

# Absurd Identity Politics; Rachel Dolezal, et. al.

by Norman Berdichevsky (July 2015)

Rachel Dolezal's numerous interviews and the absurd answers given to factual questions about her birth certificate, callously rejecting both her parents and their heritage, dismissing the relevance of DNA tests and insisting how she feels is paramount to any facts would embarrass a seven year old. These are patently ridiculous answers and became trenchantly self-serving, naked attempts at fraud. After all, she is on record for bringing suit against Howard University for discriminating against her because she is (at least was at the time) white. For more than a generation now, one of the most powerful weapons used by the Liberal-Left in American politics is to classify individuals by a group identity such as race, ethnicity or sex, now termed "gender," to justify differential treatment of citizens, usually referred to by the euphemism of "affirmative action."

Multiracial Americans are those who have mixed ancestry of "two or more races." The term also includes many Americans of mixed-race ancestry but who self-identify with just one group culturally and socially. In the 2010 US census, approximately 9 million individuals, or 2.9% of the population, self-identified as multiracial. Many geneticists believe that there is considerable evidence that an accounting by genetic ancestry would produce a much higher number than this, largely due to the successful "passing" of many individuals of partial Black or American Indian ancestry who made considerable efforts to approximate the white majority in every aspect – both physically, socially and culturally.

Prior to the mid-20th century, many individuals and families did their utmost to hide their multiracial heritage because of racial discrimination against minorities, predominantly against African-Americans. It was President Lyndon B. Johnson, the classic white southern politician with a guilt complex, struggling to wear/inherit the cape of the great fallen leader/martyr, who elaborated on the importance of "affirmative action" for groups rather than individuals when he stated:

*...But freedom is not enough. You do not wipe away the scars of centuries by saying: Now you are free to go where you want, and do as you desire, and choose the leaders you please... We seek .... not just equality as a right and a theory but equality as a fact and equality as a result... To this end, opportunity is essential, but not enough.*

What is enough then? This question remains unanswered but cannot be answered by checking a box marking a group identity on a form, and even less so by asking someone how they feel.

A height requirement that screens out many Hispanics and women, even if it can be demonstrated that height is an important job related consideration (among firefighters for example), may be held to be invalid today. The laws relating to affirmative action currently state that if a test for merit disproportionately eliminates one racial or gender group and some equally good merit test does not, then the employer has to use the latter test. The door is thus open to endless variations of "equally good merit tests" (until you find the one that works).

The absurd requirement demanding that individuals fill out the census and many application forms to indicate their racial and ethnic identity serves no other purposes than to document which group deserves more protection and "equality." This has the unintended consequence of often promoting racial discrimination. Although realtors are forbidden by law to inform prospective buyers of a home anything about the racial makeup of the neighborhood where the house is located, the buyers can simply go online and look up the racial composition of each area based on the most recent census data (and avoid buying where they don't like the profile).

If we were still a nation of individual citizens with equal rights and opportunities and with merit the only consideration for appointment to high office, none of the above would matter, but it is the selective use of DIVERSITY, like so much else, that is part of the Obama/Left/Liberal agenda that stands out for its hypocrisy. Ironically, the leading Ivy League schools who today push the Liberal/Left agenda in the country, used "geographical diversity" as a subterfuge in the 1930s to severely limit the admission of Jewish students.

Chief Justice John Roberts has rightly expressed his firm opposition to the "whole sordid business" of dividing the American population by race and ethnicity but the prospects are dim that we can escape the fate of all of us being forced into statistical boxes. My wife was born in Argentina and her first language is Spanish. Does she qualify as a Hispanic? Her parents were Yiddish speaking Jews who immigrated to Argentina in 1920. When she asked an official at the American Embassy in Madrid where she filled out the forms for a green card, if she should identify herself on the form as Hispanic, his reply was – "I haven't got a clue." And why should he? Only in the United States is the term "Hispanic" regarded as a racial rather than a cultural category – witness the confusion of the mass media in the case of George Zimmerman, identified first as a "white man" when all that was known about him was his name and the fact that he had killed a black man. Later, the revelation of his Hispanic origin made some commentators uncomfortable. It is no wonder that Rachel Dolezal could persuade herself and

others that her "real identity" had been misunderstood.

A newspaper story featured on page one of the Orlando Sentinel entitled "Hispanic License Plate Could Sail to Approval." (May 12, 2010). A "Hispanic Achievers" plate design had been incorporated into a bill submitted to Governor Crist. Its original form simply stated "Hispanics Discovered Florida," but the public relations team behind the proposal had to tone down the message and simply put the organization's name on the design with a Spanish galleon in the center and the word UNIDOS in large print. Profits from the \$25 tag fee would go to fund the group's "administrative costs" and benefit Hispanic achievers. The group claimed a network of 14,000 subscribers, a drop in the bucket of the state's more than three and a half million Hispanics.

Of course, the absurd irony that no one bothers to pay attention to, is that the same mentality of group pride and a balkanized identity of hyphenated-Americans originally led most politicians on both the state and local level to go along with cancelling "Columbus Day" to satisfy American Indian groups angry at the Spanish "discovery and conquest of the Americas" as "racial genocide." Columbus Day was originally declared a federal holiday back in 1934 as an act by the Roosevelt administration to help assuage the feelings of many American Catholics, organized by the Knights of Columbus, especially of Italian origin (who claim Columbus as their own), that there was no national holiday that recognized an achievement by Catholics (and Italians). We have come full circle.

Our national motto "E Pluribus Unum" is out of date (as most certainly is "In God We Trust"). The reality of the last two generations of affirmative action policies could be summarized by what Aristotle said more than 2,300 years ago ... "The worst form of inequality is to try and make unequal things equal."

### **"Pinky" and the Centuries' Long Passing of Blacks into the White Population**

"Pinky" was a 1949 American race drama film starring Jeanne Crain, Ethel Barrymore and Ethel Waters. All three actresses were nominated for the Academy Award, Crain (a white woman who played Pinky) for "Best Actress in a Leading Role," and Barrymore and Waters were both nominated for "Best Actress in a Supporting Role." The explicit theme of the film was multiracial identity and Blacks "passing" as Whites. The main character is Pinky, a light-skinned African-American nursing student. She returns to the South after getting a nursing degree in the North to visit Dicey (Ethel Waters), the illiterate black laundress grandmother who raised her. Pinky confesses to Dicey that she passed for white while studying. She had also fallen in love with a white doctor, Thomas Adams, who knows nothing about her black

heritage.

The film honestly confronts racial animosity from all sides as Pinky eventually reconciles with a stern wealthy white dowager Miss Em (played by Ethel Barrymore) whom she instinctively dislikes only to later discover that Miss Em had nursed her grandmother back to health and left Pinky a fortune in her will.

Both Lena Horne and Dorothy Dandridge (Hollywood's most famous very light complexioned African-American stars who were both very anxious to play the role of Pinky) were passed over to give the part to a white lesser known actress. Critics were unanimous that she did not bring to the role the required intensity and passion that either of the more well-known Afro-American stars would have brought.

The film surprisingly enjoyed wide success in the southern United States, although it was banned in several southern towns and played to segregated movie theaters in those states where miscegenation was forbidden by law. It also figured in a landmark decision of the Supreme Court extending the privileges of the First Amendment's right to free speech to cover films as well as speech and print.

#### **The Jews Wishing to Pass as Gentiles Had No Choice**

Hiding one's identity has been an option for a only minority of oppressed peoples. Tens of millions of immigrants from eastern and southern Europe who immigrated to the United States felt a social pressure to conform, learn English as soon as possible, which the great majority did, and adjust to American culture. A large number of them did so by also changing and shortening their family names (see *NER* November 2010 "[The Left is Seldom Right](#) and [here](#)).

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