

# INSANITY LITE

by Guy Arseneau



In many computer-based writing programs, users have the option to check grammar, spelling, and the suitability of specific words and terms in their compositions. Increasingly, the prejudice of those who create these editorial computer programs is readily apparent. Of particular note, one such version offers the following comment in evaluating text that includes references to a woman as a lady: “The word ‘lady’ is gender-specific language and considered offensive and condescending to some who support a feminist philosophy of inclusiveness and equality. The use of this word should be avoided” At the other end of the cultural spectrum, in the misogynistic world of rap music, terms such as “bitch” and “ho” are defined as words that represent “a bold artistic freedom reflecting the life experiences of the recording artist while accurately summarizing the day to day reality of urban street life.” So, this is where we’ve come to as a nation and society; referring to a woman as a “lady” is an insult, but calling her a “bitch” or a “ho” is an example of artistic freedom.

Against this dismal backdrop, America’s famed “melting pot” is now a boiling cauldron of hyphenated individuals representing a disparate nation lacking an identity, a body politic without a soul and a society devoid of any sense of moral priorities. The end result is a Frankenstein-like mish mash in which chaos masquerades as diversity. Political correctness has now reached a state of madness.

Exacerbating this situation, a new trend in American academic life now encourages self-hate. At universities and high schools across the United States, a growing number of students are called upon to write essays addressing such topics as “Why I feel guilty for being white.” The late novelist/philosopher Ayn Rand addressed the issue of guilt in her signature work, *Atlas Shrugged*. As her protagonist John Galt states, “A sin without volition is a contradiction in terms.” Inherent in the concept of guilt is the element of choice.

Voluntary consent is the definitive cornerstone for moral culpability; in short, right and wrong choices really do matter. To hold someone guilty in matters of their gender, race or ethnic background flies in the face of common sense and is a moral absurdity. If a white supremacist group on a university or high school campus preached the doctrine that black people are inherently inferior to whites as a matter of race, the front page of *The New York Times* would be ablaze with righteous indignation. If the situation is the other way around, however, not a word of dissent is ever printed.

A perfect example of this type of political correctness can be seen on the campus of California’s Berkeley University. Groups of black students have now banded together and decided that certain geographical locations and travel routes on campus are off limits to white students; the ban is enforced by black students who physically prevent free access to white students.

At that bastion of ultra-liberalism in Massachusetts, school officials at Tufts University, who evidently used George Orwell’s novel *1984* as their guide, warned students during Halloween to avoid costumes that touch upon or address issues of “race, gender, ethnic background, sexuality, immigration status, socio-economic standing, controversy or tragedy.” Those who violate this policy risk “serious” but unnamed disciplinary actions. Students are encouraged to report infractions of this rule to campus security personnel. Will masquerading as Elmer Fudd’s hemorrhoids be allowed or is that too close to impersonating the mindset of the school’s administrators? Quick, call the Thought Police.

Hypersensitivity is now the new coat of arms for those who embrace political correctness. Athletic logos, team names, clothing items and expressions of political beliefs are now held accountable for traumatizing people. In their obsessive mission to avoid “offending” anyone, many universities around the nation have now opened crisis centers that operate “on a 24/7 basis” for

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those individuals who have been offended. Such terms as “Redskins” and “Fighting Irish”, used for decades by sports fans, now induce irreparable harm and injury to Native Americans (formerly known as Indians) and people of Irish descent. Commercial items sold in stores around the nation also come under fire for promoting “insensitivity”. Among various racial and ethnic groups, many people now object to the ice cream dessert commonly known to millions of consumers as an Eskimo Pie. They contend that the word “Eskimo” is degrading and paternalistic in nature. As a matter of accuracy, and to avoid offending anyone, proponents of this idea suggest that the word “Inuit” is more suitable. That’s just fine, but what about the folks who are offended by the word pie? Should the people who make cakes and donuts call a crisis hotline because their products are excluded?

Mankind (yes, MANKind) has evolved to the point whereby people have the ability to travel in outer space in search of intelligent life, but cannot find it here on earth. This observation would be funny if it wasn’t so tragic.

Team logos, nicknames, political stickers and even items of clothing are now the source of unimaginable pain and suffering for the politically elite and ultra-sensitive. Yet these same people who need crisis counseling for the name of a sports team react with icy indifference to real problems in today’s world. A recent photograph that went viral showed a five-year-old boy-barefoot, dazed and bloody-sitting in the back of an ambulance after an attack in the city of Aleppo, Syria. With his ten year-year-old brother dead and his family caught in the middle of an on-going civil war, this child’s face contained a living definition of the word grief.

Will the people who suffer “irreparable harm” and require crisis counseling on a “24/7 basis” because of a sports logo, bumper sticker, religious item or nickname react with the same degree of pain and suffering upon seeing the image of this child or will they turn their backs in cold indifference on real issue confronting the modern world?

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