart high school sophomore as president weren’t legitimate cause for alarm. And as we are learning now, any mention of homosexuality that doesn’t sound at first blush like reverence is cause for alarm from organizations like GLAAD.

Last weekend in Adelaide, Australia, a professional wrestler called CM Punk got into a shouting match with a fan at ringside, and he did what wrestlers playing the bad guy are supposed to do: antagonize, name call, and make himself as hated as possible. This card was not televised, but another patron at ringside caught the exchange in which Punk says to the fan, “Nice faux hawk, homo!” The video made its way to TMZ and the next thing you know, World Wrestling Entertainment felt compelled to explain to GLAAD that Punk’s contract is up in two weeks and he won’t be returning to the active roster. So, you know, how about not releasing the gay dogs this time? Wait – “this time”?

Twice this year, WWE on-air talent have made gay jokes (one on Twitter and one on television), the response being that GLAAD forced itself into the company’s business, “forged a partnership” with WWE, and is rumored to be giving sensitivity training to its writers and other staff. And because it is a

publicly traded company that wants to be a “good corporate citizen,” WWE will fall in line, as Tracy Morgan fell in line, as Jennifer Aniston preemptively fell in line by justifying her in-character use of the word “faggot” in the movie *Horrible Bosses*.

GLAAD knows the difference between what Punk, Morgan, and Aniston did and actual hatred of gays. But it isn't smart or honest enough as an organization to appreciate the “crying wolf” effect of yelling “homophobia!” just to call attention to itself. Sooner or later it will become just another buzzword that makes people roll their eyes. (Remember when calling someone a racist meant something? Now it's like yelling “Freebird!” at a rock concert – sure you've said it, but who cares?) If it continually demands rapt attention be paid to inconsequential things, GLAAD runs the risk of alienating and boring people it will need when something important actually comes up.

Moreover, unfunny and uncreative people should keep their noses out of the entertainment business, because they have no concept of what goes into building and keeping an audience, let alone producing a product that earns an honest emotional reaction. Entertainers should be left to entertain, and outfits like GLAAD forced to earn a more honest living by fundraising on the backs of issues that matter, lest it run the risk of taking the tired, irrelevant look of the modern *Jesse Jackson, Inc.*