

Makenshi Ceriani

Professor Lori Bedell

CAS138T

3/9/13

### Deliberation, TIME is Indeed a Factor.

When this assignment was first dropped, I still was not entirely sure what a deliberation was or at least, what my part in one would be. In not fully comprehending the topic, I overestimated the complexity and underestimated how long it would take. In theory, it is an easy doing- just talk to random strangers and view where the discussion goes...if only I had known how unwilling or maybe too willing individuals were to talk in comparative anonymity. My first responder honestly scared me a little from continuing, he got exclamationary. I do not deal well with verbal assaults especially when I did not intend to cause them, but I had to persevere (for the good of the grade and for the good of the spirit of deliberation). Though I kept my class, or what I believe to be my class, I was terrified to step on any more toes as I tried to generate discussion; I tried to be polite as possible while yet still retaining an argument that would breed discourse. Admittedly there is a response where I sort of wanted to induce a full on blog war just to see what would happen but that was only that one time. Ah, there it is that which had me lulled into a false sense of security only to show me the flipside of the posting world: Time. Believing it was on my side I did not worry when my initial responses went unheeded, I did not worry when my first questions were ignored; I did not even worry when new responses pushed my sections down past the point of another scroll. I did not worry, but I should have.

It never occurred to me that in the cyber forum of civic issues, you only have a limited amount of time to be heard, a limited amount of screen space to make an impact. Time was my

biggest downfall in this assignment and I only thank the cyber powers that be for taking pity on me to have a few people respond. Also, no, the irony does not escape me that all my forays are on US TIME magazine web pages. Prospective gun laws, NYC drink-ban shot-down, feminism in the workplace; all having some takers and some haters but with what given, a good enough deliberative mix to get analytical with. I kept constant to TIME because to me it had the best forums and the most willing participants, it seems just initially. I do wish I would have had more in depth discussions, I am beyond jealous of [InterestedCollegeKid](#) and his some sixty-six comments thread, but we cannot all be the great ones.

Speaking of great ones, these first few non-comment threads are definitely everything but. They are not actually anything, just a post and no response, but are great examples for where simple discussion breaks down and is truthfully nonexistent. “How Gun Control Ends, Not With A Bang But A Whimper” is an article about gun control laws, that having been inspired or revived by the Sandy Hook shootings, will probably not make it out of congress. It seems even with a majority of people being galvanized into action, enough wish to remain the same to be successful in keeping the laws the same. A [Spencer60](#)’s comment caught my interest in it seemed he was missing information in his case, so I responded wondering why he had ignored or missed what had been stated in the article. I thought it best to be a responder instead of a fire-starter because there should then be at least one person following my response. Alas, I was left alone and directionless in my quest. [Spencer60](#), nor [anyonelse](#) gave any feedback whatsoever to my questions. Upon looking back, maybe I should not have kept my boundaries, maybe I should have released my words helter-skelter, maybe I should have been like [InterestedCollegeKid](#) (who I am near positive is a member of some CAS class). Yet still, this example shows me that

deliberation sometimes fails to even begin if all parties involved are not willing to have their views questioned.

How Gun Control Ends: N...  
swampland.time.com/2013/03/11/how-gun-control-ends-not-with-a-bang-but-a-whimper/?iid=sl-main-lead

Search

Spencer60 6 hours ago  
Don't cry those crocodile tears too much there Time... Even their proponents admit that none of these proposed laws would solve a single real problem.

- Banning a type of rifle used in less crimes than hands or feet?
- Requiring background check on private transfers, which contribute less than 1% of the illegal firearms on the black market.
- Limiting magazine capacity, which is shown to have absolutely no effect on crime?

None of these proposals do anything at all. In fact they have all been tried before... and failed.

Rather than push laws that only punish law abiding firearms owners for 'daring' to stand up for their civil rights, try laws that might have a real effect.

First of all, get rid of the deadly 'gun free zone' laws. Concealed carry permit holders have a better record than police on keeping an area safe, any way you study the matter. Restricting where legal firearms may be carried is what causes these mass-shootings, not what will solve them. That's both proven fact and common sense.

Secondly, we manage to have a metal detector and armed security at the entrance of every federal office building. Why are we protecting bureaucrats better than our children?

Lastly, law enforcement is already overwhelmed, that's why they have trouble enforcing the firearms laws we have. Provide the resources to prosecute 'straw buyers', people who knowingly buy gun for criminals and who supply over 1/2 of all black-market firearms. Less than 100 cases were prosecuted in 2012, out of thousands of dealer complaints.

Try addressing the problem, rather than pushing a failed and discredited political dogma. Maybe then you'll actually see people support your platform a bit more.

Until then, I hope and pray you don't even get your 'whimper'.

Share Flag Like Reply

kensi077 5 hours ago  
@Spencer60 I understand that you think these bills, not even yet laws as most are still struggling out of committee, are just stop-gate measures and the real problem is going vastly ignored. Which is fine, but at one point you asked "why are we protecting bureaucrats better than our children?" and I was just wondering if you had read that tidbit above about Barbara Boxer proposing the school safety bill. It seems it will run into a money issue, and doesn't everything, but I was just wondering why you chose not to address it? Your, not tirade, mini oration was well researched but if you can see that at least that real issue of protection is trying to be solved, why act as if absolutely nothing is being attempted?

22 New Comments

lighter on Etsy, a glo... The U.S. Does Not H... Judge Strikes Down ... How Gun Control En... revised\_calendar (2) ... Document3 - Micros... 1:50 AM

This was not a productive deliberation. It does not qualify as one because I ended up only speaking to myself. The analytic side of the deliberation process cannot be addressed and the social process abruptly ends at “adequately distributing speaking opportunities” (Gastil p20). He spoke once, I spoke once, equally distributed but by no means adequately. This was definitely considered a loss on the grand deliberative scale.

Another article I tried my luck on was “Judge Strikes Down NYC Ban on Supersized Sodas,” to somewhat avail. Now the title pretty much says it all, New York was going to limit drink sizes but Judge Tingling saw reason to deny it. This time I approached two different usernames who were relatively on the same side but approached the issue in different ways.

[DarylBrunt](#) thought that it is the people's own fault if they wanted to super big gulp away their health. He found the masses ignorant in their eating habits and in their refusal to accept dietary 'restrictions' such as the liter-limit.

I chose to respond with a statement, literally a statement, I wanted to see if maybe questions

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following content:

- Address Bar:** healthland.time.com/2013/03/11/judge-strikes-down-nyc-sugary-drinks-size-rule/
- Page Title:** Judge Strikes Down NYC Sugary Drinks Size Rule
- Comment Section:**
  - DarylBrunt** (3 hours ago): Brilliant Attitude: Jose Perez, a fifth-grade special education teacher in Manhattan who was getting a hot dog and can of soda from a street vendor, called the ruling "dead-on." "Really, I think it's just big government getting in the way of people's rights," he said. "I think it's up to the person. If they want to have a giant soda, that's their business." So...Jose...you can sign a document ruling that you clearly are aware that your lifestyle choice would make you ineligible for state assistance regarding dietary choices. People these days are pathetically immature and ignorant. You don't actually have a right to impress the consequences of a negative lifestyle on the masses via a tax system. I am fairly certain that you wouldn't agree to that?
  - kensi077** (1 hour ago): @DarylBrunt Are you asking Jose that? I believe his spin argument would be that the government doesn't have the right to impress the consequences of a positive lifestyle on the masses via a new ban. If only we could educate more people about healthier living, I didn't even know this type of legislature was trying to get through. It is sad that it failed, but it is a start... Even if the government eventually enforces a limiting law, I do believe it also starts at home so I can see where the nay-sayers are drawing their rebuttals from.
  - florenciastone** (7 hours ago): uptil I looked at the paycheck which said \$6373, I accept ...that...my best friend actualie erning money part-time on their laptop.. there friends cousin haz done this less than nine months and by now paid for the loans on there apartment and bout a top of the range Renault 4. I went here,Big44.comCHECK IT OUT
  - CarolynToney** (8 hours ago): I was all for the Beverage Ban. What needs to be understood is that adults who purchase these beverages in
- Taskbar:** Shows several open applications including "lighter on Etsy, a glo...", "The U.S. Does Not H...", "Judge Strikes Down ...", "revised\_calendar (2) ...", and "Document3 - Micros...". The system clock shows 1:48 AM.

were too combative and this simpler style would initiate anything. The answer is no, again, but wait! There is a blinking light in the corner of my computer window. A response! From my interaction with [CarolynToney](#) a wild [ManateeBab](#) has appeared. The original poster, Carolyn, had agreed with the Ban and was sad to see it go. She considered it only slightly restrictive and it would have been a great stepping stone toward healthier living. My response, in that moment, threw caution to the winds. Well, as much as I was allowing myself, I did not want to get

slammed but maybe a few agitated responses. In any case, it would have been somewhere to start from.

The screenshot shows a Facebook post by Carolyn Toney and its replies. The browser address bar shows the URL: [healthland.time.com/2013/03/11/judge-strikes-down-nyc-sugary-drinks-size-rule/](http://healthland.time.com/2013/03/11/judge-strikes-down-nyc-sugary-drinks-size-rule/). The Facebook post by Carolyn Toney, posted 6 hours ago, discusses the Beverage Ban and its impact on families. The replies are as follows:

**kensi077** (3 hours ago): @CarolynToney Do you think it got shot down because to most Americans over or under weight it was a big infringement on civil liberties? There is no way an argument was not made about personal rights being obscured or "it's my body, it's my right". Which if you think about it, pro-choice individuals use that same slogan...Do you think they would be upset to hear people getting all riled up over how big their soft drinks can be while using all the reasoning and rights they do? Priorities, good or bad.

**manateebab** (16 minutes ago): @kensi077 @CarolynToney Pro-choice is probably not the best thing to bring up seeing that this is already a really controversial subject...don't cha think? But in a way you are right. We are individuals that can choose to do with our bodies whatever we wish. If I wanna drink a 64 oz soda in one sitting, than I have the right to do so! what people need to keep in mind is that when they do live an unhealthy life style and end up dying due to the ailments listed above than they have nobody else to blame but themselves.

**kensi077** (10 minutes ago): @manateebab @kensi077 @CarolynToney Yes, it was, but on the scale of America those for and against for both issues are pretty evenly split and highly contested so its not improbable to compare the two. I was just wondering if anyone had an alternative view to those previously stated? Maybe someone who does blame fast food and commercialism for where they are now and maybe would have wished for the legislation to be passed...or still entirely against it?

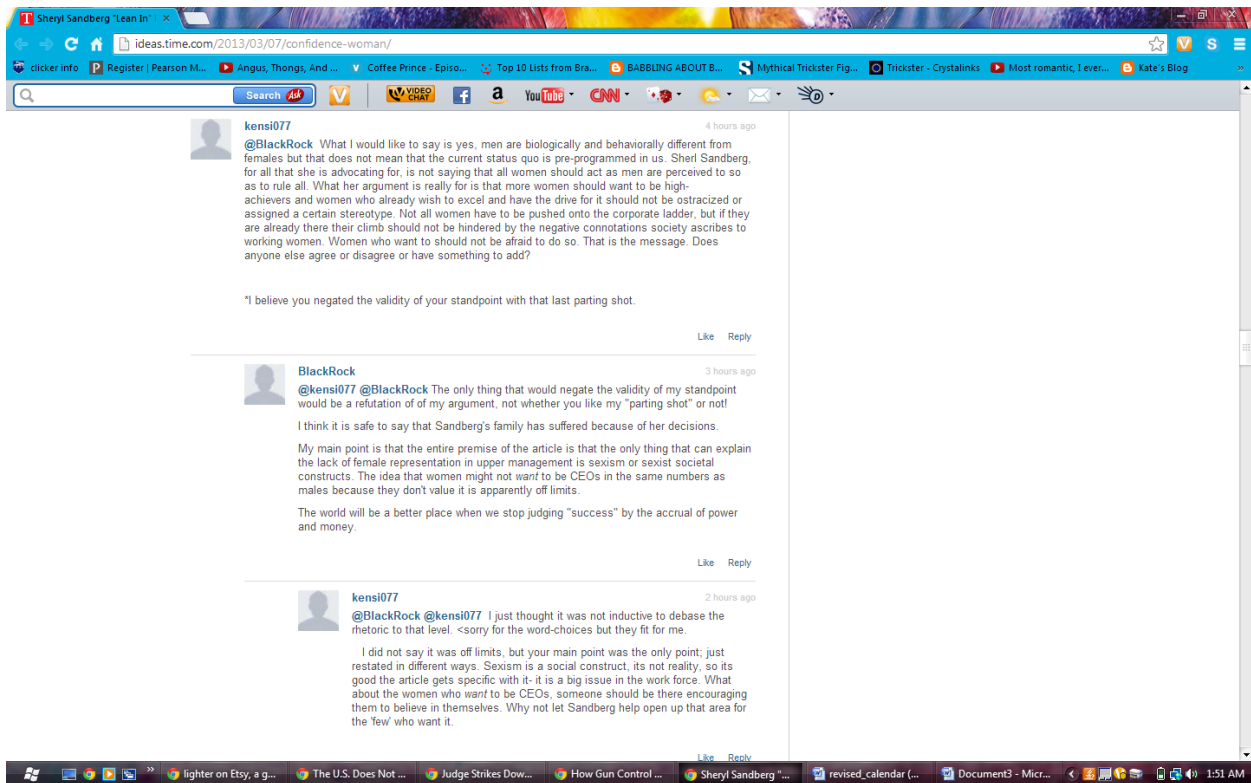
I do not think with my response I “prioritized the key values at stake” (Gastil p.20) but I wanted to get some action going. Pretty much comparing dietary choices to abortion, as if they were on the same level, should have prompted a few outcries I thought. It did prompt one, not aggressive in the slightest, but an unexpected voice. Bab found my comparison a little incendiary but admitted I did have a valid point. I think even though there was not a follow up response, we covered the ‘consider other ideas and experiences’ (Gastil p.20). I tried to open the discussion to others with varying view points, but no takers. It may be a short example but I think I left someone consider something new and it made me evaluate what I had said as well.

The article I was most interested in turned out to be the one I was most invested in, which makes sense but it also almost cost me my equilibrium. “Confidence Woman” is a piece about Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook, and her view as a woman from the top. First mentioned to me by my woman writer’s professor, it was like a light shone on the article and an angel’s choir sung in the background (most likely the band Brand New-but I am creating ambiance). This article seemed like a great place for me to get passionate in deliberation, I would make people respond. That goal was accomplished, but the way it went about kind of shook me. I might be painting this as like awe-inspiring or terrifying but as soon as [BlackRock](#) yelled back I was just like oh, this has saddened me. I am not going to lie, I sought advice from fellow classmates to see if I should continue or find another thread somewhere else. I was told to shut him down. I did not go to that extent but I did gird my loins and maintain my collected exterior as I responded back.

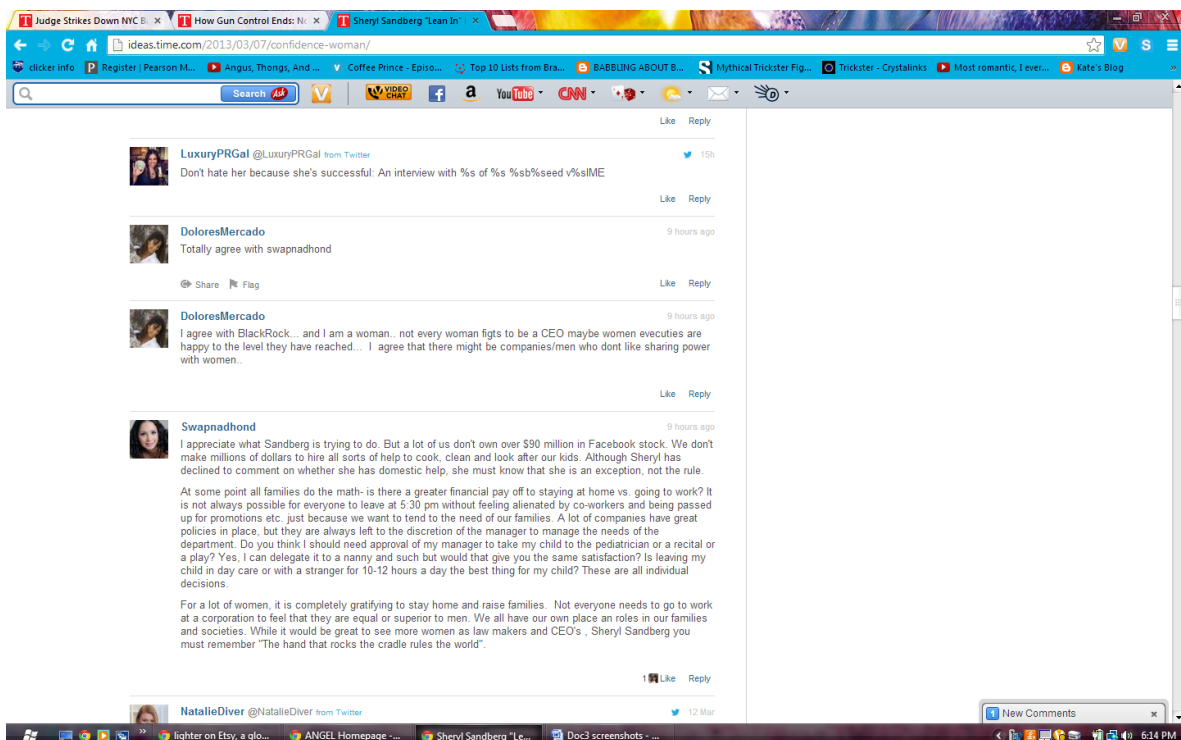
The screenshot shows a Twitter thread on a web browser. The browser's address bar shows the URL: [ideas.time.com/2013/03/07/confidence-woman/](https://ideas.time.com/2013/03/07/confidence-woman/). The thread consists of the following tweets:

- @AmyGBDay @TIME** Thanks Amy, I will! (5 hours ago)
- BlackRock** A few questions to consider:
  1. I wonder if it ever occurred to Time that there are less female CEOs because less women want to be CEOs? (Hell, most men I know don't want to be CEOs.)
  2. Maybe society's expectations result from reality rather than creating it? If you can't see that men act and behave differently than women, I'm not sure what to tell you.
  3. Maybe females are more likely to value their family and children than climbing the corporate ladder, which requires tremendous time and effort. There is a trade off. (For those of you who couldn't understand Question #2, you will need to read this article. [www.theatlantic.com/magazine/...women...cant-have-it-all/309020/](http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/...women...cant-have-it-all/309020/))
 These are indeed bizarre possibilities, but carefully considering these propositions may yield a more profound understanding of this mysterious phenomenon.  
 P.S. If you happen to run into any of Cheryl Sandberg's kids, let them know their mother is fine, will you? Her army of nannies is raising them wonderfully. (5 hours ago)
- kensi077** @BlackRock What I would like to say is yes, men are biologically and behaviorally different from females but that does not mean that the current status quo is pre-programmed in us. Sheri Sandberg, for all that she is advocating for, is not saying that all women should act as men are perceived to so as to rule all. What her argument is really for is that more women should want to be high-achievers and women who already wish to excel and have the drive for it should not be ostracized or assigned a certain stereotype. Not all women have to be pushed onto the corporate ladder, but if they are already there their climb should not be hindered by the negative connotations society ascribes to working women. Women who want to should not be afraid to do so. That is the message. Does anyone else agree or disagree or have something to add? (4 hours ago)
 

\*I believe you negated the validity of your standpoint with that last parting shot.
- BlackRock** @kensi077 @BlackRock The only thing that would negate the validity of my standpoint would be a refutation of my argument, not whether you like my "parting shot" or not! (3 hours ago)



I believe that even though we did not convince either of each other's side, I am not entirely sure I got him to even consider me, but I feel like if more had been said/shared we could have got somewhere. There was very mixed comments on the whole for this article, I even found later someone who agreed with BlackRock but just did not tag them.



The comment [Swapnadhond](#) made could have very well backed up [BlackRock](#) and given me greater detail to grasp but she, like so many others, refused to join their contemporaries. We all had the same information base, the rights of woman was the key value, a broad range of suggestions if not solutions were given, and I think if we had had time pros and cons would have been weighed. It might seem overreaching but there was just so much potential in this discuss-a-liberation. The only thing that might have been lacking could have been “respect for all participants” (Gastil p.20). I felt like I was not being considered as someone to converse with, just someone to shut down. It frustrated me. I had to revise my one comment because even I could see the un-moderator like sass sneaking out. If it had been allowed to develop, and no one got too catty, it could have become a full-fledged deliberation. Probably a solution would not have been reached, I do not know why people are so against bettering even just opportunities for women, but the points would have been rich and varied. If only this had been my dream deliberation, then they would have been.

That is just it, for all my time and effort, none of these were ideal deliberations; not a one. Maybe it was the lack of identity; you can be anyone which makes you no one so it does not matter if you ignore some other no one. Or maybe it was there was not a sense of camaraderie, arguing a point takes dedication and the possibility of not being a ‘winner’; better to just ignore them and continue on the way. The only thing that makes online public domains better from real life public forums is that there is more diversity of thought. My examples are kind of lacking, but I know that it exists. They may have been shabby representations, but I do still think they were productive at some level. They may have sucked away some of my time, or gave me eons just for staring at the screen waiting for a ping, but they taught me that it will not always go well when you want to make conversation with a stranger. It taught me to try harder next time to be seen as



someone worth contending with. And if that does not work, set up a lit fuse of a question like [InterestedCollegeKid](#) and let them have at it. The best moderator I have seen to date, that one. I learned I am not the best at deliberations, but I think given time, I will do alright with them.

## Works Cited

- Calabresi, Massimo. "How Gun Control Ends: Not With A Bang, But A Whimper." *Swampland How Gun Control Ends Not With A Bang But A Whimper Comments*. TIME, n.d. Web. 13 Mar. 2013. <<http://swampland.time.com/2013/03/11/how-gun-control-ends-not-with-ca-bang-but-a-whimper/?iid=sl-main-lead>>.
- Gastil, John. *Political Communication and Deliberation*. California, Sage Publications. 2008. Print. p.20
- Luscombe, Belinda. "Confidence Woman." *Ideas Confidence Woman Comments*. TIME, n.d. Web. 13 Mar. 2013. <<http://ideas.time.com/2013/03/07/confidence-woman/>>.
- Peltz, Jennifer. "Judge Strikes Down NYC Ban on Supersized Sodas | TIME.com." *Time*. Time, n.d. Web. 13 Mar. 2013. <<http://healthland.time.com/2013/03/11/judge-strikes-down-nyc-sugary-drinks-size-rule/>>.