

Political correctness, not necessarily progress



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Goya's portrait of a nude woman was construed as a form of sexual harassment by a female English professor at Penn State.

During a lecture at the University of Pennsylvania, a professor singles out African-American students in class as "ex-slaves." As a result of action taken by the Black Student League, the professor was required to make a public apology, and attend "sensitivity workshops" in order to retain his job.

At Harvard University, an openly homosexual minister presides over the campus' official place of worship.

How correct is political correctness?

The correct term in referring to black people is "African American." This current lingo is last in a long line of labels: "nigger," "boy," or "girl," "negro," "colored," and "black."

The trend has ceased to be a positive evolution—if it ever was. Minorities are now known as "people of color." Handicapped people are "physically challenged" or "handicapable." Women tell "her story" and take classes in "Women's Studies" about "Womyn's concerns." Short people are not merely short. They are "vertically challenged." Homosexuals have "alternative lifestyles."

If people refer to each other in the "correct" manner, has progress truly occurred? Does it make everything OK?

It does not.

We continue our lives in a racist, sexist, homophobic society.

Significant numbers of black Americans exist unacknowledged in the subculture of our inner cities.

Minorities remain undesirable. A white daughter dating a black man.

An Asian-American boy brings home a nice Jewish girl. Two white women are on an elevator when a young Hispanic man, dressed in baggy pants and a white T-shirt, gets in on the third floor. These images evoke discomfort (this is a kind term) in some (optimis-

tic approximation) sectors of safe, politically-correct society.

When a person with a physical or mental disability crosses their path, the politically correct avert their eyes and wait for them to go away.

Women are still plagued by *Vanna White* and *Miss America*.

Professed politically correct men have been observed with "Playboy"

or "Penthouse" under their beds and in their bathrooms.

An outspoken, articulate

First Lady must want to run the White House. Why can't she just smile demurely and say nothing like a good ornament should?

Studies show that tall people on average get further, faster in the business world. Of course, there are exceptions. (Ross Perot?)

There is national upheaval about gays in the military, and in some parts, a lesbian woman cannot legally raise her own child.

If political correctness was genuine, it would be a wonderful thing, but it isn't. Political correctness is a crock. Public behavior does not change private attitudes.

Referring to any human being in a derogatory fashion is obviously unacceptable. Outside of that, it's going to take a heck of a lot more than political correctness to alleviate the societal cleavages that are entrenched in our everyday lives.

Political correctness is also a cop-out. It gives hypocrites a way out without giving its "beneficiaries" a way in. It is time to stop accepting new labels and consolation prizes as progress.

Ethnicity is not going away. Women's issues are not going away. Homosexuality is not going away. No matter how long you close your eyes, societal diversity WILL NOT GO AWAY. Please, wise up and DEAL WITH IT. There is such a thing as too late.

Roxanne Warren is a Rebel Yell columnist. Her column appears every Tuesday.

"We continue our lives in a racist, sexist, homophobic society."

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This Thursday, Maryanne Dawicki will appear in the Perspective Section, due to space considerations it did not appear this issue.

We apologize for any confusion this may cause.