

FROSTY

THE SNOW PERSON

Once again, the Christmas season is upon us. As in years past, people will busy themselves with holiday shopping, parties, gift wrapping, and decorating their homes in anticipation of the coming festivities. Along with these more traditional activities, a new but unwelcome aspect associated with this time of year will be the annual invasion of the Thought Police.

All across the land, Americans will witness a concerted effort to stamp out any reference to the words “Christ” and “Christmas.” City parks and office buildings, parades and public schools around the nation will all feel the wrath of the politically correct as the A.C.L.U. frantically seeks court injunctions to ban public exhibitions of nativity scenes on public property or any reference to Christmas. They will argue that posting these displays violates the separation of church and state guaranteed by the United States constitution. Let us take a look at a world that is devoid of any reference to Christmas. The best way to do this is by “correcting” the songs most closely associated with the season.

Introduced by Bob Hope and Marilyn Maxwell in the 1951 motion picture, *The Lemon Drop Kid*, the song *Silver Bells* was an instant hit. Yet in spite of its popularity, perhaps the time has come to alter its lyrics so they become less offensive. Consider the following possibility:

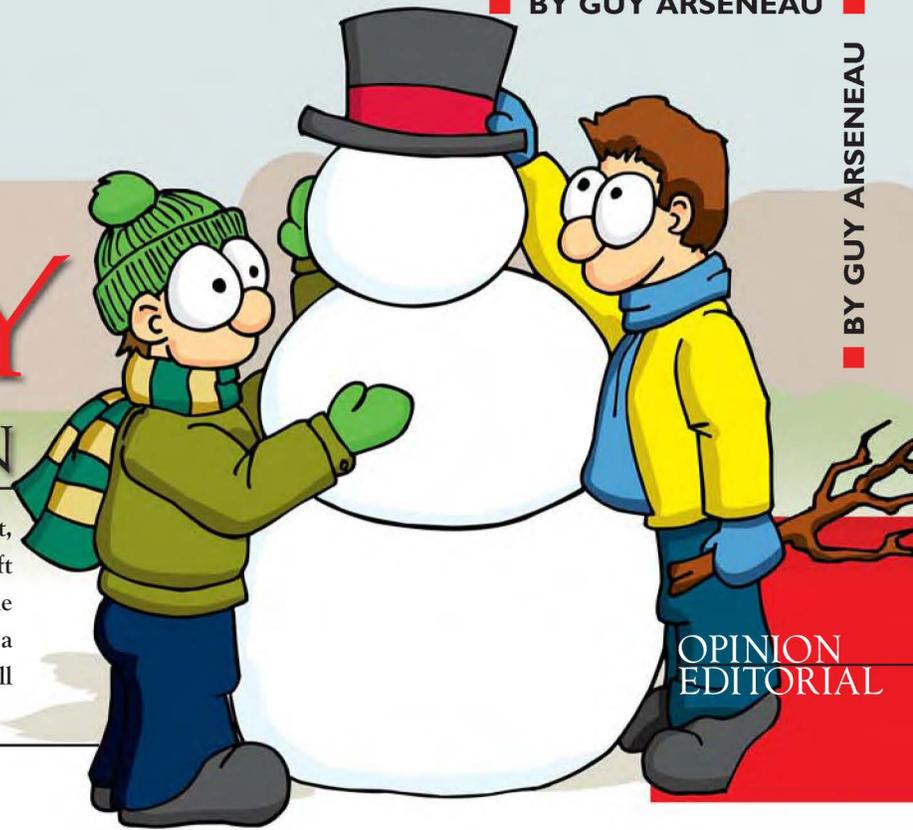
Silver bells, silver bells, It's Winter Holiday in the city. Ring-a-ding, hear them ring. Soon it will be Winter Holiday.

Another holiday classic (penned by Jewish songwriter Irving Berlin) that requires a much needed political overhaul is the 1942 gem, *White Christmas*.

I'm dreaming of a white Winter Break, with every winter break card I write. May your days be merry and bright. And may all your Winter Breaks be white.

Obviously, the time has come to rid all musical works and performances of any lyrics that might be deemed offensive to anyone. Once this is accomplished, the world will then be able to enjoy holiday songs that have all the impact and emotional connotation of a mime impression performed on radio.

The current “War on Christmas” began twenty years ago. Many may still remember a period in the mid-nineties when it was suggested that New York City’s famed Radio City Music Hall dispense with the nativity scene in their annual Christmas spectacular. The charge of fostering a culture dominated by a political theocracy did not apply in that instance, so it was decided that by including a spiritual reference point in the production the show would somehow be “offensive.” This is a curious charge in a society that not only allows but actually encourages the likes of Jerry Springer and Maury Povich. As television viewers know, it is common place on the Springer show for a transsexual midget who is a member of the Ku Klux Klan to assault his transvestite boyfriend.



OPINION
EDITORIAL

On an almost daily basis, viewers of the Povich program enjoy a perverse parade of women who need to have the DNA of up to ten men tested in order to determine the paternity of their children. These bottom feeding exhibitions, played out against a backdrop of tawdry moral chaos, are hailed as examples of “diversity” within society; yet celebrating the humble birth of a child over two billion people revere as God is “offensive.”

The subtle animus towards the Christmas season is readily apparent to shoppers who patronize the growing number of over-priced boutiques nationwide. In the month of December store clerks conclude every sale with a robot-like smile and an almost embarrassed wish for a “Happy Holiday.” One sales representative, speaking on an anonymous basis, explained the reason for this generic greeting. “My boss said anybody in the store who says ‘Merry Christmas’ will be fired on the spot. He doesn’t want anyone to be offended and do their shopping elsewhere.” What’s wrong with this picture, folks?

Many Christmas critics try to dismiss the notion of a concerted “War on Christmas” as “trivial” and claim the only ones who make an issue of it are ultra right wing religious cranks. “After all,” they say, “‘Christmas’ is only a word, so why get so upset about it?” If that’s the case, why are so many legal actions initiated in order to squelch any reference to it?

An attempt to rob Christmas of any spiritual dimension is an on-going battle led by many who consider themselves to be intellectuals. Leonard Peikoff, the “intellectual heir” of the late novelist/philosopher Ayn Rand wrote in *Capitalism Magazine* that, “Life requires reason, selfishness, capitalism; that is what Christmas should celebrate. It is time to take the Christ out of Christmas, and turn the holiday into a guiltlessly egoistic, pro-reason, this-worldly, commercial celebration.” Mr. Peikoff, the founder of the Ayn Rand Institute and a one time radio talk show host who holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy, gives ample proof that some people can indeed be educated beyond their intelligence.

At this time, and as an exception to my usual rule of not writing in the first person, I would like to take this opportunity to step out of character (or perhaps into it) and wish all of my readers a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and an equally gleeful Kwanzaa. If anyone is offended by these holiday wishes I suggest they file a grievance with Frosty the Snow Person.