Weekend Review

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

EDUCATION

Share

Eton master dismissed after row over 'masculinity' talk

By **Camilla Turner** EDUCATION EDITOR

ETON College has dismissed one of its masters amid a free speech row prompted by a lecture which questioned "current radical feminist orthodoxy".

The £42,500-a-year boarding school has been accused of "prioritising emotional safety over intellectual challenge" after it allegedly banned a presentation on the theme of masculinity from being delivered to students.

Will Knowland, who has taught English at Eton for nine years, alleges that he has been dismissed for gross misconduct following a dispute over a lecture he was due to give pupils earlier this year. The lecture, titled "The Patriarchy Paradox", was part of the Perspectives course taken by older students to encourage them to think critically about subjects of public debate.

But Mr Knowland's lecture, which he had prepared in video form and uploaded to the school's intranet due to Covid, was never given to students.

"The head master felt that some of the ideas put forward in my lecture – such as the view that men and women differ psychologically and not all of those differences are socially constructed – were too dangerous for the boys to be exposed to," Mr Knowland said. "I explained to the head master that I wasn't endorsing all the ideas in my lecture, but I wanted the boys to be made aware of a different point of view to the current radical feminist orthodoxy, which insists that there's something fundamentally toxic about masculinity.

At Home In Helm's Deep

Aragorn and Theoden, preparing to ride out of Helm's Deep (Source)

DECEMBER 1, 2020 | 2:00 PM

ROD DREHER

I was on the phone with a conservative Christian friend this morning, talking about the state of things in our country. We are both pretty downcast about what these last few weeks have revealed about contemporary conservatism, and the Christian church in America.

UPDATE: A reader who is part of the Anglican Church of North America sends this video address that his bishop gave to their recent diocesan meeting. In it, Bishop John Guernsey talks about the urgent need for the faithful to prepare for the trials ahead, and recommends *Live Not By Lies* as a guide. Thank you, Bishop Guernsey!

UPDATE.2: A reader writes:

> Interesting video from an ACNA diocesan bishop today. Funny. A couple of years ago the then and current Archbishop of the ACNA came to our parish, talked to the congregation a bit after the evening service and took a few questions. Once things broke up and people

UPDATE.3: I just heard from Archbishop Foley Beach of the ACNA. He is the unnamed Archbishop mentioned in the reader's comment above. He writes to say that he would not have said the thing the reader attributes to him. He writes, "I have been preaching since before I became the Archbishop on the theme: Wake Up America! pointing out just what [the reader] asked about in the question. "

"Many of us in the Anglican Church in North America left buildings, salaries, pensions, insurance plans, and reputations for the Gospel in leaving the Episcopal Church when it gave into revisionism and liberalism," he adds. "We would do so again."

I see now that I should not have posted that comment from the reader without first reaching out to him. I apologize to Archbishop Foley Beach for posting the comment without at least first giving him a chance to confirm or deny it.

Los Angeles Times

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TELEVISION

Finally, Hallmark's holiday fare makes a gay couple 'part of the family'

Elliot Page, star of 'Juno' and 'The Umbrella Academy,' announces he's transgender

"I feel overwhelming gratitude for the incredible people who have supported me along this journey," Page wrote in a letter Tuesday.

by [redacted]

Elliot Page
@TheElliotPage

name is Elliot. I feel lucky to be writing this. To be here. To have arrived at this place in my life.

I feel overwhelming gratitude for the incredible people who have supported me along this journey. I can't begin to express how remarkable it feels to finally love who I am enough to pursue my authentic self. I've been endlessly inspired by so many in the trans community. Thank you for your courage, your generosity and ceaselessly working to make this world a more inclusive and compassionate place. I will offer whatever support I can and continue to strive for a more loving and equal society.

I also ask for patience. My joy is real, but it is also fragile. The truth is, despite feeling profoundly happy right now and knowing how much privilege I carry, I am also scared. I'm scared of the invasiveness, the hate, the "jokes" and of violence. To be clear, I am not trying to dampen a moment that is joyous and one that I celebrate, but I want to address the full picture. The statistics are staggering. The discrimination towards trans people is rife, insidious and cruel, resulting in horrific consequences. In 2020 alone it has been reported that at least 40 transgender people have been murdered, the majority of which were Black and Latinx trans women. To the political leaders who work to criminalize trans health care and deny our right to exist and to all of those with a massive platform who continue to spew hostility towards the trans community: you have blood on your hands. You unleash a fury of vile and demeaning rage that lands on the shoulders of the trans community, a community in which 40% of trans adults report attempting suicide. Enough is enough. You aren't being "cancelled," you are hurting people. I am one of those people and we won't be silent in the face of your attacks.

I love that I am trans. And I love that I am queer. And the more I hold myself close and fully embrace who I am, the more I dream, the more my heart grows and the more I thrive. To all trans people who deal with harassment, self-loathing, abuse and the threat of violence every day: I see you, I love you and I will do everything I can to change this world for the better.

Thank you for reading this.

All my love,

Elliot

12:10 PM · Dec 1, 2020

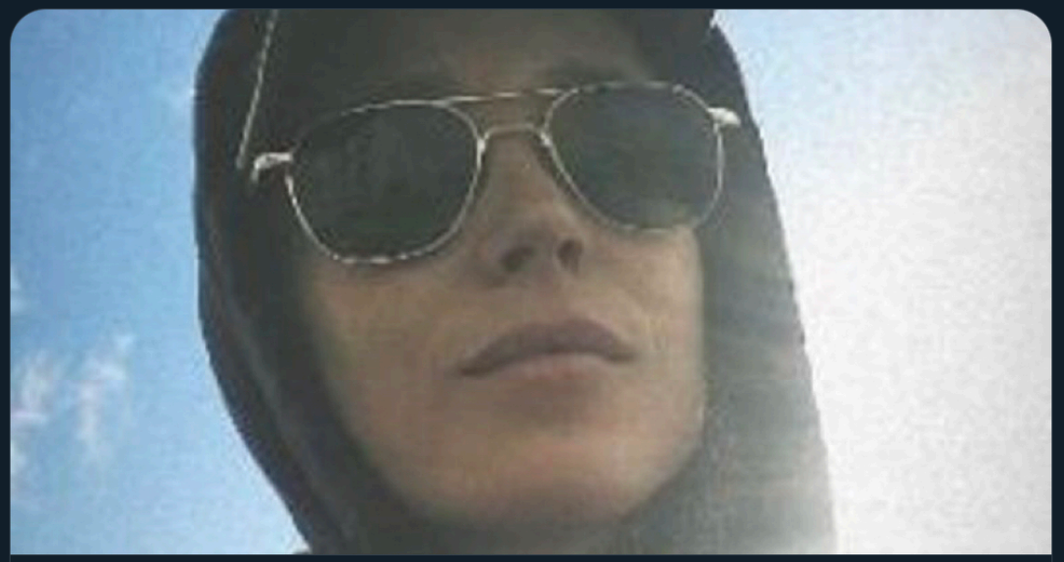
1.8M 283.2K people are Tweeting about this

Titania McGrath
@TitaniaMcGrath

I am so proud of Elliot Page for transitioning and becoming a beacon of hope for humanity.

That said, now that Page is a straight man he is officially an oppressor and deserves nothing but our contempt.

#CancelElliotPage



Elliot Page: Actor formerly known as Ellen Page comes out as transgender
news.sky.com

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CELEBRITIES

Hollywood's casting dilemma: Should straight, cisgender actors play LGBTQ characters?

David Oliver USA TODAY

Published 10:34 a.m. ET Nov. 24, 2020 | **Updated 1:49 p.m. ET Nov. 27, 2020**

Visibility: USA TODAY

Hollywood celebrities just can't quit playing LGBTQ characters – even when they mean well.

Selena Gomez, who famously dated Justin Bieber and Nick Jonas, recently signed on to play lesbian mountaineer Silvia Vasquez-Lavado. Cisgender actress Halle Berry considered taking on an undisclosed male transgender role over the summer.

In years prior, straight actors Timothée Chalamet and Armie Hammer sizzled onscreen as lovers in "Call Me By Your Name." Cisgender actor Jeffrey Tambor played a transgender woman in "Transparent." Straight actor Nick Robinson channeled a young gay man struggling with his identity in "Love, Simon."

What's wrong with this picture? Well, it's complicated – though it mainly has to do with the scarcity of roles available for out LGBTQ actors to play LGBTQ characters.

Advertisement

Coleman Hughes

Fellow,
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COLEMAN HUGHES AT MI

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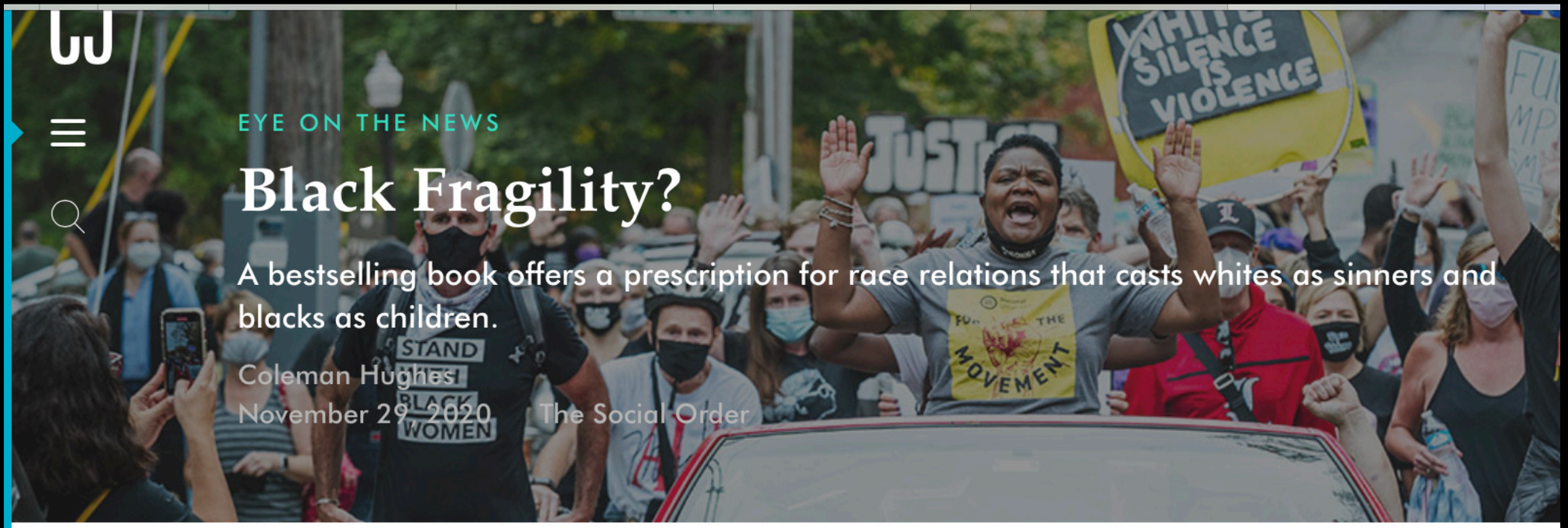
Coleman Hughes is a fellow at the Manhattan Institute and a contributing editor at *City Journal*, where his writing focuses on race, public policy, and applied ethics. His writing has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *National Review*, *Quillette*, and *The Spectator*. He has appeared on many podcasts, including *The Rubin Report*, *Making Sense with Sam Harris*, and *The Glenn Show*. In June 2019,



EYE ON THE NEWS

Black Fragility?

A bestselling book offers a prescription for race relations that casts whites as sinners and blacks as children.

Coleman Hughes
November 29, 2020 | The Social Order

In the aftermath of George Floyd's death in police custody last May, millions of Americans have been asking the question: How do we best fight racism? Books that give a compelling answer have been flying off the shelves. With the possible exception of Ibram X. Kendi, no writer has seen their profile rise more during this period than Robin DiAngelo, whose book *White Fragility* was already a *New York Times* best seller; it has been on that list for 110 weeks.

DiAngelo's book does more than rehearse the familiar tenets of Critical Race Theory (CRT)—racism is systemic and pervasive; race-blind standards are really white supremacist standards in disguise; lived experience confers special knowledge on victims of

The late writer and atheist Christopher Hitchens had a riff about what he called the "cruel experiment" of Christian Original Sin: "We are created sick," he would often say, "and commanded to be well." In other words, the doctrine lures you in by preemptively forgiving your shortcomings—yes, you're a miserable sinner, but it's not your fault—then goes on to demand your compliance with a never-ending program of recovery on pain of eternal hellfire.

If you understand how the doctrine of Original Sin could be seductive, then you should have no trouble understanding the appeal of *White Fragility*; it operates the same way. DiAngelo expiates guilt by telling white people that they're not to blame for their racism, then commands them to adopt her version of "antiracism"—on pain of social ostracism and cancellation.

A key element of her program is for whites to eliminate a set of normal behaviors when talking to black people about race: the aforementioned "silence, defensiveness, argumentation, withdrawal, certitude, and other forms of pushback." Of course, a skilled communicator may want to avoid silence, defensiveness, withdrawal, and certitude. But how exactly does one avoid "argumentation" and "other forms of pushback" as well? If you eliminate all these behaviors, only one option remains: enthusiastic agreement. Try to obey these instructions in a real conversation, and you'll find at least two things: first, you must utterly shut down your mind and personality in order to

control of any kind. The hidden premise of the book is that blacks, not whites, are too fragile.

Some will say that I'm reading DiAngelo too uncharitably—but how else can one make sense of her guidelines for whites? During her CRT training sessions, for example, DiAngelo asks whites to refrain from crying around blacks. Why? Because historically, white tears have often accompanied false rape accusations that led to lynchings. Thus, for black people, she explains, white tears "trigger the terrorism of this history."

Holding back tears to spare others' emotions is not something that adults do around their equals; it's what parents do around children. Indeed, DiAngelo's picture of the ideal relationship between whites and blacks bears a disturbing resemblance to the relationship between an exasperated parent and a spoiled child: the one constantly practicing emotional self-control, the other triggered by the smallest things and helplessly expressing every emotion as soon as it comes. These are the roles she expects—even encourages—whites and blacks to play. That people can call this *anti*-racist with a straight face shows how far language has strayed from reality.

If *White Fragility* is the only book you read about race this year, then you will come away with a horribly one-sided education. You will learn, to take a representative example, that "it has not

always been whites"—as if Zora Neale Hurston did not exist; as if the Hyde County boycott and similar black anti-integration efforts did not happen all over the South. The book's fundamental one-sidedness, however, should not be surprising, because *White Fragility* is zealotry disguised as scholarship.

You will read many controversial and unscholarly claims in *White Fragility*, but you will not find any sustained attempt to improve the nation by means of public policy. You will read much about how white people should and should not feel, but you will find scarcely a sentence that puts forth ideas about how to reform the police, for instance. To be fair, improving life for black people living in intergenerational poverty is not the aim of *White Fragility*. But we should wonder, then, why *this* book is being held up as the answer to America's current racial woes, despite offering little by way of concrete solutions. We should worry, in other words, that our national conversation about race has become unmoored from the goal of real progress and attached instead to an unending quest for spiritual absolution.

Coleman Hughes** (@coldxman) is a fellow at the Manhattan Institute and contributing editor of* **City Journal.** *His writing has appeared in Quillette, the* **New York Times,** *the* **Wall Street Journal, National Review,** *and the* **Spectator.

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

ROMANS 1:16