[Dr. Seuss](https://nypost.com/2021/03/04/woke-parents-agree-dr-seuss-books-are-canceled/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and [Eminem (sort of)](https://nypost.com/2021/03/04/gen-z-tries-to-cancel-eminem-but-millennials-push-back/) are among the latest famous figures to find themselves trending and declared “over,” joining the hordes of [celebrity “casualties”](https://nypost.com/article/celebrities-who-got-fired-from-their-tv-shows-over-racism-claims/) of cancel culture 2021.

The cancelation debate heated up last summer after Twitter users took to the digital platform to condemn Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling for [making anti-trans comments](https://nypost.com/2020/06/10/j-k-rowling-defends-her-controversial-trans-comments-in-lengthy-essay/) along with denouncing singer-rapper Doja Cat’s [racist chatroom past](https://pagesix.com/2020/05/26/doja-cat-accused-of-participating-in-racist-chat-rooms/) and former “Glee” star Lea Michele’s alleged [mistreatment of co-stars](https://nypost.com/2020/06/11/glee-star-lea-michele-was-a-mean-girl-from-day-one-says-samantha-ware/). By July, the focus had lasered in on [talk show host DeGeneres](https://nypost.com/2020/07/01/producers-respond-to-rumors-ellen-degeneres-show-will-be-canceled/) (complete with a [death hoax](https://nypost.com/2020/07/07/why-ripellen-is-trending-on-twitter-ellen-degeneres-death-hoax-goes-viral/)) and “Killing Eve” star Jodie Comer’s [rumored conservative boyfriend.](https://nypost.com/2020/07/08/jodie-comer-canceled-over-supposed-trump-supporting-boyfriend/)

The hits kept coming through the fall and haven’t stopped — even for beloved kids movies. Disney+ announced that they’d be [putting a filter on old classic](https://nypost.com/2021/03/09/disney-forbids-kids-from-watching-racist-classics/)s such as “Dumbo” and “The Aristocats” over racist imagery. A sequel to “Space Jam” will [notably leave out the creepily persistent Pepe Le Pew](https://nypost.com/2021/03/08/space-jam-cancelation-sends-us-down-a-wabbit-hole/). And Millennial parents are [done with Dr. Seuss books](https://nypost.com/2021/03/04/woke-parents-agree-dr-seuss-books-are-canceled/) after realizing the harmful stereotypes depicted in his books.

But what does it really mean to get the #RIP treatment — and will society ever declare *it* to be over, too?

Cancel culture — the phenomenon of promoting the “canceling” of people, brands and even shows and movies due to what some consider to be offensive or problematic remarks or ideologies — isn’t all that new.

Dr. Jill McCorkel, a professor of sociology and criminology at Villanova University, told The Post that the roots of cancel culture have been present throughout human history. Societies have punished people for behaving outside of perceived social norms for centuries, she said, and this is just another variation.

“Cancel culture is an extension of or a contemporary evolution of a much bolder set of social processes that we can see in the form of banishment,” she said. “[They] are designed to reinforce the set of norms.”

Over the last few years, the social-media trend has gained momentum under the trendy new name — placing celebrities, companies and media alike under a microscope of political correctness.

Here’s a brief rundown of what’s been canceled lately.

**Disney classics**

Children under 7 will now be forbidden from watching “Dumbo,” “Peter Pan” “Swiss Family Robinson” and the “The Aristocats.” Settings on the app will prevent the movies from even showing up on the young viewers’ profiles. Disney explained its rationale behind each film’s removal on the kid-focused Stories Matter section of their website.

They cited “Dumbo’s” (1941) infamous singing crows, which “pay homage to racist minstrel shows, where white performers with blackened faces and tattered clothing imitated and ridiculed enslaved Africans on Southern plantations.”

**Dr. Seuss**

The once irreproachable children’s book author has been [the subject of racial reckoning](https://nypost.com/2021/03/02/six-dr-seuss-books-wont-be-published-for-racist-images/). On March 2 — what would have been the late author and illustrator’s 117th birthday — the company that oversees Seuss’ publications announced that they were pulling licensing rights to six titles, due to racially insensitive depictions of Asian and Black characters.

These books — which include “And To Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street” and “Scrambled Eggs Super!” -— “portray people in ways that are hurtful and wrong,” Dr. Seuss Enterprises said in a statement to the Associated Press.

**Space Jam**

The serial harasser Pepé Le Pew [was canceled from “Space Jam 2.”](https://nypost.com/2021/03/08/has-cancel-culture-doomed-the-space-jam-sequel/) Producers decided to cut one of Pepé‘s star scenes in the sequel, in which the character is depicted as a flirty bartender who insists on kissing a female customer (played by Greice Santo) despite her many objections.

According to Deadline, the scene also sees pro baller James take Pepé aside to explain the concept of “consent” as the flirtatious skunk admits that his longtime love, Penelope Pussycat, had filed for a restraining order against him — a troubling statement to come from a children’s cartoon.

**Gina Carano**

Carano, 38, who played bounty hunter Cara Dune in the first two seasons of “The Mandalorian,” [was fired from the show for her controversial social media posts](https://nypost.com/2021/02/11/see-gina-caranos-tweets-and-posts-that-got-her-fired/).

Lucasfilm made no secret of why she was canceled, ripping “her social media posts denigrating people based on their cultural and religious identities,” which it called “abhorrent and unacceptable.”

Carano’s most controversial message — and the one that appears to have been the final straw — came when she shared an image from Nazi Germany and compared it to today’s overheated political climate.

“Jews were beaten in the streets, not by Nazi soldiers but by their neighbors…. even by children,” her post stated.

**Celebrities** are joining the cancel-culture call to action, too.

Actress-writer [Skai Jackson](https://www.amazon.com/Reach-Skai-Inspire-Empower-Clapback-ebook/dp/B07N5KL8TC/ref%3Dnodl_?tag=nypost-20), 18, took to Twitter last month to expose a high-school student [featured in a viral video screaming racial slurs](https://twitter.com/skaijackson/status/1268983762722799618). She identified his name, prospective college and Instagram handle.

In the thread, her followers used it as an opportunity to expose other people’s offensive posts, starting a chain of ultimate Twitter investigative work in the name of canceling racists. Pop singer-songwriter Lana Del Rey, 35, [experienced similar backlash](https://nypost.com/2020/05/21/lana-del-rey-slammed-for-dragging-beyonce-and-almost-every-other-female-singer/) after making comments about fellow female recording artists — many of them women of color.

The collective canceling of someone, even on the internet, creates a sense of solidarity, McCorkel explained, and reinforces the feeling of togetherness, that “we are a group…and we don’t tolerate that kind of behavior.”

“It reinforces, at a time of political division, a sense of shared solidarity, at least among the people who are doing the canceling,” she said. “It’s psychologically intoxicating to feel part of a group and to feel a part of something larger than yourself.”

Popular Twitter accounts like [@YesYoureRacist](https://twitter.com/yesyoureracist?lang=en) and [@RacistOTW](https://twitter.com/racistotw?lang=en) have become the pop-culture racism watchdogs. They’ve made it their civic duty to scrutinize the actions of average people and public figures alike, shedding light on previously overlooked or unknown incidents.

**Uncle Ben’s, Aunt Jemima and Mrs. Butterworth**

Cancel culture, though, isn’t exclusive to celebrities. Companies and brands are under fire for racist imagery.

After [facing backlash](https://www.tiktok.com/%40singkirbysing/video/6838642500052274438) for perpetuating racist stereotypes, the 130-year-old Aunt Jemima breakfast brand is [getting a makeover](https://nypost.com/2020/06/17/aunt-jemima-racial-stereotype-gets-the-axe-amid-blm-backlash/). Similarly, Uncle Ben’s and Mrs. Butterworth’s brands [might be next](https://nypost.com/2020/06/17/aunt-jemima-logo-change-are-uncle-bens-mrs-butterworths-next/).

Saw both Uncle Ben and Aunt Jemima trending. Rumor has it Mrs. Butterworth is now in the witness protection program. [pic.twitter.com/F30Pebl88W](https://t.co/F30Pebl88W)

— MARTY (@WALSTGUY) [June 17, 2020](https://twitter.com/WALSTGUY/status/1273117833950629890?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Popular vegan recipe creator, formerly named “Thug Kitchen,” also underwent a rebrand, revealing its new name as [“Bad Manners”](https://www.badmanners.com/change) last month. [Eskimo Pies](https://nypost.com/2020/06/19/eskimo-pies-to-drop-derogatory-name-over-racial-insensitivity/), owned by Dreyer’s, and [Cream of Wheat](https://nypost.com/2020/06/18/cream-of-wheat-reviewing-mascot-amid-black-lives-matter-backlash/) also followed suit.

Sports teams began to jump on board, too. After years of criticism, the Washington Redskins are finally [brainstorming a new team name](https://nypost.com/2020/07/03/redskins-undergoing-through-review-of-teams-name/), inspiring the Cleveland Indians to [consider doing the same](https://nypost.com/2020/07/03/cleveland-indians-join-washington-redskins-in-considering-name-change/).

**Canceling “cancel culture”**

**[J.K. Rowling, Noam Chomsky among dozens to call for end to 'cancel culture'](https://nypost.com/2020/07/07/j-k-rowling-among-dozens-to-call-for-end-to-cancel-culture/)**

This week, Harper’s Magazine [published an open letter](https://harpers.org/a-letter-on-justice-and-open-debate/) calling to do away with cancel culture altogether, denouncing the movement as “censorious” and “an intolerance of opposing views, a vogue for public shaming and ostracism and the tendency to dissolve complex policy issues in a blinding moral certainty.”

Many Twitter users responded to the open letter — which was signed by more than 150 public figures, including Margaret Atwood, 80, and Rowling, 54 — in disgust, arguing that bigotry, like they believe many of the signers are guilty of, is not free speech.