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The world of media is now becoming even more controversial as it was back then. Before streaming there were books, movie theatres, and cds. Just like streaming, those items have been at the center of controversy due to the content it produced. For example, six Dr. Seuss books are no longer being published by the company due to the caricatures of people from other nations. Today, this generation is part of the so-called “cancel culture”. Cancel culture can be defined as getting rid of content from long ago due to the portrayal of certain characters, sexual references, and many others. It is not just the current generation whose voices want to be heard on some content being removed, many film companies took drastic measures and tried to fix it. The results can either be positive or negative. Mostly the results are negative. Today, more and more classic films and fan-favorite episodes are being removed due to the content that is produced. This is the world of technology that can be used to alternate some scenes that are deemed too sexual, offensive, and just to cut it out. This what the world has come down to.

May 25, 2020 will forever be stuck in everyone's mind. That is the day when Officer Derek Chauvin murdered George Floyd by placing his knee right on his neck. Floyd shouted “ I can't breathe” due to the pressure of Chauvin's knee on his neck. His death has caused outrage throughout the country. Riots spread everywhere, causing mayhem, disturbance, and looting stores. The video of his death caught attention in the media. The four officers that were watching were all discharged and now waiting for their trial.

George Floyd's death has caused a lot of changes in media and in the sporting world. For example, the NFL team Washington Redskins announced, a few months before the 2020 season, that the organization will be dropping the name after many years of the controversy surrounding

the name. They are now called the Washington Football team, well temporary they are. The Cleveland Indians of the MLB also announced that they will be changing their name in the future. Now both teams have to come up with a different name after using them for over 80 years.

Floyd's death has also caused change in the filming industry and in the streaming industry. One change is voice acting. A number of voice actors have stepped away from voicing fan favorite characters due to believing that it is not right voicing a character of a different race or color. In the article *How voice actors are fighting to change an industry that renders them invisible* written by Aja Romano, she goes over the different voice actors who stepped away. One voice actor she mentioned is Jenny Slate. Slate voiced Missy Foreman-Greenwald in the popular Netflix series *Big Mouth*. Even though the character is biracial, Slate did not feel right voicing her. " She went on to say that while she believed her Jewish identity made it okay for her to play the character of Missy, whose mom is Jewish, she now understood that 'Black characters on an animated show should be played by Black people ... I was engaging in an act of erasure'" (Romano). This is what she believed. The character has not gained any controversy like Apu from the hit show *The Simpsons*. He gained the controversy of the stereotype of an Indian working in a convenience store. In the article, Romano brought up that "Indian American comedian Hari Kondabolu criticized the show that year in his documentary *The Problem With Apu*, which argued that the Indian convenience storeowner Apu is a troubling racist stereotype" (Romano). There was a documentary film about the issues the character had on the community of Indians, people from India. They did not enjoy the stereotype of the character that Hank Azaria, who voiced Apu, stepped down from the role. It is still unclear if that character is retired or not.

With voice acting gaining controversy, streaming services have also taken immediate action for content removal or just plain censorship. One example is Disney Plus. Most content with racial stereotypes was not completely removed but just a warning about watching some films. In the article *Disney Plus quietly pulls Peter Pan, Dumbo from Kids profiles over racist stereotypes* by Matt Patches, explains the warning about these films. These films were not removed, do not let the title trick anyone. The article has the warning stating “This program includes negative depictions and/or mistreatment of people or cultures. These stereotypes were wrong then and are wrong now. Rather than remove this content, we want to acknowledge its harmful impact, learn from it and spark conversation to create a more inclusive future together” (Patches). *Peter Pan* is a perfect example. The film stereotyped Native Americans. They have bright red skin and the song makes it worse as well. “A large chunk of *Peter Pan* portrays Indigenous people in a reductive and stereotypical fashion” (Patches). The song *What Makes the Red Man Red*, definitely does not make the situation better at all.

Other Disney films on that list include *Dumbo* and *Lady and the Tramp*. *Dumbo* has the stereotypes of African Americans. Remember the crows? Those were the stereotypes. The voice is that of a southern African American. Patches explained that “*Dumbo* includes a sequence in which a group of crows perform a song and dance in the style of racist minstrel show” (Patches). To make it worse, the crow is named Jim. Any coincidence? Look at *Lady and the Tramp* with the siamese cats. “*Aristocats*, *Lady and the Tramp*, and *Swiss Family Robinson* feature racist caricatures of East Asian peoples” (Patches). They gave the characters very slanted eyes, bucked teeth, chopsticks, and very broken English.

The WWE of the 90’s would have suffered the same fate as those on Disney Plus. Since the WWE Network merged with Peacock, some moments and episodes were moved due to racial

content. The article *Racist WWE Moments Are Being Removed as Classic Matches Move to Peacock* written by James Hibberd details what was removed. The Attitude Era of the WWE, used to be WWF, will always be synonymous with wrestling in the late 90's but segments were deemed too offensive. But the article did not include the fact that the stable, D'Generation-X painted black face on themselves to do a parody of another stable, The Nation of Domination, which is predominantly made up of black wrestlers. But Peacock did get rid of a moment that involved Rowdy Roddy Piper and Bad News Brown. "One of the alterations has been to 1990's *WrestleMania VI*, which featured a match between Roddy Piper and Bad News Brown that included Piper (a white wrestler) painting half his face black while facing off against Brown (a Black wrestler)" (Hibberd). This really happened, look it up on Youtube. Piper went far to say "Now I can stand here, and I can be Black! I can be white! Don't make no difference to me. ... It's what's inside." (Hibberd). This was before the adult oriented Attitude Era of the late 1990s

Other than racial content being removed or censored, sexual and religious content has always been an issue with the public. The hit Comedy Central show *South Park* will always be associated with the word controversy. Look at the episodes that creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker made. They can be either weird, messed up, creepy, but in a funny way. When *South Park* was moved from Hulu to HBOMax, fans were not expecting this to happen. As soon as the show was made available, fans noticed that a few episodes were taken off. There is a reason why even though fans will not agree with it. Plus, Hulu never got rid of those episodes. There is a two-part episode called *Cartoon Wars* where the citizens of South Park run to shelter because of specific *Family Guy* episode was being shown parodying the Islamic Prophet Muhammad.

Depicting images of Muhammad is considered sinful in the Islamic faith. In the article '*South Park*' Removes Five Episodes From HBO Max Due to Prophet Muhammad Imagery by

Claire Spellberg, she goes over why this episode was under fire. She explained that this is not the first time the creators were under fire for depicting Muhammad. But she said that “In 2010, creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker were told to remove depictions of the Islamic prophet from their show; Comedy Central complied, first removing the specific references and later pulling the entire episodes from streaming” (Spellberg). With that decision, it still sours among the fans of the show.

Adult oriented shows usually contain content that is sensitive to the viewer’s eye including episodes on race and episodes on religion. But all adult shows would always contain sexual content. There are shows for kids that have some adult innuendos, such as most of the cartoons from Nickelodeon. *Spongebob Squarepants* is notorious for having such content. It is being streamed on Paramount Plus but some users might notice that two episodes were removed. While the one episode is about being quarantine, the other episode a lot of hardcore fans should know. That episode is called *Mid-Life Crustacean*. In the article *SpongeBob SquarePants Episodes Removed From Paramount for Inappropriate Plotlines* by Eli Enis, goes through what the episode is about and a certain part that is deemed inappropriate.

The episode goes as Mr. Krabs feels old and wants to feel young so he thought to go along with Spongebob and Patrick for a night out. But it was not exactly what he thought and called them lame. Before he was about to leave, Patrick brought up the panty raid. That is where the episode goes to the adult side. Enis explained that “Mr. Krabs is delighted by the salacious act, but it takes a turn for the worse when the owner of the undergarments catches them in the act: Mr. Krabs’ own mother” (Enis). Even though it was comedic that Mr. Krabs grabbed his mother’s bloomers, it was kind of inappropriate to add a panty raid into a kids cartoon. Well there was the Sailor Mouth episode. Enis showed that a representative told IGN about the

removal of the episode from television and from Amazon Prime. “‘Mid-Life Crustacean’ has been out of rotation since 2018, following a standards review in which we determined some story elements were not kid-appropriate,” the rep told *IGN* (Enis). Like with *South Park* fans, this one probably left a sour taste among the old-schooled *Spongebob* fans.

Disney Plus is at it again with another edited movie that, in reality, upsetted a lot of users. Since the film *Splash* was distributed by Touchstone, it is a property of Disney due to Disney’s ownership of Touchstone. The film does have brief nudity in it when Daryl Hannah’s character walks out of the water after receiving legs to meet up with the man, who was played by Tom Hanks, whom she saved from drowning. From the website the Verge, the article *Disney Plus’ butt cover-up hides a much bigger problem* by Julia Alexander, goes through how Disney Plus edited partial nudity out. From the scene when Tom Hanks watches her run back into the ocean, a lot of viewers noticed that something is not right. “Disney used CGI hair to cover actress Daryl Hannah’s body. A Disney representative confirmed to *The Verge* that a ‘few scenes’ from *Splash* were ‘slightly edited’ to remove nudity, but they did not specify when the edits were made” (Alexander). The streaming service had to make her hair longer with CGI to cover up her bum. This has caused a lot of outrage because there is content on Disney Plus that was not removed. Look at some of the nudity in *The Simpsons*.

This generation relies more on “cancel culture” than anything else. With the content removed, many thought it would bring a positive message to the world. But instead, it was mixed. Some think that it is an empowering statement by either removing content, censoring or replacing voice actors. But others despise the idea. Many people reacted negatively because of the content they grew up with. They feel like it was being taken away from them. Today, all sides are fighting over what stays in syndication and what should stay out. This technology today

is the reason why almost every content has to be removed or plain edited. Now it feels that everyone does not want to enjoy the idea of streaming. They would always bring up that they have the dvds that they could watch. They do not want any of this anymore. This is the culture today.

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