

Speedy Gonzales is famously fast

By Mike Gonzalez

Speedy Gonzales is famously fast, so the well-known Mexican mouse may be able to outrun the woke commissars out to get him. It looks, however, like Pepe Le Pew is well and truly cancelled. The amorous skunk has run squarely into Me-Too. As for Elmer Fudd, well he's a white simpleton, so he stays. But he loses his rifle!

Who are these people? Will they lose their livelihoods and their family members their providers? Well, no, not quite. These are just cartoon characters. Very famous ones, mind you, but their cancellation will not lead to personal ruin, as so many others have. Unless you are talking about the health of American society, which seems to be ever more in the tightening clutch of "cancel culture." Lately, however, in a sign that reason may be making a comeback, many Americans have begun to speak out.

The characters in danger of cancellation actually have played a role in this nascent opposition to cancel culture; many Americans have fond memories of growing up watching them on Saturday mornings.

All three characters are on the Warner Brothers "Looney Tunes" team. Speedy is a Mexican mouse who is, well, speedy. He is constantly running everywhere in a whirl of action. The cancel culture commissars now say, however, that he encourages stereotypes about Mexicans.

It's not Speedy himself that the critics apparently object to—since Speedy, kind of a hero, was completely unobjectionable, one can objectively say—but it's the company he kept. His "friends helped popularize the corrosive stereotype of the drunk and lethargic Mexicans," [harrumphs](#) Charles Blow, a New York Times columnist.

As for Pepe, it's a skunk that is always trying to kiss a female cat, Penelope Pussycat, who doesn't want to be kissed. "The Maurice Chevalier wannabe kept smothering these poor ladies, who clearly had no desire to be anywhere near him," [wrote](#) Bryan Reesman at NBC News' Think. "it became clear to me that Pepe was basically a stalker who would never accept 'no' from a woman."

And Pepe, unlike Speedy, was indeed canceled after Blow wrote that he "normalized rape culture." Days later, Warner Bros [announced](#) that Pepe had been scrubbed from a movie about to appear, "Space Jam, a New Legacy."

It looks like Pepe will stay canceled, too, The Hollywood Reporter [wrote](#) that "there are no current plans for the controversial cartoon skunk to return." Pepe Le Pew, it is

important to note in passing, was always presented as an example of what *not* to do. He literally stank, because he was a skunk (thus the name Le Pew!).

As for Elmer Fudd, who is a not too bright white guy always trying to hunt down the more clever Bugs Bunny, he can stay, but the Irish Times [reports](#) that henceforth he will have “his rifle taken away.”

If all this looks silly to you—and it should—it does as well to Gabriel Iglesias, the actor of Mexican origin who is the voice of Speedy. “I am the voice of Speedy Gonzales in the new Space Jam,” [Iglesias wrote](#) in a tweet. “Does this mean they are gonna try to cancel Fluffy too? U can’t catch me cancel culture. I’m the fastest mouse in all of Mexico.”

Cancel culture is usually not an end in itself, but a censoring instrument to silence critics of those who want to make all of life a power struggle between categories of the oppressed and their oppressors. It’s funny when it comes to cartoon characters, but it does ruin lives.