

We Still Aren't Learning the Lessons of Penn State

The inescapable conclusions of the Freeh report demonstrate a complete loss of institutional controls at Penn State and a totally corrupted college culture in which precious football was more important than even slowing down a violent sexual predator. Now that the evidence of willful corruption is out in the air, what evidence do we see of contrition or even awareness at Penn State or any of the other football mills masquerading as universities across America? Essentially, none.

Let's start with the former president, Spanier, and athletic director Curley, now both under indictment for perjury. There is now not a shred of doubt as to their guilt. Has either offered to forego the egregious taxpayer expense of a trial by pleading guilty? Not that I am aware of. Spanier is still a tenured faculty member! These are supposedly men of honor, worthy leaders, when they were at best lackeys and liars, toadies to a football program and a coach drunk with power.

Next let's strip away at least some of the hypocrisy surrounding football, this silly little martial game played by manipulated gladiators. Can we stop with the tripe of coaches as geniuses and paragons who somehow develop young men? Seems what they mostly learn is violence and vulgarity, two of the top missions of any quality university. What does it take to tarnish this inane culture? Curley and Spanier asked Paterno to resign in 2004. He told them to fuck off, demonstrating unbelievable, out-sized arrogance and an obnoxious refusal to even recognize any chain of command without him at the top. This is a saint? Sounds like a typical thug and bully to me.

Now the trustees are shocked, shocked I tell you, to hear of a 14-year conspiracy to feed children into the waiting erection of Jerry Sandusky. (We'll get to Second Mile in a minute.) They oiled the pipeline as surely as the Roman Catholic Church assured continued rapes under its equally sanctimonious reign of terror. Why hasn't a single trustee resigned? No sense of disgrace? No sense of responsibility? "We didn't know!" they wail! Isn't it their job to know, isn't it their ONLY job to know? Does the term "trustee" mean anything to these board members? (Maybe there's no English don on the board to explain it to them.) Has a single "trustee"

returned a check to the university, noting. "I didn't do my job and didn't earn this money." Cowards, cowards, cowards!

It's amazing how willfully stupid people can be when they allow affiliations and assumptions about same to overrule the evidence of their senses. Jerry and Joe are with the football program at Penn State, they *must* be great guys! Jerry runs a charity for kids, what a great *Christian* he must be! He operated a recruitment scheme for his sexual fulfillment and Second Mile was more than happy to comply.

There is nothing good and noble about stupidity. Stupidity and ignorance form the breeding ground for evil. Think for moment of Sandusky's halfwit wife, hearing the screams of children coming from the basement or the bathroom and never lifting a finger. Some might think of her as a victim too. I think of her as Eichmann. Whoever the "trustees" were of the now defunct Second Mile, I hope they re-examine their motives and means. Rot doesn't normally grow in the light.

There is so much here that is rotten. Tearing down the statue of the principal architect of a serial rape cover-up is a nice start, but would be the silliest whitewash ever if change stopped there. Someone needs to step up and play adult here, as not a single real leader has emerged yet from this morass. I want to hear the head of Ohio State say they don't have the same problem there. Ditto Florida State. Ditto all the football farms that make a mockery of the very idea of a university. America is dumbing-down virtually every educational standard we have (Rick Santorum and Rick Perry should be delighted) and very little is being done to stem the tide.

No one should be able to walk away from this. This sham of a university can and should be bankrupted by the well-armed lawsuits of the victims. This should be a clarion call for ALL universities and colleges to re-examine their mission. I don't think there are many that honor what their mission ought to be. Having a "college degree" means less and less with each passing year, even as we glorify its virtues and saddle its recipients with unconscionable debt. Education is in a terrible mess in the country and instead we worry about the football program. What will it take for us as a society to wake the fuck up?

